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Contact:

Marquita Rhodes, Write Edge Communications
(518)-580-1987 x102
marquita@writeedgeinc.com

Fikes Truck Line Partners with Community College to Explore Development of Transportation Curriculum

Hope, AR...Fikes Truck Line has joined forces with the University of Arkansas Community College of Hope (UACCH) to explore the development of a transportation curriculum for the college. Jim Honea, Vice President of Operations at Fikes Truck Line, will begin teaching *Introduction to the Transportation Industry* during the 2008 spring semester. The syllabus includes an overview of the commercial transportation industry and how it relates to the logistic sections of today's business including discussions on regulations, economics, characteristics, employment opportunities, and development in major transportation modes.

"We initially approached UACCH about a transportation program because we were experiencing a shortage of qualified professionals," said Honea, "but as our conversation has evolved this partnership has become an opportunity to interest local students in a viable career in Southwest Arkansas."

Adds Jennifer Methvin, Chancellor for Academics at UACCH, "opportunities for our graduates are plentiful in the transportation industry. *Introduction to the Transportation Industry* is an investigative step that could lead to a Transportation and Logistics degree program."

According to the American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), there are over 6,000 trucking companies located in Arkansas, most of them small, locally owned businesses.

"Transportation is a vital industry that touches ever faucet of business," said Honea, "Since Arkansas has an established transportation economy, a transportation program in this region has huge potential. Collaborating with the local university will give Fikes and other transportation companies the opportunity to assist in defining the industry's future."



Fikes Truck Line is a premier national trucking company that specializes in flatbed, RGN, heavy haul, military hauls, drop-deck and side-deck trailers. For more information on Fikes Truck Line, visit www.fikes.com or call 1-800-643-6611.

The University of Arkansas Community College at Hope is an accredited two-year institution of higher education committed to providing quality academic, occupational, personal growth, and cultural programs to support individual student and community needs in the Southwest Arkansas area. Registration for Introduction to the Transportation Industry is underway until January 8, 2008 with classes beginning on January 9, 2008. Late registration will continue until January 15, 2008. For more information on UACCH visit www.uacch.edu.

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