

Center Line

AHTD Team Takes First Place in Regional Roadeo



AHTD Regional Roadeo team.

The location may have changed, but the results were much the same as the AHTD came away with their second consecutive Regional Roadeo championship last month.

Seventeen employees of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department traveled to Gulfport, Mississippi, on October 21 to compete in the 2004 Regional Equipment Operators Roadeo hosted by the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT). Teams from the Georgia Department of Transportation, South Carolina Department of Transportation and North Carolina Department of Transportation were also there to enter the competition.

“This is a great opportunity for MDOT and other DOT’s to come together and compete against one another, as well as a chance to meet our neighboring states,” stated MDOT Executive Director Larry L. “Butch” Brown.

Participants tested their skills in categories such as Lowboy Truck and Trailer, Single Axle Dump Truck with Utility Trailer, Backhoe, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Tractor with Bushhog and Motor Patrol.

By the time the final results were tabulated at the end of the day, the AHTD had managed to retain the trophy as Roadeo Champions.

“It’s exciting to keep the trophy in Arkansas, especially with the increased competition,” said AHTD Director Dan Flowers. “We’re all proud of the AHTD team and how they represented the Department.”

The popularity of the event is definitely catching on. “Our goal is to get as many southern states as possible to participate in this competition,” stated Mark McConnell, MDOT’s Assistant State Maintenance Engineer and Roadeo Coordinator.

Final results are on page two. Congratulations to all AHTD members who participated! The site for next year’s event will be announced soon.

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SECOND ANNUAL
REGIONAL
 EQUIPMENT OPERATORS COMPETITION
ROADEO

October 21, 2004 • Gulfport, Mississippi

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

TRACTOR/LOWBOY:

1. Steve Sites – AHTD
2. Stanley Thorne – MDOT
3. Pat Edmonson – AHTD

BACKHOE:

1. Kenny Riley - AHTD
2. David Rutledge – MDOT
3. Tommy Johnson – SCDOT

SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK:

1. James Reed – MDOT
2. Larry Hayes - SCDOT
3. Jim Bob Lamb – AHTD

MOTOR PATROL:

1. Jerry Ellett – MDOT
2. Randy Chrestman – MDOT
3. Randall Edgmon – AHTD

TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK:

