

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

ARS Client Tells Of His Experience In His Own Words

My experience with **Arkansas Career Education/Rehabilitation Services** started with a referral from Arkansas Workforce Development. The referral was based on my age (62) and many of the physical issues that face later era 'Baby Boomers'.

During my transition period I was assigned to a team composed of a Vocational Rehab Counselor, Access & Accommodations members and a Business Engagement Representative. I did reach an employment goal (Intermittent-status) as a *Program Monitor* in the **TANF Program** for **Arkansas Workforce Development Services**.

Major areas of assistance from ARCareerEd/ARS that benefitted me most were:

- 1) Pre-employment advice from **Clara Taylor** (Business Engagement Representative);
- 2) Development of an ergonomically improved workstation though pre-work stretching exercises from **Melinda Davis** (Occupational Therapist) and students from the *University of Central Arkansas*;
- 3) Reasonable accommodation with use of a '**Sit-to-Stand Desk Riser**' for my work station supplied by my employer.

The ARCareerEd/ARS team and inter-agency cooperation facilitated both a positive employment experience and a career pathway for advancement. This is important to me and to other Baby Boomers in their efforts to re-enter Arkansas's changing job marketplace. Much thanks to ARCareerEd/ARS and their staff members for timely assistance to reach my goals.

James E. Green
Program Monitor
TANF/Arkansas Workforce Development
Services

