

April 2, 2012

William L. "Bill" Walker, Jr., Director
Arkansas Department of Career Education
Three Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201-1083

Dear Director Walker:

On March 26, 2012, several Adult Education directors from the Southeast Arkansas Region met in a proactive effort to address the possible reorganization and funding modifications currently being discussed by the Department of Career Education. This meeting produced a quality dialogue that attest to the willingness and ability for this region to work together to address current concerns and future challenges.

We recognize the challenges currently faced by the Department of Career Education and pledge to bring to the table innovative strategies to produce programs that give cost efficient results, driven by and dedicated to the best interests of the residents in our service region. Though a lengthy conversation was held, neither a true foundation nor direction was possible because of insufficient information and a plurality of possible scenarios producing significant variation to the role and scope of any proposal(s).

To facilitate future strategic planning for the region, we respectfully request the following information be provided in a timely manner:

- Clarification of future changes to the funding formula and any other Adult Education budget modifications.
- Timeline for implementation of any budget alterations.
- Clarification of the components of the "Standards of a Quality Adult Education Program." (Clarification specifically requested on the items listed with a yellow highlighted X in the version presented to the Education Committee on March 12, 2012).
- Timeline for implementation and expected compliance with the "Standards of a Quality Adult Education Program."
- Clarification and implementation details on common pay scale proposals for Adult Education programs.

We thank you in advance for this information. With the answers to the request(s) above, we feel confident that future proposals can and will be generated that will serve the people of this region and are consistent with the statewide effort to position Arkansas Adult Education on a trajectory for future success.

We are dedicated to contributing and look forward to the opportunity; however, we strongly request you consider a two-year phased implementation of any changes with the start date of any changes to begin no sooner than July 1, 2013. We feel this is crucial for proposals to be properly vetted and the details of any strategic efforts to be properly shared with both our current employees and service regions. Several existing scenarios suggest that the adult education programs in this area could face significant cuts to funding that ultimately translate in a loss of jobs for our employees. Our people deserve the advance notification to make proper financial and career decisions. In addition many of our sponsoring organizations have looming

deadlines for retirement notification, hiring intentions and may require existing agreements to be renegotiated (such as rent, in-kind support and employee sharing agreements). Therefore, an extended implementation is vital for this transition to be fair and equitable to our existing LEA's, our staff members and to prevent an interruption to the services offered to the residents of Southeast Arkansas.

Please give this request your immediate consideration. If you need any additional information, do not hesitate to contact us. We eagerly await your response.

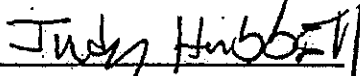
Sincerely,



Faye Branch, Director
Monticello Adult Education Program



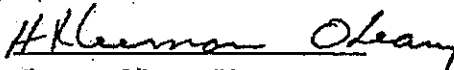
Janie Carter, Director
UAM College of Technology-Crossett Adult Education Program



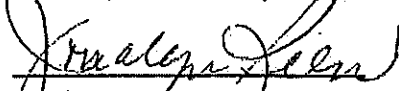
Dr. Judy Hubbell, Director
Dumas Adult Education Program



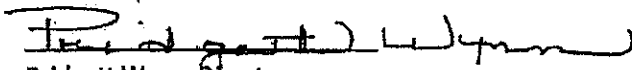
Dorissa Kaufman, Director
UAM College of Technology-McGehee Adult Education Program



Kleeman O'Leary, Director
Bermott/Chicot County Adult Education Program



Johalyn Reep, Director
SEABEC Adult Education Program



Pridgett Wynn, Director
Star City/Lincoln Co. Adult Education Program

Cc: Arkansas House Education Committee
Arkansas Senate Education Committee
Governor Mike Beebe