1. Kenny Howard - AHTD
2. Keith Carpenter – AHTD
3. Danny King – NCDOT

TRACTOR/MOWER

1. Joey Hood – MDOT
2. Jason Forrest – MDOT
3. Fred Ridenhour – AHTD

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Place



Arkansas

2nd Place



Mississippi

3rd Place



South Carolina

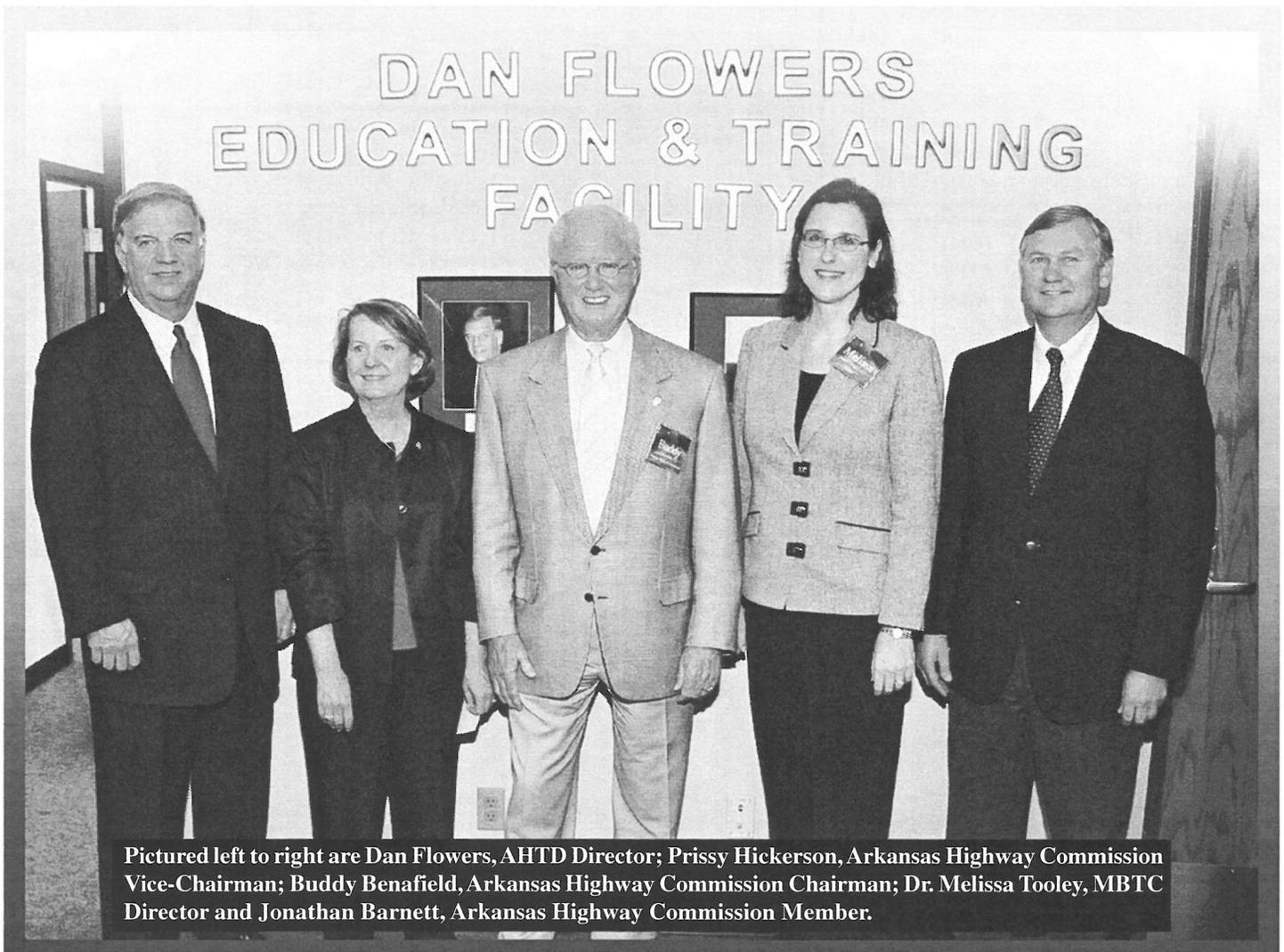
U of A Training Facility Named For AHTD Director

The University of Arkansas is known for turning out quality engineers, and recently they took the time to honor one of their own graduates. Dan Flowers, AHTD Director and a 1969 graduate of the U. of A., became the namesake of the Engineering Research Center's newest addition, the Dan Flowers Education and Training Facility.

The dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony was held on October 29, 2004. Those in attendance included current and former Highway Commissioners and AHTD staff, numerous transportation industry representatives, members of the university administration, members of the Professional Advisory Board of the Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center (MBTC), MBTC faculty and staff and elected officials including U. S. Congressman John Boozman. Flowers' wife, Sara, along with daughters, Jennifer Remy and Lea Baker, and grandson, Will Baker, were also in attendance.

The new facility is part of the Center for Training Transportation Professionals (CTTP) located within the Engineering Research Center. It features complete multi-media capabilities and a video conferencing system. The CTTP is the education and training arm of the MBTC, a national research center located on the U. of A. campus. The CTTP provides technical training and certifications for AHTD personnel and contractors from Arkansas and many other states.

"If I were to name one person who is most responsible for the success of the Mack-Blackwell Transportation Center, it would be Dan Flowers," said Dr. Melissa Tooley, Director of the MBTC. "His strong support for our programs and his vocal advocacy for the MBTC have created opportunities that have greatly enhanced our ability to serve Arkansas and rural America. We are proud to honor him by dedicating this education and training facility in his name."



