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The Institute provides training and consulting services to all organizations in the state in all industries - manufacturing, healthcare, non-profit, education and business with a goal of helping organizations maximize their potential.

- Annual regional and industry-specific seminars
- In-depth organizational self-assessment facilitation
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The Governor's Quality Award program provides opportunities for all organizations in the state to measure their progress in the journey of performance excellence using the nationally recognized Criteria for Performance Excellence as a framework.

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- Learn how to write an application at Applicant Training
- Receive a feedback report of strengths and gaps from a team of trained professionals who examine applications
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Walmart is supporting American manufacturing and U.S. jobs with a commitment to buy $50 billion more in U.S. products over the next 10 years.

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Lance.Orton@CenterPointEnergy.com
501-377-4548

For heating systems and water heating rebates: T. Kirk Pierce
Timothy.Pierce@CenterPointEnergy.com
501-377-4646
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OUR LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee

State Chamber of Commerce Officers

Chairman of the Board:
Mike Callan
Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation

Vice Chairman:
Gary Head
Signature Bank of Arkansas

Vice Chairman:
Gerard Dehrmann
Walmart Stores Inc.

Vice Chairman:
Troy Keeping
Southland Park Gaming & Racing

Vice Chairman:
Hugh McDonald
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.

Vice Chairman:
George Wheatley
Waste Management of Arkansas

Past Chairman of the Board:
Ed Drilling
AT&T Arkansas

Past Chairman of the Board:
Randy Wilbourn
Martin-Wilbourn Partners LLC

Treasurer
State Chamber/AIA:
David Bartlett
Simmons First National Corporation

Ex-Officio:
Raymond M. Burns
Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce

Ex-Officio:
Bob Lamb
Bob Lamb Consultant

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Lion Oil Company

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Russell Bragg
OK Industries Inc.

Vice Chairman:
Ken Kimbro
Tyson Foods, Inc.

Vice Chairman:
Bill J. Reed
Riceland Foods Inc.

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Deltic Timber Corporation

Past Chairman of the Board:
Bill Hannah
Nabholz Construction Corporation

Past Chairman of the Board:
Randy Wilbourn
Martin-Wilbourn Partners LLC

Vice Chairman:
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David Avery
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Rodney Baker
AR Farm Bureau Federation
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OG&E
MaryJane Rebick
CSA Copy Systems
John Rudofts
Murphy USA
Reynie Rutledge
First Security Bank
Michael Shelley
U.S. Bank
Sam Sicard
First National Bank of Fort Smith
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Boat World Inc.
Dan Sullivan
Acadia Health Care Arkansas
Frank Thomas
Stephens Inc.
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Ex-Officio Board Members
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The Poultry Federation
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Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
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Max Koonce
Walmart Stores Inc-CMI
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Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
Andy Miller
Southwestern Energy Company
Gary Newton
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Tyson Foods, Inc.
Robert D. Smith
Robert D. Smith, III
Lynn Tatton
Tyson Foods, Inc.

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Benny Baker
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Container Division
Scotty Bell
Viro Manufacturing Corporation
Jack Bergeron
Southwestern Energy Company
Patty Cardin
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Samuel E. Commella
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Dave Gehle
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Graham Huff
Marin Snracket & Gear Inc.
W. Kent Ingram
Razorbak Concrete Company Inc.
Gary Kaiser
Georgia-Pacific Corp.
Ron Keeneth
Bridgestonemas Americas Tube Business

Arkansas State Chamber/AIA Annual Report 2013 7
Business 101 for Arkansas Legislators Unveiled in January

The State Chamber/AIA presented the first-ever Business 101 for all Arkansas legislators in early January at the AT&T Arkansas Building in Little Rock.

Business 101 was an unbiased learning opportunity for new and returning legislators with presentations by various experts in their respective fields. More than 80 members of the Arkansas General Assembly participated.

Presentations included:
• Arkansas’s Economy, Its Regions, Its Sectors;
• Where We Stand: Arkansas Versus Other States;
• A Look at Business Basics including Business Taxation, Fundamentals of Workers’ Compensation, Arkansas’s Unemployment Insurance System and Regulating Arkansas’s Natural Resources;
• Ins & Outs of Arkansas’s State Budget;
• Challenges & Opportunities for Arkansas’s Businesses including Term Limits, Energy: Supply & Demand, The Keys to Workforce Development and K-12 Education: Accountability & Performance and
• A Look Ahead: Growing Arkansas’s Economy.

State Rep. Randy Alexander of Springdale speaks during Business 101, which was held in early January at the AT&T Building in Little Rock.


More than 80 members of the Arkansas General Assembly participated in Business 101.
State Chamber/AIA Legislative Reception Held under the “Big Top”

The State Chamber/AIA held the organizations’ Annual Legislative Reception on January 22 under the “Big Top,” a heated and lighted tent erected on the front State Chamber/AIA parking lot. The event drew several hundred attendees including state legislators, constitutional officers, state officials, representatives of State Chamber/AIA member firms, State Chamber/AIA officers and board members, Leadership Arkansas alumni and others. The event provided an excellent opportunity for members of the state’s business community to network with legislators one-on-one.

House Speaker Davy Carter, Randy Zook and U.S. SBA District Director Linda Nelson.


Stanley Hill and Michelle Kitchens of Arkansas Farm Bureau, Mark Cochran of the U of A and Bill Reed of Riceland Foods.

State Representatives David Whitaker and Greg Leding, both of Fayetteville.

Leanna Clark and Sha' Stephens of the Arkansas Independent Living Council with Jonathan Sanders of the Holiday Inn Presidential.
89th General Assembly Update

The 89th General Assembly convened on January 14 and adjourned on May 17 after 100 days in session. The State Chamber/AIA governmental affairs team of President & CEO Randy Zook, Executive Vice President Kenny Hall, Director of Governmental Affairs Angela DeLille and Director of Governmental Affairs Andrew Parker closely monitored and was actively involved with numerous pieces of legislation while the General Assembly was in session.

