



Central Administration Office
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In the News

July-August 2022.....

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Page is named President & CEO



By Brent Engel, Public Relations Officer
NECAC Board Chairman Mike Bridgins, left, and new President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Page.

Dan Page has been named NECAC President and Chief Executive Officer.

The Board of Directors made the decision July 26. Page had served as acting director since the April 1 retirement of agency President and CEO Don Patrick after more than 36 years.

“NECAC is a wonderful organization making a difference in our 12-county area,” Page said. “My predecessor left big shoes to fill, and I’m humbled to be given this opportunity. Working with a staff second to none, I’m eager to accept the challenges ahead.”

“The board unanimously approved Dan Page as NECAC’s new CEO,” said NECAC Board Chairman Mike Bridgins. “I look forward to working with Dan and continuing NECAC’s great legacy.”

Page joined NECAC as a Finance Specialist in 2011 and was promoted to Chief Deputy Director in 2012 following the retirement after 38 years of Ann Ellison.

Page is a former resident of Eolia and graduated from Clopton High School near Clarksville in 1977. Page is a retired Navy veteran with 21 years of honorable service from 1978 to 1999, all in the personnel and human resources field. He retired at the rank of Navy Chief E-7.

Page earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Liberty University. Please see New CEO, Page 2

Weatherization Nation

Federal recognition, new facility showcase dramatic expansion of program

Two developments have helped shine a light on the NECAC weatherization program.

On June 22, the agency began leasing the former Arrow Industries site in Pike County as part of a major expansion of weatherization. On July 7, the U.S. Department of Labor recognized NECAC for its job training apprenticeship program for newly-hired weatherization employees.

The new site at 520 Kelly Lane in Louisiana offers more than 22,000 square feet needed for additional trucks, supplies and staff. The current weatherization office and warehouse in Bowling Green is only 2,000 square feet. NECAC expects to receive \$4.5

million of additional federal funding to broaden weatherization services in its 12 counties.

“We’ve got to have the room,” said NECAC Weatherization Director Joe Findley. “In Bowling Green, we have no room for parking or materials. This new building will give us the space we need.”

Terms of the lease were not disclosed. The property is owned by Brad and Jessica Stoops. Arrow Industries closed the facility several years ago. NECAC had been looking for a site for almost a year.

The agency recently added 14 weatherization crew members leading up to the expansion. Please see Expansion, Page 3



By Brent Engel, Public Relations Officer
The U.S. Department of Labor on July 7 recognized a job training apprenticeship program developed by NECAC. Two graduates were presented with certificates and two additional NECAC weatherization crew members who are entering the program attended. Pictured, from left, are Missouri Division of Energy Director Craig Redmon; NECAC apprenticeship candidates Andy Mackey and Jacob Niffen; U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeship and Training Representative Wade Johnson; NECAC apprenticeship graduates Thomas Branham and Clinton Caldwell; NECAC Acting Director Dan Page; NECAC Deputy Director for Housing Development Programs Carla Potts; Pike County Commissioner and NECAC Pike County Board Member Tommy Wallace; State Rep. Chad Perkins; NECAC Weatherization Director Joe Findley; and Assistant Weatherization Director Brittany Kidd.

New CEO looks forward to helping agency grow

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versity in Lynchburg, Va., in 2000 and a master's of business administration with an emphasis in human resources from Keller Graduate School of Management in St. Louis in 2004.

He has management and business experience at AT&T Broadband, Charter Commu-

nications and SSM Health Care.

Page and his wife, Kim, have two daughters and two grandchildren, and are members of Elm Grove Baptist Church near Curryville, where he also serves as a minister.



By Brent Engel, Public Relations Officer
New NECAC President and CEO Dan Page makes a point during a July 7 presentation.

Family Self-Sufficiency helps Macon woman improve life

Stephanie Hicks is thankful for a NECAC program that helped her save more than \$9,000.

The Macon woman was able to do it through Family Self Sufficiency. It sets aside part of clients' Section 8 Rental Assistance money in an escrow account.

After completing the five-year program, they may use the savings to buy a house, start a business, return to school or accomplish another life goal.