Pictured left to right are Dan Flowers, AHTD Director; Prissy Hickerson, Arkansas Highway Commission Vice-Chairman; Buddy Benafield, Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman; Dr. Melissa Tooley, MBTC Director and Jonathan Barnett, Arkansas Highway Commission Member.



District 9: (l. to r.) Kenneth Booth, Station Attendant II, receives his 25-year service award from Joe Davidson, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor.



District 4: (l. to r.) Vivian Taff, Construction Aide I, receives her 25-year pin from Dean Nichols, Resident Engineer.

District 9: (l. to r.) Roy Leach, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, receives his 20-year service award from Denver Jennings, Garfield Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Roadway Design would like to welcome Tyler Ploucha, Civil Engineer. He is a 2003 graduate of Michigan Technological University and comes to us with the experience of one summer internship and eight months of full time work at District 6.

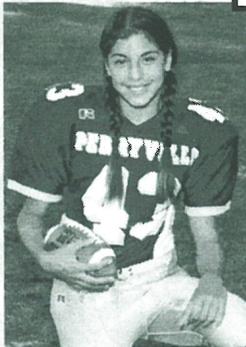


District 4: Sharon Sumpter, District Fuel Clerk, shows her 20-year service award that she recently received.

District 2: Jena Cheyan Alverson is the granddaughter of David and Wanda Alverson. David is a Motor Patrol Finish Operator.



Internal Audit: Receiving 5-year service awards are (l. to r.) Edwina Briggs, Freida Summerville and Dale Schimmel.



District 8: Jacque Coronado, daughter of Juan Coronado, District 8 Russellville. Jacque is 10 years old, in the fifth grade and has successfully played on the 2004 Perryville Maroon Colts sixth grade football team. Jacque is the Quarterback. This is her first year to ever play football. She and her teammates have a record of 11 - 1.

District 2: Ryan Reynolds is pictured at his 3rd birthday party. Ryan is the son of Tisha Reynolds, Construction Materials Inspector.



Maintenance: (l. to r.) Garland Land, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer, presents Al Hemmerich his 10-year service award.



Internal Audit: (l. to r.) Mike Hyde, Chief Auditor, presents Robert Jones, Senior Internal Auditor, his 20-year service award.

District 9: (l. to r.) Butch Martin, District Maintenance Engineer, presents David Dodson, Maintenance Aide II, his 35 year service pin, during a retirement party held in his honor. He retired on 10/14/04.



District 3: (l. to r.) Receiving their 25-year awards were Greg Harding, District Construction Engineer; Don Lively, Sign Crew Supervisor; Mike Flowers, Lafayette County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Weldon Garrison, Little River County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District 3: (l. to r.) Don Donaldson, Resident Engineer presents Sharon Still, Personnel Clerk, her 15-year service award.



District 3: (l. to r.) Charlie Rogers, Inspector, is presented his 15-Year Service Certificate from Steve Frisbee, Resident Engineer.



Food, Fun & Service Awards

As December arrives, the Department will begin its schedule of Service Awards Ceremonies around the state. Details will be available from your local District Headquarters. Here is the schedule:

District	1	December	17	10:00	a.m.
District	2	December	9	11:00	a.m.
District	3	December	8	12:00	p.m.
District	4	December	2	1:00	p.m.
District	5	December	7	10:00	a.m.
District	6	December	14	12:00	p.m.
District	7	December	9	2:00	p.m.
District	8	December	10	11:00	a.m.
District	9	December	3	11:00	a.m.
District	10	December	17	1:30	p.m.
Central Office		December	14	10:00	a.m.

2005 Cafeteria Plan Enrollment

Enrollment in the Department's Section 125 Cafeteria Plan for the Plan Year 2005 is now underway. Forms for the program have been distributed and must be signed by all employees, including those declining participation. Forms should be returned to your District or Division Office on or before **December 3, 2004**.

To be eligible for enrollment, you must have been employed by the Department for six months. Those employees declining participation for plan year 2005 will not be eligible to enroll until the next plan year January 1, 2006, unless they incur a qualified change in family status. Enrolled employees cannot make changes to their plan selection except for certain qualified changes in family status.