In addition to the customary legislative issues, the 89th General Assembly tackled a series of tough issues not debated in recent memory, if ever. Despite this, the 2013 regular session was a strong one for business and industry in our state. **There were several important tax initiatives that will benefit all businesses, but most specifically manufacturers who will save an estimated $23.9 million annually.**

State Chamber/AIA Priority Issues

- **Continuing to lead the effort to completely exempt energy used in manufacturing from sales and use tax** We led the effort to pass Act 1411, which will reduce the sales tax on natural gas and electricity sold to manufacturers classified in NAICS codes 31-32-33 or 115111 to 1 percent beginning July 1, 2014 and to 0 percent beginning July 1, 2015. It will also reduce the excise tax rate on the purchase of natural gas used in the production of electricity to 1 percent beginning January 1, 2015. The one-eighth (1/8) of one percent conservation tax and the temporary sales tax of one-half (1/2) of one percent highway tax – both approved at the ballot by the people of Arkansas – will not be eliminated for manufacturers or independent power producers. Act 1411 represents the culmination of an effort we, and a coalition of others, have been working on for more than six years. **To date, this tax reduction totals more than $80.4 million for manufacturers.**

- **Leading the effort to reduce partial replacements and repairs of manufacturing machinery and equipment from sales and use tax** We took a leadership role in the introduction and successful passage of Act 1404, which will provide a refund of sales and use taxes for expenditures on repairs and replacement of certain machinery and equipment used directly in manufacturing. The legislation will establish a tax rate of 4.875 percent beginning July 1, 2014, but will require a taxpayer to hold a direct pay sales tax permit from DFA to claim this refund. Act 1404 also creates the mechanism by which the Arkansas Economic Development Commission can fully refund the cost of a replacement or repair project for a company expending at least $3 million on such a project. These changes are expected to have an annual impact of approximately $6.9 million.

- **Protecting the education reforms passed in 2003-04, the Civil Justice Reform Act of 2003 and the workers’ compensation reforms enacted in 1993** Mission accomplished – no bills were passed that weakened any of these important measures. The State Chamber/AIA remains committed to being the business community’s leading advocate on these issues.

- **Supporting efforts to promote meaningful Civil Justice reform** The State Chamber/AIA was a leader in the bipartisan coalition that successfully worked for passage of Act 649 of 2003, the Civil Justice Reform Act. The act made several changes that relieved burdens on businesses and has expanded the professional liability insurance market for doctors. However, a series of court decisions has eliminated almost all of the provisions, many of which relied upon a single amendment to the Arkansas constitution that was passed for other reasons. During the 2013 legislative session, the business community’s proposed constitutional amendment ended one vote
shy of receiving the Senate Committee’s approval. The State Chamber/AIA is committed to the effort to make necessary changes in Arkansas law to return Arkansas to a competitive situation with surrounding states in the areas of tort laws and to protect businesses from abuses like frivolous lawsuits and runaway jury awards.

• **Fighting efforts to require employers to allow handguns to be stored in employee vehicles**  HB 1269 would have allowed a concealed handgun licensee to keep a handgun in his or her vehicle on their employer’s parking lot. This bill was never considered in committee.

• **Reducing the state’s capital gains tax**  Act 1488 championed by the Speaker of the House will raise the capital gains tax threshold to 50 percent of gains. There is an exemption for capital gains that exceed $10 million. The annual impact is estimated at approximately $18.1 million.

• **Finally, the State Chamber/AIA supported the passage of the “Private Option”**  This innovative compromise will use federal Medicaid dollars to subsidize private insurance premiums for eligible Arkansans in the upcoming health insurance exchange. The Private Option is projected to save Arkansas millions in Medicaid matching funds, while increasing coverage to 250,000 low-income Arkansans. This legislation will ensure the viability of our rural hospitals, clinics and other healthcare providers, and spare Arkansas businesses tens of millions of dollars in expected fines, taxes and penalties. It will also institute new business-friendly innovations within the Medicaid-eligible population by creating a preferred Health Savings Account pilot program that could revolutionize how these patients receive care. Act 1496 will give the Department of Human Services authority to spend hundreds of millions in federal funds on the program while Acts 1497 and 1498 create the program once it receives final federal approval.
Door-to-Door Meetings Held August-December in 20 Locations Statewide

The State Chamber/AIA held “Door to Door” Regional Meetings in 20 different locations that incorporated 32 communities statewide from late August through Mid-December. The meetings drew several hundred State Chamber/AIA members, state and local chamber leaders, community leaders, local business representatives and state legislators.

The “Door-to-Door” meetings, in partnership with local chambers, were held in Conway, Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Arkadelphia, Stuttgart, Monticello, Siloam Springs, Searcy, Batesville, Magnolia, Rogers, Jonesboro, West Memphis, Fort Smith, Hot Springs, Blytheville, Russellville, North Little Rock, Texarkana and Clarksville.

The meetings, featuring presentations by State Chamber/AIA President & CEO Randy Zook, Executive Vice President Kenny Hall, Senior Vice President-Programs Susie Marks and Director of Governmental Affairs Andrew Parker, introduced business and community leaders to State Chamber/AIA priorities and specifically discussed legislation that was passed during the 89th Arkansas General Assembly that affects the business community. Thanks to statewide sponsors Arkansas Learns, Entergy Arkansas and Farm Credit Services.
Legislative and Business Roundtables

Between May and August 2013, meetings were held with business and legislative leaders from 19 cities and communities across the state to discuss issues of greatest concern for businesses and manufacturers.

“How to Win an Election” Seminar Held in Little Rock

“How To Win An Election,” a two-day seminar sponsored by Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas, was held November 21-22 at the Bob Lamb Conference Room at the State Chamber/AIA Building in Little Rock.

This seminar teaches participants how to evaluate the candidate and the electorate, build a campaign structure, raise money, enlist allies, create coalitions and get last-minute, election-day voter attention. The seminar was developed by American Farm Bureau with assistance from professional political consultants and staff members of Democratic and Republican parties. The seminar included video recording, a case study and a computer-simulated campaign.

A video of one of the How to Win an Election Seminar participants is critiqued.

The How to Win an Election Seminar drew a big crowd.
State Chamber/AIA Hosts Congressional Delegation Members with Coffees


Rep. Tim Griffin gestures during his presentation.

Rep. Tom Cotton recaps his efforts.

Sen, Mark Pryor greets attendees.

Sen. John Boozman makes a point.

Rep. Steve Womack speaks to the crowd.
National Issues

During 2013, the State Chamber/AIA communicated with our Congressional Delegation and appropriate governmental contacts in regard to the following federal issues, which our organizations support:

• Comprehensive immigration reform.
• More fiscal certainty in Congress
• The Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013 (H.R. 684)
• Passage of a Farm Bill

The State Chamber/AIA also was involved with the following litigation issues during 2013:

• The fight against the effort to undermine the Federal Class Action Fairness Act Standard Fire v. Knowles
• Stopping the effort to use the Felony Tort Act to make an end-run around the Workers’ Compensation Act Lambert v. LQ Management
• The fight against the effort to eliminate the effectiveness of arbitration clauses within agreed-to contracts Rosenow v. Alltel Corp.
• Joining the amicus curiae brief jointly filed in support of the U.S. Chamber’s legal challenge to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) authority to regulate greenhouse gases (GHG) under the Clean Air Act (CCA).
• Working with state and federal business and industry groups to speak out and push back against the U.S. EPA’s carbon dioxide (CO2) proposed New Source Performance Standard for new fossil fuel-fired power plants.

