ROUND ‘EM UP: STATE/COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP CREATES SUCCESSFUL TRAINING FOR INDUSTRY

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INTRODUCTION

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ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Strategic grant program for workforce training that aligns Arkansas business workforce needs with educational institutions and other stakeholders
- Simple application process and quick approvals
- Governor’s Workforce Cabinet approves all grants
- The Cabinet includes DOE, Economic Development, Higher Ed, & Workforce Services
- Established in the 2015 Legislative Session under Career Education
- Expanded in the 2019 Legislative Session and transferred to Commerce
TYPES OF GRANTS

- Customized Technical Training ($250,000 max per year per company site)
- Professional Development ($50,000 max per year per company site)
- Grow Our Own ($250,000 max per year per company site)
- Skills Gap ($1,000,000 max per year per project)
OSD DISRUPTED THE OLD MODEL

- 5 Gets
  - Get an idea
  - Get together
  - Get Moving
  - Get Funding
  - Get outta the way
GARLAND COUNTY – HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

- National Park College
  - Small rural region (75,000 in the county)
  - Mostly small companies (less than 500, most under 100)
    - Manufacturing and aerospace have great need for training
MEETING LOCAL NEEDS

- Leadership Training
- Industry Specific Training
  - Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Machining Technology
  - Programmable Logic Control (PLC) Training
  - LEAN Training (*first “grow-your-own” grant in the state*)
  - Advanced Welding
  - Apprenticeship Start-Up
  - Pre-Employment Training
  - Aerospace Training
In the past three years

- 298 new and existing employees trained
- 12 companies
- 18 different grants
- $203,035 worth of workforce training
- $160,164 funds committed by OSD
OSD ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEWIDE

- Over $8 million in workforce training grants in three years
- State is investing more into the program
- Impact on industry in Arkansas
  - Increase in worker wages
  - Efficiencies for companies
  - Greater revenues = higher tax base
Skills Gap Grant – Tyson

- Purchased $400,000 worth of robotic trainers
- Placed trainers in 8 different community colleges and high school career centers
- Provided training to community college faculty with training
- Credit training for secondary and Post-Secondary during the day
- Non-credit workforce training in the evenings
Skills Gap Grant – Medium Heavy Truck Technician Training
- Diesel Technician Training – High Need
- Over $1,000,000 State-of-the-Art Daimler training equipment
- Strategically placed in two community colleges in Central and Northwest Arkansas
- Enrollment has doubled but we are still not meeting current and future needs
Future

- Emphasis on Manufacturing, IT and Medical Professions
- Bigger projects
- Closing the regional skills gap
- Emphasis on Apprenticeships
Leadership at the state level – Dedicated Legislator(s)

Our State Legislator envisioned a comprehensive Workforce Division

Fiscal responsibility

Measuring outcomes – wage increases, increased company revenues, expansions

OSD is the comprehensive area for workforce training funds/projects/big ideas
THANK YOU!

- Any Questions?