The Staff Minute



Featuring a different AHTD employee each month.

Employee: Dawn Jones

Position: Maintenance Aide II, District 8, Yell County Area Headquarters in Danville.

Length of Service: 18 + years

Duties: My job duties consist of several different things... from leading a crew to driving dump trucks, raking and shoveling asphalt, to driving different pieces of equipment.

Favorite or most interesting part of your job: My favorite part of the job is being able to work outside and being able to work with such a good crew here in Yell County.

Background: I started with the Highway and Transportation Department in 1986 as a summer employee. I was hired as a full time employee in August of the same year. Since that time, I have been promoted to a Single Axle Truck Driver, Stock Clerk, Yell County Area Headquarters Attendant and later was promoted to Maintenance Aide II, my current position.

Family: I am married to Lanney Jones. We live in Gravelly.

Hobbies/Interests: My favorite things to do are hunting, fishing, 4-wheel riding and spending time on our farm taking care of our cows and donkeys.



Dawn Jones,
Maintenance Aide II, District 8

Annual Service Recognition

The Arkansas Highway Commission authorizes AHTD employees with at least 10 years of qualifying state employment to receive annual service bonuses this month.

All eligible Department employees will receive a lump sum payment. The state's accounting system (AASIS) requires that the payment of the service award be the same method of payment as the employee's paycheck. If an employee's paycheck is direct deposited, the service payment will also be direct deposited. If the paycheck is mailed, then the service payment will also be mailed.

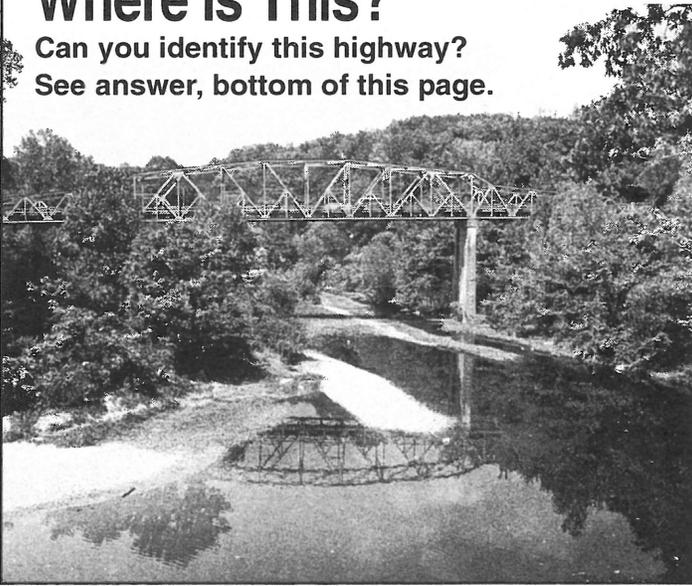
Only social security, and federal and state taxes are withheld from the service bonuses. The bonus checks will be mailed from the State Capitol on November 22nd and direct deposited no later than November 24th.

The amount of an employee's annual service bonus is as follows:

10 – 14 years	\$300
15 – 19 years	\$400
20 – 24 years	\$500
25 years and up	\$600

Where Is This?

Can you identify this highway?
See answer, bottom of this page.



AHTD Inclement Weather Policy

In the event Department employees are excused by official action due to inclement weather, the following policy will be in effect.

Official media notice to state agencies will apply to AHTD employees except designated essential personnel. The Inclement Weather Policy excuses employees from work until 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified by official media notice.

Employees who report to work after the excused time will be charged leave calculated between the excused time and their arrival time. Employees who do not report to work at all will be charged for a full day's leave.

Sick leave or annual leave may be utilized for inclement weather. Leave without pay will be utilized for employees who are temporary, part-time or in an exhausted leave status.

AHTD employees working under the flex schedule must adjust their time accordingly.

ACTIVE DUTY

AHTD has many employees in the armed services. This is a listing of those who have been deployed to serve our country. This list is current as of October 21, 2004. The Department presently has 21 employees on Active Duty .

