

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District**  
**Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, Arkansas**

**Agenda**

**Call to Order** – Introduce Guests .....Bo Phillips

**Staff Report** .....Patty Methvin

**Committee Reports**

Business Services Report.....Patty Methvin

Youth Committee Report .....Emilee Tucker

Disability Committee Report.....Jennifer Ragsdale

One-Stop Operator Committee Report..... Cherie Conner

**Agenda Item 1 – Action**

Updated Workforce Budget..... 5

**Agenda Item 2 – Action**

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**Agenda Item 3 – Action**

Title 1 Program Provider .....

**Agenda Item 4 – Action**

One-Stop Operator Report – James Moss ..... 13

**Agenda Item 5 - Action**

Eligible Training Provider Programs ..... 21

**Agenda Item 6 – Action**

Minutes of September 4, 2024, NW WDB Meeting ..... 29

**Announcements/Other Business**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming meeting dates:

- NW Workforce Development Board Meeting Wednesday, March 5, 2025
- NW Workforce Development Board Meeting Wednesday, June 4, 2025
- NW Workforce Development Board Meeting Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development  
Business Services Report  
December 4, 2024

Below is a compilation of the Business Services efforts in Northwest from September 4, 2024, to December 4, 2024

- Worked with the Youth Committee to prepare for the October 25th Youth Summit.
  - Business contacts for the Youth Summit
    - Goodwill Industries of Arkansas
    - First Community Bank
    - Boone County U of A Extension
    - ASU Mountain Home
    - Arvest Bank
    - North Arkansas College
    - Baxter Health
    - Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
    - Harrison Police Department
    - Wabash
    - Vexus Boats
  
- Attended One Stop Operator meetings
- Met with Miles Crawford, DPI Staffing several times to discuss OJT opportunities
- Met with South Delta PDD to discuss OJT opportunities
- Facilitated a panel discussion about WIOA at the “Employers Growing Talent Through Apprenticeship” Employer Forum
- Attended ADWS Statewide Business Services Coordinators monthly meetings.
- Attended the I49 Corridor Workforce Summit
- Attended the Arvest Non-Profit lunch
- Attended the North Arkansas College Strategic Planning session.

## **OSO Partner Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** September 18 & 26, 2024

**Location:** Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District (NWAEDD), Harrison & Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)

**Presenters:** James Moss and Patty Methvin

**Committee Members:** Engaged, provided constructive feedback

### **Opening Remarks**

James Moss opened the meeting, welcoming attendees and introducing the agenda. Key updates included recent developments at the Harrison Workforce Center and upcoming changes at the Fayetteville location. James emphasized the importance of addressing public access concerns raised by ADWS leadership and Senator King during their recent visit, with a focus on strategies to implement the upcoming changes effectively.

### **Harrison Workforce Center Transition from Comprehensive to Affiliate Center**

James discussed the recent transition of the Harrison Workforce Center from a Comprehensive to an Affiliate Center. ADWS leadership, including Cody Waits, Eddie Thomas, Angela Cook, and Marcia Moore, visited on September 13, 2024, to assess space utilization. During the visit, they observed a customer who was unable to access resource computers due to the center's public closure. Director Waits expressed concerns about the limited public access, particularly for essential resources like ID scanning and job search computers, and recommended reopening these services.

#### *Discussion:*

Committee members explored options for accommodating public access while managing staffing limitations, especially since no partner is willing to contribute more than the recommended 8 hours per week. Various suggestions were offered to balance staffing contributions while maintaining minimal services.

### **Public Access and Staffing at the Harrison Center**

Eddie Thomas addressed an incident where a customer seeking job search assistance could not access the center. Shortly after, Senator King arrived and expressed frustration over the lack of public notice regarding the closure, stressing the importance of providing constituents with access to necessary resources. ADWS leadership proposed reopening the center's doors by September 16, 2024, but OSO and LWDB leadership determined that a one-week delay was necessary to finalize staffing.

#### *Discussion:*

Attendees deliberated on two options: rotating shared staffing among partners or hiring an administrative assistant, with shared costs for the assistant's salary. Committee members discussed how to fairly distribute the costs among partners if an administrative assistant is hired.

### **Plans for Providing Minimum In-Person Services**

With UI and Employment Services now operating via telephone hotlines and no longer providing face-to-face services, the committee discussed options to maintain essential in-person services at the Harrison Center. Technology-based solutions like kiosks or virtual appointments were deemed cost-prohibitive, requiring alternative strategies for in-person access.

#### *Discussion:*

The group focused on maintaining fair partner contributions while fulfilling the service requirements for

basic self-service resources, such as ID scanning and resource computers. Shared staffing or hiring an additional administrative assistant were revisited as potential solutions.

### **Updating the Infrastructure Funding Agreement (IFA)**

The committee addressed the need to update the IFA due to the Harrison Center's transition to an Affiliate Center and upcoming changes in Fayetteville. James highlighted that costs would shift as public access would be limited to specific services, requiring adjustments to each partner's financial contributions to reflect the modified service levels.

#### *Discussion:*

Committee members discussed structuring the IFA fairly to reflect partner staffing and service adjustments at Harrison and shared ideas for an equitable cost-sharing model.

### **Fayetteville Transition from Affiliate to Comprehensive Center**

For the first time, the Fayetteville Office is transitioning to a Comprehensive Center. This significant change will require increased staffing and funding contributions from partners. James emphasized the need for expanded service provision and close coordination to meet new WIOA requirements.

#### *Discussion:*

Attendees discussed how best to prepare for the Fayetteville transition, including necessary contributions from each partner to ensure compliance with the expanded service requirements.

### **Closing Remarks**

James summarized the meeting, reiterating the importance of reopening the Harrison Center for public access by September 23, 2024, with finalized staffing plans. He reminded partners of their roles in preparing for Fayetteville's transition and highlighted key action items, including updating the IFA and finalizing staffing contributions.

### **Next Steps:**

- Finalize the Harrison Center staffing plan by September 23, 2024.
- Update the IFA to reflect changes at both the Harrison and Fayetteville centers.
- Ensure partners are prepared for Fayetteville's comprehensive transition.

