

ASU SYSTEM FOUNDATION, INC.

Contact: Nicole Frey (870) 972-2576

For the period ending September 30, 2024 (unaudited), the Arkansas State University System Foundation recorded gifts and other support of \$1,239,055.

Contributions were designated as follows:

ASU-Jonesboro	\$769,261
ASU-Mountain Home	\$238,041
ASU-Beebe	\$21,117
ASU-Newport	\$198,466
ASU-Three Rivers	\$12,110
ASU System Foundation	\$60

The Foundation reported net assets of \$165,509,752, representing an increase of 4.82% for the period ending September 30, 2024.

The market value of the ASU System Foundation Endowment Pool for the period ending September 30, 2024, was \$135,723,234.

The net rate of return for the period ending September 30, 2024, was 6.31%.

Endowment balances designated per campus are as follows:

Jonesboro	\$116,900,145
Mountain Home	6,390,957
Beebe	2,461,678
Newport	3,206,359
Three Rivers	979,077
Red Wolves Foundation	2,157,505
System Foundation	<u>3,627,512</u>
Total	<u>\$135,723,234</u>

**Arkansas State University System
Capital Projects Report
December 13, 2024**

Arkansas State University System campuses have several capital projects underway in various stages of programming, design, and construction.

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (A-STATE)

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Misc. Bldg. Site Demolition	\$4,008,109	Substantially Complete
Ed/Comm-5 Classroom Renovation-Lounge	350,000	Substantially Complete
Lab Science West Fire Alarm Replacement	328,590	Substantially Complete
Lab Science West 333 Classroom Renovation	354,036	Substantially Complete
Student Union Security Access	455,631	Substantially Complete
Loop Trail Phases III and IV	1,149,353	Substantially Complete
Lakeport Plantation House Humidity	594,000	Construction Phase
FNB Arena AHU Replacement Phase 1	860,553	Construction Phase
FNB Arena AHU Replacement Phase 2	1,078,839	Construction Phase
Collegiate Park HVAC	351,869	Construction Phase
Library Security Access	420,959	Construction Phase
Tyronza Grain Bin Remodel	1,916,383	Construction Phase
Northpark Plaza Renovation	4,762,029	Design Phase
Arkansas Hall Fan Coils	286,000	Design Phase
University Hall Fan Coils	273,000	Design Phase
Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation	25,219,886	Design Phase
Chilled Water Loop-Power Plant Electrical Upgrades	298,850	Design Phase
College of Veterinary Medicine	3,230,293	Design Phase

1. Misc. Building Site Demolition

Architect/Engineer: WER
 Contractor: Meadows Contractors
 Expected Completion: Spring 2025
 Funding: University Reserves

Status: Demolition of the Fine Arts Center annex is complete and sitework is complete. The HPESS pool building demolition is complete. University Circle houses have been removed and sitework is being completed. Miscellaneous site work remains to be completed.

2. Ed Comm-5 Classroom Reno-Lounge

Architect/Engineer: AMR Architects
 Contractor: TBD
 Expected Completion: Spring 2025
 Funding: College of Communications Departmental Funds

Status: The classroom portion of this project is complete. The lounge remodel is complete. Both portions of this project are awaiting closeout.

3. Lab Science West Fire Alarm Replacement

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit
Contractor: Johnson Controls Fire Protection
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The scope of this project is to remove and replace the fire alarm system in the Lab Sciences West Building. The project is substantially complete and awaiting closeout.

4. Lab Science West 333 Classroom Renovation

Architect/Engineer: Brackett Krennerich
Contractor: Bailey
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The project has transformed an existing underutilized laboratory into a new classroom and is awaiting closeout.

5. Student Union Security Access

Architect/Engineer: Steiling Architecture
Contractor: Ditta Enterprises, Inc.
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: University Reserves/Access and Security Fee

Status: The project upgrades the exterior entrances for lockdown and electronic access and adds additional cameras. Construction is nearing completion.

6. Loop Trail Phases III and IV

Architect/Engineer: Pickering
Contractor: Meadows Construction
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: ARDOT Grant/University Reserves

Status: Phases III and IV are being combined and will extend the existing campus trail system into the northeast quadrant of the campus and connect the residence halls to the campus core. The trail will encompass approximately one mile of twelve-foot-wide, paved-trail surface that will offer pedestrians and cyclists a transportation-and-recreational path separate from vehicular facilities. Construction is complete and awaiting closeout.

7. Lakeport Plantation House Humidity

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: Kinco Constructors
Expected Completion: TBD
Funding: ANCRC Grant

Status: This is a grant-funded project to upgrade the HVAC systems for the house. The project has bid and will begin construction soon.

8. First National Bank Arena Air Handler Unit Replacement Phase 1

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The scope of this project is to remove one existing Air Handler Unit (AHU) and replace it with one new AHU, which has dehumidification capabilities, and to refurbish another existing AHU.

9. First National Bank Arena Air Handler Unit Replacement Phase 2

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The scope of this project is to remove one existing Air Handler Unit (AHU) and replace it with one new AHU, which has dehumidification capabilities, and to refurbish one existing AHU.

10. Collegiate Park HVAC

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The scope is to replace the remaining R-22 units with new 14 SEER R-410A units. This is a multi-year phased project. The phasing plan has been updated to add Summer 2024, following the December 2023 freeze damage at Collegiate Park. We are in the final phase.

11. Library Security Access

Architect/Engineer: Steiling Architecture
Contractor: Ditta Enterprises, Inc., A-State ITS
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: University Reserves/Access and Security Fee

Status: The project upgrades the exterior entrances for lockdown and electronic access, as well as adding additional cameras. Construction is nearing completion.

12. Tyronza Grain Bin Remodel

Architect/Engineer: Revival Architecture
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: ANCRC Grant

Status: This project converts areas in Tyronza’s Commercial Historic District into interpretive space and adds new accessible restrooms. This project is in the construction phase.

13. Northpark Plaza Renovation

Architect/Engineer: TBD
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: DHS Grant

Status: This project renovates the existing Northpark Plaza building for the RESTORE program and is funded by a DHS Grant.

14. Arkansas Hall Fan Coils

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical/Other
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: TBD

Status: The scope is to replace the existing fan coil units with new units. This will be a multi-year phased project. Disposition of this project is pending the completion of the campus Master Plan update.

15. University Hall Fan Coils

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical/Other
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: TBD

Status: The scope is to replace the existing fan coil units with new units. This will be a multi-year phased project. Disposition of this project is pending the completion of the campus Master Plan update.

16. Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation

Architect/Engineer: WER
Contractor: Clark Contractors
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Windgate Grant/University Reserves

Status: This project creates an Art and Innovation building, which will be used to house functions for both Art and Engineering. Construction has begun and is scheduled to be completed in March of 2026.

17. Chilled Water Loop-Power Plant Electrical Upgrades

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
 Contractor: TBD
 Expected Completion: TBD
 Funding: University Reserves

Status: Upgrades to the Central Plant are necessary to provide chilled water for the new Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation. Electrical upgrades will begin soon with the purchase of long lead-time items. This project is in the design phase.

18. College of Veterinary Medicine

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon Architect
 Contractor: Nabholz
 Expected Completion: April 2026
 Funding: University Reserves

Status: A new building for the College of Veterinary Medicine is planned for the intersection of University Loop East and University Loop West. The 56,000 square-foot facility will house administration, academic and technical spaces to support the new Vet School. This project is in design.

ASU-BEEBE

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Bloodworth Nursing Building Project	\$1,976,093	Construction Phase
Vet Tech HVAC Replacement Project	160,000	Substantially Complete
Heber Springs Campus Repairs	131,000	Design/Planning

1. Bloodworth Nursing Building Project

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
 Contractor: Flynn Construction
 Expected Completion: Spring 2025
 Funding: Grant, University Reserves

Status: ASUB received a federal earmark, funded through a HRSA grant, in the amount of \$1,500,000 to replace the existing flat roof with a new gable roof system and add additional classroom and office space to the Bloodworth Nursing Building on the Searcy campus. This project will allow the institution to better serve the training needs of our local healthcare industry. The balance of the estimated project cost will be funded from institutional reserves.