AHP

James Clark Sergeant 11/1/02
Shawn Foust Sergeant 2/15/2003
Henry Lewis Permit Technician 1/28/03
Jack Stepp AHP Sergeant 10/12/03

Environmental

Bart Dudley Environmental Analyst I 10/13/03

Maintenance

Bishop Terrell Sign Maker II 10/13/03

Reproduction

Mark Green Reproduction Tech 10/13/03

District 1

James Barte Senior Inspector 9/28/04
R.M. Ferrell Backhoe/Frontend Loader Operator 1/20/04
Lamaris Mitchell Single Axle Truck Driver 10/13/03
Gary Morton Motorist Assistance Provider 1/30/03

District 2

Andrew Maddox Motor Patrol Operator 1/30/03
Lloyd Robinson Single Axle Truck Driver 10/8/03

DISTRICT 4

Leslie Barnett Construction Project Coordinator 10/13/04

District 6

Shirley Hammett Area Headquarters Attendant 7/20/04
J.W. McDorman District Bridge Inspector Helper 1/20/04

District 8

Michael Bunton Single Axle Truck Driver 10/13/03
William Fales Backhoe/Frontend Loader Operator 10/13/03

District 9

Ashley Hale Ferry Boat Pilot 3/15/04
Randall Williams Pilot-Deck Hand 3/15/04

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26, 2004, are state holidays for Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department employees in observance of Thanksgiving.

All work will be suspended except for cases of emergency.

Newton County - Hwy. 7 bridge at Fruit over the Buffalo River.

Answer to "Where Is This?"

NEW EMPLOYEES

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Sherry Adams Patrol Officer
Schawntell Arberry Patrol Officer
Lonnie Banks Patrol Officer
Douglas Belief Patrol Officer
Sandy Brown Patrol Officer
Fidel Caballero Patrol Officer
James Canard Patrol Officer
Raunona Clemons Patrol Officer
James Cooper Patrol Officer
Phillip Dunlap Patrol Officer
Jeremy Gore Patrol Officer
James Hamrick Patrol Officer
Joseph Harris Patrol Officer
Chad Heath Patrol Officer
Robert Johnson Patrol Officer
Jamie Jordan Patrol Officer
Vicky Lee Patrol Officer
Scott Montgomery Patrol Officer
Andreas Pruitt Patrol Officer
Anita Ray Patrol Officer
Jeffrey Smith Patrol Officer
Michael Smith Patrol Officer
Donna Stobaugh Patrol Officer
Sally Sweden Patrol Officer
Kreston Taylor Patrol Officer
Alvin Todd Patrol Officer
Jeremy Watkins Patrol Officer

BRIDGE

Holly Thomas Engineer I

CONSTRUCTION

Michael Calhoon Construction Helper I
Bryan Martin Construction Helper I

RIGHT OF WAY

Brian Whitehorn Office Admn. Asst. I

DISTRICT 1

Jeremy Burnett Single Axle Truck Driver
Walter Johnson Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 2

Ashlie Morgan General Laborer
Ricky Smith General Laborer

DISTRICT 3

Andy Boyd Single Axle Truck Driver
Gary Faulkner Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 5

Phillip Dearien Single Axle Truck Driver
Jimmy Eldridge Single Axle Truck Driver
David Graham District Caretaker

DISTRICT 6

Kenneth Cole Single Axle Truck Driver
Michael Hicks Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 8

Gary Boren General Laborer
Leonard Bradford Single Axle Truck Dr.
Eric Duvall General Laborer
Marlin Miller Single Axle Truck Driver
Jason Phillips Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 9

Dillard Fletcher Single Axle Truck Driver

PROMOTIONS

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

James Jones Patrol Officer

ENVIRONMENTAL

LynAnne Taylor Office Admn. Asst. V

MAINTENANCE

Josh Nail Maintenance Aide II
Joshua Phillips Maintenance Aide II

MATERIALS

Jonathan Brill Materials Technician II
Henry Williams Materials Technician II

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Tamara Easley Engineer II
James Marshall Data Collection Tech.

