

Arkansas Adult Education



ADULT EDUCATION Newsletter

April
2024

The Arkansas Adult Education Section recently honored students and programs demonstrating exceptional achievements statewide.

The Top 25 Scorers on the GED® Test in 2023 were recognized in a ceremony on Wednesday, April 24. Friends, family, and adult educators were able to join the awardees in the Rotunda of the Arkansas State Capitol Building in Little Rock. Fellow GED® graduate Dalton Lee shared an inspirational message encouraging award recipients to realize their dreams. Dr. Trenia Miles (Director, Adult Education Section) and Cody Waits (Director, Arkansas Workforce Connection Division) spoke on the magnitude of the test takers' achievement. Dianne Doyle (High School Equivalency Program Coordinator) introduced each awardee with their thoughts about their accomplishment.

The awardees represent roughly the top two percent of the 2,775 individuals who passed the GED® test and earned their *Arkansas High School Diploma* last year. Arkansas consistently ranks as one of the top states with the highest pass rates on the test. In 2023, Arkansas had a pass rate of 86 percent, which surpassed the national pass rate of 75 percent. Arkansas' high pass rate can be attributed to the collaborative effort between our dedicated teachers and determined students.

During the 2024 Spring Administrators' Meeting held April 24-26 at the Four Points Sheraton in Little Rock, several adult education centers received recognition for outstanding performance in the fiscal year 2023-24. The awards are a result of WIOA establishing performance accountability indicators and performance reporting requirements to assess the effectiveness of states in achieving positive outcomes for individuals served. While all centers strive to meet the state's baseline for each indicator, five centers were exemplary in their efforts in seven categories.

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2022 Arkansas Top 25 GED® Scorers



1 NATHAN LANE

RUSSELLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADULT EDUCATION

4 ISABELLA BURLEIGH

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

5 AIDAN JONES

FAYETTEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADULT EDUCATION

7 STEVEN BOWMAN

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

8 XANDER HERRINGTON

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY-NEWPORT ADULT EDUCATION

8 ERIK LARSEN

NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ADULT EDUCATION

9 IDAYSION CAULKINS

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MID-SOUTH ADULT EDUCATION

9 OAK QUADE

ACS – WRIGHTSVILLE ADULT EDUCATION

10 CAITLIN MILLER

UA COMMUNITY COLLEGE-MORRILTON ADULT EDUCATION

11 COLTON HARP

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAIN HOME ADULT EDUCATION

11 JASMINE RUSSELL

NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

13 TAYLOR BARNETT

UA COMMUNITY COLLEGE-BATESVILLE ADULT EDUCATION

14 KELLEN McDONOUGH

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

16 SAMSON BREEDLOVE-WINDWALKER

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

16 DEVON PRICE

LONOKE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADULT EDUCATION

17 CHAD WOOD

ACS – WRIGHTSVILLE ADULT EDUCATION

18 ELI BROWN

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY-BEEBE/SEARCY ADULT EDUCATION

19 BRETT HILL

RUSSELLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT ADULT EDUCATION

19 JUDAH TATE

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

20 EMILY SHINN

UA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY MONTICELLO-McGEEHEE ADULT EDUCATION

23 JORDAN BRANSCUM

UA COMMUNITY COLLEGE-COSSATOT ADULT EDUCATION

24 GARRETT MAROVICH

NORTHWEST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ADULT EDUCATION

25 BENJAMIN BUTLER II

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MOUNTAIN HOME ADULT EDUCATION

25 GABE HOWARD

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

25 JOSHUA HUSKEY

BLACK RIVER TECHNICAL COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

25 AUSTIN SIKES

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education Centers Achievement and Performance Awards

The following Arkansas Adult Education Centers were recognized for excellence in program achievement and performance in the 2022-23 program year.

NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
HIGHEST OVERALL E&E

BLACK RIVER TECHNICAL COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
HIGHEST MEASURABLE SKILL GAINS

OZARKA COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
HIGHEST RETENTION RATE

ARKANSAS NORTHEASTERN COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
MOST IMPROVED MEASURABLE SKILL GAINS

SOUTH ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
HIGHEST CREDENTIAL ATTAINMENT RATE

NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
HIGHEST NUMBER OF POST-SECONDARY CREDENTIALS EARNED IN PROGRAMS OVER 250 STUDENTS

BLACK RIVER TECHNICAL COLLEGE ADULT EDUCATION
HIGHEST NUMBER OF POST-SECONDARY CREDENTIALS EARNED IN PROGRAMS UNDER 250 STUDENTS



Around the State

Arkansas Adult Education Center directors and staff members continue working innovatively and often collaboratively to help our students succeed. Check out some of the activities and successes around the state.



Northwest Arkansas Community College Adult Education

Mikia Thrower shares about a collaborative initiative at NWACC Adult Education.