### **Meeting Adjourned**



	A	C	D
1	<b>WIOA Budget</b>	<b>2025</b>	
2		<b>Funds</b>	
3		<b>270-315</b>	
4			
5	<b>REVENUE</b>		
6	Federal funds	\$ 1,698,373	
7	IDC Revenue	\$ -	
8	Administrative- A&O/P/A	\$ -	
9	Other Income	\$ -	
10	In Kind	\$ -	
11	Loan Interest	\$ -	
12	Bank Interest	\$ -	
13	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,698,373</b>	
14			
15	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
16	A/O, P/A-Indirect from WIOA	\$ 96,179	
17	IDC Expense	\$ -	
18	Auditing	\$ -	
19	Grant Expenditures	\$ -	
20	Salaries & Wages	\$ 575,410	
21	Salaries & Wages-Participants	\$ 238,558	
22	Fringe	\$ 172,623	
23	Fringe - Participants	\$ 36,499	
24	Capital Projects	\$ -	
25	Professional Fees/consultant fees	\$ 15,000	
26	Advertising	\$ 2,500	
27	Building Rents/Storage Rents	\$ 45,000	
28	Telephone/Communications	\$ 10,500	
29	Restitution expense	\$ -	
30	IFA Costs	\$ 32,545	
31	Insurance - Vehicle	\$ -	
32	Interest expense	\$ 1,200	
33	Property Tax	\$ -	
34	Ins-Liability,Bldg, 401K,D&O,crime	\$ -	
35	Fuel	\$ -	
36	Oil	\$ -	
37	Tires	\$ -	
38	Maintenance & Repairs	\$ -	
39	Materials and Office Supplies	\$ 12,000	
40	Equipment	\$ -	
41	Memberships/subscriptions	\$ 5,000	
42	Uniforms, Mat cleaning	\$ -	
43	Office Services (shredding)	\$ -	
44	Meeting costs	\$ 1,500	
45	Contracted services-Medical	\$ -	
46	Printing /copying	\$ 3,500	
47	Contracted Services	\$ -	
48	Postage	\$ 1,500	
49	Training-Institutional	\$ 243,686	
50	Travel - Training & Education	\$ 14,000	
51	License/Title	\$ -	
52	Motor pool charges	\$ 3,000	
53	Employee Tuition Reimbursement	\$ -	
54	Travel-Mileage	\$ 10,000	
55	Legal Fees	\$ -	
56	Stipends	\$ 4,000	
57	Utilities	\$ -	
58	Computer Software/IT Services	\$ 10,000	
59	Supportive Services	\$ 163,109	
60	In Kind-Volunteers	\$ -	
61	Bank fees	\$ 1,064	
62	Depreciation	\$ 12,000	
63	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 1,710,373</b>	
64	Less: Non-Cash item Depreciation	\$ (12,000)	
65	Expenditures less Depreciation	\$ 1,698,373	
66	<b>Net Equity/Loss</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	
67			

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Board**  
**Annual Report for Program Year 2023**  
July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024

**Arkansas Workforce Centers**

Arkansas Workforce Center at Harrison, Comprehensive  
818 Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, AR 72601  
Arkansas Workforce Center at Fayetteville, Affiliate  
2153 E Joyce Blvd Suite 201, Fayetteville, AR 72703

**WIOA Implementation Activities**

*A description of the activities in which the local board has engaged to implement the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The description should include partner engagement, partner and board meetings, and efforts to integrate services to employers and jobseekers.*

Northwest Workforce Board and partner staff continues to work vigorously to implement the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Staff of the Northwest WIOA Team (Core Four and Core Four Plus) partners have been meeting regularly since March 2015 to ensure that the partners are coordinating activities within the Workforce System of Northwest Arkansas. These regular meetings have deepened the relationships and understanding of the law and guidance around the WIOA as well as the programs' benefits and needs.

With partners as Board members, the opportunity to educate and interact with the Board is ensured at a minimum quarterly; however, Board members are continually involved with several of the partners throughout their communities.

Northwest has supported secondary Career and Tech Education (CTE) through Educational Cooperatives with their regional employer partnership councils. Board members and staff have helped in the organization and participation in Education Cooperative Summits which bring students, educators and employers together to build the talent pipeline we need for the future.

The integration of services to employers and job seekers is being addressed with the Core 4 partners meetings quarterly and is happening through referrals to our partners, working with apprenticeship partners, chambers of commerce and other venues.

**Employer Services**

*A description of the programs and strategies for serving employers at the local level.*

The Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District Business Services Team meets regularly to implement and deliver business services, with the objective of addressing unmet workforce needs and narrowing employment and skills gaps.

The Business Services Coordinator seeks to assist employers and in-demand industry sectors with overcoming the challenges of recruitment, retention, and development of qualified candidates. Patty Methvin has served as the primary point of contact and support for targeted businesses while connecting public resources, job seekers, and business sectors to achieve a shared understanding of industry needs and opportunities.

Employers are served through Arkansas Workforce Centers and have access to customized recruitment and hiring, human resource consultation, workforce development training, free job listings, labor market information, small business resources and referrals for aspiring entrepreneurs, layoff aversion strategies, tax credit information, and work-based learning opportunities such as on-the-job training, registered apprenticeship, and work experience. To market these services to the public and increase brand awareness, a business services webpage was created as well as WIOA rack cards for local distribution.

The NWA Business Services Team was conceived with the intent to enhance employer engagement and meet employer demands. The team is comprised of professionals from workforce development, education, human services, business and industry. To support area employers most effectively, in-demand occupations were identified, a needs assessment was conducted, and labor market information and evidence-based practices were applied to enhance the strategy and implementation of services.

The Business Services Coordinator continues to have an active presence in the community and engages employers through one-on-one and group meetings, employer forums, job fairs, roundtables, conferences, and other meaningful events. The requests for business services continue to increase, meaning we are seeing a significant return on our investment in varied outreach approaches.

The One-Stop Operator remains in contact with all Core 4 Partners throughout the district to supply quarterly reports to the Workforce Board, address any pressing issues that may have developed, and review client success stories.

The Northwest Disability committee, Northwest Youth Committee and Northwest One Stop Operatory committee meet regularly to discuss how to better serve our participants.

### **Innovative Service Delivery**

*A description of the local area's unique programs and recent accomplishments. The local area should highlight any innovative service delivery strategies, including program activities that support dislocated workers, low-skilled/low-income adults and disadvantaged youth.*

Northwest's strategy for serving the out-of-school youth population, who are dropouts, is to partner with the Adult Education programs providing GED training and directing a work component. Typically, an individual will attend GED classes for half day and be in a work experience the other half. Participants are paid a wage for the work experience. Staff secures an employer for the work experience and closely monitors both the training and work activities, if either is being neglected or there are issues then the Career Advisor works to resolve the issue. This has been extremely successful because of close oversight and the young person has financial resources to stay focused on completing the GED while gaining valuable experience in the world

of work. This has shown greater performance success for both the Adult Education and Youth programs. Many started as high school dropouts and are climbing the career ladder via higher education.