DISTRICT 1

Kenneth Balch Maintenance Aide II
Lisa Jones Personnel Clerk

DISTRICT 2

Calvin Cleary Single Axle Truck Driver
Cornelius Kilgore Single Axle Truck Dr.
Carl Lamb, Jr. Single Axle Truck Driver
William Linder Single Axle Truck Driver
Marcus Robinson Single Axle Tr. Dr.

DISTRICT 3

Christi Ray Single Axle Truck Driver
Chomsley Ricks Motor Patrol Operator

DISTRICT 4

Stephen Burnett Maintenance Aide I
Dan Stanley Street Sweeper Operator

DISTRICT 5

Brandon Love Const. Field Engr I
Larry Marshall Bckh/Fr.End Load. Opr.
Darrell White Construction Helper II

DISTRICT 6

Billy Bailey Single Axle Truck Driver
Ronnie Bashaw Single Axle Truck Driver
Matthew Creppel Multi-Axle Truck Driver
Shanita Finklea Single Axle Truck Driver
Ronald Gragson Motor Patrol Opr.-Fin.
Jerry McNeal Welder
Mason Pope Adv. Const. Field Engineer

DISTRICT 7

Roberto Hernandez Multi-Axle Truck Dr.

DISTRICT 8

John Crawford Single Axle Truck Driver
Dorothy Kendrick Single Axle Truck Dr.
Cecil Long Equipment Maintenance Supv.

DISTRICT 9

Stephen Lawrence District Const. Engr.
Kenneth Studyvin Motor Patrol Opr.-Fin.
Sherri Taylor Construction Aide III

SERVICE DATES

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Charles Jones Guard, 20yrs.
James Smith, Jr. Patrol Ofcr., 1CL, 10yrs.
Colleen McClure Ofc. Adm. Asst. V, 25yrs.

BRIDGE

Carolyn Bobo Structures Inv. Tech., 30yrs.
Linda Bryant Adm. Asst. I, 15yrs.
Charles Sherwood Sr. Br. Des. Engr., 35yrs.
Mike Tackett Struct. Detailing Spec., 30yrs.

COMPUTER SERVICES

David Bickell Lead Section Analyst, 15yrs.
Scott King Apps. Analyst/Prog. IV, 15yrs.

CONSTRUCTION

John Beasley Resident Office Tech., 35yrs.
Joseph Bishop Inspector, 15yrs.
Eric Glover Construction Mat. Inspec, 5yrs.
Wayne Hay Construction Aide III, 25yrs.
Ron Price Section Head., 30yrs.

Latisha Reynolds Const. Mat. Insp., 5yrs.
Brian Schwartz Inspector, 30yrs.
Lori Stinnett Construction Mat. Insp., 10yrs.
Mark Voyles Senior Inspector, 25yrs.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

Melissa Bradford Ofc. Admn. Asst. I, 25yrs.
Chicita Pate Buyer, 20yrs.
Charles Perdue Storeroom Asst. I, 10yrs.
Karen Rankin Office Admn. Asst. V, 25yrs.
David Woodall Welder, 20yrs.

FISCAL SERVICES

Dickie Lunsford Utility Auditor, 15yrs.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Edwina Briggs Senior Ext. Auditor, 5yrs.
Dale Schimmel Senior Ext. Auditor, 5yrs.
Freida Summerville Sr. Ext. Auditor, 5yrs.

MAINTENANCE

Chad Walker Striping Machine Driver, 5yrs.

MATERIALS

Jerry Jackson, Jr. Mat. Technician III, 5yrs.
Gary Neely Dist. Materials Supv., 25yrs.
Ellie Watson Laboratory Coordinator, 25yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Julia Hart Transportation Planner, 20yrs.
Bobbie White Trans. Mgt. Analyst II, 20yrs.
Joy Ashcraft Data Collection Tech., 10yrs.

RIGHT OF WAY

Joel Clark Administrative Aide III, 25yrs.

