

News 'n Views

April 2010

Department of Workforce Services

Volume 7, Issue 1

Get in Game events draw thousands

Thousands of Arkansans found jobs, got tips for starting a business or received other employment services at the Department of Workforce Services' Get in the Game events held in November at Verizon Arena.

In 2008, DWS hosted the first ever Get in the Game Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo, which drew about 700 people. That number almost doubled in November 2009, with about 1,200 attending the Get in the Game Entrepreneurial Conference.

"We were really pleased with the turnout in 2008," said DWS Director Artee Williams. "The response we received in November 2009 exceeded our expectations."

The entrepreneurial conference targeted those wanting to start their own business or expand an existing one. Workshops were held throughout the day, entrepreneurs were available to visit with attendees and more than 50 vendors provided information.

The entrepreneurial conference was

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GET IN THE GAME — Teiraney Ousley, with the Arkansas Workforce Center at North Little Rock (left, blue shirt), and Clarice Hall, with the Arkansas Career Readiness Certificate program (right, blue shirt), assist job seekers at the Get in the Game Career Expo recently at Verizon Arena. A mini-Workforce Center with computers was on-site to assist job seekers with creating resumes and finding employment.

Edgar, Price named managers

Janet Edgar

Janet Edgar was recently named the manager of the Hot Springs local office.

The Hot Springs office provides employment-related services in Garland, Montgomery and north Pike counties.

Edgar began working for DWS as a summer worker in 1973. Years later in 1988 after moving to Hot Springs, she began working as an intermittent interviewer in the Unemployment Insurance, Job Service and JTPA programs.

A year later, she became the employment relations representative for Garland, Hot Springs and



Janet Edgar

Clark counties. She also has served as an Employment Services interviewer, ES supervisor and ES regional supervisor.

Edgar is a graduate of the Certified Employment Manager Program, DWS Leadership Development Class I and is currently a member of the Hot Springs Leadership Development Class of 23.

She has been a member of the West Central Society of Human Resource Management since 1988 and is currently on the board of the Arkansas

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Recycling program expanded statewide

The Department of Workforce Services is doing its part to help the environment by expanding its recycling program statewide.

DWS has been recycling white paper for many years. The new program now includes mixed paper, cardboard, aluminum and recyclable plastic. At this time, the only things not included are glass, Styrofoam and tin.

"It has been encouraging and very fulfilling to see the response to the newly-expanded recycling program from DWS employees," said Letti Whitaker, a fiscal support specialist in Logistics/Property and project manager for the program.

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Legacy Project to tell story of DWS' past

Dr. Carl Sagan once said, "You have to know the past to understand the present."

The Department of Workforce Services, which has undergone several name changes since its inception in 1933, is attempting to do just that with the DWS Legacy Project.

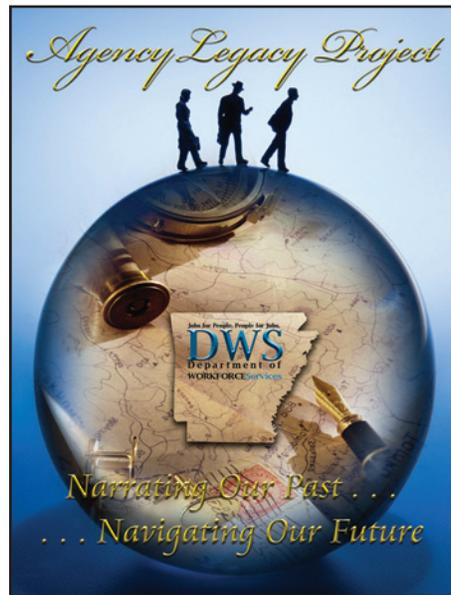
Janis F. Kearney is serving as the project director and is gathering information about the agency by reviewing historical documents, photos, and talking with previous directors and employees.

"I am very excited about the project and pleased with employees' interest in what may be the first project of its kind in Arkansas' state government," Kearney said.