Northwest partnered with O.U.R. Educational Cooperative, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce and Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce to create the "See it AND Be It" Youth summits. The target audience was High School juniors and seniors, and Out of School Youth. The vision of this conference was to get those students at the end of their high school career or out-of-school youth to come into a conference setting to figure out more about themselves and how to get them into the workforce. The goal of the summit was to allow the students the ability to have some one-on-one time with employers and training providers. The committee decided to focus on Benton County small schools and O.U.R. Co-op small schools since those schools don't always have the opportunities that larger schools get. The committee worked with counselors and career coaches in the schools to recruit students who would most benefit from the summit. Employers were encouraged to create an interactive booth and to travel around with the students so they could answer questions and recruit students to their business. The summits will be held on October 17th at the O.U.R. Co-operative Extension Service (Harrison) and on October 26th at the Fayetteville Library. Over 100 students and over 50 employers and non-profits attended the events.

Northwest continues the regional partnership started in 2006 with the Workforce Boards in Southwest Missouri, Northeast Oklahoma and Southeast Kansas by working together to coordinate job fairs and business services, share staff training and other opportunities to leverage resources.

Northwest Workforce is a partner of the Carroll County Collaborative (C3 and C4) which brings together employers, community leaders, educators, the elected officials, workforce and economic developers to find and implement solutions that have allowed Carroll County to work together to begin to address the unmet needs of the employers and communities. Carroll County is 'where Woodstock meets livestock' and this innovative partnership is manifesting with the addition of a new tech center for high school students at the old Armory with all three high schools in partnership with business.

Workforce staff participated in the Workforce Initiative Network (WIN) summit sponsored by the Ozark Unlimited Resources Educational Cooperative, Boone County Economic Development Corporation, North Arkansas College and Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce. The focus of these meetings was round table discussions between educators and industry.

Workforce staff also participated in the Mountain Home Workforce Summit giving presentations on WIOA partners and the services they provide.

### **Services to Targeted Populations**

*A description of the programs, initiatives, and strategies for serving Veterans at the local level, including a description of how veterans' priority of service is being implemented for all training programs. A description of efforts and strategies employed by the local board to increase enrollments of individuals on public assistance, disabled individuals, out-of-school youth, at-risk*

*youth, ex-offenders, high-school dropouts and other groups that may be identified by the local board as priority populations.*

*Not a high school graduate*

*Veterans*

*Low-Income Persons*

*TANF Recipients*

*Receives Public Assistance (not TANF)*

*Ex-offenders*

*Single Parent*

*Displaced Homemaker*

*UI Exhaustee*

*Out-of-School Youth/High School Dropouts*

*Basic Skills Deficient Youth*

*Pregnant/Parenting Youth*

### **Services to Veterans**

All staff members have been trained to ensure Veterans Preference. Services for veterans and eligible spouses are integrated within our delivery network through a variety of means. Primarily, veteran staff is co-located at Workforce Centers and is an integral part of the employer outreach team. In addition to these activities, veteran staff conducts outreach to and network with local veteran service organizations both as a means of developing additional referral contacts for services outside the scope of employment, and promoting available services targeted to veterans.

Depending on the needs of the individual, each veteran has available services such as job search (including receiving veteran preference for job referrals), resume preparation, training and more. Initiatives and programs such as the Gold Card, ARVets, VRAP and vocational rehabilitation work to ensure that our veterans get the extra services that they deserve.

DWS screens veterans at the intake point using a self-attestation tool to identify 'severe barriers to employment' and are referred to the Disabled Veterans Representative for intensive case management. This ensures that qualified veterans receive the high level of service due to them.

### **Adults**

Not a high school graduate is served by partnering with the six local Adult Education programs (with outreach to outlying communities) for referrals, participating in high school and elementary parent nights to speak to parents about GED, Career Readiness Certificate, English Language Classes, outreach to Ozark Literacy Council and Benton County Literacy Council partnerships with Goodwill, Salvation Army, Ozark Center of Hope and House of Hope.

Veterans are served by referrals to and from the DWS Veteran Representatives in the Centers; outreach and referrals to/from Ozark Guidance; homeless shelters; Hiring Our Heroes events; County Veterans Service Offices; Veterans Center (hospital); federal TRIO program; Disabled American Veterans.

Low Income individuals are served by partnerships and referrals to/from area food pantries, Department of Human Services, Office of Human Concern, Care Community Center, Ozark Share and Care, homeless shelters, Salvation Army, area churches, Career Pathways, Educational Opportunity Center, Resource Council meetings, TRIO, Ozark Center of Hope, churches, post-secondary schools, elementary schools, School Open Houses, high schools, housing authorities, Credit Counseling of the Ozarks, county health departments, relationships with city, and community and business leaders.

TANF recipients are served through partnerships with DWS TANF case managers, DHHS and Career Pathways staff.

Receives Public Assistance (not TANF) individuals are served by partnerships and referrals to/from housing authorities, emergency resources, food banks, Department of Human Services, libraries, Salvation Army, Ozark Center of Hope, Career Pathways, and post-secondary schools.

Offenders receive services through relationships with the Department of Community Corrections, Probation and Parole, sheriff and police departments, partnerships with Ozark Center of Hope, Boone County Recovery Project, Goodwill programs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Employers, Juvenile Services, provide information about Federal Bonding Program and Work Opportunity Tax Credit, and staff conduct workshops for offenders coming back into the community to help individuals adjust to society standards.

Single Parents receive services through partnerships to include cross referrals with TANF staff, Single Parent Scholarships, housing authorities, Career Pathways, Department of Human Services, Office of Human Concern, post-secondary and secondary schools, local business and community leaders, Goodwill Industries, local food pantries, TRIO and Resource Council meetings.

#### Dislocated Workers

Displaced Homemakers are served through partnerships to include cross referrals with emergency resources, shelters for women and the homeless, Career Pathways, Department of Human Services, Goodwill Industries, Single Parent Scholarships and Credit Counseling of the Ozarks.

Veteran Referrals are to and from the DWS Veteran Representatives in the Centers; outreach and referrals to/from Ozark Guidance; homeless shelters; Hiring Our Heroes events; County Veterans Service Offices; Veterans Center (hospital); recruit for National Disaster Grants; federal TRIO program; Disabled American Veterans.

UC Exhaustee customers are served through partnerships and coordination to include cross referrals with DWS unemployment staff, UI profiled participants, recruit to fill National Disaster Grant temporary employment positions.

Single Parents are provided services through partnerships to include cross referrals with TANF staff, Single Parent Scholarships, housing authorities, Career Pathways, Department of Human

Services, Office of Human Concern, post-secondary and secondary schools, local business and community leaders, Goodwill Industries, local food pantries, TRIO and Resource Council meetings.

### Youth

Out-of-School youth are recruited and served with partners that include cross referrals with Goodwill Industries, secondary schools working with teachers, counselors and students for outreach, Youth Strategies, Teen Challenge, Ozark Center of Hope, Adult Education Centers counselors and instructors, Alternative schools and high school staff.