Additionally, the State Chamber/AIA joined a coalition of other state organizations in pushing back on a proposed critical habitat designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for two species of mussels – the Neosho mucket and Rabbitsfoot – which would impact 42 percent of Arkansas’s geographical area. The coalition’s effort subsequently drew the support of the entire Arkansas congressional delegation and Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack discusses the Farm Bill at an appearance hosted by the State Chamber in late October.
54th Annual Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner

The State Chamber/AIA hosted the 54th Annual Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner on April 17-19 at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel. Approximately 200 people attended the Congressional Reception and Dinner on April 18 including State Chamber/AIA members, guests, members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and their staffs.

The Fly-In is a chance for our members to join other colleagues in Washington for a unique opportunity to meet directly with our Congressional delegation and influence policy that will impact our state.

Attendees also had the opportunity for face-to-face meetings with each of the delegates and their staffs at individual district events, as well as at the reception and dinner.

(From left) Rachel and Micah Cox of Conway Machine, Inc. and John Nabholz of Nabholz Construction Corp.


Sen. Boozman with representatives from Nucor Steel and Nucor-Yamato.
Steve Arrison of the Hot Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau and his wife, Jackie Arrison of the Greater Hot Springs Chamber.

Rep. Steve Womack and Bruce Harris of Walmart Stores Inc.


State Chamber Chairman Mike Callan of AOG and AIA Chairman Steve Cousins of Lion Oil.
Gov. Beebe, Gregory Casey Speak at State Chamber/AIA 85th Annual Meeting

Approximately 600 representatives from businesses throughout the state gathered on November 14th at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Little Rock for the State Chamber/AIA 85th Annual Meeting.

Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe provided remarks immediately following lunch and praised the State Chamber/AIA, President & CEO Randy Zook and the staff. He also lauded the coalition of business, education, industry, the arts, the service sector, professionals, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents for working together to move the state forward over the past seven years.

Headline speaker Gregory S. Casey, president & CEO of the prominent/influential Business Industry Political Action Committee (BIPAC), urged employers to share their opinions on political issues with their employees: “The most credible source of information in our society today is the employer.” Casey went on to add that when employers talk to employees about issues, the employees tend to react in positive ways.


Prior to the Annual Meeting luncheon, the State Chamber/AIA Board of Directors held a business meeting. The 2014 slate of officers and board members was also elected.
Headline speaker Gregory S. Casey of BIPAC.

State Chamber Chairman Mike Callan.


The State Chamber-AIA Annual Meeting drew an overflow crowd.
State Chamber/AIA Officers, Board Members Elected at 85th Annual Meeting

The slate of 2014 State Chamber/AIA officers and board members was elected during the 85th Annual Meeting in mid-November. The officers and board members can be found on pages six and seven of the Annual Report.

23rd Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon Held in Early May

Approximately 250 people attended the 23rd Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon, hosted by the State Chamber/AIA in conjunction with the Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference on Thursday, May 2nd at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock.

The Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon honors the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Arkansas Small Business Persons of the Year.

James Stapleton, the executive director of the Douglas C. Greene Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship at Southeast Missouri State University and author of a study conducted for the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) on small business creation, was the keynote speaker. Charlott “Chotsie” Adney, owner of Advanced Aesthetics of Arkansas, was the recipient of the 2013 Small Business Person of the Year Award.
Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference Matches Buyers/Sellers

Forty-three buyers, 52 sellers and 15 exhibitors participated in the 2013 Arkansas Procurement Opportunities Conference & Expo, which was hosted by the State Chamber/AIA and held on May 2 at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock in conjunction with the Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon.

The Procurement Opportunities Conference & Expo, in its seventh year, included on-the-spot procurements, networking among business attendees, the establishment of customer relationships between buyers and small business sellers, and opportunities to showcase goods and services by the various exhibitors.

In addition to the State Chamber/AIA, the following resource partners helped make this a successful event: U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE, Office of Senator Mark Pryor, Office of Senator John Boozman, Office of Congressman Tim Griffin, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Arkansas Minority Business Development Roundtable, Arkansas Minority & Women Contractors’ Association, Arkansas-Mississippi Minority Supplier Development Council, Arkansas Procurement Assistance Center, Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center, Arkansas Women’s Business Center, National Federation of Independent Business, UAPB-Economic Research and Development Center and Women’s Business Council – Southwest.
State Chamber/AIA Unveils Two New Workforce Development Websites

The State Chamber/AIA unveiled two new websites addressing workforce development needs in the state during 2013. The first is Intern in Arkansas. The goal of Intern in Arkansas is to match a student’s area of study with a business area of expertise. Students will learn real-world functioning of a business, while businesses benefit from the work and energy of a student in a related field of study.

The second site is Dream It. Do It. Arkansas. The State Chamber/AIA has partnered with the National Association of Manufacturing’s (NAM) Manufacturing Institute to become one of 21 other states (23 locations) to do so. Dream It. Do It. has a goal of educating young people, teachers and parents about jobs in manufacturing.

“The New Normal in Manufacturing” Seminar

The State Chamber/AIA partnered with the Governor’s Quality Award Program, AEDC and Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions to host “The New Normal in Manufacturing” seminar in November prior to the Annual Meeting. The seminar featured Gardner Carrick, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the National Association of Manufacturers’ (NAM) Manufacturing Institute, who discussed the renaissance in manufacturing, key challenges to manufacturers, and workforce issues and solutions.

State Chamber/AIA Hosts TMI Dream It. Do It. Arkansas Onboarding Session

Representatives from The Manufacturing Institute (TMI) led a Dream It. Do It. Strategic Onboarding Session for the new Dream It. Do It. Arkansas initiative in October at the State Chamber/AIA Building in Little Rock.

The session provided an informational overview on Dream It. Do It. as well as an open forum to discuss best practices, challenges and solutions for engaging Arkansas’s youth in manufacturing and related education pathways.
State Chamber/AIA Promotes Arkansas Manufacturing Day

The State Chamber/AIA helped promote Arkansas Manufacturing Day on October 4. Several events were held at locations throughout Arkansas including Arkadelphia, Maumelle, Little Rock, Jonesboro, Springdale, El Dorado and Fayetteville. Manufacturing Day addresses common misperceptions about manufacturing by giving manufacturers an opportunity to open their doors and show what manufacturing is and what it isn’t. By working together, manufacturers are able to address the skilled labor shortage they face, connect with future generations, take charge of the public image of manufacturing and ensure the ongoing prosperity of the entire industry.