The project began in September 2009 and is now in its second phase, which includes collecting oral histories and documents and making visits around the state.

"Gratefully, we are receiving calls, photos and documents from both current and former employees from all over the state," Kearney said. "In just a short time, the project already has an impressive list of oral histories and historical documents from contributors."

In a recent presentation to employees during the First Annual DWS Training Summit, Kearney reminded employees and retirees that "this project is about you. The mission of the project is to share with the world the rich history and good works of the 73-year-old agency and stories from employees who have continuously impacted the



lives of everyday Arkansans."

During the second phase of the project, Kearney is conducting interviews with local office managers, employees, retirees and program beneficiaries.

"While September 30 is the projected completion date, it should actually mark a new beginning for the agency of collecting and maintaining a living history of this amazing agency and its employees," DWS Director Artee Williams said.

The final product will include an interactive Web link on the DWS Web page and a printed document representing the agency's history through an introductory narrative, interviews and photos.

Williams recently appointed a Legacy Project Advisory Committee to advise and support the project's work.

Members include Sharon Robinette, retiree; Arthur Montgomery, retiree; Jessie Cain, UI Benefit Accuracy Measurement; Freddy Jacobs, agency EO director; Al Crumby, retiree; Carolyn Washington, Director's Office; Skeet Morse, area operations chief in Conway; Dennis Veach, Blytheville local office manager; Kaye Lewis, retiree; Fred Jackson, area operations chief in Malvern; Cecil Malone, retiree; Albessie Thompson, retiree; Dorothy Oliver, training office staff in Pine Bluff; and Kimberly Friedman, DWS communications director.

Employees and retirees interested in contributing to the project are urged to do so.

Please forward a brief essay and photo sharing your history with DWS, memories of the people and programs that impacted you during your tenure with the agency, and how the agency has impacted the clientele in your work area.

Documents may be mailed or hand-delivered. Photos may be scanned and emailed.

All original documents will be returned to owners upon request.

For more information, contact Kearney at janice.kearney@arkansas.gov.

You also can send documents to
Attn: Janis F. Kearney
ESD-DWS Legacy Project
Department of Workforce Services/
TANF

#2 Capitol Mall – Room 416B
P.O. Box 2981
Little Rock, AR 72203

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Each local office has started its own recycling program. In the Little Rock facilities, including the Central Office, two green bins are located in each of the break rooms. One is for aluminum cans, the other for recyclable plastic.

Employees are encouraged to rinse recyclable food containers before putting them in the green recycle bins and to avoid putting garbage or other non-recyclables in the bins.

In the Central Office, magazines, catalogs, newspapers and all types of mixed paper can now be put in the red

canvas carts on every floor. This does not include wax-coated paper, food wrappers or carbon paper. Also, janitorial staff will now collect cardboard boxes from hallways, break them down and put them in specially-designated carts near the rear door.

"It is so amazing to see how changing just a few actions can add up to tremendous savings for our environment and lessen the ecological demands that we place on renewable and non-renewable resources," Whitaker said. "We all have to work together to keep

Arkansas the 'Natural State.'"

The recycling program is just one way DWS is conserving energy to help the environment, as well as comply with the Governor's Strategic Energy Plan. The plan outlines energy conservation efforts for state agencies. More information about other efforts will be provided in the future.

For more information, e-mail Whitaker at leticia.whitaker@arkansas.gov, Kathy Dragoo at kathy.dragoo@arkansas.gov or Steve Hicks at steve.hicks@arkansas.gov.

DWS training summit held

DWS hosted the First Annual Training Summit Dec. 18 at the Clear Channel Metroplex.

Employees from around the state attended and received program updates from senior management.

DWS Director Artee Williams gave an overview of agency accomplishments during 2009, and Janice Kearney provided information about the DWS Legacy Project, a 12-month project documenting the agency's history.

In addition to agency updates, Randy Frazier, a motivational speaker, conducted a workshop about good customer service.