Dropouts are served with partnerships with Adult Education centers, secondary and alternative schools, Literacy Councils, Youth Strategies, Teen Challenge, Job Corps, and Goodwill Industries.

Basic Skills Deficient youth receive services through partnerships with secondary and alternative schools, special education teachers and counselors, Goodwill Industries, Job Corps, Twin Lakes Literacy Council, and Adult Basic Education.

Pregnant/Parenting youth are served by partnerships with Circle of Life, TANF staff, New Beginnings, Department of Human Services, the Jones Center, Youth Strategies, schools including teachers, counselors and administrators, Ozark Center of Hope, Salvation Army, Pregnancy Resource Center and referrals from mentors.

Low Income youth receive services through partnering and referrals to/from area food pantries, Department of Human Services, Office of Human Concern, Care Community Center, Ozark Share and Care, homeless shelters, Salvation Army, area churches, Career Pathways, Educational Opportunity Center, Resource Council meetings, TRIO, Ozark Center of Hope, post-secondary schools, high schools, housing authorities, Credit Counseling of the Ozarks, county health departments, relationships with city, community and business leaders.

Offenders are reached and served by relationships with Department of Community Corrections, Probation and Parole, sheriff and police departments, partnerships with Ozark Center of Hope, Boone County Recovery Project, Goodwill programs, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Employers, Juvenile Services, provide information about Federal Bonding Program and Work Opportunity Tax Credit, and staff conduct workshops for offenders coming back into the community to help individuals adjust to society standards.

*A description of the local area's efforts for continuous improvement of the services offered in the Arkansas Workforce Centers through customer feedback.*

Workforce Centers in the Northwest region provide customer satisfaction surveys to job seekers. The results of these surveys are available for managers and board to review. Managers address any issues as they arise and have personal interaction with customers on a regular basis. The Centers strive to move forward to improve the quality of services provided to job seekers and employers and meet with partners to discuss issues or changes to improve the system.

**Northwest WIOA Performance Measures**

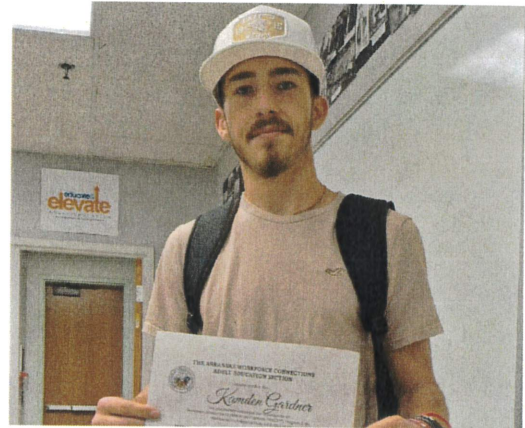
<b>WIOA Adult</b>	<b>PY22 - PY23 Performance Goals</b>
Employment (Second Quarter after Exit)	81%
Employment (Fourth Quarter after Exit)	80%
Credential Attainment Rate	79%
Median Earnings (Second Quarter after Exit)	\$6,449.00
Measurable Skills Gains	69%
<b>WIOA Dislocated Worker</b>	<b>PY22 – PY23 Performance Goals</b>
Employment (Second Quarter after Exit)	81%
Employment (Fourth Quarter after Exit)	83%
Credential Attainment Rate	77%
Median Earnings (Second Quarter after Exit)	\$7,227.00
Measurable Skills Gains	66.5%
<b>WIOA Youth</b>	<b>PY22 - PY23 Performance Goals</b>
Employment (Second Quarter after Exit)	71%
Employment (Fourth Quarter after Exit)	74%
Credential Attainment Rate	60%
Median Earnings (Second Quarter after Exit)	\$3,450.00
Measurable Skills Gains	57%



**One Stop Operator Report**  
July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024

**Success Story: Kamden Gardner – A Desire to Serve**  
**by Nicholas Ryburn – Northwest Technical Institute - Adult Education**

Kamden enrolled in the teen program at the Northwest Technical Institute Adult Education Center this fall. His goal was to earn his Arkansas High School Equivalency diploma by December so he could join the military and serve our great country. Within four weeks, Kamden earned his Arkansas High School Equivalency diploma while completing the Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE) Level One curriculum. This program, designed by the state Adult Education Division, is a job readiness initiative. It focuses on improving participants' basic academic skills while providing workforce preparation and training activities. He has moved up his timeline and will start his military journey within a few weeks.



*GED and WAGE completer Kamden Gardner is all business and is looking forward to Basic Training.*

**Success Story: Cassie Watkins - A Journey to Self-Sufficiency**  
**by Nadine Sewak – WIOA 1B**



*Cassie loves the necklace her daughter bought her for a graduation gift.*

Cassie Watkins, a single mother of two, sought help from the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Center to transform her life and secure a stable future for her family. Relying on SNAP and HUD Housing Assistance, she aspired to break the cycle of dependence by becoming a Registered Nurse (RN). Recognizing her potential, the WIOA program provided the support Cassie needed, covering essential expenses such as car repairs, books, fees, a laptop, and a stethoscope. She also gained valuable financial literacy skills to manage her journey toward self-sufficiency.

Cassie enrolled in the Nursing program at Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) and, through sheer determination, graduated Cum Laude in August. Her dedication paid off when she passed the NCLEX on her first attempt, opening the door to a new career. In November, Cassie began working full-time as an RN at Vantage Point Behavioral Health, earning \$33 to \$37.50 per hour. This opportunity marked a significant turning point, as Cassie's new income allowed her family to move beyond public assistance for the first time.

Cassie's story is a testament to the power of resilience and the impact of WIOA services, enabling her to achieve financial independence and set a positive example for her children. Her journey from reliance on public aid to a rewarding healthcare career showcases the life-changing potential of workforce development programs.

### **Success Story: Daytona's Path to a Nursing Career – by Melba Miller – WIOA 1B**

Daytona Oldham's journey began with a goal to build a better future for herself through a career in nursing. Although she had completed pre-requisites and gained acceptance into the RN program at Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) in August 2022, she faced



*Daytona Oldham: NWACC graduate and Licensed Registered Nurse*

financial challenges as a low-income student relying on SNAP benefits. With a high school diploma and some college credits but no occupational certifications, Daytona needed additional support to pursue her career aspirations.

The WIOA program stepped in to assist, qualifying Daytona for Title 1-B Adult funding. Through her WIOA Career Advisor, Melba Miller, she learned about the Upskill NWA Scholarship, applied, and received the award, which covered her tuition and most educational expenses. WIOA provided additional supportive services, including a laptop, tablet, books, CPR training, uniforms, background checks, transportation assistance, and licensing fees.

Daytona's dedication paid off when she graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from NWACC in May 2024. She passed the NCLEX exam on her first attempt in July, earning her RN license. Soon after, Daytona accepted a position as a Registered Nurse at Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, starting in August 2024 with a starting salary of \$31.00 per hour.

