



**PHOTO, 4B**  
Red Wolves on Snow Day

## Career fair prepares students for competitive industries served advanced manufacturing, engineering, computer science and technology majors

JUSTIN COATS

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Arkansas State University hosted a career fair for the college of engineering and computer science (EoCS) to help students prepare to enter the industry.

The fair, hosted at the Cooper Alumni Center, featured over 20 companies and their representatives arranged booths to showcase career opportunities within their field.

Hytrol, a common sight at A-State career fairs, once again made an appearance at the EoCS fair. Hytrol is a conveyor belt manufacturing company, producing everything from small 10-foot conveyors to multi-million dollar lines.

Zachary Charette, a technical product supervisor at Hytrol, represented the company at the fair.

"I've been with Hytrol for about three and a half years and have been with them ever since," Charette said. "In high school and college, I had the opportunity to work with robotics and automation, so getting the opportunity to dive into the details and intimate design of automation has always been a passion."

Charette said working at Hytrol has been a rich, fulfilling experience with a positive work culture and an environment where there is always something new to learn.



Elchristma Deveaux, a sophomore engineering technology major from Nassau, The Bahamas, speaks with CDI contractors from Little Rock.

The company regularly hires students out of A-State in both engineering and computer science professions. They are based in Arkansas with locations in Jonesboro and Fort Smith.

After a few semesters of absence, Continental Utility Solutions Incorporated (CUSI) returned to host a booth at the fair.

Sara Evans, a Human Resources manager for CUSI, represented the company. CUSI is a software engineering firm, specializing in billing software for utility companies.

"I started in the accounting department and I worked there

for about two days and they needed someone in HR, so I transitioned into HR," Evans said. "This is such an amazing company. I worked here for a long time, waiting for the bugs to crawl out and find the cons, and there's really not any."

Evans said computer science and engineering majors have to continuously adapt to stay informed. She said tech-related fields can be somewhat volatile due to how new technologies are developed.

"You have to grow, continue to adapt, continue to change, keep up with what's going

Photo by Ibuki Hinohara | Photo Editor



Luis Andrew Garcia, a junior mechanical engineering major from Hot Springs, listens to a representative from ARDOT.

for example, most firms specialize in civil engineering.

Ryan Williamson, a representative of Pickering Firm, said the origin of how he started his career may resonate with A-State students.

"I went to A-State where I graduated from in 2023," Williamson said. "Since in my senior year I had fewer classes, I figured I'd just pick up an internship over here at Pickering."

He said the internship eventually landed him a full-time position with Pickering, where he works on

transportation and civil design.

Williamson said the problem-solving aspect of his job is among his favorite parts, and that to accelerate one's growth in a career, it is always helpful to ask questions and for guidance from superiors.

Pickering has many locations across the tri-state area, including Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

About 50 students attended the event, coming from a variety of backgrounds.

CONTINUED: CAREER FAIR, 4A

## Museum remembers Black business district with panelists

BENJAMIN MCDOWELL

STAFF WRITER

The Arkansas State University Museum hosted a panel discussion about the Black business district of Jonesboro.

The museum welcomed panelists Carolyn Sheppard, Erma Munns and Reginald "Ray" Prunty. These Jonesboro natives shared stories and facilitated lively discussions about the Black business district.

Jill Kary, museum curator of education and events coordinator said the event is important for preserving history, avoiding repeating past mistakes and appreciating the past.

"I hope that people walk away from this with a bigger, a better understanding of their elders, that they are an encyclopedia walking around, and perhaps they will take these folks more seriously," Kary said.

Panelist Prunty said educating future generations on the black business district is vital. "Teaching is one of the greatest things that we can do, traditional wealth and teaching our kids the things that we know," Prunty said.

Prunty also said retention is important to serve the next generation and rebuild Black businesses in Jonesboro today.



Photo by Benjamin McDowell | Staff Writer

(Left) Reginald "Ray" Prunty, Erma Munns and Carolyn Sheppard panel for the black business district discussion.

"Retention means keeping our kids here. Well, you can't keep them here if there's nothing here today," Prunty said. "So as we build our businesses today, we need to grab somebody's child to teach him. A lot of our kids are lost. We as a community have to reach out and teach our kids a better way."

Sheppard, another panelist, said living on the North side of Jonesboro is different today than it was in the past. She said, as a child, she connected with her community in various engaging ways. Attending church services, playing sports and talking on the porch outside her house were some of the activities she said she recalled from her childhood.

Elisabeth Engel, the director and curator of collections, created an exhibit detailing

the Black Business District that is displayed in the museum. She said her goal of the exhibit was to educate.

"We want people to enjoy this space and feel like they've learned something, like they've been transported in time," Engel said.

Katherine Baker, an associate professor of art history, will lead a related upcoming project that she said will continue the movement of Black history in Jonesboro. She said the next project will be a collaboration between several groups on campus and the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department.

"There is going to be a walking trail and along that path, there will be four sculptures that are set up as part of the Martin Luther King Jr Freedom Trail," Baker said.



Photo by Benjamin McDowell | Staff Writer

The Black business district exhibit display at the museum.

"They need to be designed, but they can't be designed without community input, because the idea of what these sculptures

are supposed to represent is both the words and the inspiration of Dr Martin Luther King, but also global stories."

### THIS WEEK IN THE HERALD:

#### OPINION, 2A

- Professional wrestling is the best live theater
- Campus parking needs a revamp

#### NEWS, 3A

- Tattoo art takes center stage at Delta Ink
- Campus Crime

#### SPORTS, 1B

- Red Wolves crush woeful Warhawks in senior day blowout
- French rakes, but Red Wolves fall to Southern Illinois

#### ARTS & E, 2B

- I want to throw bananas at the screen after watching "The Monkey"
- "Avatar: The Last Airbender" turns 20
- This week's Pop Pick

#### LIFE, 3B

- Club Spotlight: Psychology Club
- How To: enjoy the weather... while it lasts
- Horoscopes