

Times-Herald

FCSD to receive money for Jobs for America's Graduates program

Published: May 11, 2009

The Forrest City School District will be one of three Delta districts to receive money from the Verizon Foundation to help improve education.

The foundation announced today that it will give \$500,000 to the Forrest City, Earle and Lee County school districts to create a Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program.

The JAG program is a national program designed to keep at-risk students in school and help those students find careers or enroll in college.

"Through the Verizon Foundation's valuable support, JAG will be able to continue its important mission of reaching out to at-risk youth and taking the necessary steps to ensure that they stay in school and receive the guidance and training needed to expand their options and have a better quality of life," said Bill Walker Jr., the director of the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, which oversees local JAG programs.

The grants will also help set up leadership and technology programs, known as One Economy, in three Delta high schools. The One Economy program will implement its Digital Connectors program, in which students will receive technology and leadership training, and will then volunteer in their communities.

"With Verizon's support, young people in Arkansas will learn to use technology to improve their lives and lead in their communities," said Rey Ramsey, One Economy's chief executive officer.

The grants also include \$100,000 to improve technology at Little Rock Central High School and \$35,000 to the Department of Education, making a total of \$635,000 in grants.



Tight space: Not all work at the Forrest City Water Utility involves backhoes and shovels. Edward Gregory, superintendent of the water treatment plant, replaces the motherboard of a computer. According to Gregory, the plant's computers operate the system and record data. Photo by Alan Smith.