From struggling student to confident healthcare professional, Daytona's journey demonstrates the power of perseverance and the impact of WIOA services in helping individuals achieve sustainable careers.

### **Success Story: Grant's Path to a Skilled Trade Career – Information Submitted by Teshia Smith – Arkansas Rehabilitation Services**

Grant Powell's journey began shortly after high school when he sought support from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) to launch his career. With no prior experience, Grant was determined to find a path that would lead to stable, well-paying work. ARS Counselor Teshia Smith guided him toward the Heavy Equipment Operating Academy in Bee Branch, Arkansas—a program that aligned with his interests and career goals.

Over the course of the 8-week program, Grant gained comprehensive training, earning certifications to operate a range of heavy machinery, including excavators, dozers, front-end loaders, skid steers, backhoes, and telehandlers. The academy equipped him with essential



skills beyond machine operation, such as reading blueprints, setting up jobsites, conducting equipment inspections, and leading safety meetings. These experiences also prepared Grant to take on leadership roles, training him in crew management.

For individuals like Grant, who are entering the workforce with limited experience, vocational training paired with ARS support can be a game-changer. The hands-on experience with heavy equipment and understanding of jobsite logistics provided Grant with a competitive edge in the job market.

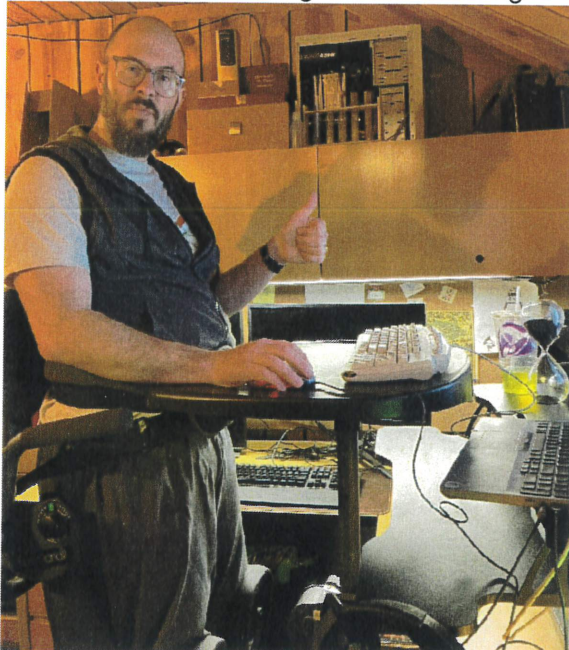
Currently, Grant is collaborating with ARS to update his resume and apply for employment opportunities in the construction industry. Grateful for the guidance he received, Grant shared, "Without ARS and Ms. Smith's help, I wouldn't have been able to achieve this dream." Grant's story exemplifies how tailored training and support can empower first-time clients to build successful careers in skilled trades.



*Grant Powell, heavy equipment operator.*

### **Success Story: Zachary's Journey to an Accessible Engineering Career – Information Submitted by Adam White – Arkansas Rehabilitation Services**

Zachary Cole faced significant challenges following a spinal cord injury, but his determination to pursue a career in engineering remained strong. Employed as a Hardware Development Engineer at The Wolfsped Research Center, Zachary needed a workplace that accommodated his mobility needs. He turned to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) for assistance, seeking an assessment to enhance both his worksite and home environments.



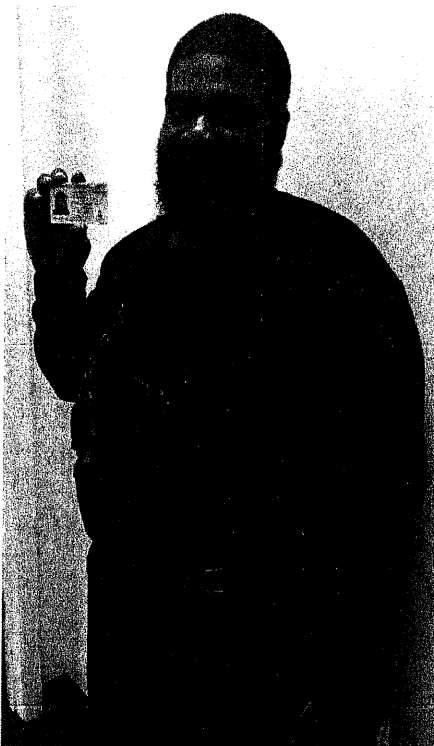
*Zachary uses assistive technology that allows him to access competitive employment opportunities.*

Brad Marsh, an ARS specialist, conducted a thorough assessment of Zachary's workspace, leading to a series of modifications that greatly improved his work experience. The installation of a height-adjustable work desk allowed Zachary to easily switch between seated and standing positions, while a stander provided essential support for maintaining an upright stance. Additionally, a dual monitor support arm facilitated precise screen positioning, desktop power outlets minimized the need for extended reaching, and a LED desk lamp ensured optimal lighting for detailed tasks.

This customized assistive technology not only improved Zachary's access to his workspace but also empowered him to work efficiently and comfortably. For individuals with similar mobility challenges, such accommodations are crucial for creating an inclusive environment where they can thrive. By adapting the workspace to meet his needs, ARS enabled Zachary to fully engage in his role, enhancing productivity and independence.

Grateful for the support he received, Zachary credits ARS for their vital role in his continued success, allowing him to overcome barriers and excel in his engineering career.

### **Success Story: Jermamy's Journey to New Opportunities Through WIOA**



*Jermamy Tiswell and his CDL*

Jermamy Tiswell joined the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area's WIOA Adult program in January 2024 with a determination to turn his life around. Despite facing setbacks, including an arrest shortly before he was scheduled to start CDL training, Jermamy remained resilient. Over the following months, he completed various WIOA activities, including financial literacy and career services, and worked diligently to clear his record.

In September, his persistence paid off when he finally began his CDL training, successfully earning his commercial driver's license. Jermamy was thrilled to start a new role as a Semi Truck Driver with Buckle Up Trucking, affiliated with Cards Recycling, where he is poised to earn a weekly income of around \$1,250. In his own words, Jermamy shared, "I take two to three loads to Pittsburg, Kansas each day. I don't know how much each load pays, but I know what I'll make weekly".

Jermamy's story is a testament to the transformative power of WIOA, showing how supportive services and structured guidance can help participants overcome personal obstacles and achieve financial stability. His success demonstrates that with determination and the right support, individuals can overcome even the most challenging barriers to achieve meaningful employment.

