

BRADLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Bradley County as an “ACT-Work Ready Community”

BCEDC is participating in the ACT Work Ready Communities (ACT WRC) Academy, which is being funded and organized by the Workforce Alliance of Southeast Arkansas. The Workforce Alliance of Southeast Arkansas is a UAM based regional workforce training program. BCEDC is a member of the Bradley County team that is made up of educators, businesses and City and County officials. Counties participating in the ACT WRC are Ashley, Bradley, Desha, Drew, and Lincoln.

The ACT Work Ready brochure explains that the purpose of the ACT WRC is to build a community-based workforce development program that provides individuals and employers the tools for job growth. This program has a sustainable, data-driven economic development outline. Key to the ACT Work Ready Communities initiative is the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate, which is designed to measure and close skills gaps among workers and those searching for employment. The ACT NCRC is a nationally recognized, portable, evidence-based credential that provides certificates for the necessary skills needed for workplace success. These skills include reading for information, applied mathematics, and locating information.

The ACT WRC Academy consists of four academy sessions over 12-months. The BCEDC Director will attend the 4 academy sessions with the first session being held in Atlanta on March 2-3, 2016. The Academy is a performance-driven program used by community teams to build sustainable workforce development efforts. The Bradley County team will be guided through the startup and deployment of certified ACT Work Ready Communities initiatives. BCEDC will be trained to use an on-demand reporting tool to market the quality of our workforce. One of the first questions a new industry prospect asks is “do we have an available qualified workforce” for their new business. As an ACT Work Ready Community, Bradley County will have verifiable data to provide to a prospect that indicates our workforce’s level of accomplishment. Having a trained competent workforce is invaluable as a recruitment tool. All other incentives that can be offered to a prospect are useless without a workforce to oper-

ate the facility.

ACT WRC has stated that Bradley County will be certified as “work ready” when they meet established goals based on their population, the number of individuals earning the ACT NCRC, and the level of employer participation. ACT will work with Bradley County to set these goals based on current county labor force data and across our current, transitioning, and emerging workforce. ACT has identified the current workforce as those currently employed. The transitioning workforce is identified as those currently unemployed, the GED or adult education participants, or the current or recent active-duty military. The emerging workforce is identified as high school juniors, seniors, or recent graduates and college students or recent graduates.

SEACBEC has already begun implementing workforce training through the teaching of the ACT National Career readiness Certificate and WAGE. These workforce training programs are presented to high school juniors and seniors as well as in the adult-ed classes. SEACBEC is an invaluable partner and team member in the development of Bradley County as a “Work Ready Community”.

Business and industry involvement, as well as city and county involvement, is critical to the success of Bradley County being certified as a “Work Ready Community”. Our goal is to create an industry-driven, community-based program that will close the skills gaps, which are found nationally.

The cooperation and hard work of businesses, city and county officials, educators, and BCEDC will be necessary to accomplish our certification as a “Work Ready community”. We will have added a very important recruitment tool, by acquiring this classification, which will benefit new businesses, existing or expanding businesses, and our citizens.

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
- Southeast Arkansas Community Based Education Center
- Arkansas Small Business and Technology Dev. Ctr. @UAM
- Bradley County Chamber of Commerce

February 2016— Jobs Update		
Bradley Co. Employers	# Emp.	Openings
AR Superior Federal CU	14	0
Armstrong Flooring	250	1
Ashcraft Wood Products	24	0
Bradley Brand Furniture	5	0
Bradley County	68	0
Bradley Co. Medical Ctr.	270	23
Chapel Woods Health & Rehab	108	5
City of Hermitage	6	0
City of Warren	43	2
First Presbyterian Childcare Ctr	22	0*
First State Bank of Warren	31	0
Fulghum Fibers	10	0
Hermitage Schools	82	1
New Beginnings, CASA	14	0
Oasis Trading	39	3
OK Foods	19	0
Ouachita Hardwood	45	0*
Ozark Mountain Poultry	320	1
Potlatch	170	0
SE AR Community Action Corp.	79	0
SE AR Human Dev. Ctr.	253	40
Super Valu Foods	59	1**
The Mad Butcher	59	2***
Townsend Flooring	28	0*
UAMS/KIDS FIRST—Warren	16	2
Union Bank	8	0
Warren Bank & Trust	37	0
Warren School Dist.	289	4
TOTAL	2368	85

*Taking Applications **Applications on Thur. ***Applications on Mon., 1-4 pm

CALLING ENTREPRENEURS!!!

