

December 10 & 11

# WINTER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

*Shine Bright Like a Diamond*



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# **WINTER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

**December 10, 2020**

**5:00 P.M. : Virtual Happy Hour**



**December 11, 2020**

**9:00 A.M. : Conference Welcome & Board Member Updates**

**9:30 A.M. : Apprenticeship - A Snapshot of New Career Paths,  
Dawn Hamby and Rocky Mantooth**

**10:30 A.M. : Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace, Kinata Gray**

**11:30 A.M. : Lunch**

**1:00 P.M. : Faculty/Employer/Career Services Professionals Panel -  
Joy Spellman, Dr. M. Emre Celebi, Jason Henry, Brandon Wright, and  
Kiara Black**

**2:00 P.M. : Leadership - The Soft Stuff is Often the Hardest,  
Veronica Manning**

**3:00 P.M. : Duolingo Takes Strategic, Innovative Steps in Virtual  
Internship Program Speaker, Renee Davis**

# Apprenticeship - A Snapshot of New Career Paths



Dr. Dawn Hamby

”Find  
light in  
the  
beautiful  
sea”

Dr. Dawn Tirado Hamby is the Director of the Office of Apprenticeship for the State of Arkansas, with over 28 years of experience in education, training and management. A native of New York, her family is originally from Puerto Rico and moved to Arkansas in 1979. A graduate of Hendrix College, she earned a Bachelor’s of Arts Degree in Psychology, followed by a Master’s Degree in Secondary Education, and a Doctorate in Higher Education, with a specialty in Secondary Education Teaching and Administration.

For over a decade, Dr. Hamby served as the Director of Vocational Training for the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), which at the time, was 1 of only 8 Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers in the country. Dr. Hamby is also experienced at public speaking, professional development, conducting workshops/seminars, and has served as a Governor-appointed to numerous educational state boards and commissions, including the Arkansas Closing the Academic Achievement Gap Commission, for which she was unanimously elected chairman.

As Director of the Office of Apprenticeship, which is part of the Office of Skills Development (OSD), and a division of the Department of Commerce, Today, Dr. Hamby oversees/monitors over 100 apprenticeship schools throughout the state, and is responsible for the disbursement of state funding to those programs, in addition to coordinating the efforts between the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) and OSD. Part of her mission is to continue to partner with business and industry, apprenticeship schools, and 2-year colleges/universities, as a means of expand apprenticeship opportunities across the state.

Dr. Hamby is also a proud Military Mom – stationed in Japan, her daughter Savannah Ann, is an Air Force Armament Mechanic for the F-16 Fighter jet. Dr. Hamby currently resides in Little Rock, Arkansas with her husband Mark and their “furry children” MJ and Roxie. Thanks to their non-military daughter Laura, and her husband Daniel, Dr. Dawn (aka, “Lollie”) and Mark (aka, “Pop”) get to spend time as proud grandparents in Russellville, Arkansas, to their first grandchild, Molly Grace.



# Apprenticeship - A Snapshot of New Career Paths



Rocky Mantooth

Rocky Mantooth is a Program Advisor for the Arkansas Office of Apprenticeship, which is part of the Office of Skills Development (OSD), and a division of the Department of Commerce. Mantooth monitors apprenticeship programs and schools across several disciplines, including Plumbing, Carpentry, Sheet Metal, HVAC, Painting, Iron Work, Pipefitting, Future Fuel, and Information Technologies. He also runs the State Plumbing Apprenticeship Committee (SPAC). SPAC works with plumbing apprenticeship schools statewide to provide outreach education, experience credit for new students, and advocate for apprentices navigating state licensure.

Mantooth himself completed a plumbing apprenticeship and obtained his Journeyman Plumbing License in 1984 while working for the Mantooth Plumbing Company. He later managed Circle M Plumbing for over fifteen years. Mantooth holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Ouachita Baptist University. He completed the apprenticeship program with the Professional Golfers Association to obtain the distinction of Class A-1 PGA Professional in March of 1996.

Mantooth designed and built Hickory Creek Golf Course in Jacksonville, Arkansas, which he has owned since 1999. Mantooth resides in Sherwood Arkansas with his wife of thirty-nine years, Pam Mantooth, and their guard dog, a ferocious seven-pound Maltese, named Antoinette. He is the proud father of one daughter, Victoria Mantooth, that is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Central Arkansas.