Hicks is a single mother of two and is manager at a Macon coffee shop. She's putting the \$9,713.48 saved through FSS into a savings account.

Hicks heard about the program from a cousin who had enrolled and graduated. At first, she was not confident, but that soon changed.

"I was kind of down," she remembers. "This program really helped me get back on my feet. Without it, I don't know what we would have done."

The hardest part for Hicks was keeping the faith. She credits NECAC FSS Coor-



By Terri Laughlin, Macon County Service Coordinator
NECAC Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator Sandy Gamble, right, presents a certificate and check for more than \$9,000 to program participant Stephanie Hicks of Macon.

dinator Sandra Gamble for helping her get through. Gamble provided support when Hicks was unemployed.

"I encouraged her that something will come up," Gamble said. "I told her that

when a door closes on you, be patient and another door will open with better opportunities, and it did. I am very proud of Stephanie with sticking through the program, communicating with me and taking my advice from time to time. She has determination to make things better for her and her family. I wish her the best of luck on her new journey in life."

Gamble administers the program in Lewis, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Ralls, Randolph and Shelby counties. It is also available in Lincoln, Montgomery, Pike, St. Charles and Warren counties.

"Take the leap of faith and enroll in this great program," Gamble said. "Five years may seem long at first, but it goes by very fast. It is a great way to save money, especially when it is no money out of your pocket and tax-free."

Hicks has advice for others who still may be struggling with life decisions.

"Put your ego aside," she said. "It's OK to have a little help to get through the touch patches."



Employee Spotlight:

Fordyce reflects on rewarding career



By Brent Engel, Public Relations Officer
St. Charles County Service Coordinator Carrie Dina, left, and Housing Assistance Counselor Anne Fordyce share a laugh.

Anne Fordyce had outstanding credentials when she came to work at NECAC almost a quarter-century ago.

With a bachelor's degree in psychology, a minor in math and a college thesis that focused upon money management for low-income people, Fordyce had the knowledge to work with clients as a housing assistance counselor. But she soon found that the education was a two-way street.

"I grew into the job," said Fordyce, who retired Aug. 4 after 23 years with the agency. "I learned to listen better. I can't say that I did it, but I became so efficient at the job that I was able to spend more time with clients. My goal was always to make sure we had happy landlords and happy clients."

Fordyce says there are "a lot of good things about the program and I'm glad it's here for (clients.) It's an unbelievable need that's out there."

Fordyce looks forward to sleeping in weekdays. She and her husband, Michael, have no children, but take care of two rabbits named Trick and Treat.

"It was my perfect job," Fordyce said. "It was a shame I didn't get it earlier. I wish I had been hired 10 years earlier."

Expansion, apprenticeship add to weatherization effort

Continued from Page 1

ion, and another 20 field and office staff will be brought on in the coming weeks. Findley added that upgrades will take place at the new facility and that it should be operational within two months. The Bowling Green weatherization office will remain open, but the majority of the program will operate out of the Louisiana site.

The additional funding that NECAC has been awarded comes from the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill approved by Congress last November. Under the three-year program, NECAC expects to upgrade 1,000 homes.

"We're very excited to be opening up new office space, but we're even more excited that we're going to be able to save people more money on their utility bills through weatherization and make their houses safer," said NECAC Deputy Director for Housing Development Programs Carla Potts. "This funding is going to make a substantial difference in our 12 counties."

Department of Labor recognition

Wade Johnson of the U.S. Department of Labor presented certificates to Clintan Caldwell and Thomas Branham, the first two graduates of the apprenticeship program. He also announced an expansion of the program.

Johnson, an Air Force veteran who has previously completed apprenticeships, said Missouri is second only to California in the number of such efforts, with more than 300 programs involving 15,700 apprentices and 4,500 employers.

"It's a pretty substantial footprint in Missouri," said Johnson, DOL apprenticeship and training representative. "It's a rigorous training program and it takes effort and perseverance."

In addition to Branham and Caldwell, others attending included Missouri Division of Energy Director Craig Redmon; State Rep. Chad Perkins; Pike County Commissioner and NECAC Pike County Board Member Tommy Wallace; NECAC Acting Director Dan Page; Potts; Findley; Assistant Weatherization Director Brittany Kidd; and internship candidates Andy Mackey and Jacob Niffen.