Employees also donated canned goods for the Arkansas Food Bank Network. DWS collected 1,147 pounds of food, which will provide 920 meals for hungry Arkansans.



HOLIDAY HOUSE — Don Childers, a management project analyst in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families unit (left), and Janice Roberts, a management project analyst in Employment Assistance (right), sort food collected for the Arkansas Food Bank Network. DWS employees brought canned goods to the First Annual DWS Training Summit held in December. Employees collected 1,147 pounds of canned goods, which will provide 920 meals for hungry Arkansans.

13 DWS employees receive awards for service to veterans

The Department of Workforce Services recently recognized 13 employees for their service to veterans.

Employment Services employees, local veterans' employment representatives and disabled veterans' outreach program specialists were recognized and received cash awards from the Veterans Program budget.

Dempsey Murphy, an LVER in Jacksonville (picture not available), received first place in the LVER category and was awarded \$1,850. Jesse Boyd, from Russellville, won second place and received \$1,350. Joseph Didden from Mountain Home, Russell Cook from Searcy and Edward Johnson from Rogers tied for third, with each receiving \$900.

DVOP staff recognized were Nancy Smith from



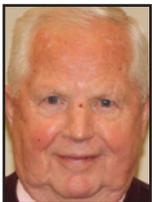
Jesse Boyd



Joseph Didden



Russell Cook



Edward Johnson

Jacksonville, who won first place; Larry Woodle from Conway, who won second; and Connie Bane from Malvern, who won third.

ES staff who received awards were Richard Reed from Fayetteville, who won first; Clint Henderson from Jonesboro, who won second; and Rebecca Huckabee from Hope, Joshua Taylor from Camden and Jerry Hayes from Little Rock, who all won third.

"All of the recipients deserved this special recognition for their service to veterans," DWS Director Artee Williams said.

This was the first time an incentive award program was implemented for employment services to veterans. Funds for the program amount to 1 percent of the total grant amount allocated to the state each year. These



Nancy Smith



Larry Woodle



Connie Bane



Richard Reed

funds cannot be used for any other purpose.

Local office managers nominated staff for the awards. An awards committee then reviewed the nominations based on the recommendations from the local office manager, area operations chief and Arkansas JobLink data documenting their service to veterans.

Future awards will be based on the number of veteran clients who obtain employment during the first and second quarter after they exit from their job service enrollment. All Workforce Center partners are eligible for the ES category. Only DVOPs and LVERs are eligible for their categories.

For more information regarding award criteria, contact Rex Platt with the DWS Veterans Program at (501) 682-1544.



Clint Henderson



Rebecca Huckabee



Joshua Taylor



Jerry Hayes

NEWS across the state

BENTON — Drew Samuelson, the son of Alana Samuelson, an unemployment insurance interviewer, was named Youth Citizen of the Month in November by the Benton Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. Drew, a sophomore at Benton High School, also is one of 12 finalists for the 2010 Arkansas Community Service Awards sponsored by the Department of Human Services, Division of Volunteerism. He was nominated by the Saline County Habitat for Humanity and has been a member of Habitat for Humanity, Youth Habitat for six-and-a-half years. The banquet will be in July.

CENTRAL OFFICE — Dexter Brown, the fiscal support supervisor, was chosen to represent Arkansas at the Army Reserve National Capitol Re-enlistment Ceremony in April at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center in Washington, D.C. Brown has served in the Army Reserves for 13 years and is re-enlisting for six more years. He completed a 14-month tour in Iraq in 2004.



Dexter Brown

Megan Alexander, a fiscal support specialist in UI Accounting, recently received a Bachelor of Science in Business Accounting from the University of Phoenix.

Amy Zhang, a UI budget specialist, recently received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Jessica Moye, the daughter of Danny and Lynn Moye, was selected for All State in volleyball for a second year. Jessica, a senior at Lutheran High School in Little Rock, also was selected for All Conference in District 3A and was a member of the 3A State Tournament Team for the 2009-2010 school year. Danny Moye is an information systems

coordination specialist.

