Alabama Access for Higher Education Center - Bevill State Community College 2011-2016

From the foothills of Appalachia to the mountaintops of achievement.

Bevill State Community College introduces high school students to postsecondary education and career options. Students are supported through eight federally funded TRIO programs and the Alabama Access for Higher Education Center (AAHE). The focus has shifted to career tech high schools, partnering with career classes to bring college readiness tools to more students in the region. They are connecting feeder schools with career centers and colleges that serve specific career programs.

25 Public Schools Served 7,500 Students Served First-Generation College Students Served 70%

Services & Resources Provided

- School/Community Displays
- School-wide Activities and Celebrations
- College Test Prep
- Career Exploration Activities, College Visits, and Business and Industry Tours linking both college and career opportunities to students’ interests and skills.

Participating High Schools’ On-Time Graduation Rate 89% (2015)

Participating High Schools’ Postsecondary Enrollment Rate 51% (2015)

Bevill State Community College
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INVESTMENTS IN ALABAMA
October 2015–January 2017

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a federal-state partnership. Its mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in 420 counties across the 13 Appalachian states. ARC’s strategic plan identifies five investment goals to advance this mission: creating economic opportunity; preparing a ready workforce; building critical infrastructure; leveraging natural and cultural assets; and cultivating leadership and community capacity.

In partnership with Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), ARC has supported 64 projects in Alabama totaling $11.2 million. These investments have been matched by $24.0 million and will attract an additional $21.6 million in leveraged private investments in Alabama. They will also create or retain nearly 900 jobs, train and educate more than 14,000 students and workers, and benefit the 3 million residents in Alabama’s 37 Appalachian counties.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES IN ALABAMA

ADECA has prioritized these three ARC investment goals:

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**
ARC has invested over $1.6 million in entrepreneurial and business strategies to strengthen the economy in Appalachian Alabama.

**READY WORKFORCE**
ARC has invested almost $6.6 million to increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of Alabama’s Appalachian residents to work and succeed.

**CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
ARC has invested over $1.4 million in Alabama’s critical infrastructure development, including broadband, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.

**ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES**
ARC has invested an additional $1.6 million to leverage cultural and natural assets and cultivate leadership and community capacity in Appalachian Alabama.

IMPACT ON DISTRESSED COUNTIES

In Appalachian Alabama, two counties were considered economically distressed in fiscal year 2016. 37 projects totaling almost 60% of ARC investment dollars will have a direct impact on these counties.

INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

A collaborative effort by West Alabama Works with Community Works Tuscaloosa, fifteen businesses, Shelton State Community College, and Beville State Community College to offer pre-apprenticeship training to prepare individuals to enter registered apprenticeship programs. The programs offer soft-skills development, basic reading and math skills, and industry-specific classroom training. As part of the project, West Alabama Works brought a mobile training center to community outreach events in small rural churches, grocery store parking lots, and town squares to enroll over 170 people in the Hale County Automotive Logistics Partnership. The program includes a rigorous combination of Ready to Work training and adult education to develop a skilled workforce for Alabama’s automotive sector. Additional ARC support will help West Alabama Works expand its community outreach and job training programs to prepare over 1,000 workers and 500 students for jobs in the state’s automotive industry.