"We find this to be a historic occasion because we have great hopes for this program," Page said. "That makes the awarding of the certificates today all that much better."

Redmon oversees the Missouri Division of Energy, with which NECAC and 17 other funding recipients contract to provide weatherization services.

"It's novel," Redmon said of the apprenticeship. "it's a great way to get people involved into good-paying jobs that hopefully will give them a career path forward. When I can brag on Northeast Missouri, I take every opportunity to do that, and I think this is a great program that we hope we can clone and take to our

other 17 sub-grantees so they can see this and figure out how they can get the help they need to go out and help the people of Missouri."

Perkins called the apprenticeship and other NECAC services "an incredible benefit" to Northeast Missouri. Wallace congratulated Branham and Caldwell for their persistence.

"Apprenticeships are tough," Wallace said. "I went through three of them myself as I worked my way up in life."

Branham and Caldwell will now start the energy auditor portion of the program. Mackey, Niffen and seven others will begin the weatherization technician part.

"I want to thank everyone at NECAC for this opportunity to work here – most importantly, to help people in need and learn new skill sets," Caldwell said. "Thanks to the hard work training from my peers, I was able to accomplish my goals and I look forward to expanding my knowledge in the green energy field."

"I appreciate the opportunity to help other people and in return, it betters me as a person," Branham added.

Mackey said the program makes him feel like he's "making a difference" while gaining "knowledge and having a chance to better myself."

Niffen remembers being nervous when he joined NECAC earlier this year, but has now gained more confidence as he sees the good that comes from his work.

"I expect a couple of years from now I can be a crew leader because I really like helping people," Niffen said. "You really learn a lot of good traits from working here."

The program was developed by NECAC in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, Missouri Department of Labor, the Northeast Missouri Workforce Development Board and Pike-Lincoln Technical Center. The goal is to provide newly-hired weatherization employees with skills that will allow them to work in a variety of construction and energy job fields. It also is a way to reassure other non-profit weatherization agencies that they're developing top qualified employees in the post-COVID labor market.

The effort began in March 2021. The program consists of 144 hours of classroom learning and 2,000 hours of on-the-job education. Upon completion, participants earn a Department of Labor certification as a home performance laborer. Northeast Workforce Development will recruit potential employees from schools and vocational programs.



By Brent Engel, Public Relations Officer
In top photo, NECAC Board Member Tommy Wallace speaks at the U.S. Department of Labor July 7 ceremony recognizing NECAC for its weatherization job training apprenticeship program. In bottom photo, NECAC IT Director Kevin Stumbaugh rewires the former Arrow Industries building in Louisiana, which will be used as part of the weatherization program's expansion.



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Mike Bridgins,
Chairman of
the Board



Dan Page,
President &
CEO



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Photo Gallery



By Brent Engel, Public Relations Officer

Back-to-school time

NECAC participated in several back-to-school events. At left, Alison Ross of the NECAC Hannibal Apartments distributes items to Triston Walker and his mother, Christina. In the background is NECAC Property Manager Deanna Nelson. At center, Lewis County Service Coordinator Gena Scott hands cups to a recipient. At right, NECAC Macon County Service Coordinator Terri Laughlin and Shelby County Service Coordinator Lisa Blickhan divide up bags in which to place supplies.



By Brent Engel, Public Relations Officer

Self-Help Housing presentation

Bob Sergent of rural Hannibal, center, accepts an American flag June 23 from Randy Griffith of LIFT Community Action for his participation in the USDA Rural Development Self-Help Housing Program administered by NECAC. Also pictured, from left, are Shane Ebeling of USDA Rural Development, NECAC President and CEO Dan Page and NECAC Deputy Director for Housing Development Programs Carla Potts.



By Brent Engel, Public Relations Officer

Beat the heat

NECAC St. Charles County Coordinator Carrie Dina, left, participates in a vendor fair. The agency teamed with Ameren to offer air conditioners to those in need. Weatherization Specialist Tom Branham, right, unloads units.