Letti Whitaker, a fiscal support specialist in Logistics/Property, was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Whitaker will receive her associate degree in science this summer and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in business at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

CONWAY — U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Justin M. Phillips, the son of Cindy Phillips, an unemployment insurance investigator in Conway, recently deployed for a six-month tour in Okinawa, Japan.

FORREST CITY — The Forrest City local office welcomes Cathy Byers, a UI workforce specialist, Annabeth Crowell, a UI workforce specialist, and Barry Blackwell, an Employment Services workforce specialist.

Derrick Spearmon, a UI workforce specialist, welcomes Derrick Spearmon Jr., who was born Oct. 7, 2009. Derrick Jr. is the grandson of Mary Stegall, an automated adjudication specialist.

FORT SMITH — Amber Ruckman, a workforce specialist, returned to work after five months of military duty with the 188th Guard Unit from Fort Smith. She was stationed in Kyrgyzstan during her deployment. When she returned, she presented the Fort Smith office with an American flag that was flown Sept. 16, 2009, over Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The flag flew on a KC-135R Stratotanker during a combat refueling mission by the U.S. Air Force.

LITTLE ROCK — The Workforce Center at Little Rock welcomes Travis Perdue, an administrative specialist, and Levena Woodard, JoAnna Arikawe and Dollie Fountain, all workforce specialists.

MONTICELLO — Michael and Lindsay Crawford welcome Nash Michael Crawford, who was born



VETERANS — Walter Zgleszewski, a local veterans' employment representative in Hot Springs (right), recently met Raymond Jefferson, the assistant secretary for Veterans Employment and Training (left), at the National Veterans Training Institute in Denver.

August 18, 2009. He weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. Lindsay Crawford is a DWS workforce specialist.

PINE BLUFF — The Pine Bluff office staff pledged \$500 to Habitat for Humanity and volunteered for the organization. William Campbell, the Pine Bluff office manager, serves on the Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity Board. The organization recently completed its ninth house. Other volunteers include Shelley Dickson and Tracy Rabun.

ROGERS — Ashton Yarbrough, the granddaughter of Jeannie Bowen, an automated adjudication specialist in Rogers, won the title of Miss Heart of the Ozarks Outstanding Teen in February. She will compete for the title of Miss Arkansas Outstanding Teen in Hot Springs this summer.

WALNUT RIDGE — Augustus Wicker, the son of Andrea Wicker, an automated adjudication specialist, recently won first place in a chess tournament at his school in Hoxie. He participated in the Northeast Arkansas Regional Tournament, where he won two games, lost two and one ended in a stalemate.



RETIREMENT — Assistant Director for Unemployment Insurance Ron Calkins (right) presents a certificate to Troy Gray, an automated adjudication specialist (left), at a retirement ceremony recently. Gray retired after 39 years.



RETIREMENT — DWS Director Artee Williams (left) and Deputy Director Ron Snead (right) present a certificate to Virginia Cox, the Jacksonville local office manager (center), during a retirement ceremony recently. Cox retired after more than 35 years.

Retirements

Herman Sanders, DWS Program Operations Manager, Labor Market Information and Analysis, Sept. 30, 2009

Martha Tucker, DWS Program Operations Manager, Little Rock UI Operations, Sept. 30, 2009

Thomas Davis, DWS Program Supervisor, Hot Springs, Sept. 30, 2009

Ben McClain, DWS Workforce Specialist, Charge Unit, Oct. 30, 2009

Brenda Green, Fiscal Support Specialist, Employer Accounts Services, Oct. 30, 2009

Artie Graham, DWS Workforce Specialist, Camden, Nov. 30, 2009

Roscoe "Butch" Hilliard, Human Resources Manager, Personnel Administration, Dec. 31, 2009