UALR Emerging Analytics Center a “Game-Changer” for Arkansas Companies

In June, Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) announced an economic and higher education “game changer” — the opening of the new UALR George W. Donaghey Emerging Analytics Center™ (EAC). The EAC features data visualization systems that are among the first of their kind in the world, dedicated to serving a diverse and growing group of clients in business, sciences, healthcare, education, and engineering.

“The Emerging Analytics Center is a visionary initiative to capitalize on the growing demand for data-driven solutions in both the public and private sectors,” Beebe said. “The center will also be an important tool for economic development by helping us target new and expanding industries as we work to create Arkansas jobs.”

Made possible by a grant of more than $5 million from the George W. Donaghey Foundation, the EAC is led by Dr. Mary L. Good, UALR special advisor to the chancellor for economic development.

The EAC’s goal is to provide competitive, visionary data solutions in an academic environment with statewide activities underway for economic development and education. A special promotional partnership has also been forged with the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas. Linked through fiber optics to UALR’s Computational Research Center, the EAC includes 35 large video monitors with more than 50 million pixels offering high definition resolution for 2D and 3D applications.

Dassault Falcon Jet Corp., The Hutchinson Group, Nabholz Construction Services and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences are among the growing list of clients using the new center’s data visualization systems, which can be used in a variety of ways to innovatively help businesses throughout Arkansas.

For more information, or to contact the center’s staff, visit http://ualr.edu/emerginganalytics/contact/.
Hiring Our Heroes Event Held at Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock

The 2013 Arkansas Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event was held October 1 at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock. The event drew a number of employers and hundreds of job seekers and featured former President Bill Clinton, Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe and Hiring Our Heroes National Spokesperson and Medal of Honor Recipient Dakota Meyer.

This year’s hiring event was conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Labor Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), the Arkansas Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion, AR DOL, NBC News, and other local partners.

Former President Bill Clinton provides remarks.

Susie Marks presents an Arkansas Traveler certificate to Medal of Honor recipient Dakota Meyer.

Service Veterans visit with CINTAS personnel at Hiring Our Heroes.
The State Chamber/AIA partnered in early November with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System to present “In Business to Help Our Veterans Come All the Way Home,” a workshop focusing on resources available to veterans including counseling, social services and business opportunities. The workshop was held at the State Chamber/AIA Building in Little Rock.

Participants compare notes at the “In Business to Help Our Veterans Come All the Way Home” Seminar in early November.
COMMITTEES

Committees Play Major Role in State Chamber/AIA Success

Committees play a major role in the success of the State Chamber/AIA. Consisting of business leaders from member companies across the state, issue committees meet throughout the year to help identify and develop key issues that are critical to the future of Arkansas.

The committees provide the State Chamber/AIA governmental affairs team guidance in understanding complex topics that often require a great deal of specific expertise. This equips our lobbyists with insights and knowledge about an issue's potential impact on our member companies and our state.

The State Chamber/AIA Committees and their leaders include:

**Education**
*Chairman: Gary Newton, Arkansas Learns*

Recognizing that the workforce of tomorrow is in the schools of today, the Education Committee proactively advocates the interests of business and industry as the State Chamber/AIA strives to improve education in Arkansas. The committee examines issues in K-12 education, higher education and workforce development. This committee identifies projects and tracks their successful implementation, as well as identifying and recommending policy changes and positions that will make Arkansas school systems more successful.

**Governmental Affairs**
*Co-Chairmen: Len Pitcock, Cox Communications; Robert D. Smith, III, Attorney*

The Governmental Affairs Committee is comprised of governmental affairs representatives and lobbyists who represent member companies, business associations and organizations. The group meets weekly during legislative sessions to monitor pending legislation and other issues of importance to the business community with the goal of developing a consistent lobbying strategy. This committee meets during election years to discuss candidates. It also provides guidance and support to the State Chamber/AIA lobbying team on a variety of issues.

**Health Care**
*Chairman: Kurt Knickrehm, Regions Insurance Group*

The Health Care Committee frequently plays the role of facilitating a consensus between employers and health-care providers as the State Chamber/AIA endeavors to maintain and improve quality health care and find practical means of providing benefits and containing costs. The State Chamber/AIA also plays a leading role in the Employers Healthcare Coalition, which develops positions that are in line with the needs and desires of employers.

**National Issues**
*Chairman: Archie Schaffer III, Tyson Foods*

The National Issues Committee identifies issues the State Chamber/AIA will address on the federal level. Given the myriad of national issues, this is an ambitious task, but we also rely on strong partnerships with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers and the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation and their staffs. The committee has developed a list of nine priority issues—health care, the farm bill, education and workforce development, union card check legislation, climate change, energy policy, economic stimulus, taxes and immigration.
The State Chamber/AIA invites our members to become involved by serving on one or more committees. If you are interested, please contact Deb Mathis at 501-210-4212 or dmathis@arkansasstatechamber.com.
E-Newsletters

The State Chamber/AIA continued its efforts during 2013 to reach the broadest possible business audience via various e-newsletters.

• **E-Business** is a twice-monthly compendium of articles chronicling our organizations’ events, activities, programs, efforts and committees.

• **Daily Legislative Update** is e-mailed each business day during legislative sessions and outlines the day’s most important issues being tracked by the State Chamber/AIA Governmental Affairs team.

• **Washington Watch** is e-mailed the second week of each month and concentrates on federal issues that have impact upon businesses.

• **Industry Insight** focuses on manufacturing and industrial news and issues and is e-mailed the fourth week of each month. During 2013, this publication was broadened to include state new business announcements, groundbreakings and expansions of existing business and industry.

• In addition, periodic Congressional Updates are e-mailed to members when major federal issues like health care reform are being considered.

• Archived copies of our e-newsletters are also posted on our web site: www.arkansasstatechamber.com.

Web Sites

www.arkansasstatechamber.com and www.arkansasprosperity.org

The State Chamber/AIA continued to add features and updates to its award-winning website, www.arkansasstatechamber.com, throughout the year. Additions included various videos posted to the front page, inside pages and the YouTube Channel.

Updates were also made during the year to the Arkansas Prosperity Project website, www.arkansasprosperity.org. The Arkansas Prosperity Project site is designed to give readers the information and tools they need to make it to the polls, cast informed votes and become more informed in the electoral process.
Arkansas Manufacturers Directory

In 2013, the State Chamber/AIA published its fourth Arkansas Manufacturers Directory.