2. Vet Tech HVAC Replacement Project

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
Contractor: Middleton
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: The HVAC system, in the Vet Tech Facility on the Beebe campus, has been in use since 2007 and is at least two years beyond its useful life. WER has been retained to oversee the purchase and installation of a new HVAC system to replace the current one. This project is necessary, in order for the program to be in compliance with accreditation standards.

3. Heber Springs Campus Repairs

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
Contractor: Pro Service Builders
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is being undertaken to address a structural concern related to water damage to the second-floor pedestrian bridge between the Academic Building and the Administration Building and the outdoor deck connected to the dining facility on the Heber Springs campus. This project is necessary in order to ensure continued structural integrity of the bridge and deck, and to prevent further damage due to water penetration in the structure.

ASU-MOUNTAIN HOME

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
ASUMH Trail Lighting and Landscaping	\$420,000	Design
ASUMH Gotaas Hall Renovation/Remodel	6,000,000	Planning

1. ASUMH Trail Lighting and Landscaping

Architect/Engineer: Halff Associates
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: ARDOT TAP Grant, Institutional Reserves

Status: This project encompasses a walking/biking trail on the Mountain Home campus. The project is funded by a Transportation Alternative Program grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation, along with 20% matching institutional funds.

2. ASUMH Gotaas Hall Renovation/Remodel

Architect/Engineer: TBD
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: Federal HRSA grant \$6,000,000

Status: ASUMH received a federal earmark, funded through an HRSA grant, in the amount of \$6,000,000 to renovate and remodel the Gotaas Hall Nursing Building. This project will allow the institution to better serve the training needs of our local health care industry.

ASU-NEWPORT

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
ASUN Memorial Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II	\$117,000	Pre-construction
ASUN Memorial Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I	103,000	Design Phase
ASUN Center for Health Sciences Building Project	6,446,000	Design Phase

1. ASUN Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II

Architect/Engineer: Cromwell Architects
 Contractor: Hawkeye
 Expected Completion: On hold
 Funding: ARDOT Trails Grant, Institutional Reserves

Status: This project encompasses Phase II of the Memorial Walking/Biking Trail on the Newport campus. The project is funded by a Recreational Trails grant from ARDOT and 20% matching institutional funds. This project has been placed on hold until the completion of the Center for Health Sciences construction.

2. ASUN Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I

Architect/Engineer: Brackett-Krennerich Architects
 Contractor: TBD
 Expected Completion: Fall 2025
 Funding: ARDOT Trails Grant, Institutional Reserves

Status: This project encompasses a walking/biking trail on the Marked Tree campus. The project is funded by a Recreational Trails grant from ARDOT and 20% matching institutional funds.

3. ASUN Center for Health Sciences Phase I

Architect/Engineer: Taggart Architects
 Contractor: Clark Contractors, LLC
 Expected Completion: Fall 2026
 Funding: EDA Grant, DRA Grant, Private Funds

Status: This project is to construct a new Health Sciences building on the Newport campus. Health Sciences programs are the highest producing programs on campus, comprising more than 50% of the overall Newport campus enrollment. Both the architect and general contractor are selected, and the design of Phase I is in process.

ASU MID-SOUTH

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
University Center Roof	300,000	Complete
Adult Education Foundation Repair	250,000	Design Phase

1. University Center Roof

Architect/Engineer: Polk, Stanley, Wilcox
Contractor: Summit Roofing & Restoration
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project was to replace the roof on the University Center. The design and bid documents were completed, and bids were opened in late August. All work was completed by the end of October.

2. Adult Education Foundation

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects and WER Engineers
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is to repair the foundation in the Adult Education department in the Workforce Center Building. We have had a consultation meeting with the architectural and structural engineering firms, and they are currently developing the bid documents. Bids will be solicited in Spring 2025, with work to commence later in the spring or early summer.

ASU THREE RIVERS

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Ritz Theatre Renovation—Phase IV	\$1,261,977	Completed
New Nursing Building	8,000,000	Construction Phase
Ritz Theatre Renovation—Phase V	1,355,611	Design Phase

1. ASUTR Ritz Theatre Renovation – Phase IV

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Clark Contractors, LLC
Expected Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Heritage, is funding Phase IV renovations, which include audio/visual systems, house and stage lighting, and auditorium renovations and seating. Construction has been completed and punch list items have been cleared.

2. New Nursing Building

Architect/Engineer: Lewis Architects Engineers
Contractor: Clark Contractors, LLC
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: Federal Department of Health and Human Services Grant

Status: Sitework has been mostly completed. Concrete slab has been poured and structural steel is being installed.

3. ASUTR Ritz Theatre Renovation – Phase V

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Nabholz Construction
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Heritage, is funding Phase V renovations, which include incorporation of the former TV repair shop building. Asbestos abatement and emergency repairs to parapet have been completed. Architects are completing design specifications.

HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Barkman House	\$850,000	Complete
Caddo Center (Phase III)	1,191,606	Substantially Complete
Mooney Hall	700,000	Design Phase
Smith Hall	400,000	Design Phase
Russell Fine Arts Hall	800,000	Design Phase

1. Barkman House

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Nabholz
Completion: Fall 2024
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant funded adaptive preservation of the Barkman House. The grant included new roofing, repairing all historic wood on the exterior of the building, adding insulation and duct repairs, painting, and structural repairs. The project has been completed.

2. Caddo Center (Phase III)

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Kinco Constructors
Completion: Spring 2025
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: Construction has begun and is expected to be completed by December 2024. The grant funding will preserve the Caddo Center as a one-stop shop for students. This Phase VII grant will allow space for Financial Aid, Student Accounts, and Housing. The construction phase is nearing completion.

3. Mooney Hall

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: TBD
Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of HSU's Mooney Hall. The grant will include new roofing, repairing all historic wood on the exterior of the building, entry repairs to the brick area, adding painting, and structural repairs. Construction is scheduled to begin in December 2024, and the project is scheduled to be completed by May 2025.

4. Smith Hall

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: TBD
Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of A-State's Smith Hall. The grant will include a new cooling tower, painting, and structural repairs. Construction is scheduled to begin in December 2024, and the project is scheduled to be completed by May 2025.

5. Russell Fine Arts Hall

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: TBD
Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of Russell Fine Arts Hall. The grant will include renovating the music, band, and auditorium areas, and repairing all historic wood, lockers, painting, and flooring. Construction is scheduled to begin in December 2024, and the project is due to be completed by May 2025.

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees Report
December 13, 2024**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University-Jonesboro**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND RESEARCH

Office of the Provost:

- Arkansas State has received 4,917 undergraduate domestic applications for Fall 2025, a 4% increase from last year. Changes under Dr. Fen Yu's leadership have greatly improved our application processing speed. As of November 12, there have been 3,634 students have been admitted to Arkansas State, nearly twice the number admitted the previous year. We will continue to deploy new strategies to yield a higher percentage of admitted applicants.
- Our office continues to provide deans with new data to enable them to make more informed hiring decisions in both the staff and faculty ranks. Examples of such data are as follows:
 - ADHE Program Viability Report;
 - DFW Rates by instructor;
 - Student Faculty Ratio by College and Department; and
 - Enrollment by Majors.
- As of November 12, 58% of the on-campus student body had registered for Spring 2025. This is due to strategic changes and improvements in our on-campus advising and registration processes, which have resulted in more students registering for classes earlier than in previous years. This allows us to hire faculty for the Spring 2025 workload efficiently.
- We continue to have conversations with the Deans' Council to modify the current advising and registration structure. The new model should be operationalized for Fall 2025.
- The Office of the Provost is spearheading the initiative to implement centralized scheduling. Each college now offers classes on a five-day-per-week rotation. Vice Chancellor Boothman is working to implement the software CourseDog, which will strategically populate courses across campus, giving us better space utilization.
- The Office of the Provost continues to work in conjunction with marketing and communications lead Todd Clark to oversee the development of a new University website, with a target launch of Summer 2025.
- A-State Qatar continues to see enrollment growth, with 113 students currently enrolled in its three degree programs: MSE Educational Leadership; BS Digital

- Technology & Design; and BS Engineering Management Systems. This marks an increase of 105% compared to the Fall 2023 enrollment of 55 students.
- The A-State Online total combined enrollment for Fall 2024 (including Fall 1 and Fall 2 sessions) is 8,861, a 16.5% (1,259) increase from Fall 2023's enrollment of 7,602.
 - The Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) has increased the number of activities and professional development events for faculty.
 - There are 30 faculty currently enrolled in the 2024-25 Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) cohort.
 - There are 75 faculty enrolled in an online course on Teaching with Artificial Intelligence facilitated by CETL.
 - Assistant Vice Provost Madeline Ragland continues to offer workshops on using artificial intelligence in the curriculum. She is scheduled to attend a second national conference regarding the intersection of academic integrity and artificial intelligence in Spring 2025.

