

Career Pathways Initiative Newsletter Report



Washington, DC-The capstone experience for the ten Promising Pathways sites was March 13-14 in Washington, DC. Dr. Karon Rosa, Mark Lane, Jeanie Toombs, Dr. Jake Walker and Elroy Willoughby attended from Arkansas. The two-day Innovation Institute focused on capacity-building for evidence-informed practice through identifying and sharing innovative approaches to service delivery for TANF and low-income populations (Pictured above: Louisa Fuller, ICF; James Butler, ACF; and Dr. Karon Rosa, ADHE/CPI).



Arkansas was recognized during the Innovation Institute in Washington, DC for completing a logic model and Return on Investment during the Promising Pathways study. Arkansas team members, Dr. Karon Rosa and Elroy Willoughby, participated in a Welfare Peer TA Network podcast series featuring Arkansas CPI that will be posted to the Welfare Peer TA web site at a later date (<http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov/>). A Case Study on Career Pathways Initiative will also be published (Pictured above: Louisa Fuller, James Butler, Dr. Karon Rosa, Dr. Katherine Boswell, Jeanie Toombs and Dominic Modicamore).

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Annual Program Directors Retreat

Arkansas / Career PATHWAYS

MORRILTON, AR – Program Directors from the 25 CPI sites and ADHE/CPI met at the Winthrop Rockefeller Center for their annual retreat, February 29-March 2.

Arkansas 4-H Center provided the training, ExCEL. Outdoor activities that challenged participant to work together more efficiently and effectively while providing activities to encourage

- Leadership of teams
- Goal setting
- Creative Problem Solving
- Team Trust
- Communication and
- Individual Responsibility



Career Pathways Receives Award

An Award of Recognition was presented to Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) for its Outstanding Performance and Service on the Promising Pathways Initiative by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance in March at the Washington, DC institute for Promising Pathways.



The Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) is making progress toward meeting TANF Goal Number Two: "To end the dependency of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation and work."

The initiative provides funding for two-year colleges to develop career pathways programs that assist TANF-eligible adults to earn a marketable educational credential for immediate entry into a high demand occupation. The Career Pathways Initiative emphasizes such program components as job readiness skills, basic academic skills preparation, fast-track remediation, and post-secondary credentials tied to high wage, high demand occupations.

Intensive student services with direct student support for tuition, transportation, childcare, textbooks, loaner lap tops and other ancillary materials are provided for students in the program.

CPI fosters strong connections among two-year colleges, students, community-based organizations, state agencies, and employers.

East Arkansas Community College

One of the greatest challenges that our students face is indecisiveness in their career choices. Even though the students who come into the program may initially appear to be committed and ready to embark upon their chosen career, some of their excitement quickly diminishes. While our staff provides guidance in their career goals and choices, their indecisiveness becomes the catalyst for their decisions to postpone their education and as a result, remain at a job that is non-fulfilling.

On February 3, 2012, Career Pathways launched its **Job Shadowing Program** in efforts to help students who are underemployed to gain valuable work experiences.

Three sites were carefully selected to mirror each student's major while helping them to gain relevant skills in their chosen professions: Arkansas Workforce Center, East Arkansas Enterprise Community, and Forrest City High School. Prior to receiving assignments, students were required to complete an intensive workshop on interviewing skills, resume development, and business etiquette with Ashiya Hicks, CSSF Coordinator. In addition, site coordinators were presented with copies of resumes, surveys, and skill set sheets to identify specific skills learned and/or utilized by participants. Upon completion, each student received a certificate, exceptional feedback from coordinators, and opportunities for continued skill development. These factors alone made the program an overall success!

South Arkansas University Tech

On February 23rd, SAU-Tech Career Pathways hosted a Life Skills Workshop, "How are you: A Small Glimpse into Our Health" with LPN Regina Ellis as the presenter. After the presentation, the students presented different exercises they use at home with their kids to help them stay healthy.

Program Update

ADHE/CPI and CPI Campuses Provide Many Program Activities & Strategies for Students and CPI Staff



National Park Community College

On March 7th and 28th, NPCC Career Pathways, Career Services Center staff and the Department of Workforce services sponsored two Job Fair Boot Camps for NPCC students and the local community. These two events prepared participants on "how to" apply for employment during the March 13th Health Sciences Job Fair and the All Majors Job Fair April 4, 2012 in the Gerald Fisher Campus Center. Linda Nooner, Career Pathways staff created the graphics used on the Job Fair Boot Camp signs. Boot Camp signs were placed in several campus locations advertising the Boot Camp event (See Picture Above).