- The Manufacturers Directory, an Associated Industries of Arkansas publication, is a guide to becoming involved and being heard within the manufacturing sector.
- It provides a listing of all manufacturers in Arkansas by city and is also a resource that provides practical information on different aspects of Arkansas business, industry, climate, attractions, business support, natural resources, geography, certain laws and tax policies, and other items.

Membership Directory and Buyers’ Guide

In early August, the State Chamber/AIA published the organizations’ sixth Membership Directory & Buyers’ Guide.

- Published annually, the Membership Directory & Buyers’ Guide includes listings of members, information on standing committees, and descriptions of products and services many companies provide for business development professionals.
- The State Chamber/AIA Membership Directory & Buyers’ Guide is a great resource for locating a wide variety of products and resources offered by the ASCC/AIA’s more than 1,200 member companies.
- This directory is available exclusively to State Chamber/AIA members. The Buyers’ Guide provides members with a ready list of suppliers and products, key executives, and decision makers. Members gain year-round exposure in this comprehensive member resource, which is used by consumers and industry professionals.
State Chamber/AIA Expands Social Media Presence

In an effort to gain traffic and attention throughout the state, the State Chamber/AIA embarked upon an effort to expand our social media presence via Facebook and LinkedIn. Daily posts were added to both and members were urged to “like” the State Chamber/AIA pages for both social media outlets.

State Chamber/AIA Partners with Constant Contact for Workshops

The State Chamber/AIA partnered with Constant Contact to offer free workshops on Social Media and E-mail Marketing during September. Both workshops were held in the Bob Lamb Conference Room.

Business Matters – State Chamber/AIA Unveils Videos Featuring Chairmen

Business matters. The State Chamber/AIA developed two videos in March featuring State Chamber Chairman Mike Callan of Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corp., AIA Chairman Steve Cousins of Lion Oil Company and State Chamber President & CEO Randy Zook to promote membership in the State Chamber/AIA. The videos were subsequently posted to the State Chamber/AIA website.
Marcus Turley Again Leads Nation in Membership Dollar Sales

State Chamber/AIA Membership Development Representative Marcus Turley again led the nation in dollar sales for memberships sold in the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) sales contest. Turley, who was recognized at the Annual ACCE Convention in Oklahoma City in late July, also took top honors for the category in 2012.

State Chamber Receives Top Membership Growth Award at ASCP Meeting

The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce was recognized for its membership efforts at the Association of State Chamber Professionals (ASCP) meeting, which was held in September. The State Chamber received the First Place Award for Highest Membership Growth in Numbers from 2011-2012.

ASCP consists of the top membership, marketing, communications and non-dues professionals from state chambers of commerce (and other organizations with similar missions, but varying names) from across the country. The Arkansas State Chamber will host the 2015 ASCP Annual Conference.

Andrew Parker Named to Arkansas Business 40 Under Forty Class

State Chamber/AIA Director of Governmental Affairs Andrew Parker was named to the Twentieth Annual Arkansas Business 40 Under Forty Class in June. He was honored along with the other members of the class at a luncheon at the Little Rock Marriott.

Kenny Hall Installed as 2013-2014 ASAE President

Kenneth (Kenny) R. Hall, J.D., executive vice president of the State Chamber/AIA, was installed as the 2013-2014 president of the Arkansas Society of Association Executives. ASAE’s membership includes more than 160 association executive members representing more than 145 Arkansas associations and organizations.
Leadership Arkansas Graduates Class VII, Begins Class VIII

Leadership Arkansas Class VII, which was presented by ARcare and sponsored by Nabholz Construction Services and Southland Park Gaming & Racing, continued its sessions in 2013 at West Memphis, Fayetteville, Pine Bluff and Conway. C. Tad Bohannon, a partner in the law firm of Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP, served as Leadership Arkansas Class VII Chairman.

Class VII
Class VII

Phillis Anderson  
Lighthouse Academies, Inc.

Ritter Arnold  
Ritter Agribusiness

Will Black  
CDI Contractors, LLC

Jean Block  
Arkansas Scholarship Lottery

Shane Bolender  
Southland Park
Gaming & Racing

Jason Bramlett  
Friday Eldredge & Clark, LLP

Phyllis Lynn Brewer  
Murphy Oil Corporation

Chris Calvin  
Nucor Steel - Arkansas

Justin Carter  
Farm Credit
of Western Arkansas

Greg Cockmon  
Cromwell Architects
Engineers, Inc.

Alex Collier  
ARcare

Allison Cox  
Windstream Corporation

Val Emmons  
CMI

Laura Farar  
Kruger Products USA

Dennis Ferguson  
Simmons First Bank
of Northwest Arkansas

Steve Foley  
National Center for
Toxicological Research, U.S.
Food and Drug Administration

Eliza Gaines  
Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Brent Gambill  
Martin-Wilbourn Partners

Christy Garrett  
QualChoice

Daniel Gray  
Bart Gray Realty Co., Inc.

Jeff Hendrix  
Pfizer

Margaret Holloway  
Ritter Communications

Jeff Hood  
Sam M. Walton College
of Business, University
of Arkansas

Selandria Jackson  
City of Little Rock Parks
& Recreation

Scott Kingsborough  
SJC Enterprises

Sujay Kola  
St. Vincent Health System

Lauren Land  
Ouachita Baptist University

J.D. Lowery  
Arkansas Economic
Development Commission

James McBryde  
Nabholz Construction Services

David McClain  
Arkansas State University

Karen McDaniel  
Arkansas State University

John Payne  
Arkansas National Guard

Rickie Smith  
Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon
& Galchus, P.C.

Debbie Sorrells  
Arkadelphia Regional
Economic Development
Alliance & Area Chamber
of Commerce

Peter Stuckey  
University of Arkansas
at Little Rock

Brian Vandiver  
Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates
& Woodyard, P.L.L.C.

Yolanda Wallace  
Counseling & Education
Center, Inc. and The Family
Center, Inc.

T.J. Whitehead  
ARcare

Trey Williams  
East-Harding, Inc.

Paul Wilson  
INTRUST Bank
Leadership Arkansas Class VIII Selects 39 Individuals

Thirty-nine individuals from throughout the state were selected for Leadership Arkansas Class VIII, a program created and operated by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas and presented by ARcare and sponsored by Southland Park Gaming & Racing and Walmart Stores, Inc.

C. Tad Bohannon, a partner in the law firm of Wright, Lindsey Jennings, LLP, is serving as Leadership Arkansas Class VIII chairman.

Leadership Arkansas Class VIII convened with a retreat in late September in Hot Springs. Other sessions held during 2013 included the State Chamber/AIA Annual Meeting/Mock Legislative Session in mind-November in Little Rock and the Economic Development/Manufacturing session in early December in Fort Smith.