“...the  
energy  
of sun  
rays.”





# Diversity and Inclusion in the Workplace

Kinyata Gray is currently the Human Resources Manager at NEA Baptist Health System in Jonesboro, Arkansas. With nearly a decade of experience in the healthcare and human resources arena, Kinyata leads the human resources function for both NEA's hospital and clinic enterprises comprising over 2,000 employees. Kinyata does so passionately and humbly while serving as an adept resource to leaders, an advocate for employees, and a driver of change. In her past employment, Kinyata created her organization's first affinity group to promote diversity and inclusion efforts.

Kinyata is originally from Searcy, Arkansas where she graduated from Harding University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Business Administration majoring in Health Care Administration. To continue in her quest for personal and professional growth, Kinyata attained her Master in Business Administration from the University of Central Arkansas in 2018. Kinyata proudly holds the SHRM-Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) and the Professional in Human Resources (PHR) certifications which she earned in 2015. She has served on the Northeast Arkansas SHRM (NEASHRM) board in communications and legislative affairs volunteer roles since 2016 and most notably as Arkansas SHRM's Young Professionals Director since 2018. In this role Kinyata created a Young Professionals blog in which she chronicles her professional and personal experiences to connect and educate young professionals around her state.

Outside of her time in the Human Resources arena, Kinyata enjoys traveling, attending concerts, rooting for her beloved Chicago Cubs and most famously acting. She held a featured extra role in the number one Hallmark holiday movie of 2018, Christmas at Graceland. Kinyata represents and services the Southwest Central Region membership council.



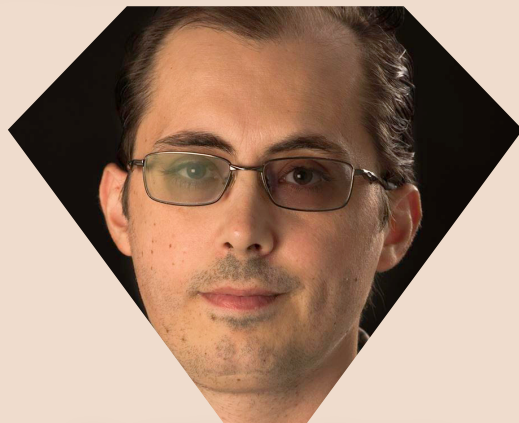
Kinyata Gray

"A  
shooting  
star I  
see..."



# Faculty/Employer/Career Services Professionals Panel

Dr. M. Emre Celebi received his B.Sc. degree in Computer Engineering from the Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey) in 2002. He received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington (Arlington, TX, USA) in 2003 and 2006, respectively. He is currently a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Central Arkansas.



Dr. M Emre Celebi



Jason Henry

Jason Henry is the Director of Student Engagement at ASU-Beebe. Jason's department, the Student Success Center, is responsible for career services, counseling, disability services, testing, and transfer services. In this role, Jason is the primary career and transfer counselor. The Student Success Center serves about 3,500 students across four campus locations.



Brandon Wright has 8+ years of experience in career services. He currently serves as the Director of UAB Career Center in the Division of Student Affairs at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has completed the NACE 30-Career Coaching Certification Program, and he currently serves on the Alabama Goodwill Board and as of 1st VP for the Alabama Association of Colleges and Employers. Brandon has worked in higher education since 2012 – in career services and academic advising at William Carey University, as Director of Career Services at Arkansas Tech University, and now Director at UAB. He earned his BS in Business Administration and MS IN College Student Personnel from Arkansas Tech University and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. at UAB.



Brandon Wright

# Faculty/Employer/Career Services Professionals Panel

Joy Spellman currently serves as the NA Field Sales Development Manager for Hewlett Packard Enterprise located in Plano, TX.

Joy's career at Hewlett-Packard began 8 years ago in Conway, AR. While working in Inside Sales, Joy covered The Department of Veteran Affairs and Military Health. Joy also served as Chair of Inside Sales leadership council, Volunteer committee, and a mentor to all new hires on boarded. Additionally, Joy won many sales competitions, 12 Champions Club recognition trips and Presidents Club in 2015.

