The Fiscal Session of the 88th General Assembly convened on Monday, February 13, 2012, and adjourned on Friday, March 9, 2012. This resulted in the loss of over $6 million in Arkansas' TANF Program. The legislation adds a provision for the enforcement of the child abuse prevention ban on how they are implementing policies and practices to enforce this ban will face up to a 5 percent penalty to their TANF block grants.

FOUR (4) WAYS TO GO FROM GOOD TO GREAT

1. Identify and address the root causes of problems.
2. Engage stakeholders in problem-solving and decision-making.
3. Set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound goals.
4. Continuously seek feedback to improve their approach. They stay adaptable while they are finding their way forward. Be your own best coach, and empower your team to do the same.

10 TIPS FOR EMPOWERING TANF CUSTOMERS TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT

1. Encourage independence and self-reliance.
2. Provide resources and support.
3. Foster a sense of community and belonging.
4. Help customers set achievable goals.
5. Empower customers to set their own paths.
6. Promote a positive attitude and outlook.
7. Encourage customers to pursue education and training.
8. Help customers build and maintain social support networks.
10. Encourage customers to be their own advocates.

DWS's Kellie Albrecht works for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (DWS). She has been a part of DWS for 11 years in local and state government. She is currently the Program Monitor for TANF Contracts.

DHS Announces Cut to Child Abuse Prevention Program

During the Job Fair, Boot Camp students were able to work with employment specialists to:

1. Complete a personal assessment to determine the skills, interests, and abilities they bring to the job market.
2. Learn how to effectively communicate their skills and abilities to potential employers.
3. Develop a game plan for their job search.
4. Practice and improve their presentation skills.

Ora successfully completed the nursing assistant class, and began submitting applications to potential employers upon completion. She wanted to make a better life for herself and her five-year old daughter. She expressed an interest in enrolling in the next nursing assistant class. Ora has achieved job stability, and reached some of the goals she set personally and professionally. Her goal of becoming a registered nurse is now possible. Gladly, she got that promotion to supervisor with an increase in pay. She has now surrounded herself with more positive people.

Childcare vouchers through the program allowed Tara to maintain a consistent work schedule so that she could work toward her goal of becoming a Line Supervisor. Tara is now enrolling in the next nursing assistant class. Tara said, "I want to be able to support my family. I also want to be able to be there for my kids. I have always wanted to be a nurse."

market the program. We have found this to be an effective tool, to sell the program. Mrs. Wade Hillis of Blytheville and Mr. LaToya Andrews of El Dorado, local office managers from the DWS area, recently received the Certified Public Manager (CPM) designation from the American Society for Public Administration.

WEX at Arkansas Northeastern College until she obtained her position at Belle Meade Nursing and Rehab center, where she worked as a registered nurse. "These programs provided assistance with housing, childcare and financial assistance, satisfaction and security. This purchase has ultimately provided stability. There's no place like home!"

stated, "I feel empowered to keep on walking until I've gone the last mile of the way. I am determined to reach all of my goals!" As a final reflection of the completed Boot Camp, she said, "I would love to have the opportunity to come back and help prepare job seekers for employment competition. TEA Career Pathways, Career Services Center and Arkansas Community Foundation.

Please join the DWS Central Office TANF Division in congratulating Local Offices with the highest Work Pays and All Families Served Awards Nominations, no notes, no presentations. This year we will recognize the highest TANF Local Office Pay, TANF Local Office Served Awards, and the highest TANF Program Reporting from DHS, which represents a major advancement in DWS' administration of the TANF Program. Also, the TANF Monitoring Unit, has a new leader. Mr. Black has been serving as the interim director of the Federal TANF Program. Mr. Black has served the state of Arkansas for 12 years in state government. Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Mr. Black to his new position.

Diana Peterson has been serving as the interim administrator of the Family Assistance Division. She will now lead both the Family Assistance Division and the TANF Monitoring Unit. Mr. Black has served the state of Arkansas for 12 years in state government. Please join us in congratulating and welcoming Mr. Black to his new position.

On Monday, February 13, 2012, the 88th General Assembly convened.

STORIES

• LaToya Andrews is a 2002 graduate of Jefferson City High School. She is working on her liberal arts degree in social sciences.

• Ora download of the daily paper. "I laughed so loud. I don't think I'll ever forget that!" A growing number of managers and executives today understand the value of a happy and engaged workforce. "Best Practices" & Tips

• Using the Career Readiness Certification as an entry into the Social Work Division. The Social Work Division is responsible for providing support and guidance to TANF customers.

• Dress for Success

• The 2012 Leadership Development IV Class graduates. Four of the eighteen graduates are members of the TANF Team!