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Actions:

Nothing was submitted to AHECB for A-State at the October 25, 2024, meeting.

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Actions:

The following will be submitted to the AHECB for A-State at the January 24, 2025, meeting:

EXISTING CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED AT AN EXISTING OFF-CAMPUS LOCATION

- B.S., Data Science and Data Analytics to be offered at Arkansas State University Campus Querétaro
- B.S., Engineering Management Systems to be offered at Arkansas State University Campus Querétaro

NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

- C.P., Geographic Information Systems
- C.P., Livestock Business Management

PROGRAM DELETION/INACTIVATION OR REACTIVATION

- Deletion, t.M.S., Nutrition and Dietetics

ACCESS AND INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Access and Accommodation Services (AAS):

- The number of new students registered during this period is 190. This brings the total active registration numbers to 1,055.
- During the previous quarter, approximately 635 tests were administered.

- Our office processed seven e-text requests, 20 technology/assistive devices checkouts, and three class instruction videos were captioned.
- The AAS Transportation Program has facilitated approximately 283 pickups and drop-offs and completed approximately nine classroom setups (e.g., seating accommodations, classroom signage for allergy accommodations).
- Approximately 92 ESAs have been approved, with other applications pending.
- AAS implemented an online process to evaluate and track ESA requests.
- AAS staff conducted eight training sessions and attended one workshop during the quarter. These trainings are disability-specific, in terms of programming and service delivery. Primary audiences are faculty, staff, and students. The trainings also satisfy continuing-education requirements for state and national licenses and certifications held by AAS staff members.
- Disability Awareness Week was held October 21-24. We received positive student feedback from the events.
- The AAS Student Satisfaction Survey is being disseminated to registered students in order to gauge their satisfaction with programs, services, and sense of belonging. These numbers will be shared with University officials to improve the quality of services through AAS.

Institutional Engagement:

- The Division of Access and Institutional Engagement donated to the following:
 - Annual sponsorship to KLEK 102.5 FM Radio for the 2024-2025 year;
 - Silver sponsorship to The NAACP Craighead County Branch for the 2024 Freedom Fund Gala, held on September 28, 2024, in the Reng Student Union;
 - Assisted with the reception and program for the Strong-Turner Alumni Chapter's "Annual Homecoming Scholarship Brunch held on October 5, 2024, in the Humanities and Social Science Building;
 - Supported Fabricio Medina-Bolivar in Little Rock on October 24, 2024, for his induction into the Inaugural Arkansas Latino Hall of Fame;
 - Silver sponsorship to El Centro Hispano, Hispanic Community Service, Inc. for the 2024-2025 year and attended the Día de lo Muertos celebration on November 2, 2024, at Embassy Suites in Jonesboro.

Faculty/Staff Development, Promotion, and Retention:

- Provided funding to the A-State Lecture-Concert Series to help sponsor upcoming 2024-2025 school year events:
- The Division of Access and Institutional Engagement provided funding to help sponsor the "Latin Keys event: A Piano Tribute to Hispanic Heritage" reception on September 21, 2024, in the Fowler Center;

- Provided funding to help the music department with its “Trumpet and Piano Recital Through Hispanic Heritage” program on October 7, 2024;
- Launched the new Empower the Pack mentorship program. This program fosters a sense of community across campus while also supporting the employees’ personal and professional development. As of November 12, there have been 53 responses received.

Student Retention and Recruitment:

- Provided funds to assist the United Voices Gospel Choir during its Alumni 55th Anniversary/Reunion Celebration on October 5-6, 2024.

Staff Professional Development:

- Staff participated in three professional development events:
 - Active Shooter Training conducted by the A-State UPD;
 - CPR/AED (no certification) knowledge and skills class on how to save a life;
 - Staff Senate Employee Empowerment Session on “Why Good Decision-Making Skills are Needed,” presented by Kesha Haggans of St. Bernards Medical Center.

Multicultural Center (MC):

The Multicultural Center’s involvement in the activities listed below highlights our commitment to fostering a campus environment that supports all students:

- The MC staff and ambassadors provided presentations for all FYE: Making Connections courses, delivering 29 training sessions this quarter, which focused on the MC's resources and communication methods while respecting all differences;
- The MC staff collaborated with the Admissions team on recruitment initiatives, including participating in the Southern Heritage Classic Academic and Career Fair in Memphis, TN. We shared information with prospective students about the Center and its resources;
- Hosted El Grito with the Student Activities Board (SAB) and student organizations Hermana y Hermano (mentorship program) and Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Incorporated (SIA), a Latina sorority, to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month. More than 75 students attended. The event featured Hispanic cuisine and a history hunt, where students visited tables to learn about the Hispanic community and answer questions for a chance to win a gear basket;
- Initiated the reinstatement of the Non-Traditional Student Organization. As part of this initiative, we sent 20 non-traditional students and their families to the Northeast Arkansas District Fair;

- Collaborated with the Office of Institutional Integrity and Title IX and the Wilson Counseling Center on Domestic Violence Awareness Initiatives;
- The MC served a Veterans Day breakfast and provided gift bags to veterans and their families in appreciation of their service in conjunction with the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and the Beck Center;
- The Multicultural Center staff visited the University of Memphis and explored ways to better serve our students here at Arkansas State, learning new strategies to further support our student community.

ATHLETICS

Athletics Administration:

- Eleven student-athletes received their degrees at the 2024 Summer Commencement at First National Bank Arena;
- Eight individuals were inducted into the newly created Arkansas State University Press Box Wall of Honor;
- Athletics announced that Red Wolves Sports Properties entered an agreement with Soul & Spirits Brewery to launch “Howlin’ Red Wolves Pilsner” as the Official Craft Beer of A-State Athletics.

Football:

- A-State reached five overall wins and three Sun Belt victories, which is the earliest this has been accomplished in a season since 2017.

Baseball:

- The ASU Board of Trustees voted to approve the installation of a turf playing surface at Tomlinson Stadium and to name the baseball field “Slayton Family Field” in honor of the Slayton Family Foundation.

Cross Country:

- Jacob Pyeatt claimed the individual title at the Sun Belt Conference Championships, helping lead the men’s program to a runner-up finish. The women’s program, which also finished runner-up, was led by Third Team All-Sun Belt selection Maja Dzialoszewska. Pyeatt was named the league’s Runner of the Year.

Men’s Basketball:

- The Red Wolves were picked to win the Sun Belt Conference in the league’s preseason coaches poll for the first time in school history, and Kobe Julien was tabbed the preseason Player of the Year.

Women’s Basketball:

- The Red Wolves defeated Arizona State, 100-96, marking their first win over a Power-4 Conference opponent since the 2017-18 season.

Volleyball:

- The Red Wolves claimed the Sun Belt Conference West Division title for the first time since 2016 and went undefeated at First National Bank Arena for the first time since 2015.

Men's Golf:

- A-State won a pair of fall tournaments, including the Golf Week Fall Challenge and the Bubba Barnett Intercollegiate.

Women's Golf:

- The Red Wolves won the team title at the Maverick Classic at Tierra Verde Golf Club in Arlington, Texas.

