

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 832

By: Senator L. Chesterfield

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE A CENTER FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION  
AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
PARTNERSHIPS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO CREATE A CENTER FOR WORKFORCE  
INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 60, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 10 – Arkansas Center for Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public-Private Partnership

6-60-1001. Findings.

The General Assembly finds that the Arkansas workforce education programs should:

(1) Include a focus on creating a statewide culture of innovation, entrepreneurial activity, and economic growth;

(2) Prepare traditional and nontraditional Arkansas students to fill occupations in existing and emerging industries by strategically aligning business training and academic preparation to respond directly to the needs of employers in this state;

(3) Facilitate an accelerated approach to training and a job placement model that significantly increases the chances of graduates moving



immediately into the job market; and

(4) Respond directly to the needs of employers in this state.

6-60-1002. Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public-Private Partnership.

(a)(1) The Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public-Private Partnership is created.

(2) The program shall be designed and administered by the Department of Higher Education.

(b) The program shall provide grants to an institution of higher education in this state to create and maintain a workforce innovation program that:

(1) Identifies and partners with a team of current and former business advisors who are knowledgeable concerning existing and emerging job markets;

(2) Focuses on economic growth through the fields of technology, science, healthcare, telecommunications, engineering, clean energy, and financial needs in the community;

(3) Provides traditional and nontraditional classes for workers, veterans, single mothers, under-employed citizens, and minorities, as well as individuals from economically depressed areas throughout the state; and

(4) Creates a combination of eight-to-twelve-week certificate programs, two-year degree programs, and four-year degree programs to meet the workforce innovation goals of this subchapter.

6-60-1003. Workforce Innovation and Strategic Economic Public Private Partnership program requirements.

(a) A program under this subchapter shall:

(1) Establish certificate and degree programs to meet the workforce innovation goals of this subchapter;

(2) Employ an accelerated training approach; and

(3) Create and maintain public-private partnerships with government and business as a component of each program.

(b) A certificate program under this subchapter shall include without limitation training for a career as a:

(1) Customer service representative;

- (2) Financial institution teller;
- (3) Medical assistant;
- (4) Nursing Assistant;
- (5) Occupational Therapist; and
- (6) Technical Service Representative.

(c) A two-year degree program under this subchapter shall include without limitation training for a career as a:

- (1) Customer service representative;
- (2) Medical Assistant;
- (3) Nursing Assistant;
- (4) Occupational Therapy;
- (5) Pharmacy Technician;
- (6) Physical Therapist; and
- (7) Technical Service Representative.

(d) A four-year degree program under this subchapter shall include without limitation training for a career in:

- (1) Accounting;
- (2) Banking;
- (3) Computer science;
- (4) Laboratory science;
- (5) Network analysis;
- (6) Network engineering;
- (7) Nursing;
- (8) Systems software; and
- (9) Software engineering.

6-60-1004. Department of Higher Education – Grants.

(a) The Department of Higher Education shall adopt rules to implement the grant program created in this subchapter.

(b) Rules adopted under this subchapter shall require that an application for a grant award under this subchapter shall include without limitation:

- (1) Research-based analyses of the workforce demand gap priorities for this states; and
- (2) Methods for creating:
  - (A) Public and private support for the educational and

training needs of this state;

(B) Opportunities for traditional and nontraditional students to be matched with state employment needs;

(C) Training that is directly linked to improving the existing workforce; and

(D) Linkage between private industry and higher education in a workable partnership that benefits the economy of this state.

(c) The department shall award grants under this section.