



# INFORMATION RELEASE

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### **AHTD TO HOLD JOB FAIR – CITES NEED FOR TRUCK DRIVERS**

**LITTLE ROCK (11-7)** -- The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) is hosting a Job Fair at its Central Office complex in Little Rock on Friday, November 14, 2014. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the main building located at the Baseline Road interchange on I-30.

“We are in the process of hiring about 200 new employees statewide, but we have a critical immediate need for truck drivers in Central Arkansas,” said AHTD Director Scott Bennett. “Winter is almost upon us and we want to have as many drivers trained as we possibly can before it arrives.”

The job fair is focusing on the Department’s ‘District Six,’ which encompasses Garland, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Prairie, Pulaski, and Saline Counties. The goal of the job fair is to hire up to 40 new employees that can be on the job by early December.

Bennett clarified that, even though the Department wants new drivers on board before the winter, these will not be part-time, seasonal, or temporary positions. “We’re not just looking for warm bodies. We’re looking for long-term, permanent employees. These are year-round positions that offer the potential for growth, a full benefits package, and an excellent retirement plan.”

At the job fair, stations will be set up where interested persons will receive information about the Department in general and the available positions in particular. Then they will be taken to a kiosk where a Department employee will be available to assist in completing an application for employment. While the application information is being screened and verified, the applicant will be interviewed by a District Six Supervisor. The Department hopes to be able to start making conditional offers of employment either late Friday afternoon or Monday morning.

The new employees will immediately begin Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) training if they don’t already possess a CDL. The training and the CDL testing will occur on paid Department time, but the employee will be responsible for all fees associated with the testing.

“We’re very excited about the opportunities we have to offer to qualified applicants,” Bennett noted. He also said if the job fair is successful in central Arkansas, the concept may be taken to other areas of the state.

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