Class VIII

Daniel Barnes
McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Diane Betts
Southern Arkansas University Tech

Joel Blansett
Nabholz Construction Services

Sharon Burdine
Simmons First National Corporation

Lance Carrier
PrimeLending

Meredith Covington
Southern Bancorp Community Partners

Donnie Crain
Arkansas National Guard

Debbie Crouch
Little River Chamber of Commerce

Cynthia Davis
NCTR

Steve Eddington
Arkansas Farm Bureau

Ben France
Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Chris Gibson
ARcare

Sarah Gordley
Springdale Chamber of Commerce

Don Hann
Southland Park Gaming & Racing

Jon Ross Henderson
First Security Bank

Amanda Horton
University of Central Arkansas

Mervin Jebraj
Center for Business and Economic Research

Jason Jones
Arkadelphia Promise Scholarship Foundation

T.J. Lefler
Sage Partners, LLC

Christina Lusk
Clark Contractors

Mike Malone
Northwest Arkansas Council

Eddie Martin
Coulson Oil Company, Inc./Coulson Real Estate Group, LLC

Amber Masters
ARcare

Nicole May
ValueOptions

Greg Modica
Government Supply Services LLC

Chris Neeley
Walmart

Keisha Pittman
American Cancer Society

Dennis Rittle
Ozarka College

Ben Robbins
DataPath Administrative Services

Rob Seay
Cromwell Architects Engineers, Inc.

Jonathan Semans
CDI Contractors, LLC

Mike Shaw
Cardinal Health

Sha’ Stephens
Arkansas Statewide Independent Living Council

Elizabeth Underwood
University of Arkansas-Fort Smith

Katherine Vasilos
Noble Strategies, Inc.

Marc Verbos
The ASA Group

Don Wilborne
Staley, Inc.

Dan Williams
Garver
Leadership Arkansas is a program designed to take a statewide view of the economic and political challenges that face our great state. Leadership Arkansas offers leadership opportunities that expand the impact of community leaders across the state. Created by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce / Associated Industries of Arkansas, Leadership Arkansas builds a sense of statewide community by identifying and training individuals with the passion and commitment to become personally engaged in issues, programs and activities aimed at building a better Arkansas.

WHAT WE OFFER

Leadership Arkansas Class VIII members listen to testimony during the Mock Legislative Session at the State Capitol.

Leadership Arkansas Class VIII

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Leadership Arkansas's mission is to build a strong, diverse, statewide network of leaders with a shared commitment to connect our communities and to make Arkansas a better place in which to live and prosper.

One of the many ways the organization is working to accomplish that mission is through its annual class program. Class members are chosen to participate in a stimulating and thought-provoking educational program that consists of a series of six day-and-a-half sessions held in locations throughout the state. These sessions include programming on issues critical to Arkansas, leadership skills assessment, and relevant information on Arkansas’s history, demography, diversities and opportunities.

Participants are required to attend at least 80 percent of the program sessions, including the entire opening retreat session, which is mandatory.

Andrew Parker and Angela DeLille address Leadership Arkansas Class VIII prior to the Annual Meeting.
Pinnacle Program

Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce

New Pinnacle Members Announced for 2013

The State Chamber/AIA is pleased to recognize the following Pinnacle members who are new or upgraded their status for 2013:

Crown:
- Acadia Health Care Arkansas
- Arkansas Learns
- Cardinal Health
- Murphy USA
- Ozark Mountain Poultry
- Simmons Foods, Inc.
- Superior Industries International, Arkansas LLC
- Windstream

The Pinnacle Program is an active group of member firms and organizations whose senior representatives provide financial support and leadership to the State Chamber/AIA. Pinnacle members actively participate in our grassroots action network, testify before legislative committees when needed, work on State Chamber/AIA policy committees or lead the organization as board members.

Levels of investment include $5,000 (Crown), $10,000 (Peak), $25,000 (Summit) and $35,000 and up (Apex). Benefits of Pinnacle membership include recognition in State Chamber/AIA printed publications, e-publications and on our website; special recognition at all State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events, such as the Annual Meeting and the Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner; prominent coverage in the Annual Membership Directory & Buyers’ Guide, and networking opportunities with other high-level Arkansas business and industry leaders.
Welcome to the following new members who joined the State Chamber/AIA in 2013:

ABC Supply Co. Inc.
Acadia Health Care Arkansas
ADKO, Inc.
AGL Corporation
Air Filter Systems, Inc.
alliantgroup, LP
American Composting, Inc.
American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas
American Petroleum Sales & Service
American Red Cross-Greater Ozarks Arkansas Region
American Taekwondo Association
Americas Best Value Inn
Anchor Paint Manufacturing & Distribution
Apex Tool Group LLC
Aqua Contour Cutting (ACC Inc.)
Architectural Products, Inc.
Arkansas 4-H Center
Arkansas Automatic Sprinklers/United Fire Suppression
Arkansas Cardiology
Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care
Arkansas Independent Living Council
Arkansas Short Line Railroads, Inc.
Arkansas Surgical Hospital
ARKUPS (AR One Call System, Inc.)
ARVets
Asphalt Contractors, Inc.
AstraZeneca
Bad Boy Inc.
Bank of Little Rock Mortgage Corporation
BASF Corporation
Bax & Associates
Ben E. Keith Company
Better Business Bureau of Arkansas, Inc.
Bobo Law Firm
Bond Consulting Engineers, Inc.
BOSC, Inc.
Bray Gourmet LLC
Burnett Insurance Corp.
C&L Management, Inc.
CardinalHealth
Chick-fil-A
Citizens Bank
Clean Harbors El Dorado LLC
Colonial Wine & Spirits
Complete Care, Inc.
ConAgra Foods
Conestoga Rovers & Associates
Constant Contact
Conway Machine, Inc.
Con-Way Manufacturing Copart of Arkansas
Daisy Outdoor Products
Delta Air Lines Inc.
Delta Trust & Bank
Denso Manufacturing Arkansas, Inc.
Don Houff Plumbing Co.
DuCharme, McMillen & Associates, Inc.
Eastern Tank Series, Inc.
Edafio Technology Partners
Elkhart Products Corporation
Evergreen Life Services
Fennell Purifoy Architects
First Federal Bank
First National Title Company
FirstStaff
Fortier, Inc.
Gadberry Financial Group
Gallen Properties, LLC
Gary Houston Electric
Gene Cook, Inc.
General Mills
Gil Ragon Owen, P.A.
Hackney Ladish, Inc.
Harding University
Hatfield Ready Mix, Inc.
Hill Logistics, Inc.
Hillcrest Camshaft SVC, Inc.
Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center
Holloway Engineering, Surveying & Civil Design, PLLC
Home Design Group, Inc.
Home Helpers (Dignity Enterprises, Inc.)
Howard Memorial Hospital
Hudson, Cisne & Co. LLP
Huffman Drywall Company
Husqvarna Outdoor Products
Institute for Economic Advancement
Jan-Eze Plating, Inc.
Johnson Controls, Inc.
Land O’Frost Inc.
Larco Manufacturing
Lewis Architects Engineers
Liberty Utilities
Life Strategies of Arkansas, LLC
L’Oreal USA
M & M Strategies, Inc.
Magna IV Color Imaging
Martin Operating Partnership
Min-Ark Pallet Company, Inc.
MLW Heating & Air
Molex LRC
Morris & Associates
MP Productions, Inc.
Murphy USA Inc.
Nestle Prepared Foods Company
New Hope Prosthetics and Orthotics
Novo Nordisk
Oran McBride Company, Inc.
Parks Brothers Farm, Inc.
Performance Food Service
Perkins Fire Pro
PLANTation Services, Inc.
Pleth, LLC
PrimeCare Medical Clinic
Prime-Line, Inc.
Procyon Solutions, Inc.
Proland Title Company
Qsource of Arkansas
Quality Inn & Suites
Rainbow of Challenges, Inc.
Residence Inn by Marriott
RGA, Inc.
Roberts Law Firm
Roller Funeral Homes
RP Power, LLC
SAIC Energy, Environment & Infrastructure, LLC
Sherwin-Williams Paint Company
Simmons Foods, Inc.
SKM Consulting, Inc.
SLC Professionals of Arkansas, LLC
Southeastrans, Inc.
Sugar Creek Foods International Inc.
Superior Industries International, Arkansas LLC
Terminix
Tetra Technologies, Inc.
Texarkana Regional Airport
Today’s Office, Inc.
United Fence and Construction Company, Inc.
ValueOptions, Inc.
Verizon Arena
WeatherBarr Windows & Doors
White County Medical Center
Windstream
Youth Home, Inc.
THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The following members and organizations sponsored State Chamber/AIA events in 2013. Sponsorships included the Legislative Reception, Leadership Arkansas, Lobbyist Luncheons, Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner, Small Business Awards Luncheon, Annual Meeting and “Door-to-Door” Regional Meetings.

