

BRADLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TIMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES MEET WITH BCEDC AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The BCEDC Board of Directors hosted a meeting at the June 30, 2014 BCEDC Board Meeting for local timber and wood products industries and a variety of service providers.

BCEDC's goal was to assist local industry by opening a dialogue with the industries to identify shared issues and concerns. BCEDC invited educational and state resources to the meeting, so they could address the needs and concerns expressed. John Lipton, President-BCEDC explained to the group that BCEDC welcomes new industry but the retention of existing industry is vital to Warren's economic growth and job development.

The industry guests included Bethany Bruhardt the HR Manager from Potlatch, Matthew Anderson from Oasis Trading, Wil Maxwell from Townsend Flooring/Ouachita Hardwood and Tommy Maxwell from Maxwell Hardwood Flooring. The service provider guests included Linda Rushing—Vice Chancellor of UAM Crossett, Jamie McConathy—Dean of Continuing Education at South AR Community College, Nancy Jones and Michael Harding from AR Workforce Services and Rory Gulick from AEDC. Representing UAM—McGehee was Bob Ware—Vice Chancellor, David Carter and Jason Davis from the Heavy Equipment school taught at SEACBEC. Also from UAM—McGehee, Amanda Kuttenkuler the Project Coordinator and Sharon Cantrell the Assistant Vice Chancellor.

The industries present stated common needs. They agreed that the area is lacking a skilled workforce. The difficult positions to fill are for fully trained, experienced millwrights, electricians, middle management and truck drivers. The group also discussed the lack of trucking companies. They discussed the difficulty of sending current employees out of the area for training. The industries expressed a desire to acquire training for employees but the class times conflict with work schedules. Another concern is once the company pays for the train-

ing the employee may leave remain the area.

UAM—McGehee, UAM—Crossett and South AR Community College all explained their customized training programs. Each school has existing training programs for millwrights, electricians, truck drivers, etc. The schools explained their programs. Although each are organized differently they all have been developed based on the demands of their local industry. The training programs may be organized as apprenticeship programs or consortiums but each were developed by different companies coming together and defining their needs. The schools emphasized that they are only the facilitators of the industry driven programs.

The industries agreed that students starting as early as 7th and 8th grade should be introduced to the possibility of fulfilling and well paid manufacturing careers. It was discussed that not all students are suited to a 4 year college program. Those students should be aware of 2 year technical training and their benefits. Jamie McConathy the Dean of Continuing Education at South AR Community College explained that they have a program for 7th and 8th grade students, "Young Manufacturers Academy". Ms. McConathy stated that El Dorado's industries produce fun competitions for the students career orientation classes while providing information on career opportunities. Ms. McConathy explained that the "Young Manufacturers Academy" is free and it will help the Advisor Recruiter for Business and Technical Education identify potential recruits and place them into an appropriate career path. The group expressed an interest in developing a similar program in Warren and Bradley County.

Nancy Jones with AR Workforce Services explained that many high schools, including Warren have Workforce Readiness classes, which prepares students for many types of Careers. Ms. Jones also explained the states Career Readiness Program. (continued)

