

# Connections

MAGAZINE

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

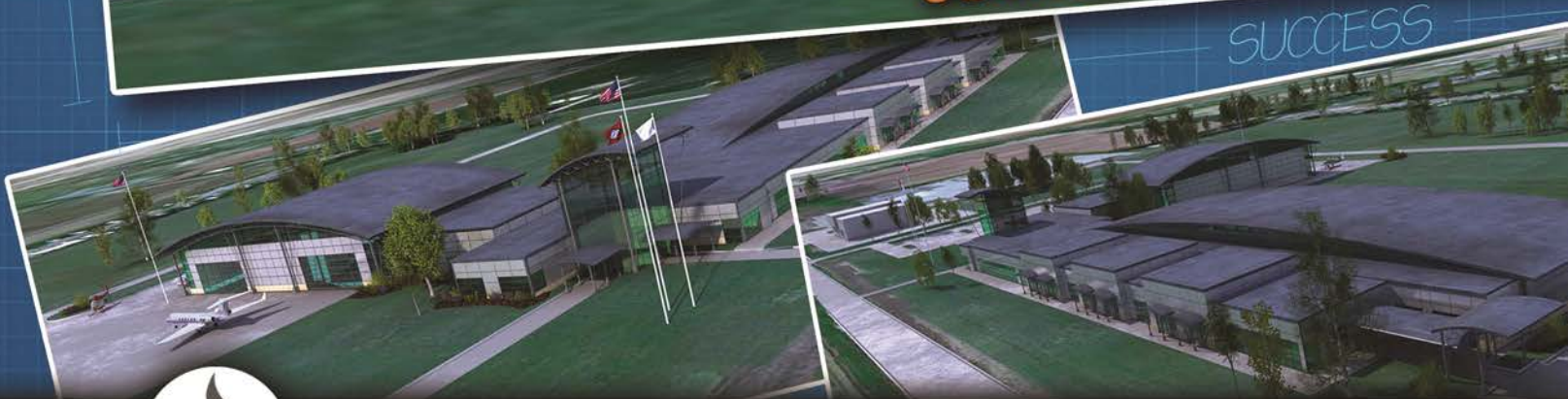
## CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE

ACCOMPLISHED GOALS



ANC CENTER FOR ALLIED TECHNOLOGIES  
COMING FALL 2018

SUCCESS



ARKANSAS  
NORTHEASTERN  
COLLEGE

COLLEGES FROM  
COAST TO COAST  
TRAVEL TO ANC

PAGE 3



# ANC Hosts CTE Completer Event

Arkansas Northeastern College once again hosted the Career and Technical Education Completer Event on April 10, 2015, on the ANC main campus in Blytheville, AR. This event honored 454 high school seniors who completed at least one technical program of study. ANC welcomed students from Armored, Buffalo Island Central, Blytheville, East Poinsett County, Gosnell, Manila, Osceola, Paragould and Rivercrest school districts. Students were addressed by keynote speaker Matt Birk, a former six-time Pro Bowl center for the Minnesota Vikings. He spoke about lasting leadership principles and fulfilling your potential, incorporating football and the NFL as a means of illustrating his point. Additionally, students attended breakout sessions on transitioning to college and workplace essentials hosted by Dawson Employment and ANC, consecutively, and heard a motivational speech by Paul Vitale of Vital Communications. Student involvement included the following: EPC's Margarita Lobato sang the national anthem, Rivercrest's JROTC did the Presentation of Colors, and Nick Black of Blytheville and Hannah Glaser of Armored both spoke in the program to represent students who hold state offices in school organizations.



(LEFT) Presentation of Colors by the Rivercrest High School JROTC. (MIDDLE) Keynote speaker and former Pro Bowl center for the Minnesota Vikings, Matt Birk. (RIGHT) Over 450 high school seniors were honored for academic achievements in CTE programs.

## Career and Technical Education Empowers

By Paul Vitale

As a professional speaker, trainer, and consultant, I have the unique opportunity to view the inside workings of many industries while maintaining an outside perspective. Whether working with the largest corporation in the world or the smallest school district in Arkansas, I have been privileged to gather insight and experience from numerous individuals of all ages and walks of life. Throughout my experiences though, one reality has risen above all others: the importance of education and proper preparation for the workforce through programs such as career and technical education.

Arkansas Northeastern College's recent CTE Completer event, "Graduating to College and Career," illustrates the empowerment obtained by students who work hard, remain disciplined, and participate fully in their education, points reiterated by Completer event keynote speaker, Matt Birk, Director of Football Development for the NFL. It was an honor to share the stage with my good friend Matt, our second occasion to do so in Northeast Arkansas, and to observe the audience eagerly absorb the messages presented. Through our work together both in tandem with and independent of the NFL, Matt and I share a common goal of spreading the importance of education, work ethic, and character. The CTE programs in place in the region echo this philosophy, while producing concrete results.

I have observed first-hand career and technical education in action in area schools for over seven years through my *A Hero Within* presentations, on behalf of Crowley's Ridge Educational Service Cooperative. I firmly believe that the CTE programs functioning throughout the Natural State give our students a leg up when entering the workforce. As advancements continue to be made in areas such as technology, medicine, and the service arena, this type of career preparation is critical to ensure the success of our future generations. Participation in programs such as these give students an advantage they might not otherwise receive. It was a privilege working with ANC's Sherri Bennett and CRESC's Kathi Turner in making "Graduating to College and Career" a success!



(L-R) Paul Vitale, Kathi Turner, Matt Birk