In 2016, Joy relocated to Plano, TX after being promoted to a District Sales Manager to assist with the rebranding on the Sales entire NA Sales organization. During this time Joy led the entire East Top Financial Accounts such as Bank of America, Citi Bank, and Bloomberg etc. for HPE. While serving as District Sales Manager Joy received the MVP award for outstanding performance and leadership during her first quarter in the role, Joy was the first manager at HPE globally to receive Bronze, Silver, and Gold level for License to Lead and served on the panel for Managers Academy and Accelerated Sales University.

Currently, Joy serves as the NA Field Sales Development manager. As a Master Facilitator Joy helps drive key talent programs through communication and engagement with team members related to performance, learning, career mobility, and growth mindset. Joy is also apart on the Inclusion and Diversity Program Management team ensuring key team member strategies align with HPE's overarching vision, goals, and priorities. Joy earned a B.S. degree from University of Central Arkansas, Conway and a M.S degree in Information Systems Technology Management from Capella University. She resides in Glenn Heights, TX with her son Jaiden. In Joy's spare time she enjoys volunteering in the community, spending time with family & friends and traveling.



Joy Spellman

*So,  
shine  
bright...*





# Faculty/Employer/Career Services Professionals Panel



Kiara Black

Kiara Black is an Associate Talent Acquisition Specialist at Acxiom LLC. She works as a college recruiter for Acxiom's internship program. Prior to starting her role at Acxiom, she worked as an HR Specialist at the University of Central Arkansas. Kiara started her career as a human resources intern where she learned the various roles and functions of a corporate human resources team. Since she began working, she knew she wanted to work with people and now she has an exciting role where she is able to connect students to their dream careers. At Acxiom, she also works with various committees to help achieve the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion goals of Acxiom. Prior to beginning her career Kiara was a student at the University of Central Arkansas. She was involved in several organizations including Human Resources Club, Keep A Child Alive, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and Judah Chorale. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in 2019.

## Leadership: The Soft Stuff is Often the Hardest



Veronica Manning

Dr. Veronica Manning is the Dean for Leadership & Organizational Development for ASU-Newport. She started her career as a trauma radiologic technologist before transitioning into higher education to teach in the Medical Imaging & Radiation Sciences Department at A-State. She served that department for 10 years starting as an adjunct professor and leaving as an assistant professor and clinical coordinator. She joined ASU-Newport in the fall of 2017 as the Dean for Student Development where her work focused on student conduct, Title IX, leadership, activities, and career services.

Veronica completed her doctoral work with A-State Educational Leadership in summer 2020. Her dissertation focused on leadership practices of senior student affairs officers in Arkansas. Also in the summer of 2020 she became the Dean for Leadership & Organizational Development to focus on facilitating leadership and professional development opportunities for ASUN employees. This has resulted in the creation of the Aviator Leadership Academy (internal employee leadership program), ACE Culture Training (campus culture training focused on the institutional values), and Campus Connections (weekly half-hour virtual professional development). In her free time, she enjoys living in her downtown Jonesboro loft and teaching hot yoga.

# Duolingo Takes Strategic, Innovative Steps in Virtual Internship Program



Renee Davis

Renee Davis is the University Recruiting Manager at Duolingo where she leads intern and new grad recruiting and early talent programs. Prior to Duolingo, Renee worked within university recruiting at various organizations including Uber ATG, Arconic and rue21. Renee's sweet spot is building and scaling recruiting programs, with a focus on diversity and inclusion. When she's not at work, Renee enjoys reading, cooking and spending time with her dog, Kaiser, and husband, Adam.

„...Like Diamonds in the Sky.“



Holly is a University Recruiter at Duolingo and acts as Duolingo's Internship Program Manager. Holly started her career working in collegiate football recruiting at West Virginia University, where she earned her M.A. in Higher Education Administration. Upon graduating, she spent a year managing large-scale admissions programming at the University of Pittsburgh before joining Duolingo. Holly has a passion for student development, and finds fulfillment in building enriching experiences for students in transitional periods of their lives. Outside of work, she is attempting to conquer puppy parenthood (training tips are welcomed) and finding time to paint between games of fetch.



Holly Estes

Thank you to our Sponsors!



JobX LINGO  handshake

See you for our Spring Conference on  
May 13th & 14th!



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2020 - 2021