### **Employers Growing Talent Through Apprenticeship – Employer Forum**

On September 17, 2024, the Supply Chain Hall of Fame in Rogers, Arkansas, hosted the "Employers Growing Talent Through Apprenticeship" Forum, a collaborative event highlighting the impact of registered apprenticeships in solving workforce challenges. The forum brought together many employers, workforce leaders, and apprenticeship experts from across Arkansas, who gathered to learn how registered apprenticeship programs can serve as a sustainable solution to regional talent shortages.

The forum opened with a welcome from John Kuznar, USDOL/OA State Director, followed by Mark McManus, Apprenticeship Expansion Coordinator with the Arkansas Department of



Commerce, who provided an overview of the Registered Apprenticeship (RA) system. His insights underscored how RAs help employers reduce hiring costs and time-to-productivity for new hires. Lonnie Emard of Apprenticely then presented intermediary support and expansion activities, describing how Apprenticely assists employers in program development, candidate recruitment, and regulatory compliance, making RA programs accessible to companies of all sizes.

The Lunch & Learn session featured Tiffany Benitez, President of Women in Technology of NWA, who presented on the InnovateHer Arkansas Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Her session focused on the development of tech talent pipelines that support diversity and accessibility in the workforce.

A panel of Registered Apprenticeship Employer Champions followed, featuring leaders from OzarksGo, Arkansas Children's Hospital, JB Hunt, and MedCerts, who shared success stories and best practices in integrating RAs to meet specialized workforce needs. Each panelist emphasized the long-term benefits of apprenticeships, particularly in fields facing a shortage of skilled labor.



*Patty Methvin (NWAEDD)*



*Left to right: Aaron Johnson (ADWS), Trenton Cowling (ARS), Heather Grigsby (DSB), James Moss (NWAEDD)*

The WIOA panel, facilitated by Patty Methvin, included representatives from WIOA core partners. Panelists discussed scenarios in which candidates are directed to various workforce services, demonstrating how effective collaboration among partners facilitates comprehensive support and workforce development.

The forum concluded with an open Q&A, where participants engaged directly with panelists on program implementation and next steps.

### **Building Community and Opportunity: WIOA 1B Joins Fayetteville's CDBG in the Park Picnic**

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the Park picnic, held on July 19, 2024, in Fayetteville, brought together community members, partners, and local organizations to celebrate CDBG's role in enhancing Fayetteville's neighborhoods. The event aimed to highlight

the significant impact CDBG-funded projects have on affordable housing, public infrastructure, and essential services for low- and moderate-income residents in Fayetteville.

Representing the WIOA 1B program and the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District (NWAEDD), career advisors Nadine Sewak and Melba Miller were on-site to connect with attendees, showcase available workforce services, and share resources with residents. As part of NWAEDD's mission to support economic self-sufficiency, they provided information on WIOA's services, including job training, career counseling, and employment support, emphasizing the program's role in creating pathways to sustainable employment.

Throughout the picnic, the career advisors met with community members and representatives from local nonprofits to discuss ongoing challenges faced by Fayetteville's low-income residents. Nadine and Melba engaged with attendees, answering questions and sharing success stories of individuals who have overcome barriers to employment through WIOA's services. Their presence underscored the importance of accessible workforce services as a complement to CDBG's focus on housing and community development.

In collaboration with CDBG partners, WIOA 1B aims to address critical needs holistically—supporting housing stability and economic opportunity. By connecting with the public and aligning workforce services with community goals, NWAEDD career advisors play an essential role in empowering residents to build a brighter future. The picnic provided a valuable opportunity to reinforce these partnerships and highlight how integrated support can help strengthen Fayetteville's communities.



**Core Partner Numbers**

**Title 1**

**Core 4 NWAEDD**

(Services Include - In-School Youth, Out-of-School Youth, Adults and Dislocated Workers)

Location	1st Quarter Participants		Year to Date Participants	
	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24
Fayetteville	29	4	29	4
Harrison	36	13	36	13
Total	65	17	65	17

**Title 2**

**Core 4 Adult Education Northwest District**

(Services Include - English Language Learners, U.S. Civics preparation, Adult Basic and Secondary Education, Workplace Education, Family Literacy, Integrated Education and Training)

Location	1st Quarter Reportable Individuals		1st Quarter Participants		Year to Date Reportable Individuals		Year to Date Participants	
	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24
Arkansas State University at Mountain Home	99	95	61	64	99	95	61	64
Fayetteville Public Schools	189	196	140	157	186	196	141	157
North Arkansas College	270	254	174	192	270	254	174	192
Northwest Arkansas Community College	819	793	618	636	819	793	618	618
Northwest Technical Institute	647	725	428	470	647	725	428	470
Ozark Literacy Council	86	120	47	54	86	120	47	54
Total	2,110	2,183	1,441	1,573	2,107	2,183	1,469	1,573

**Title 3**

**Core 4 Division of Workforce Services**

(Services Include - Job Service, TANF Clients, Unemployment Insurance)

Location	1st Quarter Customers		Year to Date Customers	
	PY 23	PY24	PY 23	PY 24
Fayetteville	3,347	2,503	3,347	2,503
Harrison	1,451	1,837	1,451	1,837
Total	3,020	4,340	3,020	4,340

**Title 4**

**Core 4 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Northwest**

(DISTRICT 1- Services Include - Case Review, Career & Technical Training and Education, transition from school to work or postsecondary education, on-the-job training, ancillary support services, and employee performance issues because of a disability in the workplace)

Location	1st Quarter Applicants		1st Quarter # Closed		Year to Date Applicants		Year to Date # Closed		Current Active Clients Served	
	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24
Fayetteville	172	357	156	174	172	357	156	174	708	799
Harrison	29	66	31	11	29	66	31	11	92	152
Total	201	423	187	185	201	423	187	185	800	951

**Title 4**

**Core 4 Services for the Blind**

(DISTRICT 1- Services Include - Case Review, Career & Technical Training and Education, transition from school to work or postsecondary education, on-the-job training, ancillary support services, employee performance issues because of a disability in the workplace)

Location	1st Quarter Referrals		Year to Date Total Referrals		Year to Date Total Served	
	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24	PY 23	PY 24
Benton County	11	8	11	8	60	75
Baxter, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, and Searcy Counties	22	18	22	18	32	51
Washington County	14	12	14	12	51	42
Total	47	38	47	38	143	168



**Northwest Workforce  
Approved Eligible Training Providers  
December 4, 2025**

<a href="#"><u>Certified Pharmacy Technician</u></a>	The Academy - NWA	Jul 23, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Machining Technology CP</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Aug 14, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Associate of Applied Science in Digital Design</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Oct 31, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Certified Clinical Medical Assistant</u></a>	The Academy - NWA	Jul 23, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW) - (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Funeral Science</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Information Technology (Associates of Applied Science)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Health Information Management</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Commercial Truck Driving/Commercial Vehicle Operator</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Medium Heavy Truck Technology</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Surgical Technology (Associates of Applied Science)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>HVAC</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Digital Media/Design (Associates Degree)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Construction Technology</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Welding</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Industrial Truck Operator</u></a>	The Academy - NWA	Jul 23, 2024