Marie Hilliard, DWS UI Claim Technician, Non-Mon Pilot Project, Dec. 31, 2009

Linda K. Lewis, Training Project Manager, Director, Dec. 31, 2009

Troy Gray, DWS Workforce Specialist, Non-Mon Pilot Project, Dec. 31, 2009

Virginia Cox, DWS Field Manager II, Jacksonville, Dec. 31, 2009

Rebecca Ray, DWS Program Supervisor, Helena, Dec. 31, 2009

Vicki Ross, DWS Manager II, Monticello, Jan. 31, 2010

William Morton III, DWS Program Supervisor, Blytheville, Feb. 28, 2010

Randal Kingston, DWS Field Manager I, Paragould, Feb. 28, 2010

Deaths

Valada Smith, a former interviewer at the Newport local office, died Nov. 19, 2009.

Jerry Morris, an interviewer at the El Dorado local office, died Dec. 23, 2009.



RETIREMENT — DWS Director Artee Williams (left) and Deputy Director Ron Snead (right) present a certificate to Kaye Lewis, the training manager (center), during a retirement ceremony recently. Lewis retired after more than 34 years.



RETIREMENT — DWS Director Artee Williams (left) and Deputy Director Ron Snead (right) present a certificate to Vicki Ross, the Monticello local office manager (center), during a retirement ceremony recently. Ross retired after 35 years.

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so successful in 2008, DWS decided to expand it in 2009 to also include a career expo and a workforce summit for workforce professionals.

“Many people are unemployed and looking for work,” Williams said. “We just wanted to provide another avenue to assist those who desperately need a job, as well as provide educational and training tools to help workforce professionals better understand and assist clients.”

Day two featured the Get in the Game Career Expo, which was sponsored by DWS in partnership with the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce.

About 1,900 job seekers attended the event, and 95 employers and education and training providers were available to take job applications and provide information.

Resume writing and interviewing skills workshops were held throughout the day. DWS and Arkansas Workforce Center staff also provided resume and employment assistance at the mini-Workforce Center. Computers with printers were available during the event for people who needed help creating a resume.

DWS and the State Chamber sponsored the Arkansas Workforce Summit the third day. About 500 employers, educators, economic developers, legislators and Workforce Center staff attended the event.

Gov. Mike Beebe was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included Joseph Juarez, the regional administrator for the U.S. Department of Labor, Dallas Regional Office, and



WORKFORCE SUMMIT — Gov. Mike Beebe speaks at the Arkansas Workforce Summit in November at Verizon Arena. About 500 people attended the event that featured workshops and speakers discussing economic development, education and workforce issues.

Scott Stimart, the vice-president of ACT Inc., the Workforce Development Division.

In addition to the guest speakers, workshops about economic develop-

ment, education and workforce issues were held.

“All three events were huge successes,” Williams said. “If we helped just one person, it was all worth it.”

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Career Training Institute.

“I have had the advantage of working with Hot Springs employers for 22 years and have built a reputation in the community that the employers can trust,” Edgar said. “I am also very fortunate to have a knowledgeable hard-working staff who make it a pleasure to come to work each day. I am fortunate to live and work in one of the greatest places in the state.”

Kay Price

Kay Price was recently named manager of the Searcy local office. Price replaces Jeanette Williams, who was



Kay Price

named area operations chief for area six.

Price has worked for DWS since January 2006, when she transferred from the Department of Human Services in Searcy.

While at DHS, Price worked as a community development specialist and case manager for the Transitional Employment Assistance program for 17 years.

Prior to becoming manager, Price worked as a workforce specialist in the Unemployment Insurance and

Employment Services programs. She worked as a TEA case manager in White and Cleburne counties for two-and-a-half years and was in charge during the absence of a local office manager.

Price and her family are life-long residents of White County. She is active in the community and serves on several local advisory boards.

“I am very excited and feel blessed to be the field manager for the Searcy office,” Price said. “I believe we have the best staff in the state, and I look forward to the challenges of the year ahead.”