College of the Ouachitas

CPI Program assisted the COTO Nursing Department with CPR Kits.



CPI @ WORK



Accounting Student Lands Incredible Job!



Arkansas Secretary of State Mark Martin, pictured with former Career Pathways student and recently-hired purchasing assistant, Bobbi Boone. Boone is a graduate of the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton, where she earned an Associate of Applied Science in Accounting in December 2011.



East Arkansas Community College
Serving the Arkansas Delta Since 1974

Jessica Gaither entered the EACC Career Pathways Initiative as a recently divorced parent in January of 2008.

Jessica states, ***"If it wasn't for you and for the Career Pathways Program, I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing to try to change my life; better my life. Period. But, I know that the programs that are in place to help people like me would not be able to do what they are intended to do without the effort of good hearted people like you. It's so obvious to me that you care about what you do and the people you help and I am thankful to you!"***

Jessica graduated from E.A.C.C. in May of 2011 with an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing as well as a Technical Certificate in Health Professions. After passing the NCLEX exam, Jessica was hired as a registered nurse at Harris Hospital in Newport, AR. In addition, in February of 2012 she was also hired as the school nurse at Central Elementary in Forrest City, AR.

"Win or lose, I know in my heart that I have done my best and have had the support of some amazing people, including you," remarked Jessica in CPI, reaping benefits that other students may not know about.



Terrydino Cabello, a TANF eligible student at Rich Mountain Community College, was awarded in May 2011 an Associate of General Studies. He is currently employed full time at Mena Public Schools and tutors college students part-time. Terrydino plans to start an online degree program through the U of A Fayetteville in the Fall.

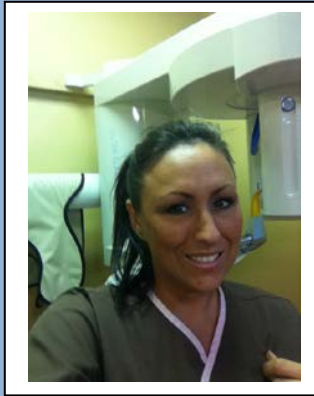


Terrydino's employer submitted the following statement:

"Terrydino's job performance is simply wonderful. He is the best worker! There is nothing that we can't ask him to do. In fact, he even takes care of things without being asked. Everyone loves him because he is so personable. He asks 'How are you doing?' and really wants to know. Our organization is blessed to have Terrydino on staff."
Norma Foster-Mena Public Schools



Monica Harrell
Dental Assistant
Former TEA Participant



Monica enrolled in Career Pathways in 2010. At enrollment, Monica was employed at the Faded Rose restaurant and pursuing a Technical Certificate in Dental Assisting. She graduated from Pulaski Tech in May of 2011.

While in Career Pathways Monica earned:

- Employability Certificate
- Technical Certificate in Dental Assisting **with HONORS!**

Monica says she absolutely LOVES her job! Needless to say, we are very proud of Monica and look forward to hearing about her continued success. Her employer has many great things to say about her and you can read an excerpt of them below:

Employer: Dr. Steven F. Molpus, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Center

Employer Comments about Monica:

"Monica is one of the newest members of our team. She is a wonderful dental assistant with great potential for growth. She is up-beat, a fast learner and a very dependable employee. Her initiative and follow through are also great qualities that we love to see in our employees. We are very fortunate to have her working for us."



Seth Hardage is an extraordinary young man. He is a single father of a beautiful young girl, Olivia. Seth graduated in December 2011 with an AAS in Aviation Maintenance Technology. Seth works full time for Arkansas Turbine Services where he does aircraft maintenance. He also worked for Universal Asset Management, where they dismantled airliners and salvaged parts, prior to the company making a move to Mississippi.

Seth started with Pathways during the spring of 2010. He has reached his goal of completing his aviation degree and is continuing his education further with online classes so that he can work fulltime. He is a very kind young man, and completes any task that we ask of him.

We are very proud of Seth's successes.