Women's Bowling:

- The Red Wolves were ranked second in the National Tenpin Coaches Association Preseason Poll.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT, GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Undergraduate Recruitment:

- First-year applications for Fall 2025 are at 4,918, as compared to 4,732 at this time last year for Fall 2024;
- Admitted first-year applications for Fall 2025 are at 3,634, compared to 2,037 for Fall 2024, reflecting a 78% year-to-date increase;
- Students from Arkansas who have been admitted for Fall 2025 have shown an 81% year-to-date increase;
- International admitted applications are at 2,423 for Spring 2025.

Outreach:

- Total group visits to campus have increased by 8% from last year;
- Group visits, in addition to individual visits, have increased by 24%;
- This year's Free Application Week yielded 2,149 applications compared to 2,098 last year;
- Pack Preview attendance saw an 18% increase compared to last year, with a total of 748 students and more than 1,900 guests attending across both events;
- Digital advertising, social media, and email communications have shown strong growth in engagement and reach. We are developing promotional materials, yield communications, and social media advertisements for Spring 2025 to help admitted students register for upcoming events and NSO.

Recruitment:

- Since August, the recruitment team has attended more than 440 recruitment events across Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. This, alongside our more than 1,800 individual student interactions (emails, calls, and texts), has increased applications and admitted students.

Early College Programs:

- We anticipate a 15% increase in enrollment for the upcoming Spring 2025 semester, supported by new strategic partnerships and improved retention processes.

Financial Aid:

- Completed testing for the 2025-2026 first-year class, utilizing CSS Profile information;
- As of November 12, we have sent award notifications to more than 1,500 students.

International Programs:

- Achieved record Fall 2024 enrollment, with a 100% increase in first-year undergraduate international freshmen, currently hosting over 1,100 international students on campus;
- Over 400 undergraduate and 80 graduate international students are registered for Spring 2025 classes.

English Learning Academy (ELA):

- Achieved the highest Fall enrollment with 17 new students and a record mid-fall enrollment of eight additional students;
- Attained a 79% graduation rate for first-time students.

Study Abroad Initiatives:

- Fall 2024: 18 students are actively studying abroad;
- Spring 2025: 23 students are preparing for study abroad experiences;
- Summer 2025: Six faculty-led trips are planned to Greece, ASUCQ, Dominica, Taiwan, Costa Rica, and South Korea.

International Student Services:

- Launched a new outreach strategy to track student yield from admission through arrival on campus;
- Introduced "Homesickness Conversations" to assist students in managing homesickness.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

First National Bank Arena (FNBA):

- Women's and Men's Basketball season started the month of November;
- Lit'l Bita Christmas and REO Speedwagon were held in November.
- **Currently on Sale:**
 - Globetrotters – January 24;
 - Price Is Right – February 18;
 - Blippi – March 14.

Environmental Health and Safety:

- Conducted safety training with Facilities Management staff on reporting injuries, worker's compensation, hazardous waste, safety data sheets, hazard communication, and universal waste;
- Conducted Narcan/Opioid Rescue training with the Biological Sciences faculty during their staff meeting.

Human Resources

- From July through September, Human Resources hired 81 new faculty, 89 new adjuncts, and 214 new GAs for the fall semester on the Jonesboro campus.

Payroll Services

- Payroll worked on the transition from Time Clock Plus to the new Banner Time Entry system;
- Conducted training for all non-exempt employees affected by the transition.

Red Wolf Wellness

- We hosted a "Jacked in July" fitness challenge to focus on strength training, along with heart rate monitoring training. We had 70 participants and provided prizes;
- Provided CPR and AED training for Howl Program students/employees;
- Created a six-week Fall Fitness Challenge, in which participants track progress and earn points for prizes;
- Created a mobility and posture correction program in which faculty and staff can tune in remotely from our app multiple times per week. Participants are provided free resistance bands to use in the program.

Title IX and Institutional Equity

- Provided Title IX training for New Employee Orientation, FYE Making Connections Courses, ROTC, Facilities Management, Sodexo, and an off-campus intern site at the request of the Bradbury Art Museum;
- Provided Title IX updates to Athletics staff;
- Created and collaborated with the Multicultural Center, the Family Crisis Center, and the Wilson Counseling Center on programming for Domestic Violence Awareness Week;
- Presented Title IX updates at the Fall Faculty Conference;
- Created resource cards and response guides for new faculty and staff;
- Assisted eight students with pregnancy rights and support.

Training & Development

- Hosted 89 new staff members for orientation during July, August, and September and welcomed 56 new full-time faculty members with welcome boxes and a presentation at New Faculty Orientation in August.

Enterprise Risk Management

- Conducted an emergency response tabletop exercise with on-campus decision-makers;
- Planned and executed campus National Preparedness Month, a public awareness campaign.

Fiscal Operations:

- The Student Financial Services team is working to improve processes and student communications to provide better service;
- The FY 24 audit was completed, and the exit conference occurred on November 14;
- Information Technology Services (ITS) and Procurement implemented a new process to ensure that all software purchases comply with security, accessibility, and procurement policies, while streamlining approvals and enhancing our security posture. Software Purchases must go through ITS using the Software Purchase Request Form on the ITS website.

University Police Department (UPD):

- UPD officers and staff attended the following:
 - 30-hour Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Police Instructor Course;
 - “Women Behind the Badge” a 40-hour Arkansas Law Enforcement Specialized Training Course;
 - 24 hours of “Level II terminal operator certification;”
 - 3-hour “Terminal Agency Coordinator” training;
 - 24-hour “Homeland Security Liaison Officer” course;
 - All sworn department members have completed 8 hours of “Hazardous Materials Awareness;”
 - All department members have completed 1.5 hours of “Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act” (HIPPA) training as required for compliance and collaboration with the College of Education’s Restore Hub program.
- The department participated in a routine audit by the Arkansas Crime Information Center in August.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

University Marketing:

- Coordinated the groundbreaking ceremony for the Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation on September 19;
- Hired Rachel Anderson, formerly of Jonesboro Radio Group, to fill the newly created Director of Social Media Strategies position;
- Continue collaborating with city and community leaders to ensure that A-State is represented in major events and initiatives;
- Finalized development and QA for the new AState.edu website. The project has moved into the CMS integration phase, and we are targeting a Summer 2025 launch;
- Hosted three campus informational sessions related to the new University website project to collect feedback, inform the campus community, and help them prepare for the new site;
- Completed the second distribution of our first-year student survey on the factors that most influenced the college selection process. Currently evaluating the data to look for shifts in decision-making trends;
- Leadership completed FEMA's "Basics of PIO" training at Camp Robinson;
- Placed targeted ads to promote strategic priorities, brand awareness, and awards and accomplishments of campus community members.

Publications and Creative Services (PCS):

- PCS continues to serve as an internal advertising agency for major campus initiatives.

Digital Creative Media (DCM):

- DCM continues to produce high-quality photos and videos from campus events, sharing the story of everyday campus life at A-State;
- As A-State expands its workforce development offerings, we are working with area industry leaders to share content and gain access to capture photos and videos of their daily operations;
- Currently, DCM is evaluating more dynamic platforms to manage A-State's internal digital signage messaging.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- Started development of artificial intelligence (AI) acceptable use guidelines for faculty and staff (from an IT security perspective) to complement the existing ethical use of artificial intelligence guidelines developed earlier this year;
- Streamlined software purchase requests in conjunction with the procurement office to enhance compliance with institutional security standards and

accessibility requirements and remove redundancies in institutional purchasing to maximize fiscal operations;

- Expanded the ITS cybersecurity team, led by Patrick Jeffrey, Director of IT Security, to strategically focus on proactive procedures to combat cyber threat attacks and ensure sufficient resource allocation to handle incidents immediately as they occur;
- Coordinated the implementation of Syntellis budgeting platform with Finance & Administration, and continued efforts to leverage data from multiple platforms (Canvas, Slate, and Banner) to provide real-time information and insights for student success and retention initiatives led by Dr. Nikesha Nesbitt.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Campus Recreation:

Notable campus recreation activities at Red WOLF Center during the Fall 2024 semester (September-December) include:

- Group fitness classes including yoga, spin, sculp, cardio/tone, HIT, and butt/guts;
- Fitness challenges to encourage students to achieve wellness goals;
- Intramural events hosted throughout the semester include football, soccer, softball, bowling, volleyball, basketball, and table tennis;
- Club Sports, including rugby, spirit squads, eSports, and softball, competed in a variety of events during the Fall semester.