Are you thinking of starting a small business or do you have a small business?

Don't forget about your local resources at the UAM—Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC).

SBTDC assists small business through consulting, market research & training services. They help small business owners start, buy, develop and grow their businesses. SBTDC provides one-to-one confidential guidance, specific to their needs. These consulting services are available free of charge. Other resources available to entrepreneurs are cutting-edge market research tools and training. The classroom and online training provides the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in today's business environment.

JOB OPENINGS AT:

Armstrong Flooring: Has 1-job opening. Interested candidates should apply on line at www.armstrong.com or at ESA in Monticello. Permanent positions may be found at www.armstrong.com as they become available.

Bradley Co. Medical Center: Has employment opportunities for RN, LPN, Nursing Asst, CNA, Front Office Representative, Ward Clerk/Nursing Assistant, and Activity Assistant/Nursing Assistant. Employment opportunities are posted online at www.bradleycountymedicalcenter.com for full-time, part-time and PRN positions.

Chapel Woods Health & Rehab: Has job openings for 2-LPN and 3-CNA. For additional information and to apply call 870-226-6766.

City of Warren: Has job openings for 2-Police Officers. Contact the Warren Police Dept. for additional information. 870-226-3701

Hermitage Schools: Has a job opening for a bus driver. For additional information go to: www.hermitageschools.org click on Administration and then on Job Listing. To apply contact the Superintendent's Office at 870-463-2246.

Oasis Trading, LLC: Has job openings for 1-loader and 2-general labors. For additional information and to apply call 870-952-0626 or contact Oasis Trading.

Ozark Mountain Poultry: Always looking for good production workers with 6-months poultry experience. Contact the Arkansas Workforce Center in Monticello, AR at 870-367-2476 for employment information.

Potlatch Corporation: View job openings as they become available at www.potlatchcorp.com under the career section. EEO/AA/Veteran employer with competitive wages and benefits.

SE AR Human Development Ctr.: Openings of salaried positions are advertised in the Shoppers Guide. For information on all job openings and to apply please go to www.arstatejobs.com

The Mad Butcher: Has 2-full time openings. Experience is required. Job applications are taken on Mondays, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Mad Butcher.

UAM/KIDS FIRST-Warren: Apply online at www.uams.edu/jobs

Warren School Dist.: Has job openings for 2-licensed positions and 2-certified positions. For details on job openings and to apply contact the Warren School Dist. at 870-226-6738 or online at www.warrensd.org

If interested in any of the listed jobs, please contact the company directly. GOOD LUCK!

The UAM-SBTDC office serves 9-counties: Arkansas, Ashley, **Bradley**, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, and Lincoln.

To take advantage of the services available contact: **UAM-SBTDC in Harris Hall, call 870-460-1910.**

HOW CAN BCEDC HELP?

BCEDC

110 N. Myrtle St.
Warren, AR 71671

Phone: 870-226-3760

Fax: 870-226-3770

websites:

www.bcedcar.com
arkansassitesselection.com

E-mail:

bradleycountyidc@sbcglobal.net

DON'T FORGET MONDAYS AT MOLLY'S

7:00 am

All are welcome at this public forum meeting.

BCEDC encourages all to attend and enter into discussions concerning Bradley County.

Ask About Membership!

Become a BCEDC Member and work to grow the economy of Warren and Bradley County.

Call 870-226-3760 for Membership information.