

BRADLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ARKANSAS HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS TRAINING ACADEMY Addressed the BCEDC Board of Directors

Vice-Chancellor Bob Ware from UAM College of Technology—McGehee and David Carter the AHEOTA instructor at SEACBEC addressed the BCEDC Board of Directors during the January Board meeting.

Mr. Ware discussed the AHEOTA program which is administered and educational credit acquired through UAM—McGehee. But, the classes and operational training are located at SEACBEC in Warren. Mr. Ware explained that the programs enrollment is down. The current terms' enrollment is 7 beginning students and 9 returning students. Normally a class enrollment would be 15 to 22 new students.

Mr. Ware and Mr. Carter did not know why the enrollment had fallen but they are in the process of developing statewide recruitment plans. The AHOETA students come from all over the state.

Mr. Ware explained that the school is adding to the curriculum as a means of recruiting students. A "CDL" pilot program has been added to the program. The "CDL" instruction has been incorporated into the regular curriculum of the Heavy Equipment classes. Mr. Ware advised the BCEDC Board of Directors that the school's goal is to provide

training that will ensure employment. Mr. Ware said he has assurances from companies and government agencies that they would have jobs for AHEOTA graduates with a "CDL".

The BCEDC Board of Directors voted to allow the AHEOTA students to prepare a parking lot area around the Spec Building and to allow the students to do "CDL" training on the parking lot until an industry locates in the Spec Building.

Mr. Carter explained that AHEOTA has received a matching grant to purchase a Caterpillar simulator, specifically an M-Series motor grader simulator. Which, will be located at SEACBEC. The BCEDC Board of Directors voted to contribute to the purchase of the simulator. The Board expressed the importance of having current technology available for training.

Mr. Ware and Mr. Carter also discussed the AHEOTA for Timber Producers program. They stated that interest in the program has fallen. But technology is changing in the timber industry and up-to-date training is important and will be more so in the future.

The Southeast Arkansas' Wood Basket is a strong asset. As more industries look to our area for produc-

tion of new products such as wood pellets, the demand for timber equipment operators will increase. All post-secondary programs on the SEACBEC campus offer financial aid and scholarships for qualified students.

The Arkansas Heavy Equipment Operators Training Academy located at SEACBEC provides local access to state-of-the-art training for heavy equipment operators on construction and timber equipment. Warren is fortunate to have this training available at a reasonable cost. The construction training would cost a student thousands more through private companies.

BCEDC is proud to support the AHEOTA program. Our mission is to increase the employment opportunities for the residents of Bradley County. An educated and trained workforce is the best incentive we can offer new industry. With the growth of industries such as fracking and wood pellet production the future of heavy equipment operators is bright.

For additional information or to enroll in the AHEOTA call SEACBEC 870-226-2750 or go to www.aheota.com

HOW CAN BCEDC HELP LOCAL BUSINESSES?

BCEDC can help your business in such areas as:

- Land and building acquisitions
- Financial packaging
- Demographic and economic data
- Incentive packaging
- Workforce training
- Plant expansions
- Entrepreneurial and small business development

BCEDC Is affiliated with:

- Southeast Arkansas Cornerstone Coalition
- Southeast Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority
- Arkansas Heavy Equipment Training Program
- TEAMUP/WAGE-Southeast Arkansas Community Based
- Arkansas Small Business and Technology Dev. Ctr. @UAM
- Bradley County Chamber of Commerce
- Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

February 2014 Jobs Update			JOB OPENINGS AT:
Bradley Co. Employers	# Emp.	Vacancies	
AR Superior Federal CU	13	0	Bradley Co. Medical Center: For information on job openings and to apply go online to – www.bradleycountymedicalcenter.com/jobs O.K. Foods: Has an opening for a full-time (at least 32 hr.) Driver. Qualifications: must have CDL and two years experience. For additional information call 870-463-2834 Potlatch Corporation: Has an opening for a Process Control Tech and a Machinist. For qualifications and to apply, please log on to www.potlatchcorp.com under the careers section. Potlatch is an EEO/AA employer. If your company wishes to list job openings in the BCEDC Newsletter or on www.bcedcar.com please call 870-226-3760 or email us at bradleycountyidc@sbcglobal.net .
Armstrong Flooring	275	0	
Ashcraft Wood Products	15	0	
Bradley Brand Furniture	5	3+	
Bradley County	69	0	
Bradley Co. Medical Ctr.	216	14	
Chapel Woods Health & Rehab	unavailable		
City of Hermitage	7	0	
City of Warren	52	2	
First State Bank of Warren	33	0	
Fulghum Fibers	10	0	
Hermitage Schools	98	0	
New Beginnings, CASA	10	0	
Oasis Trading	46	0	
OK Foods	11	1	
Ouachita Hardwood	38	0*	
Potlatch	155	2	
SE AR Human Dev. Ctr.	270	0	
Super Valu Foods	52	1**	
The Mad Butcher	50	0***	
Townsend Flooring	16	0*	
Union Bank	8	0	
Warren Bank & Trust	41	0	
Warren School Dist.	286	1	
TOTAL	1776	24	

*Taking Applications
 **Applications on Thursday
 ***Applications on Mondays, 1-4 pm

HOW CAN BCEDC HELP

BCEDC Mission Statement

To enhance and sustain the economic climate of Bradley County by increasing the employment opportunities for the residents of the county

BCEDC

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Bradley County Economic Development Corporation is on facebook.

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MOLLY'S

Every Monday at 7:00 am

This public forum meeting encourages the discussion of topics important to Bradley County residents. BCEDC wants to hear what's happening with Bradley County businesses and how we can assist.

Please make the time to meet Mondays at 7:00 am.

DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?

Have you ever been asked what you think of your town, what is there to do in Warren, do you like living in Warren?

What would you answer and why does it matter?

It may matter more than you think. When companies are considering areas to locate new industries they often send scouts into a town to look it over. These scouts will visit local eateries, gas stations and retail shops. They listen to comments being made about the community. They may even ask for your opinion. **Your answer could have a direct im-**

pact on bringing new jobs to Warren.

Warren, Bradley County, the Chamber and BCEDC can promote and market the area and its industrial properties. But the attitude of the citizens of Warren can make or break a company's decision to locate in Warren.

Think of all of the good things Warren and Bradley County have to offer: great schools, championship athletic programs, a local hospital (most towns our size do not have a hospital), historical downtown, quaint historic square, award winning festivals, museums, county lakes, parks and excellent hunting and fishing areas. These are a few

of the things that you can brag about when asked about your town.

Bringing new jobs to Warren and Bradley County is a community effort. We all have a part to play. The next time you are asked what you think of your town, what is there to do in Warren, do you like living in Warren think before you answer. **You may be the one person responsible for bringing 5 or 50 or 500 new jobs to Warren.**

Become a BCEDC Member and help **GROW** Warren and Bradley County.
 Call 870-226-3760 for Membership information.