Wilson Counseling Center:

- The Wilson Counseling Center staff visited our First Year Experience: Making Connections courses to present information about managing the transition to college and campus resources. The goal is to expose first-year to campus services that aid in student success;
- The Wilson Counseling Center increased services during Fall 2024 semester:
 - Individual counseling appointments increased by 13% compared to Fall 2023;
 - Student intake appointments increased by 10% compared to Fall 2023.

Leadership Center:

The following notable campus student events occurred in Fall 2024:

- NPHC hosted NPHC Week, which consisted of volunteering and social events to encourage campus involvement. The week concluded with the annual Best Stepper on the Yard;
- Greek Life hosted a fire safety program presented by Jonesboro Fire Chief Jason Wills. The goal is to educate students residing in Greek housing about fire safety prevention and overall chapter house management. This partnership with the City

of Jonesboro allows for current students to become familiar with city personnel and understand guidelines pertaining the fire safety;

- Greek Life partnered with the Chancellor to host a fraternity advisor roundtable to discuss the current state of the Greek system and brainstorm about improvements. The goal is to strengthen partnerships with campus and fraternity volunteers to offer a quality experience for current members;
- InterHOWLactic: Mission to Homecoming 2024 was the theme for Homecoming 2024. The Student Activities Board hosted various events for students including a roller skating, games on the lawn, concert on the lawn and more. Jonathan Schaufler and Amber Yates were crowned the 2024 Homecoming King and Queen;
- The sixth annual on-campus haunted house was deemed as the “Haunted Hospital” in University Hall;
- Student Affairs partnered with International Programs to host two key events:
 - The International Food Festival highlighted local cuisine from various countries, showcased fashion, and provided an opportunity for students to interact with cultural registered student organization representatives;
 - Dia De Los Muertos showcased the rich tradition with food, music, and an altar was set up to value loved ones.
- The A-State Food Pantry installed new software, Pantry Soft, to better serve clients. The software manages operation, inventory, and client intake/order for a more efficient experience.

University Housing:

- University Housing resident assistants hosted a variety of educational and social programming throughout the semester in each of their residential areas. These events have been informative, fun, and well-attended.
- University Housing is assisting with the University retention efforts by working with campus residents to ensure that Spring 2025 class schedules are completed, and students are prepared for finals.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Advancement Services

- For the first quarter of the fiscal year, July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, the University recorded a total of 6,676 gifts and commitments from 2,754 individual donors for a total of \$2,497,456.03. The overall giving amount includes outright donations of cash, gifts-in-kind, planned gifts, and new pledges.

Alumni Relations

- Alumni Association membership numbers continue to increase. First quarter report showed 29.5% increase in paid memberships.
- To date, we have secured 81 new 1924 memberships toward our goal of 100 in honor of the Alumni Association turning 100 in 2024.
- Applications for the 2025 entering freshmen License to HOWL scholarships are now being accepted. Eight recipients will be selected to receive \$5,000 annual awards with an option to renew in successive years if they continue to meet the criteria. We currently have 31 students receiving this annual scholarship.
- We held several events held during the second quarter with very positive turnout:
 - 100th Anniversary Celebration (375 attendees);
 - Alumni Homecoming Tailgate (400 attendees, including Pack Preview families);
 - Grizzlies v. Lakers game (40 attendees);
 - Culture at the Cooper Sushi making class (sold out).
- Many fun and exciting events are planned for the new year:
 - December 2024 – Bowl game tailgate, if eligible (TBD);
 - January 18, 2025 – Bubbles and Bingo rugby fundraiser – CAC;
 - March 2025 – Sun Belt Conference basketball activities (TBD);
 - Spring 2025 – Bark at the Park – Slayton Family Field, Jonesboro;
 - April 8, 2025 – 5th Annual Day of Giving – Virtual and On-Campus;
 - April 8, 2025 – A-State vs. U of A baseball pre-game event – Fayetteville;
 - May 1, 2025 – Red Wolves on the Rooftop – ASU System Office, Little Rock;
 - June 23-24, 2025 – St. Louis alumni events – St. Louis, MO.

Career Development and Engagement

- During the first quarter, Career Development and Engagement hosted three career fairs, four workshops, and presented to four classes during the first quarter. More than 50 employers were engaged by more than 100 students. We booked 76 student appointments for resume reviews, mock interviews, and career planning discussions.
- First quarter career fairs:
 - August 28, 2024 – Part-Time Job Fair at Wolves UP Week Community and Organization Fair – Heritage Lawn Plaza;
 - September 9, 2024 – Health Professions Career Fair – Cooper Alumni Center;
 - September 12, 2024 – Professional and Graduate School Expo – Cooper Alumni Center.
- As of November 12, five career fairs and one workshop have been hosted. Ten classroom presentations have been held. We have engaged a total of 98 employers and 513 students through career fairs. Other than career fairs and workshops, 24

students were assisted with resume reviews, and three students utilized the Big Interview resource.

- **Second Quarter Career Fairs:**

- October 3, 2024 – Agriculture Fair – Judd Hill Farmers Market;
- October 8, 2024 – Education Fair – Cooper Alumni Center;
- October 15, 2024 – Meeting the Firms - Civil Engineering & Construction Management – Cooper Alumni Center;
- October 17, 2024 – Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Computer Science Fair – Cooper Alumni Center;
- November 7, 2024 – Communications, Sales, Marketing and Hospitality Fair – Embassy Suites Red Wolves Convention Center;
- November 14, 2024 – Public Service Agencies and Non-Profits Fair – Cooper Alumni Center.

- **2025 Career Events:**

- January 30, 2025 – Nurse Anesthesia Conference – Cooper Alumni Center;
- February 2025 – Agriculture Fair – Cooper Alumni Center;
- February 20, 2025 – Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Computer Science Fair – Cooper Alumni Center;
- March 4, 2025 – Education Fair – Cooper Alumni Center;
- March 6, 2025 – Meet the Firms – Banking, Finance and Insurance – Cooper Alumni Center;
- March 13, 2025 – Meet the Firms – Transportation and Logistics – Cooper Alumni Center.

Advancement Marketing and Communications

- VOICES magazine is expected to be mailed in mid-December;
- Currently collaborating with deans to create a priority “leave-behind” document for development officers to leave with potential donors, with messaging aimed at strengthening donor proposals and engagement;
- Took over the production of e-newsletters for alumni from each college and worked on ways to increase engagement and expand reach;
- Currently developing a comprehensive social media plan to enhance alumni engagement and highlight University achievements across key platforms;
- Strategizing a “first-year donor journey,” which will feature up to six touchpoints throughout the first year of giving, designed to keep new donors connected and to encourage recurring gifts.

Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees Report
December 13, 2024

Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University-Beebe

Blue Eats Café Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting

On October 3, students, employees, and community members gathered on the Searcy campus to celebrate the grand opening of the updated food-service area in the Student Center. The Blue Eats Café provides an extended menu with fresh sandwiches and made-to-order restaurant-style options. Great Western Dining, the Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASUB) dining vendor, provided funding for the remodeling of the food-preparation area. The service-counter design looks fresh and modern, and the Café' is adorned with ASUB blue colors and branding.

ASUB Featured on Popular Higher Education Podcast

Dr. Methvin was the featured guest recently on *The EdUp Experience Podcast*. The episode, "Serving the 'Gray Box'", was released on October 9, and is a part of the "President Series." Dr. Methvin appreciated the opportunity to talk about the amazing work ASUB faculty and staff do every day to engage, educate, and support a diverse student body. Dr. Methvin stated, "We can be focused on the enrollment cliff, or we can be focused on the thousands and thousands of working adults, young and old, who need a pathway to a better career."

Sunshine Rodeo Volunteer Tradition Continues

ASUB students, faculty, and staff volunteered at the annual Sunshine Rodeo on October 11. The event was begun in 1996, especially for students with developmental disabilities to be able to participate in enjoyable rodeo-type events with assistance from volunteers. ASUB Agriculture Club students have volunteered at the event since its inception. Today, multiple ASUB student clubs, along with faculty and staff, look forward to serving the students and families who attend. This year, approximately 250 students from the Sunshine School and school districts all over central Arkansas attended.