The Career Pathways Initiative at PCCUA on the Dewitt campus is proud to announce the selection of its **"Student of the Quarter."**

Toshia Dillion, of DeWitt, was chosen by the criteria set forth by the Career Pathways Program. Such criteria includes: academic excellence, good personality, and being in compliance with all Career Pathways guidelines for the quarter.

In addition to her excellent grades, Toshia will earn an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree in Early Childhood Education when she graduates. She is the mother of two children. Both of her children play sports and she enjoys being with them a lot. Dillion has future plans of earning her Bachelor degree in Teaching as she would like to work as a teacher.

Dillion is employed at Pattillo Center School full time and she also is a full-time student at PCCUA in DeWitt. She is a lead teacher for the two year old class at Patillo. She enjoys spending as much time as possible with her family. She stated that coming to PCCUA was a good decision "because it is local and I could get everything I needed there without being away from my children. Most of my classes have been evening or afternoon classes, making it possible for me to still work."



Program Goals and Objectives

The goal of Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative is to improve educational and employment outcomes for TANF-eligible adults. Among the key objectives, listed in the MOA, for TANF-eligible adult participants are the following:

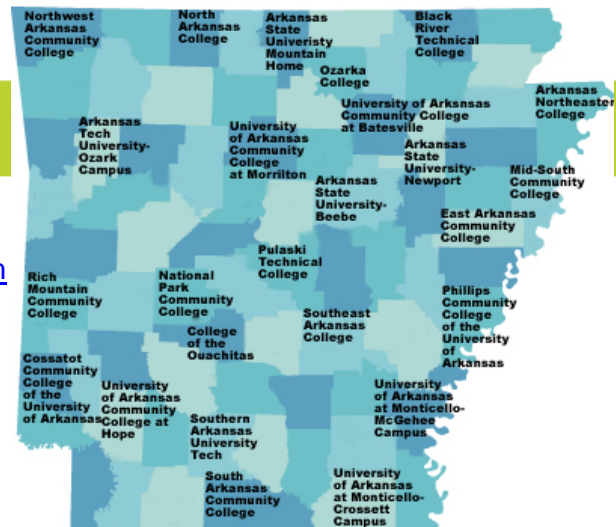
- Improved work participation rates
- Enhanced basic skills
- Increased attainment of college-level certificates and associates degrees
- Improved job retention, advancement and wage progression
- Reduced welfare recidivism
- Increase self-sufficiency
- Wage/Employability

Driven by two-state agencies, Arkansas Department of Higher Education and Department of Workforce Services, Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) is a partnership between community colleges, workforce development agencies, employers, and social service providers. Arkansas CPI is aimed at providing marketable educational skills through higher education credentials to low-income individuals for immediate entry into targeted occupations. Arkansas CPI improves working relationships between public systems and pre-established programs and services in order to assist low-income individuals in acquiring workplace skills that ultimately lead to economic self-sufficiency.

The primary purpose of the initiative is to address the “education gap” as a vehicle through which the “economic gap” can be closed.

Arkansas
Career PATHWAYS

www.arpathways.com



ANC – Arkansas Northeastern College, Blytheville
 ASUMH – Arkansas State University, Mountain Home
 ATUO – Arkansas Tech University, Ozark
 CCCUA – Cossatot Community College U of A, DeQueen
 EACC – East Arkansas Community College, Forrest City
 NAC – North Arkansas College, Harrison
 NWACC – Northwest Arkansas Community College, Bentonville
 PCCUA – Phillips Community College of the U of A, Helena
 RMCC – Rich Mountain Community College, Mena
 SAUT – Southern Arkansas University Tech, Camden
 UACCB – University of Arkansas Community College, Batesville
 UACCM – University of Arkansas Community College, Morrilton
 UAMM – UAM College of Technology- McGehee

ASUB – Arkansas State University, Searcy
 ASUN – Arkansas State University, Newport
 BRTC – Black River Technical College, Pocahontas
 COTO – College of the Ouachitas, Malvern
 MSCC – Mid-South Community College, West Memphis
 NPCC – National Park Community College, Hot Springs
 OZC – Ozarka College, Melbourne
 PTC – Pulaski Technical College, North Little Rock
 SACC – South Arkansas Community College, El Dorado
 SEAC – Southeast Arkansas College, Pine Bluff
 UACCH – University of Arkansas Community College, Hope
 UAMC – UAM College of Technology-Crossett