

BRADLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Bobby Acklin, Superintendent of Warren Schools

Addresses BCEDC Board

Bobby Acklin, Superintendent of Warren Schools addressed the BCEDC Board. He thanked the Board for the privilege to speak before the BCEDC Board.

Mr. Acklin briefly provided information on his personal and professional background to the Board.

He stressed that the Warren School District is committed to being champions for children. Mr. Acklin stated that in Warren Schools, as in other schools, there are many children with needs. He advised that all children can learn regardless of their background, poverty, religion, or race. Mr. Acklin stated that he knows there can be challenges but kids can learn. He explained that he is driven by finding ways to move children toward successful college and career paths. Schools are about meeting the needs of people and in doing this, schools have to partner with the community.

Mr. Acklin advised that when he arrived at Warren High School he found that the people at Warren are well trained and function well.

Mr. Acklin explained that the Warren School District's Mission is "Personalized Learning", Standard Based Education. John Lipton advised that each child is taught to the individual. Mr. Acklin stated that by implementing a Standard Based Education in the entire school district, Warren is on the cutting edge. No other school district in the State has taken their curriculum where Warren has. The program is constantly being tweaked for improvement.

Mr. Acklin discussed Warren's low scores on the recently published School Report Card. The administration is not sure why the scores were low and does not want to make excuses. Mr. Acklin explained that they are already meeting to make improvements. Not because of the low test scores, but because it's the right thing to do. The administration is trying to figure out ways to make things better. They are working on putting all the pieces together; graduation rate, poverty, test scores, etc. Mr. Acklin advised that they realize that some things are out of their control but they

need to find solutions. Mr. Acklin stated that the starting point to the solution is to ask and answer the question of why we got the grades we did.

Also discussed was the recent and future facility improvements in the Warren School District. Mr. Acklin stated that when he arrived last summer the school district was in the middle of a half-million dollar construction project at Eastside School. The School District has about a three-quarter of a million dollar construction project scheduled for this summer at Warren High School. Mr. Acklin stated that this project is a partnership with the State. They will know May 1st how much the State will contribute. It could be up to 64% of the project. Mr. Acklin stated that this funding is under the "Stay Warm & Dry" funding. The Master Plan includes a plan to build a new Eastside Elementary and a new gym.

Mr. Acklin advised that SEACBEC is in good shape, but there will be some changes at SEACBEC. EAST and some of the business courses will be moving to the High School. Mr. Acklin explained that as UAM becomes more interested in Warren, he will be forced to sit down and talk to them. He stated that there are appealing things about being involved in a 2-year college for the school and the community. It's about what is best for the students. SEACBEC is a vital part of our community and they provide awesome programs. Mr. Acklin said "that it would be surprising at the doors that might be opened if there were other avenues that kids could take".

Mr. Acklin explained that the Warren School District employs about 270 people. The District enrollment is about 1640. Last year the District received \$278,000.00 in growth funds from the State. This year the enrollment is pretty flat and growth funds will probably not be received. Mr. Acklin stated that as the District develops more college and career ready programs, they can attract more students to the area.

The BCEDC Board of Directors thanked Mr. Acklin for taking the time to update BCEDC.

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

May 2016— Jobs Update		
Bradley Co. Employers	# Emp.	Openings
AR Superior Federal CU	14	0
Area Agency on Aging of SE AR	19	12
Armstrong Flooring	246	4
Ashcraft Wood Products	21	3
Bradley Brand Furniture	5	0
Bradley County	69	0
Bradley Co. Medical Ctr.	256	20
Chapel Woods Health & Rehab	110	7
City of Hermitage	7	0
City of Warren	44	0
First Presbyterian Childcare Ctr	21	0*
First State Bank of Warren	31	0
Fulghum Fibers	10	0
Hermitage Schools	82	3
New Beginnings, CASA	22	2
Oasis Trading	39	3
OK Foods	19	0
Ouachita Hardwood	45	0*
Potlatch	175	2
SE AR Community Action Corp.	75	0
SE AR Human Dev. Ctr.	234	32
Super Valu Foods	63	1**
The Mad Butcher	58	3***
Townsend Flooring	28	0*
UAMS/KIDS FIRST—Warren	16	2
Union Bank	8	0
Warren Bank & Trust	37	0
Warren School Dist.	289	14
TOTAL	2043	108

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

Work Ready Community

BCEDC understands that new businesses as well as existing businesses needs to know that Bradley County can furnish a qualified workforce. This is why we are participating in the ACT Work Ready Community program.

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 WRC 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.

JOB OPENINGS AT:

Area Agency on Aging of SE AR : Has openings for 12 Transit Drivers. Applicants must have a clean driver's record, must pass a criminal background check, must not be on an adult or child maltreatment registry, and must pass a drug screening test. Applicants may fill out application at Area Agency on Aging , 110 E. Gaines Monticello, AR . Contact person Chaundra Allen at 870-460-9527

Armstrong Flooring: Has 3—job openings. Interested candidates should apply on line at www.armstrongflooring.com or at ESA in Monticello. Permanent positions may be found at www.armstrong.com as they become available.

Ashcraft Wood Products Corp.: Has job openings for 3-Machine Operators. To apply contact Ashcraft Wood Products, 870-226-6739.

Bradley Co. Medical Center: Has employment opportunities for RN, LPN, Nursing Assistant, Medical Records Coder, Pharmacy Tech., Medical Laboratory Tech., Activity Aide, Ward Clerk, and a Certified Surgery Tech. 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 1-LPN (7am-7pm), 5-CNA , and 1-Dietary Cook. For additional information and to apply call 870-226-6766.

Hermitage Schools: Has 3-job openings. For requirements and 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.

New Beginnings: Has 2-job openings for Security Positions. Call 870-226-9970.

Oasis Trading LLC: Has openings for 1-Electrician/Millwright and 2-General Labors. Apply at Oasis Trading LLC.

Potlatch Corporation: Has job opening for 2-Millwrights. Anyone interested or looking for more information, please go to www.potlatchcorp.com under the career section. EEO/AA/Veteran employer with competitive wages and benefits.

HOW CAN BCEDC HELP?

BCEDC

110 N. Myrtle St.
Warren , AR 71671

Phone: 870-226-3760

Fax: 870-226-3770

websites:

www.bcedcar.com
arkansassiteselection.com

E-mail:

bradleycountydc@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.

SE AR Human Development Ctr.:

Has 32 vacant positions. They are in need of an LPN and Residential Care Assistants. Those who have a desire to work with developmentally disabled adults are encouraged to apply through www.arstatejobs.com. Interviews will be scheduled through their recruiting department in Little Rock. They do not grant walk-in interviews.

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

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

Warren School Dist.: 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 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.

Looking for Small Business Counseling?
Call UAM-ASBTDC
870-460-1910