25th Anniversary Celebration of ASUB Heber Springs

On October 22, the ASUB Heber Springs campus celebrated 25 years of education, growth, and service to the Heber Springs and Cleburne County communities. Since its beginnings in 1999, ASUB Heber Springs has been shaping futures with general-education courses, and today proudly offers innovative programs in marine technology, nursing, welding, and many other important fields. Alumnus and Arkansas State

Representative, Josh Miller, shared a special video message, explaining that having a campus close to home transformed his life and continues to impact countless others. Dr. Methvin welcomed everyone and gave special recognition to individuals from the Board of Visitors, community and campus staff, and faculty who helped build our remarkable campus. ASU System President Dr. Brendan Kelly was among the special guest speakers, who included alumni Sarah Burroughs and Heath Stewart, along with ASUB 2024 Outstanding Alumnus, Andrew Bell.

ARDOT Unveils I-57 on Beebe Campus

ASUB welcomed elected officials, members of the Arkansas Highway Commission, Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) leadership, and other community leaders to the Centennial Bank Gymnasium on the Beebe campus on November 7. The special ceremony, hosted by ARDOT, marked the official designation of 110 miles of U.S. Highway 67, between North Little Rock and Walnut Ridge, as Interstate 57. Dr. Methvin opened the event with a welcome, State Representative Jim Wooten led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the ASUB Symphonic Band performed the National Anthem. Platform guests included ARDOT Director Lorie Tudor; Chairman of the Arkansas State Highway Commission Alec Farmer; Arkansas Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration Vivien Hoang; State Representative Brian Evans; U.S. Congressman French Hill; U.S. Congressman Rick Crawford; and U.S. Senator John Boozman. The new I-57 will serve as a vital link across the region, boosting connectivity, economic growth, and quality of life.

Performing Arts 2024-2025 Season

ASUB's Performing Arts Season 2024-2025 is well underway and features a diverse lineup of events that promise to entertain, educate, and inspire audiences of all ages. This year, we offer a variety of performances, including band concerts, choral showcases, theatre productions, art exhibits, and lectures. The season kicked off with a performance by "Runaway Planet Band" on September 26 and an electrifying evening of progressive rock with "Advent Horizon" on October 15. The 2024-2025 calendar includes monthly gallery exhibits in the England Center Art Gallery, guest lectures featured in the Abington Library, and concerts by the ASUB Symphonic Band, Singers, and Chamber Singers.

The ASUB Theatre Department presented the 1957 Tony Award-winning musical "Bells Are Ringing" on November 7-10. Students and faculty dedicated countless hours preparing for the production. This was an unforgettable show filled with humor, heart, and amazing acting and singing performances. The spring production for the theatre department will be "The Patchwork Girl of Oz."

ASUB Makers Days: Creativity for a Cause

Students, alumni, employees, and community members took part in an exciting opportunity to unleash their creativity while supporting a meaningful cause. With the guidance of Assistant Professor of Art Lisa Floryshak, participants crafted handmade pottery, gingerbread houses, and ornaments that will be displayed and sold at the ASUB Tree-Lighting Ceremony on December 3. All proceeds from the sale of these unique creations will go to the Student Emergency Hope Fund, a crucial resource for students facing unexpected challenges. Every piece that has been created brings hope to a student in need.

ASUBeConnected through Community Events

ASUB is proud to support and sponsor area Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club fall community festivals. CabotFest was held on October 12 in downtown Cabot and featured live entertainment, a classic car show, craft booths, and a carnival. The Fallin' Blackbird Festival in downtown Beebe was held on October 19 and featured an early morning 5K run, vendor booths, live entertainment, and a pie-eating contest. The Ozark Trail Festival in Heber Springs on October 5, featured a 5K run, craft vendors, a car show, and its highlight was a reenactment of the 1922 bank robbery on Main Street. Campus employees and students volunteered their time at these events to answer questions and to share ways that ASUB can help transform lives with career training and degree completion.

ASUB-Heber Springs Supports "Trades Around the Lake"

ASUB-Heber Springs was proud to support the future workforce of Cleburne County by participating in the "Trades Around the Lake" event at the Heber Springs Community Center on October 24. High school students had the opportunity to network with more than 30 representatives from local businesses and industries. The Heber Springs campus has served Cleburne County and the surrounding area for 25 years, and we are excited to continue helping students explore options for their degree and/or career paths.

LRAFB Host Jacksonville Chamber Leadership

Participants from the Jacksonville Chamber Leadership Academy held their monthly meeting at the Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) Education Center on October 21. Sponsored by the Education Development Division of the Jacksonville Chamber, the program seeks to develop community leaders with information on local, public-policy issues and community challenges and opportunities. The LRAFB Education Center provides undergraduate and graduate programs with an open campus, servicing civilians and military members and their families. ASUB has operated under a memorandum of understanding with the United States Air Force since 1965 with year-round accelerated eight-week terms and traditional semesters.

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
December 13, 2024**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University-Mountain Home**

Launch of Element 451

Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH) joined the growing number of ASU System colleges investing in the artificial intelligence-enabled, customer-service, management-system known as Element 451. This student-engagement solution aligns with students' expectations for increased digital experiences for all aspects of their interaction with processes throughout the entire time that they are connected to the College. From the very first connection, through the application for admission, to graduation, and beyond, this platform allows students, faculty, and staff to know exactly where every student is along their educational journey, with insights to help everyone remain engaged and on track to success. ASUMH is well into the development phase, with the full launch being rolled out through late 2024 and early 2025.

Stream Team

Mountain Home High School students on the "STREAMTeam" gathered at ASUMH to study Dodd Creek, which runs through the campus. The students took several stream-bank measurements to measure erosion levels along the creek's banks, as well as studying the stream's aquatic life and chemical balance. The StreamTeam takes a deeper look at the ways that human activity has coincided with natural environmental events to improve or harm the environmental situation. This ongoing "living laboratory" project is working in partnership with ASUMH's Biology Department and is made possible by the Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers.

Winter Intersession

ASUMH is currently registering students for fully online, four-week, winter classes that begin December 16 and end on January 9. Offerings include a wide variety of General Education courses for ASUMH and transient students, who may need to complete an additional course during the academic year. The winter-session concept was tested with

just three classes in December 2023. Based on the success of that test run, the project was expanded significantly for 2024.

Center for Student Success

As part of the comprehensive, organization-structure, review and realignment that occurred at ASUMH from October 2023 through September 2024, a new “one-stop” Center for Student Success was developed and launched. Part of the College’s overall recruiting, advising, and retention plan, the Center houses essential student services, including Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar Services, Veterans and Disability Services, Student Success coaches, and more. Other colleges that have all these functions in one central location have experienced positive gains with students, and similar early indications are already showing the same to be true at ASUMH.

Comprehensive Academic Program Review

In November 2024, ASUMH began an initiative to review every academic program and degree option, with a strategic team approach for studying viability and growth potential. The team, comprised of new and veteran employees, is learning about program-specific operations, historical outcomes, capacity opportunities or constraints, return on investment, etc. This work will lead to each program having growth goals, targeted marketing plans, fundraising goals, and an enhanced focus on employer-partner engagement.

**Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees Report
December 13, 2024**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University-Newport**

Strategic Priority 1: Student Success

- On October 28, Amber Stone, of Vanstone Salon and Spa in Jonesboro, was a guest speaker to students in our Cosmetology and Aesthetics programs. She has previously hired several of our former students, and she spoke to our current students about job opportunities in their field. Our industry partners are vital to ensuring program success!
- On October 22, we proudly celebrated the latest cohort of WAGE graduates from the McPherson Correctional Unit, marking their successful program completion. Their achievements represent personal growth and a significant step towards a brighter future.
- Students from ASUN's Agriculture program recently participated in a peanut harvesting event at the University of Arkansas Extension Office. Guided by Extension Agent Matthew Davis, they learned about the peanut plants' growth cycle and about harvesting equipment. This hands-on experience provided valuable insights into the techniques and challenges of peanut farming, highlighting its significance to the local economy.
- Manufacturing Day is celebrated every year on the first Friday in October, with events continuing throughout the month and beyond. This year, ASUN and NEACTC (Northeast Arkansas Career and Technical Center) teamed up to introduce 80 students to rewarding careers in manufacturing. As part of the experience, the students explored the manufacturing processes at Unilever and Nice-Pak facilities in Jonesboro.
- Ryleigh Lard, a 2021 graduate of ASUN's Esthetics program, recently engaged with the Cosmetology and Esthetics students, sharing her valuable insights and experiences from her journey in the cosmetology industry. With enthusiasm and passion, she recounted her challenges and triumphs, offering practical advice and inspiration to the aspiring beauty professionals in the audience. Her stories illuminated the diverse opportunities within the field, encouraging students to embrace their creativity and pursue their dreams.
- We are excited to announce that Brantley Gholson has been awarded the Gene Sweat Scholarship. This scholarship celebrates Brantley's dedication and commitment to academic excellence, while honoring Gene Sweat's legacy. Known for his support of hardworking students, Sweat's integrity and passion for learning live on through this scholarship, uplifting students like Brantley.
- Greg Simpson, the Extension Agent for Agriculture and 4H in Poinsett County, delivered an insightful presentation about his responsibilities to the Ag Tech students. He explained how the extension office serves as a vital resource for the state, conducting innovative research and providing expert consulting

services to support local agricultural practices. His experience as an agronomist and his passion for agricultural education were evident as he shared real-world examples of how extension services positively impact farmers and the community.

- Culinary students and faculty attended the US Foods Food Show in September in Memphis, TN. They had the opportunity to network with restaurateurs and suppliers and showcase the latest products, services, and culinary techniques.
- The first ten-week employability class at the McPherson Unit graduated on September 13. The class was taught by Charles Walker, the Director of Workforce Development.
- Last year, ASUN implemented a re-admission process for Nursing students, who had previously failed a semester of the Nursing Program. We are pleased to report that this initiative has been successful! The pass rate for re-admitted students on the NCLEX is 80%, a significant achievement.
- Landon Butler, from the Farmers Supply Association, visited second-year Agricultural Technology students to discuss career opportunities in Arkansas agriculture.
- Director of Prison Education Program Engagement/Assistant Professor of Psychology Tonya Gates presented Certificates of Proficiency in Welding to the Prison-education students. One graduate also received her American Welding Society (AWS) certification. Congratulations to Director Gates and Michael Deckard, the instructor of Welding, for their ongoing efforts to profoundly change lives and help reduce the recidivism rate in our local community.

Strategic Priority 2: Employee Success

- Professor Emily Passmore was selected to receive the 2024-2025 AACC Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award. Passmore works hard to bring new and engaging ideas to teaching literature and writing. Her crowning achievement is the *ASUN Lit. Pub*, a professionally produced journal highlighting the creative and artistic work of our students, staff, and community members. The *Lit Pub* is of the highest quality and demonstrates academic and intellectual excellence while spotlighting our students and ASUN. Professor Passmore will be recognized at the AACC Annual Conference in Nashville, TN, on April 15, 2025. We congratulate her on this stellar accomplishment!
- Charles Walker, Director for Workforce Development, was selected as the 2024-2025 ASUN's League for Innovation in the Community College award recipient for 2024-2025. Walker is always looking for creative ways to provide educational opportunities to the workforce, using non-traditional course formats and diverse resources. With this award, he will be recognized on the League's website and at the annual Innovations Conference, held this year in San Antonio, Texas, March 9-12. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.
- Mary Houchin and Vicki Frans represented ASUN in the Marked Tree Homecoming Parade on October 25.
- John Judd represented ASUN at the National Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Principal Investigators Conference, held in Washington, D.C., October 23-25. The American Association of Community Colleges, in collaboration with the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), convenes more than 850 NSF ATE grantees and their project partners to address important issues related to advanced technological education.

- Charles Walker participated as a panelist at the Office of Skills Development's Expanding Apprenticeship Summit, which took place at the University of Arkansas Community College in Batesville on September 6.
- Michael Nowlin served as a panelist during the "Training Collaborations" breakout session at Empower Arkansas, Arkansas Advanced Energy's annual conference, held in Little Rock on October 18.
- John Judd attended Haas Automation's Demo Day in Little Rock on September 14. This networking event featured vendors showcasing the latest automation technologies and included informative sessions for participants.
- Dr. Jeanna Mason has been appointed Faculty Association President for the 2025-2026 academic year. Congratulations, Dr. Mason!
- Stephanie Wilson was invited to present at the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ACTM). Last year, Professor Wilson was honored as the ACTM Mathematics Teacher of the Year for Two-Year Colleges.

Strategic Priority 3: Institutional Excellence

- Jonesboro's Annual Applied Sciences Advisory Committee meetings were held on the Jonesboro campus on October 30. Industry representatives shared their expertise and guided students in Culinary Arts, Advanced Manufacturing, Industrial Maintenance, and Welding.
- ASUN hosted the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) State Science Olympiad professional development event. Participants from Northeast Arkansas gathered to learn how to prepare teams for this competition, which attracts some of the brightest sixth-to twelfth-grade students to the ASUN campus each year for exciting science challenges. ASUN will host the Eastern and Central teams on February 22. Special thanks go to Professors Steven Summers, Betsy Walker, and Aja Lloyd for their assistance in organizing this event with UALR.
- ASUN is excited to announce the launch of a new program: an Associate of Science in Data Science – Data Analytics. The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved this program at their quarterly meeting on Friday, October 25. Graduates of this program will have opportunities in a wide range of job sectors, including energy, artificial intelligence and machine learning, technology, business, and many others. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the demand for jobs in this field is expected to grow by 21% by 2031, with an 11% job growth rate anticipated in Arkansas over the next five years. The program is also designed to prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions through 2+2 agreements, allowing them to further their education.
- We have hired Michelle (Collen) Tipler as a career coach for the Augusta and Bradford School Districts. She will split her time between the two districts, and we are excited to welcome her to our team!
- ASU-Newport Career and Transfer Services, along with Arkansas State University (A-State) and the University of Central Arkansas (UCA), will host "Aviator Transfer in a Day" on November 22, 2024, at the ASUN Jonesboro campus. This event allows students to complete transfer applications and explore educational options. Students nearing the completion of their transfer degree programs will receive an invitation with a registration link to a Teams Forms survey, collecting their demographics, preferred universities, and desired enrollment semesters.

Attendees can meet with transfer counselors and admissions staff from A-State and UCA and receive on-the-spot admissions decisions, pending required document submissions.

- Roni Horton, Dean for Enrollment Management, and Dr. Monica Mobley, Dean for STEM, traveled to the University of Maryland Global Campus in College Park, MD, to attend the Achieving the Dream (ATD) Data and Analytics Summit. The insights gained from the ATD conference will be shared to help cultivate a data-driven culture on the ASUN campus.
- Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the official national honor society for junior college students, sent student officers and advisors representing ASUN to the Regional Oklahoma/Arkansas Chapter Institute held in Fort Smith. The students engaged in leadership development and academic research training. Additionally, our Aviators visited the Fort Smith Air Museum.
- We are excited to announce that the ASUN PTK Chapter has successfully applied for and received a \$1,000 grant to support their Honors in Action 2024 project. Dr. Jeanna Mason, Associate Professor of English, and students Cheyenne Sheppard and Jerry Brown, spearheaded the grant application.
- ASUN has been selected to participate in the Scaling Learner Opportunity and Economic Growth Across Arkansas program, powered by the Education Design Lab's Community College Growth Engine. We will collaborate with other higher-education leaders to develop accessible, affordable, and accelerated micro-pathways. This initiative will help individuals earn portable credentials that align with high-demand jobs. The Seven-College Cohort consists of ASUN, ASUTR, EACC, NorthArk, SouthArk, UA-Rich Mountain, and ATU-Ozark Campus.
- The High Voltage Lineman (HVL) program received a generous 42' bucket truck donation from Craighead Electric Cooperative, Inc. This is a fantastic example of industry support focused on student success.
- ASUN has been awarded the ALIGN Grant for Secondary Centers from the Office of Skills Development. This funding will support the launching of a new Practical Nursing program for high school juniors in Jonesboro starting in Spring 2025. Students who complete the program will be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensing exam in the summer following their high school graduation.
- The ASUN Community Fall Festival and Athletic Expo occurred on October 17. It was an enjoyable evening, featuring activities that included bounce houses, delicious food, pumpkin decorating, live music, and much more. We also had the opportunity to introduce our Aviator student-athletes and hear from Coach Kevin Pearce and Coach Logan Nutt about their upcoming seasons.
- The Aviator Honors Program is excited to announce the start of Year 2 in Flex 2! This is a wonderful opportunity for students, who are aspiring future leaders, to network and delve deeper into their education. A special thanks goes to Joe Campbell, the Dean of Liberal Arts and the Honors College. Requirements for the honors program are on our website: <https://www.asun.edu/student-services/honors-program.php#gsc.tab=0>.
- Tammy Vaughn, the Program Coordinator of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN), recently conducted a five-year review of our Practical and Registered Nursing programs. She commended our faculty, staff, and students for their outstanding efforts.
- On September 17, we celebrated National Voter Registration Day by offering students, faculty, and staff opportunities to register to vote at each ASUN campus.

