



SEPTEMBER

CHOLESTEROL EDUCATION MONTH

FRUIT & VEGGIES— MORE MATTERS MONTH

HEALTHY AGING MONTH

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY MONTH

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

WORLD ALZHEIMER'S MONTH

9/4 LABOR DAY

9/11 PATRIOT DAY

9/29 DDS FALL FOOD & CRAFT FAIR

September Birthdays

9/2 John Rhodes

9/3 Elizabeth Pitman

9/5 **Eric** Beasley

9/6 Sharon Sisk

9/7 Sue Conaway

9/10 Pam Daniels

9/12 Timberly Baker

9/12 Keesha Lucas

9/13 Debbie Renfroe

9/16 Ivy Harris

9/17 Merinesa Morris

9/19 Sabrina Heathcoat

9/17 Tracy Turner

9/21 Clara Moore

9/21 Sandra Cason

9/21 Dewayne Wright

9/22 Yolanda McDonald

9/29 Melissa Gentry

9/29 Mike Pack

9/29 Laura Sherwood

DDS Annual Training 2017

This year's Annual Training was held in Little Rock at Four Points by Sheraton. Over 240 staff members attended. Speakers included: Melissa Stone, DDS Director; Phillip Warriner, DHS Personnel; Thomas Tarpley, DDS CFO; Jeff Gonyea, BHDC Superintendent; Sarah Murphy, CHDC Superintendent; Steve Farmer, JHDC Superintendent; Mark Wargo, SEAHDC Superintendent; and Johnathan Jones, AHDC Superintendent. Phillip Warriner spoke about the new pay plan, adjustments, and general personnel items. He opened up for Q&A and the room got lively quickly. It was very engaging and informative. He made himself available for further questions through email. Melissa Stone gave an overview of the Transformation that DHS is currently undertaking. She explained what has happened, what's in the works, and what is to come. Thomas Tarpley shared thoughts on his new role as CFO and future direction of DDS. The Superintendent Panel gave highlights of each HDC. Lunch was absolutely amazing! We closed the training out with general Q&A and closing remarks. Staff enjoyed visiting with each other and meeting coworkers in person whom they'd previously only interacted with through email.



DDS Annual Training 2017
Pictures



MOU Celebration Signing

DDS staff participants: Melissa Stone, Regina Davenport, and Sharon Mohammed. Regina is pictured with DHS division directors holding the MOU.



It's a celebration! On August 15th, the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP) and Arkansas Vision Quest Team, hosted a multi-agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signing Ceremony party. Arkansas' collaborative multi-agency MOU outlines "the coordination of public funding and services to enhance competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, including individuals with significant disabilities, who are eligible for more than one publically funded program operated/administered by the parties of this MOU." The multi-agency MOU defines terms, specifies the joint and individual agency responsibilities as we collaborate on behalf of commonly served individuals, and clarifies parameters for information sharing between our agencies. Accomplished through the EFSLMP and the Arkansas Vision Quest Team, it should be noted that we have received invaluable technical assistance and training from experts in the field of customized and supported employment. As part of the project, under guidance of our ODEP consultant, Dr. Luecking, the MOU was finalized with the outline of an implementation plan for a seamless transition for individuals with disabilities, including individuals with the most significant disabilities. Our mission is to improve employment outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities by embracing competitive integrated employment as the preferred option for Arkansans' with disabilities.

The key partnering state agencies committed to enhancing employment - the Vision Quest State Team; which operates under a technical assistance project funded by the Department of Labor-Office of Disability Employment Policy - **Arkansas DHS Divisions; Developmental Disabilities Services, Division of Medical Services, Division of Aging & Adult Services, Division of Services for the Blind, Division of Behavioral Health Services, and Department of Workforce Services in conjunction with our partners Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Arkansas Department of Education Transition Services Unit, and Arkansas Promise.**



LaToya Bankhead-Sims, DDS Program Coordinator

Please join DDS in congratulating LaToya on a monumental achievement! LaToya, and the Arkansas Wildcats, won the Women's Football Alliance Division 3 National Championship. We've been following her journey but she best describes how the Wildcats finished this season in her own words.

