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## Arkansas Department of Education DCTE Goes All-Virtual in Annual “Explore Success” Event

*The Nepris online platform will give students across Southwest Arkansas an opportunity to see what their futures may hold*

HOPE, Ark.—(BUSINESS WIRE)—The Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Career and Technical Education, today announced the Explore Success Southwest Arkansas Development Alliance (SADA) Career Day will be available to schools and students across southwest Arkansas through a virtual platform hosted by Nepris.

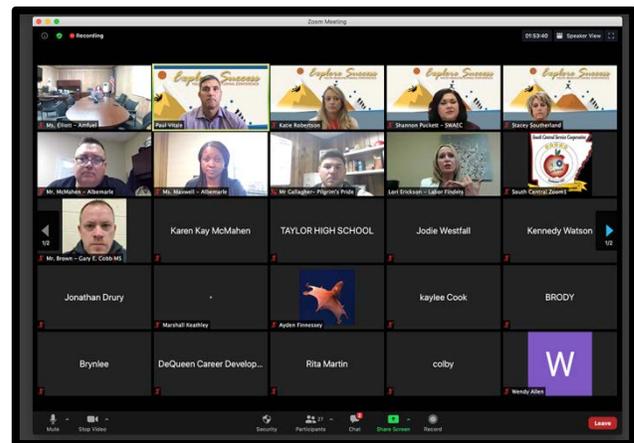
“Our vision for Explore Success is to help expose all students to careers within their communities,” said Mary Godwin, Secretary and Treasurer with SADA. “It is so important to help schools and industry explore mutually beneficial partnerships that impact Arkansas’s future economy and we’re excited to present the 3rd year of this state and national award-winning event in a virtual conference format.”

The event provides 8th graders with a learning experience in coordination with SADA, the South Central Education Cooperative, DeQueen-Mena Education Cooperative, Southwest Arkansas Education Cooperative, Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District, and UAHT. This year, students can register and participate in as many events as they want, and if they are unable to join the live sessions, each chat will also be recorded and be available after the event.

Paul Vitale, inspirational speaker and Arkansas native will keynote the event along with a panel of local industry representatives. Students will then have access to 14 live chat sessions with industry experts from the following fields: entomology, 2D/3D animation, epidemiology, conservation biology, software engineering, CTO, 3D printing, cybersecurity and healthcare technology. The presenters will cover what educational background each role requires, how a typical day might look, and what opportunities are available for students interested in pursuing a career in the field.

“A recent study called the Equality of Opportunity Project revealed that the educational opportunity

gap directly correlates with a lack of career exposure for students. In addition, nearly 92% of American executives have expressed concern that workers aren’t as skilled as they need to be,” said Sabari Raja, CEO & Co-Founder of Nepris. “When forward-thinking educators, like the Arkansas Department of Education, focus their efforts on providing early exposure to career pathways, the gap starts to close and the surrounding community, as well as the future of work, grows in a positive



direction.”

The Arkansas Department of Education’s partnership with Nepris came out of an identified need to reduce the barriers between industry and education, increase exposure to career exploration, and fill the need for digital learning experiences. Throughout the 2020-2021, 285 public schools across the state of Arkansas will have access to the Nepris platform, ensuring student access to career pathways while providing companies the opportunity to efficiently and effectively extend their education outreach efforts.

Nepris’s network of over 39K industry professionals have connected with over 85K educators at over 600 school districts nationwide.