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

**Bradley County Economic
Development Corporation
is on facebook!**

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

July 2014 Jobs Update			JOB OPENINGS AT:
Bradley Co. Employers	# Emp.	Vacancies	
AR Superior Federal CU	13	0	<p>Armstrong Flooring: Has Ongoing True Temp positions. Interested candidates must apply at Employers Staffing of America in Monticello at 870-367-2727, must be available to work 1st or 2nd shift.</p> <p>Bradley Co. Medical Center: For information on job openings and to apply go online to — www.bradleycountymedicalcenter.com/jobs</p> <p>Hermitage School Dist.: Has openings for Bus Drivers and Custodians. Contact Hermitage School Dist. at 870-463-2246.</p> <p>Ouachita Hardwood Flooring, LLC: Is seeking a Product Specialist. This position will be responsible for purchasing lumber, inventory management and product development. Competitive salary and benefits. To apply bring resume to 501 Pennington, Warren, AR 71671.</p> <p>Potlatch Corporation: Has an opening for a Maintenance Supervisor and an opening for a Fully Qualified Millwright. For information and to apply please go to www.potlatchcorp.com under the careers sect. EEO/AA employer</p> <p>SE AR Community Action Corp. Has a job opening for a Head Start Teacher in Monticello. Qualifications: Must have CDA Cert. and be working toward BA or BS Degree. Call SEACAC at 870-226-2668 x 313</p> <p>SE AR Human Dev. Ctr.: Has 10 job openings, including 3 teachers assistants. For information go online to www.arstatejob.com</p> <p>Townsend Flooring, Inc: is seeking a Machine Operator/ Maintenance person. Apply in person with resume to 501 Pennington, Warren, AR 71671.</p> <p>Warren School Dist.: For details on job openings and to apply contact the Warren School Dist at 870-226-6738 or online at www.edline.net/pages/warren_sd</p> <p>UAM/Kids First—Warren: Has an opening for a f/t Child Development Technician.</p>
Armstrong Flooring	254	0+	
Ashcraft Wood Products	17	0	
Bradley County	69	0	
Bradley Co. Medical Ctr.	238	20	
Chapel Woods Health & Rehab	unavailable		
City of Hermitage	5	0	
City of Warren	51	3	
First State Bank of Warren	31	0	
Fulghum Fibers	10	0	
Hermitage Schools	75	1+	
New Beginnings, CASA	17	0	
Oasis Trading	40	2	
OK Foods	12	0	
Ouachita Hardwood	40	1*	
Potlatch	164	2	
SE AR Community Action Corp.	33	1	
SE AR Human Dev. Ctr.	265	10	
Super Valu Foods	47	1**	
The Mad Butcher	60	3***	
Townsend Flooring	25	1*	
UAMS/KIDS FIRST—Warren	18	1	
Union Bank	7	1	
Warren Bank & Trust	37	0	
Warren School Dist.	286	3	
TOTAL	1814	50	

*Taking Applications **Applications on Thursday

***Applications on Mondays, 1-4 pm

Continued

She stated that this is a rules assessment program where students are certified in 4 different levels. It is available to high school and Adult Ed students. The program has job profilers that come into your company and assess your basic training needs, which indicates the correct training level of potential employees. Rory Gulick from AEDC explained that the state has grants for the profilers.

Bob Ware, V. Chancellor of UAM—McGehee discussed the AR Heavy Equipment Operators Academy and it's

expansion into CDL training. He also explained that many companies have expressed the need for diesel training. Therefore, UAM McGehee is developing a Diesel Training Academy. The students will first complete basic classroom training. Companies will then pay the students a stipend to work on their site and gain experience on their equipment.

BCEDC hopes this meeting is only a beginning. BCEDC will work with industry and service providers to develop a training plan for Warren.

CONSORTIUM DEVELOPMENT

The group who gathered for the June 30th Board of Directors Meeting discussed a variety of programs for training skilled workers.

Linda Rushing, V. Chancellor or UAM—Crossett explained their 4 year apprenticeship program which was designed for Georgia Pacific. Ms. Rushing stated that if Bradley

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

County's industry wished to develop an apprenticeship program she could help with the organization. She advised the industry that there is grant money available to finance the program.

Another training option discussed was by Amanda Kuttenkuler the Project Coordinator at UAM-McGehee. She explained McGehee's Existing Workforce Training Program. The program allows for financial assistance to businesses who require employee training. Ms. Kuttenkuler stated the program is currently training for millwrights and electrical mechanical jobs. She explained that the programs may be tailored to companies' individual needs.

Jamie McConathy, South AR Community College discussed their Industrial Consortium. She explained that local industry has come together and identified their common training needs and designed a program to satisfy all of their needs. This type program is beneficial for a group of small companies where together they may need multiple employees trained for similar jobs.

The industries agreed to meet again to discuss the development of a Warren Consortium. If your company would be interested in attending please contact BCEDC.