DISTRICT 1

Linnie Calvert Office Admn. Asst. V, 10yrs.
Larry Fleming Equip. Maint. Supv., 15yrs.
Mike McConnell Senior Mechanic, 20yrs.
William McKnight Senior Mechanic, 5yrs.
Rickey Oxner Maintenance Aide II, 20yrs.
Kiwanna Stovall Storeroom Asst. I, 5yrs.
Lanny Utley Motor Patrol Opr.-Fin., 20yrs.
Charlie Williams Rest Area Att., 20yrs.

DISTRICT 2

Floyd Baker Area Hq. Attendant, 20yrs.
Harlan Colbert Area Maint. Supv., 20yrs.
Chris Hendricks Maintenance Aide I, 5yrs.
Terry Mullins Maintenance Aide II, 25yrs.

DISTRICT 3

David Key General Laborer, 10yrs.
Chad Putman Bckh./F.E. Load. Opr., 15yrs.
Joseph Stone Maintenance Aide II, 20yrs.

DISTRICT 4

Steve Alexander, Sr. Bh./F.E. Load. Opr., 5yrs.

DISTRICT 5

Jeremy Conyers Bridge Repairer I, 5yrs.
Heath Everett Maintenance Aide I, 5yrs.
James Walker Senior Mechanic, 20yrs.

DISTRICT 6

Reuben Carter Bridge Job Supt., 30yrs.
Jackie Clark Bh./F.E. Load. Opr., 15yrs.
Scottye Courson Dozer Operator, 5yrs.
Harold Ford Maintenance Aide II, 15yrs.
Joseph Wiggins Maint. Aide II, 15yrs.

DISTRICT 7

James Hardnett Maint. Aide II, 20yrs.
Zack Lambert Rest Area Attendant, 15yrs.
William Wilkerson Single Axle Tr. Dr., 5yrs.

DISTRICT 8

David Mayberry Bridge Job Supt., 25yrs.
Kenneth McGuire Bh./F.E. Load. Opr., 10yrs.

DISTRICT 9

Justin Choate Hydr. Excav. Opr.-Fin., 5yrs.
David Dodson Maintenance Aide II, 35yrs.
Brenda Flower Bh./F.E. Load. Opr., 20yrs.
Russell Overall Area Hq. Attendant, 30yrs.

DISTRICT 10

Gilbretta Darter Area Hq. Attendant, 15yrs.
Dustin James Rest Area Attendant, 5yrs.
James Miller Motor Patrol Opr.-Fin., 15yrs.
Debbie Myrick Hydr. Excav. Opr.-Fin., 10yrs.
Jason Orrick Motor Patrol Operator, 10yrs.
Shalane Swafford Dozer Opr. - Finish, 10yrs.

RETIREMENTS

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

George Myles Second Lieut. , 25+ yrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Jim Montgomery Safety Insp. Officer , 4+ yrs.

DISTRICT 2

Billy Cater Dozer Operator Finish , 25+ yrs.
James White Area Hq. Attendant , 18+ yrs.

DISTRICT 6

Sylvester Parker Multi-Axle Truck Dr. , 7+ yrs.

DISTRICT 9

Charles Christopher Bridge Rep. I , 35+ yrs.
David Dodson Maintenance Aide II , 35+ yrs.
Roy Leach Motor Patrol Opr.-Fin. , 20+ yrs.

MEMORIALS

Carl R. Sawyer, Maintenance, 11/06/2004, Retired Employee
George H. McDaniel, District 1, 11/08/2004, Retired Employee
William B. Wilson, District 3, 10/11/2004, Retired Employee
Charles H. Tullos, District 6 , 10/31/2004, Retired Employee
Sylvia A. Hight, District 7, 11/06/2004, Active Employee
Rachel E. Simmons, Human Resources, 10/18/2004, Retired Employee

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY COMMISSION

J.W. "Buddy" Benafield,
Chairman
Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson,
Vice Chairman
Jonathan Barnett,
Member
Carl S. Rosenbaum,
Member
R. Madison Murphy,
Member
Dan Flowers,
AHTD Director



Arkansas State Highway &
Transportation Department
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 2261,
Little Rock, AR 72203