“Food insecurities can be a very personal matter for the Adult Education student. According to the USDA, Arkansas ranks first in the country for food insecurities. As the SNAP E&T Coordinator, I decided to create a ‘Grab and Go’ food pantry. I wanted to create a safe place for the Adult Education student to reduce the embarrassment of asking for assistance. I realized that although many people have knowledge of SNAP benefits others may not. I wanted to allow all our students to grab the food items that they need and go free of charge.

The Adult Education staff and I stock the pantry as needed. We have also engaged in internal food drives to meet demands during the holidays. Our staff members and students also donate gently used career clothing items to prepare for job interviews and employment. Our department understands that having access to these pantries can make a difference in a student’s success in the program.

As the SNAP E&T Coordinator, I assist students with job coaching, connecting them to career & training opportunities as well as community resources. I network with Northwest Arkansas Food Bank to connect students with local food pantries in the Northwest Arkansas area to reduce barriers.”

Pulaski County Special School District Adult Education

WAGE Coordinator Melissa Featherston says, “Franswa Hall has been a joy to work with here at Pulaski County Adult Education in Jacksonville. Franswa is a dedicated and hard worker.” He has earned the WAGE Workforce Preparation Certification and the WAGE Level II Transportation and Logistics Certification, and his TABE scores improved in Reading, Math, and Language.

After working with Pulaski County Adult Education, Franswa was granted a WIOA grant that allowed him to enroll in a Commercial Driving License program through River Rock Training Academy. On April 10th, 2024, he completed his CDL course and was given his CDL license on April 11, 2024.

Featherston declares, “Franswa is more than a student; he is a success story and evidence of the efficacy of Adult Education in Arkansas.”



Let us feature your program’s news, success stories, or best practices for our community.
Send your information to AdultEd@Arkansas.gov.

Around the State (continued)

ASU Mid-South Adult Education

Donnylle Hampton (Adult Education Director) was selected by ASU Mid-South to receive the 2024 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award. She will receive the award at their annual conference on May 25th in Austin, Texas.

Hampton is one of three selected to receive the award; her recommendation statement explains why.

Few positions are required to juggle as many wide-ranging responsibilities as the Director of Adult Education. From managing multiple complex budgets, to hiring and managing staff, to developing and implementing curriculum, to competently serving a disadvantaged student population, to writing the grant application required to sustain the program, the Director of Adult Ed serves many masters in a very high stakes, outcome-driven program. No one has done it better than Mrs. Donnylle Hampton. She is dedicated, collaborative, and innovative - always looking to do what is best for her students, her program, and the college as whole. Since her return to ASU Mid-South in 2022, Donnylle has worked long hours to put the wheels back on a program that struggled mightily during the pandemic. She's managed to get the program back on track with regard to participants and outcomes and she's developed stronger relationships with our community partners.

Most recently, she's been instrumental in helping to secure services and funding for many of the students seeking to enroll in our commercial driver training program. Regardless of the challenges she encounters in her work, she handles everything and everyone with a kind and caring disposition, an unparalleled level of professionalism, and an obvious commitment to excellence. For all these reasons and more, Donnylle Hampton is an excellent candidate for the 2024 NISOD Excellence Award.

Congratulations to Donnylle Hampton!



University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Adult Education

UA Hope-Texarkana Adult Education held graduation exercises with their partner, Southwest Arkansas Community Corrections.

Adult Education Director Pam Warren says, "We are proud of the work we do in the facility and always overjoyed at the opportunity to assist the residents there in taking steps to experience academic achievement, to open doors to other training opportunities available in the unit, and the chance to improve the quality of their lives when they are released."





ARKANSAS ADULT LEARNING

ResourceCenter

ADULT EDUCATION Newsletter

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Arkansas Department of Commerce
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DWS.Arkansas.gov/Adult-Education



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services
Adult Education

The Arkansas Adult Learning Resource Center

continues to provide excellence in professional development for Adult Education practitioners statewide.

Visit <https://aalrc.org/register-for-training/> register for training and information on upcoming training sessions.

Adult Education Stats At-A-Glance

Participant statistics for the Arkansas Adult Education programs show a strong start to the program year. The statistics below summarize the data for FY23-24. The statistics below summarize the data for FY23-24. The reporting period ends on April 30, 2024.

Participants: 9,847

- 6,931 ABE
- 2,916 ESL

Reportable Individuals: 6,820 Table 2a

Total Individuals served: 16,667

Retention Rate: 59%

Table 4b: 4,959

- 50% post-test rate
- Of those post-tested, 73.34% have made an EFL gain.

Current Overall Table 4 Average: 49.13%

Total Secondary School Diplomas Earned: 1,797

Total EFL Gains Earned: 8,183

Total IETP/Workplace Measurable Skill Gains Reported: 593

Highest Measurable Skill Gain Age Group: 16 to 18-year-old

- 1,805 Participants
- 64.21%

Largest Age Group: 25 to 44-year-old

- 4,361

Highest Measurable Skill Gain EFL Group: ABE Level 6

- 81.58%

Largest EFL Group: ABE Level 3

- 2,632 Participants