<a href="#"><u>Pre-Allied Health (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Business Administration/Accounting (AAS degree)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Certified Retail Analyst with Prerequisites</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 13, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Class A CDL Program</u></a>	160 Driving Academy - Northwest	Jan 17, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Associate Applied Science in Computer Technology &amp; Network</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Oct 31, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Truck &amp; Bus Driver/Commercial Vehicle Operator &amp; Instructor</u></a>	MID-AMERICA TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL INC. (MATDS) - Springdale	Oct 31, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Automotive Systems Repair</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Associate of Applied Science in Welding</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Assoc. of Applied Science in Programming/Mobile Development</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Oct 31, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Certificate of Proficiency in Graphic Design</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Clinical Medical Assistant (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration (AAS)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 15, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Practical Nursing</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Medical Coder</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Oct 31, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Criminal Justice-AAS</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Machining</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 07, 2024

<a href="#"><u>Registered Nursing (Traditional)</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 07, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Electronics Technology</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Outdoor Power Equipment (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Welding Application &amp; Procedures (Cert of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>AS in Business Administration - Transfer</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Phlebotomy (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Welding (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Biomedical Electronics Technology (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Technical Certificate in Graphic Design</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Construction Equipment Operation (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Electronics Technology (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Limited Licensed Radiologic Technologist</u></a>	PETRA ALLIED HEALTH (SPRINGDALE)	Nov 15, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Certified Nursing Assistant</u></a>	PETRA ALLIED HEALTH (SPRINGDALE)	Nov 15, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Medical Billing and Coding/Insurance Specialist</u></a>	PETRA ALLIED HEALTH (SPRINGDALE)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Registered Nursing (Associates of Applied Science)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Paramedic (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024



<a href="#"><u>Child Development Associate</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Apr 26, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Paramedic(EMT) (Associates of Applied Science)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Automation/System Integration Manufacturing (AAS)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Medical Assistant</u></a>	PETRA ALLIED HEALTH (SPRINGDALE)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Business Administration Management (AAS Degree)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Turf Management (Associates of Applied Science)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Pharmacy Technician</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Feb 07, 2022
<a href="#"><u>Medical Billing and Coding</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	May 17, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Emergency Medical Technology -AAS Paramedic</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Technical Certificate Accounting Technology</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Technical Certificate Logistics Management</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>(CFOS/S) CERTIFIED FIBER OPTICS SPLICING SPECIALIST</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	May 17, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Automotive Service Technology</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Information Technology (Associates Degree)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Graphic Design</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Paralegal</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Phlebotomy</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Nursing Assistant (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024

<a href="#"><u>Certified Clinical Medical Assistant</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Apr 26, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Technical Certificate, Dental Assistant</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>CompTIA A+ Certification</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Apr 26, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Technical Certificate - Artisanal Foods</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 13, 2024
<a href="#"><u>AAS in Business Management</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Marine Manufacturing</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 13, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Structural Welding</u></a>	The Academy - NWA	Nov 13, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Automation and Systems Integration (AAS Degree)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Medical Laboratory Technology (Associate of Applied Science)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Culinary Arts</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Computer Information Systems</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>LPN (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>CNA Apprenticeship - Northwest</u></a>	NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING FOUNDATION (NATF) - Arkadelphia	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Practical Nursing</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Radiology Technology (Associates of Applied Science)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) (Cert of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Phlebotomy Technician</u></a>	PETRA ALLIED HEALTH (SPRINGDALE)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Dental Assistant</u></a>	PETRA ALLIED HEALTH (SPRINGDALE)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Automotive Service Technology (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024

<a href="#"><u>Electronics Technology</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Computer Aided Design</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Nursing Assistant</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Certification Welding (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Climate Control Manual Drive Trains Technology - (Cert Prof)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Registered Nurse</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Collision Repair Technology (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>National Personal Training Institute</u></a>	National Personal Training Institute	Jun 20, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Food Studies- Baking Arts</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Bicycle Assembly &amp; Repair Technician Program</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Criminal Justice-Technical Certificate</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Food Studies - Culinary Arts</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Associate of Applied Science in Registered Nursing LPN/Param</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Collision Repair Technology (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Commercial Truck Driving</u></a>	Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Construction Equipment Operation (Certificate of Prof)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024



<a href="#"><u>Associate of Applied Science in Food Studies</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 13, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Construction Technology (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Construction Technology (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Electronics Technology (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Facilities Maintenance (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Gas Engine Repair and Brake Technology (Cert Prof)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Heating, Ventilation &amp; Air Conditioning (Cert of Prof)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Heating, Ventilation, &amp; Air Conditioning (Technical Cert)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Manufacturing Technology (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Manufacturing Technology (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Truck Driving (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Workforce Technology (Certificate of Proficiency)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>CDL Training Class A</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	May 16, 2024
<a href="#"><u>CDL Training Class B</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	May 16, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Industrial Electronics Technology/Technician</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Veterinary Assistant</u></a>	PETRA ALLIED HEALTH (SPRINGDALE)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Physical Therapist Assistant</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024

<a href="#"><u>Information Systems</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Agriculture, Food and Life Science</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Pharmacy Technician</u></a>	PETRA ALLIED HEALTH (SPRINGDALE)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Surgical Technology</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Child Advocacy Studies</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Criminal Justice (Associates of Applied Science)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Accounting (Technical Certificate)</u></a>	NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE - NAC (NORTH CAMPUS AND SOUTH CAMPUS)	Nov 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>CDL Training Class - 5 day refresher</u></a>	NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC)	Feb 09, 2022
<a href="#"><u>Certified Nursing Assistant</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 13, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Industrial Maintenance Technology</u></a>	NORTHWEST Technical Institute (NWTI)	Nov 12, 2024



**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Minutes of Meeting September 4, 2024**  
**818 Highway 62-65-412 North, Harrison, Arkansas**

A meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Board (LWDB) was held Wednesday, September 4, 2024, in person, via conference call, and via Zoom.