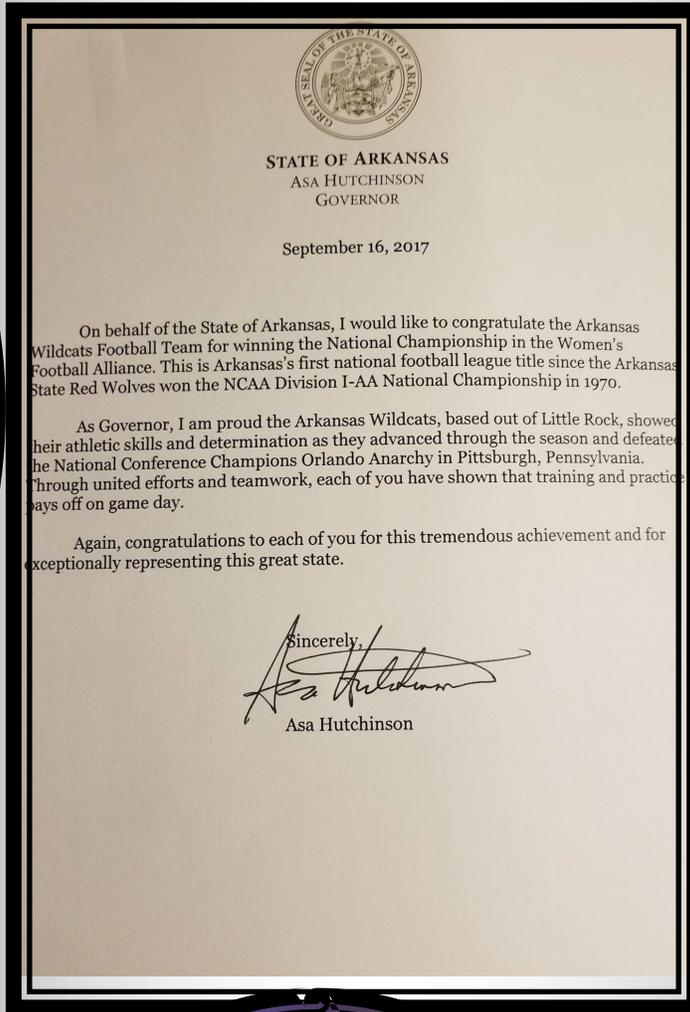
After attending the Women's World Football games in Orlando, Florida, I returned home with a greater passion. We play for our fallen teammate, Kelsey Goode! In 2012, she died from a car accident. We promised her to win a Championship. We wanted to showcase Arkansas' talent and bring a positive light to our communities. Every playoff game we played, most pundits expected us to lose. Why? Well we play with 13 players, sometimes just 11. The first playoff game was on our Home field in Benton. We played the Austin Outlaws. The final score was 36-6. Our road to the Championship took us to Medford, Oregon. Kelsey's parents came and watched us. It was a surreal moment for our team! We advanced to the Championship game after beating the Southern Oregon LadyGades. The final score was 38-21. We advanced to the Division 3 National Championship game in Pittsburgh, and we were ready! We played the Orlando Anarchy. They were playing to honor their teammate and coach. Their coach died while saving others during the Pulse Club tragedy.

It was an honor to play on one of the biggest stages for Women's football. Prior to the Championship game, we met Pittsburgh Steelers and Hall of Famer Franco Harris. We did what pundits said we couldn't. Win and Win big! The final score was 42-26. And, we won a Women's Football Alliance Division 3 National Championship with 13 strong, dedicated and selfless women! I want to thank my family, supervisors and co-workers for their support. Many days I came to work sore or with bruises, but they continued to encourage me. I will never forget this experience. I've been playing football for 4 years and the sacrifices I've made have been great, but they paid off! Football has allowed me to release my emotions and frustrations in a positive manner while being a role model for little girls. You can achieve anything through hard work and perseverance. It's been a true blessing to play with this group of women and to represent my state. We will be meeting with Governor Hutchinson later in the year. There will be a celebration gala on September 16. It will be at Professor Bowl. If anyone is interested in attending or finding out more about the team, feel free to contact me. It's a **Goode** day to be a Wildcat!





LaToya pictured with Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers and Hall of Famer



THE ARKANSAS WILDCATS
 INVITE YOU TO A
 CELEBRATION OF THEIR
 HISTORIC SEASON

—
**SEPT
 16
 2017**
 —

For more information, contact:
 Daniel Sims
 501.618.1736
 info@arkansaswildcatsfootball.com



**SAVE
 THE
 DATE**

Upcoming Events

DDS Fall Food & Craft Fair

Friday, September 29

11am- 2pm

Main Street (between 7th Street and 8th Street)



DHS Halloween Event

DDS Charlie Brown Theme

Tuesday, October 31

9am- 11am and 2pm- 4pm

Donaghey South 1st and 2nd floors



Thanksgiving/Christmas Potluck

Celebrating with work family

TBD



Comments, Suggestions, Q&A

Let us know if you'd like to see in upcoming editions. If you'd like to be a guest writer let us know. Send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov