

# Pottawatomie County EcoDevo Hosts Work Ready Boot Camp for Kansas Counties

The Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation (PCEDC) hosted the first ACT Work Ready Boot Camp held in the Great Plains states Aug. 6-7 at the Kansas State University Foundation.

There were 22 in attendance, hailing from Lyon, Pratt and Bourbon counties.

The program was coordinated by ACT Regional Directors Cheri Tune and Jason Jones who led the group through the steps of becoming Work Ready counties.

ACT's Work Ready Communities Boot Camp is for leaders who want to move aggressively forward into this 21st century approach to work readiness and economic development. The Boot Camp is a performance-driven program WRC leadership teams use to initiate, deploy and drive carefully tailored county



Courtesy Photo

PCEDC conducted a Work Keys "Boot Camp" in August.

and regional efforts that grow the number of counties certified as work ready. Attendance at Boot Camp is necessary in order to become a

Work Ready County.

Jack Allston, PCEDC executive director, and Jina Kugler, Wamego High School Counselor, were featured speak-

ers. Both talked about Pottawatomie County's experience in using Work Keys and becoming a Work Ready County.

Pottawatomie County

was the third county in the state to achieve Work Ready status, the first in the state to receive Maintenance Status, and only the second in the nation

to receive MP2 or double Maintenance Status in April. There are 4.7 million individuals nationwide that have successfully completed the Work Keys assessments. Work Keys is recognized by over 25,000 employers, and there are just over 300 counties in the nation that are Certified Work Ready.

In addition to Allston and Kugler, a local employer panel spoke to the participants: Jo Brunner, Kansas Works; Stan Hambright, Bayer Construction; Crystal Malchose, Pottawatomie County; Mallory Lauer of Champion Teamwear; and Celeste Martinez, of Midwest Concrete Materials.

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