Board members present in person and via Zoom meeting were:

MR. AARON JOHNSON, ARKANSAS DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES  
MS. CHERIE CONNER, NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION  
MS. DIANA JOHNSON, NWACC  
MR. EDDIE BARTLETT, MITISERVE  
MS. EMILEE TUCKER, O.U.R. EDUCATIONAL CO-OP  
MR. HUGH SMITH, SMITH AND TAYLOR TAX  
MR. BO PHILLIPS, COX-RAPID SCALE, HARRISON  
MR. JASON PATIENCE, WABASH  
MS. JENNIFER RAGSDALE, ARKANSAS REHABILITATION SERVICES  
MS. KARLEA NEWBERRY, SIGNATURE BANK OF ARKANSAS  
MR. KELLEY SHARP, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FAYETTEVILLE  
MR. KEVIN ESTES, DHS SERVICES FOR THE BLIND  
MR. ROGER POTTER, ANSTAFF BANK  
MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
MS. SAMMIE CRIBBS ROBERSON, NORTH ARKANSAS MEDICAL CENTER  
MS. SANDY STOUT, HARPS FOOD  
MS. TRISH VILLINES, VILLINES ELECTRIC  
MS. YOLANDA WILLIAMS, APEC

Board members absent and excused were:

MR. CHAD VINCENT, UNITED STEELWORKERS  
MS. CHERYL DAVENPORT, ADVANCED MARINE PERFORMANCE  
MR. DAVID BELL, DAVID BELL, LLC.  
MS. SONYA EDWARDS, JONES PHYSICAL THERAPY  
MS. VICKI JONES, MODERN FENCE  
MS. CHRISSIE LARCHEZ, HOPE COTTAGES  
MR. MATT RUSSELL, JACK WILLIAMS VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER  
MR. WILSON MARSEILLES, HARRISON REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Others present or on Zoom were:

Ms. Patty Methvin, NWAEDD  
Ms. Chelsey Weaver, NWAEDD  
Mr. James Moss, NWAEDD  
Mr. Nicholas Ryburn, Adult Education  
Ms. April Turner, NWAEDD  
Ms. Karen Henry, NWAEDD  
Ms. Amy Roberts, North Arkansas College Adult Education  
Mr. Tom Ginn, AEDC  
Ms. Katie Causey, NWAEDD

Ms. Shana King, NWAEDD  
Mr. David Bell, NWAEDD  
Mr. Jeremy Ragland, NWAEDD  
Ms. Tammy Predmore, WAPDD  
Ms. Michelle Ryan, NWAEDD  
Ms. Chris Kellem, NWAEDD  
Mr. Ryan Czanstkowski, Vexus Boats  
Mr. Elijah Snow, Congressman Crawford  
Mr. Toliver Myers, Senator Boozman  
Mr. Mike Nabors, Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Ms. Emily Yates, AEDC  
Ms. Tracy Watson, ADWS  
Mr. Ben Aldama, NWACC  
Mr. Rodney Ellis, Springdale Schools

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by VICE CHAIR KELLEY SHARP. MR. SHARP informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

MS. PATTY METHVIN gave the quarterly staff report. MS. METHVIN reported that Northwest staff met with MR. EDDIE THOMAS and other staff from Arkansas Workforce Connections to discuss the Harrison One Stop Center changes and closings. Effective September 1 Wagner Peyser staff (Employment Services) will no longer be in the Center. Clients needing employment services as well as unemployment services will be given toll-free numbers to call for help. ADWS will continue to rent the same space as they are now. MS. METHVIN provided an overview of the monitoring process. While we have not yet received the final determination for PY21, we anticipate only a small financial finding. Additionally, we have responded to the PY22 monitoring, which also resulted in a minimal financial finding. We are waiting on a response from ADWS in order to finalize the PY23 monitoring report. MS. METHVIN reported that she had monitored all of the summer youth and their worksites. Northwest hosted MS. TAMMY PREDMORE and MS. FELICIA THOMISON from Western Arkansas Planning and Development District. Both are new to WIOA and wanted to see how the program works for Northwest.

MS. METHVIN gave the Business Services Report. The Business Services Coordinator's written report is included on the agenda. The Business Services committee met on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

MS. EMILEE TUCKER gave the Youth Committee report. MS. TUCKER shared with the Board that the committee has been working on the second Youth Summit to be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> at North Arkansas College. The committee has met several times to plan the summit. To ensure a successful event, we are introducing a contract requirement for participating schools, which must be signed by both superintendents and principals. This decision is in response to the challenges faced during the spring event, which was canceled due to last-minute school cancellations. The contract aligns with the state Chamber's Draft Day procedures, which are also implementing similar requirements due to a 50% attrition rate in many regions.

There was no Disability Committee report.

MS. CHERIE CONNER gave the One-Stop Operator Committee report. The One-Stop Operator Committee will be meeting September 18, and September 26th.

MR. JASON PATIENCE made a motion to approve the committee reports. MS. TRISH VILLINES seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 1 – Updated Workforce Budget

MS. METHVIN noted the new format for the Workforce Budget. This format is much simpler to help the board better understand our financial position. Northwest has not received any of the PY or FY 24 funds to date. We anticipate getting the Youth funds within a couple of weeks. A motion was made by MR. EDDIE BARTLETT and seconded by MR. ROGER POTTER to approve the Updated Workforce Budget. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 2 – Updated Board Budget

MS. METHVIN explained to the board that the changes to the 2024 Board budget reflect current salaries and fringe. A motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MR. PATIENCE to approve the Updated Board Budget. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 3 – Election of Officers

Current officers include: John Bo Phillips – Chairperson, Kelley Sharp – Vice Chairperson, Secretary – Roger Potter. MS. METHVIN reminded the Board that the Chairperson must be from the private sector business representatives. A list of private sector businesses is provided in the agenda. A motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MR. RICKY TOMPKINS to re-elect the current slate of officers. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 4 – One-Stop Operator and Service Provider Procurement Policy.

MS. METHVIN explained to the Board that changes are being made to this policy are due to monitoring. A motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MS. KARLEA NEWBERRY to approve the updated One-Stop Operator and Service Provider Procurement Policy. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 5 – One-Stop Operator Report

MR. JAMES MOSS presented the One-Stop Operator report. Due to not having a quorum at the previous meeting a motion was made by MR. AARON JOHNSON to approve both the June report and the September report and seconded by MR. BARTLETT. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 6 – Eligible Training Provider Programs

MS. METHVIN referred to the ETP list in the agenda. Due to not having a quorum at the previous meeting a motion was made by MR. BARTLETT and seconded by MR. POTTER to approve the June Eligible Trainings and the September Eligible Trainings. MR. KELLEY SHARP, MR. RICKY TOMPKINS, MS. DIANA JOHNSON AND MS. CHERIE CONNER abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 7 – Minutes of the March 6, 2024, Northwest Workforce Board Meeting and Minutes of the June 5, 2024 Northwest Workforce Board meeting. Due to not having a quorum at the previous meeting a motion was made by MR. TOMPKINS and seconded by MR. PATIENCE to approve the March 6 and June 5<sup>th</sup> minutes. The motion passed.

MS. METHVIN reminded the board that the next board meeting will be held on December 4, 2024. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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John “Bo” Phillips

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Date