AATYC
AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company
Aerojet Rocketdyne Corporation
AFCO Steel, LLC
AIPRO
Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation
AR Good Roads / Transportation Council
ARKcare
Arkadelphia Regional EDA & Area Chamber of Commerce
Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association
Arkansas Automobile Dealers Association
Arkansas Bankers Association
Arkansas Beverage Association
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Arkansas Broadcasters Association
Arkansas Chapter, AGC of America, Inc.
Arkansas Credit Union League
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
Arkansas Forestry Association
Arkansas Health Bureau Federation
Arkansas Hospital Association
Arkansas’ Independent Colleges & Universities
Arkansas Learns
Arkansas Municipal League
Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions
Arkansas Oil Marketers Association Inc.
Arkansas Petroleum Council
Arkansas Timber Producers Association
Arkansas Transit Association
Arvest Bank
Associated Builders and Contractors of Arkansas
AT&T Arkansas
Baldor Electric Company
Bank of the Ozarks
BHP Billiton Petroleum
BDK, LLP
BP America, Inc.
Bryce Corporation
Capital Hotel
Capitol Partners LLC
Caterpillar Inc.
CDI Contractors LLC
CenterPoint Energy
Central Arkansas Water
Central Moloney Inc.
CenturyLink
City of Fort Smith
Clean Harbors
Clean Line Energy
Clearwater Paper Corporation
Comcast Business
Community Health Centers of Arkansas
Conway Corporation
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company
Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods
DBH Management Consultants
Delta Dental of Arkansas
Delta Regional Authority
Delta Trust & Bank
Deltic Timber Corporation
Domtar
Dover Dixon Home, PLLC
Earl Jones
E.C. Barton & Company
El Dorado Chemical Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas
The Empire District Electric Company
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.
Evergreen Packaging Co.
Farm Credit Services of Arkansas
FedEx Freight, Inc.
Ferstl Valuation Services
First Community Bank
First National Bank of Fort Smith
Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce
Fuller Enterprises
FutureFuel Chemical Company
Gar-Bro Manufacturing Company
Gerdau
Government Solutions, LLC
Great Lakes Solutions - A Chemtura Business
Hanesbrands, Inc.
Hargraves Consulting LLC
Hewlett Packard Company
Home Depot
Impact Management Group Inc.
Independent Insurance Agents of Arkansas
International Paper Company
inVentas Research & Consulting, Inc.
John Suskie
Koontz Electric Company Inc.
KTHV, Arkansas Television Co. Inc.
Kutak Rock LLP
Lion Oil Company
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce
Martin Wibourn Partners
McLarty Companies
McKee Foods Corporation
Mckeey Foods Corporation
Mitchell Williams Seelig Gates & Woodyard, PLLC
Mullenix & Associates
Murphy Oil Corporation
Murphy USA
Nabholz Construction Corporation
Noble Strategies
Nuco
NWA Chambers
NWA Regional Airport
OG&E
Oxane Materials
Paschal Strategic Communications
Pernod Ricard - USA
Power Technology
Premier Staffing, Inc.
Pulaski Technical College
Regions Bank
Regions Insurance
Riceland Foods Inc.
Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce
Rose Law Firm
Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce
S.B. Howard & Company
Signature Bank of Arkansas
Simmons First National Corporation
SourceGas Arkansas
Southern Bakeries
Southland Park Gaming & Racing
Southwestern Energy Company
Stephens Inc.
Stephens Investments Holdings LLC
Stephens Production Company
TCHPrint Solutions
The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group
The Capitol Group, LLC
The Poultry Federation
Tyson Foods, Inc.
UALR SBTDC
UAMS
USABLE Life
USBank
Verizon Wireless
Viskase Corporation
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.
White County Medical Center
Wholesale Beer Distributors of Arkansas
Williams Strategic
Winrock International
Wright Lindsey & Jennings, LLP
XTO Energy / Exxon
STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS

The State Chamber/AIA has expanded its presence throughout Arkansas by affiliating with the following statewide organizations:

Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence/Governor’s Quality Award

- The Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence (AIPE) formed a working partnership with the State Chamber/AIA in 2008 and has an office in the State Chamber/AIA building. The organizations work together to accomplish the AIPE’s program vision of contributing to the success of Arkansas organizations and the communities they serve.
- AIPE offers training opportunities for participants to learn how to use the Criteria for Performance Excellence to assess strategy and process alignment for increased performance. Those that choose to apply for a Governor’s Quality Award receive an evaluation of their management systems in a written-feedback report citing strengths and areas for improvement and are recognized by the Governor at an annual awards ceremony. This award process is used by all types of businesses, health care, schools and government agencies, and all kinds of organizations, including non-profit.
- While other programs may focus on a single aspect such as leadership, strategic planning, or process management, AIPE services help you develop an integrated management framework that addresses all the factors that define your organization, its operations and its results. Utilizing AIPE services can help you
  - Jumpstart change initiatives
  - Energize improvement strategies
  - Focus your organizations on common goals
  - Assess performance against the competition
  - Align your resources with your strategic objectives

Program opportunities include:

Regional Self-Assessment and Applicant Training Seminars
- Provides training on use of the Criteria for Performance Excellence as process for self-assessment or writing an application for program award and recognition

Examiner Training
- Teaches analytical skills used to assess applications for award and write feedback report to applicant
- Provides examiner unique perspective that contributes to the success of your organization

Challenge Seminars
- Industry specific seminars for manufacturing, healthcare and business
- Provides seminars regionally throughout the state in partnership with local partners

Benchmark Tours

Governor’s Quality Award Application
- Apply for the following levels of award recognition:
  - Governor’s Award for Performance Excellence
  - Achievement Award
  - Commitment Award
  - Challenge Award

For further information about AIPE or the GQA Program, contact Executive Director Sue Weatter at 501-372-2222. Additional information about all opportunities the program provides is also available on the AIPE website at www.arkansas-quality.org.
Arkansas Economic Developers (AED)

- AED is an association of professional and volunteer economic developers in the state of Arkansas whose purpose is advancing, through professional and educational efforts, the quality of life in Arkansas by the development of employment opportunities through economic growth and community development.
- Membership in AED provides an opportunity to participate in numerous activities that center around efforts to educate the economic developer in a rapidly changing field.

Arkansas Aerospace Alliance (AAA)

- The Arkansas Aerospace Alliance is a trade association to support and promote the growth of the aerospace and aviation industry in the state.
- The purpose of the Alliance is to strengthen and expand the world-class aerospace and aviation industry in Arkansas.
- The goal of the Arkansas Aerospace Alliance is to train the state’s current and future aerospace workforce, to be a strong resource to existing industry, to promote Arkansas’s workforce to the world and to attract new aerospace companies to the state.
- The State Chamber/AIA is responsible for the administration of the Arkansas Aerospace Alliance with input from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC).

Arkansas Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)

- ACCE is a professional, statewide organization of Chamber of Commerce executives in more than 100 Arkansas communities as well as business and professional organizations interested in or allied with chamber of commerce work in Arkansas.
- The purpose of ACCE is to enhance the professional development and managerial skills of its members; to keep its membership apprised of statewide and national trends that affect the membership’s ability to operate effectively within their individual communities; and to maintain liaisons with state agencies and business organizations including the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, State Chamber/AIA, The Arkansas Partnership, American Chamber of Commerce Executives and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- The State Chamber/AIA is actively involved with services to local chambers including:
  - Association management for the ACCE
  - Strategic planning sessions
  - Personnel selection assistance
  - Volunteer leadership training
  - Board retreats and goal setting
  - Board orientation
  - New executive support
  - Governmental relations
  - New facility planning
  - Assistance with developing new programs
  - Assistance with starting new chambers
  - Membership development
  - Total resource campaigns
  - Chamber library
HIRE SMART.

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✓ Unique active learning experiences
✓ Proficient in the skills that matter most

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www.hendrix.edu/career/recruiters

Smoke-free cars for healthy Arkansas kids.

Young lungs are delicate and smoke can hinder their development. That's why it's now illegal to smoke in a vehicle with a child under 14 present. Drivers can be pulled over and ticketed if seen smoking with a child. For more information on Act 88 or help quitting, visit stampoursmoking.com or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. Let's keep Arkansas cars smoke-free for healthy kids.

NO SMOKING

WITH KIDS UNDER 14

Integrated Assets For A Growing Arkansas.

Deltic Timber Corporation strategically manages its integrated assets for future growth. From the environmental stewardship of Southern Pine timberland and the efficient operation of wood-based manufacturing facilities, to the sound development of commercial and residential real estate, Deltic increases the value of Arkansas’s most abundant natural resource.

Deltic Timber Corporation
deltic.com
NYSE: DEL
The Arkansas Aerospace Alliance, consisting of public and private aerospace companies, state and local government agencies, educational institutions and individuals with a common interest in Arkansas’s aerospace industry, is dedicated to growing the infrastructure in Arkansas to recruit, train, and retrain a qualified aerospace workforce and to assist in recruiting, retaining and expanding aerospace companies in Arkansas.

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inVeritas is a national public affairs firm specializing in management consulting, strategic communications, government relations, corporate and political research, and jury selection and litigation support.

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PROMOTING A PRO-BUSINESS, FREE-ENTERPRISE AGENDA, PREVENTING ANTI-BUSINESS LEGISLATION, REGULATIONS AND RULES.

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BLUE SKIES
GREEN GRASS
CLEAR WATER

OUR PRIORITIES ARE
THE SAME AS YOURS

We work hard to maintain the delicate balance of Mother Nature. Our goal is to preserve and protect the environment by minimizing our footprint, protecting the water and respecting the landscape. We know you expect us to be responsible neighbors. We expect the same of ourselves.
McKee Foods was the first bakery to sell individually wrapped cakes in a multipack carton in 1960. The product line was named after a granddaughter of the founders. A carton of 12 cakes had a suggested retail price of 49 cents at that time. Twelve cakes would have cost 60 cents if sold separately. Today, we are still a great bargain and we are America's Number One Snack Cake - made right here in Northwest Arkansas.

McKee Foods Corporation / 555 McKee Drive / Gentry, AR 72734 / 479-736-2601 / www.mckeefoods.com
From small business lending to capital for major projects, the Arkansas Capital Corporation Group should be the first call when looking for financing in Arkansas. Through the power of small business lending in partnership with Arkansas banks to the unique state and federal programs such as the EB-5 foreign investment and New Markets Tax Credits programs, the group of Arkansas Capital Companies has the expertise and programs to ensure more projects are financed and therefore realized for the state of Arkansas.

- $1.4 billion in loans, in partnership with more than 100 Arkansas banks, facilitated to Arkansas businesses since 1957
- $200 million in New Markets Tax Credits invested since 2002
- More than 18,700 jobs in Arkansas created or retained since 1995

For more than 50 years, The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group has partnered with organizations and businesses throughout Arkansas to help generate and grow economic opportunities. We look forward to the next 50 years.

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