- ASUN provides free medical and psychiatric support for students through Timely Care. It is essential to ensure that students know the available resources and encourage them to utilize these services
- On October 3-4, our Achieving the Dream (ATD) coaches, James "Dub" Green and Keisha Jones, visited ASU-Newport. It will take our collective efforts to make significant progress in improving equitable student outcomes. This is a three-year journey. Given the dedication of our exceptional faculty and staff, we are confident that ASU-Newport will achieve the status of a Leader College of Distinction. The coaches are scheduled to return to campus in January 2025.
- On October 4, ASU-Newport conducted campus-wide professional development for all employees. All ASUN campuses were closed while full-time faculty and staff attended.
- Fall Break was scheduled on October 10-11.
- FFA Regional events were held at ASU-Newport on October 21.
- On October 23-24, Dr. Brendan Kelly, President of the ASU System, visited the ASU-Newport campus. His visit provided a valuable opportunity to showcase our campuses' innovative programs and initiatives. We look forward to having his leadership inspire us all, as we strive for excellence in education and student success.
- The Marked Tree Applied Science Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 1. Advisory members from various industries in our program were present to provide feedback on the latest developments in the field.
- AHECB Meetings were held on October 25 at UACCB.
- On October 29, we held an Early College meeting at the ASU-Newport Campus.
- ASUN hosted a Student Fall Festival and Red Ribbon Week activities on October 29-31. The fall festival theme included dress-up days.
- Fall Advisory Boards Meetings:
 - October 30 on the ASUN-Jonesboro campus at noon
 - November 14 on the ASU-Newport campus at noon
- ASU-Newport hosted the Lineman Rodeo on November 4, where over 30 students from the High Voltage Lineman program participated. Several cooperatives were in attendance and judged the competition. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this event's success by showcasing our students' Lineman Technology skills.
- We held an Early College Advisory meeting on November 6 on the ASUN-Jonesboro campus.
- On November 7, ASUN hosted the 2024 PTK Induction Fall Ceremony. We want to congratulate our new PTK inductees! This event celebrated academic excellence, as we welcomed an outstanding group of students into the Beta Nu Gamma Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.
- A special thanks to our PTK advisors and chapter officers for making the day memorable. For those who couldn't attend, swipe through for highlights! Remember, PTK membership offers great benefits, including scholarships and leadership opportunities. Keep striving for greatness!
- ASU-Newport experienced the highest enrollment growth among all two-year institutions within the ASU System for the Fall 2024 semester! The University reported 1,903 students, reflecting a 9.9% increase of 279 students, compared to last year's enrollment of 1,732.
- September 17 is the date of the Arkansas State Board of Nursing Site Visit.

- ASUN student Jake Montgomery won the slogan contest for the 2024-25 school year. The new slogan, "ASU-Newport: Where Dreams Take Flight," was announced on August 15 during convocation.

Strategic Priority 4: Community Engagement

- The second Annual "Feastgiving" Competition was held on the ASUN campus through November 8. We all have many things to be thankful for, and this friendly competition aims to provide Thanksgiving meals to needy students. Our goal is to pack 85 boxes of food to distribute this year. Qualifying students were able to pick up their boxes on November 15.
- Students from the Surgical Technology program recently volunteered at the annual Community Fall Walk, bringing smiles and treats to local elementary students. Dressed in festive attire, the students handed out candy and engaged with children and families, adding a touch of joy to the event. The Surgical Technology students showcased their commitment to healthcare and community service by participating in this event.
- Advanced Instructors Marlin Tice and Daniel Adamson promoted the Energy Control Technology and Computer and Networking Technology programs at the Valley View Career Fair.
- ASUN participated in the Trunk or Treat event at Marked Tree Elementary. Special thanks go to Mary Houchin, Vicki Frans, and Mark Constant.
- Mary Houchin, Vicki Frans, Michael Nowlin, Charles Walker, and Chris Reynolds attended the annual Marked Tree Chamber of Commerce Banquet on October 29.
- Assistant Professor of Oral Communication and College and Life Skills Irina Reynolds and ASUN students earned community service hours by volunteering at the Newport Elementary School Fall Festival.
- On October 22, students from Newport High School's Culinary Arts program visited the ASUN-Jonesboro Culinary Arts program. During this engaging experience, they watched a detailed demonstration of breaking down a whole hog. The skilled instructors provided insight into the techniques. The students gained valuable knowledge that deepened their understanding of culinary practices and sustainable cooking.
- Stephanie Wilson, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was honored at the Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC) meeting held from October 13 to 15 in Hot Springs. The ACC Annual Conference is the state's primary professional development event for community college professionals, with participation from all 22 public community colleges in Arkansas. Professor Wilson received the title of 2024 Outstanding Faculty Honoree for ASUN.
- Associate Professor of Early Childhood Development Stacy Mooney facilitated a successful service-learning project for her students at the ASU-Jonesboro campus at the NEA Food Bank. The students engaged in every phase of the assembly-line process. They packed 332 food boxes, amounting to 4,786 meals distributed throughout Northeast Arkansas.
- This fall, students Jervis Young and Kira Carmichael practiced blood-pressure checks in the Anatomy and Physiology II Lab, under the guidance of Assistant Professor of Life Sciences Justin Stewart. ASUN students gain valuable, hands-on experience in the A&P Labs.
- Nursing students participated in a trash pickup on Friday and helped clean up the campus after the fall festival. On October 14, ASUN Education Students, under the guidance of Associate Professor Stacy

Mooneyhan, collaborated with Coach Marcus Lewis and concurrent education students from Newport High School to take part in Newport's Trashiest Team contest. Together, they worked to collect litter and promote a cleaner environment.

- ASUN participated in the Palestine-Wheatley High School College and Career Fair. Students learned about our in-demand programs, including those for high-voltage linemen, surgical technology, cosmetology and aesthetics, education, and more.
- Wynne High School's ninth graders discovered some amazing programs offered on the ASUN-Marked Tree campus, including Surgical Technology, Computer Networking, Cosmetology/Esthetics, Nursing, General Education, and much more.
- Ken Beach, the Assistant Director of Workforce Development, along with John Judd and Darrin Thomason, Instructors of Advanced Manufacturing, and Justin Upchurch, Instructor of Welding, prepared 240 hurricane hotdogs for NEACTC students. ASUN's NSF-CAMMP grant sponsored this event.
- ASUN Aviators helped rally the Newport Greyhounds to a win on Friday, 9/7/24. In a White River Bowl football game, the Newport Greyhounds beat the Batesville Pioneers 66-24. We had a great time tailgating and socializing with other Greyhound fans!
- Last year, ASUN introduced a re-admission process for nursing students, who did not complete a semester of the Nursing Program. We are pleased to report that this initiative has been successful, and our pass rate on the NCLEX for readmitted students is 80%, a significant achievement.
- Let the tiles fall in your favor! ASU-Newport Library offered Beginner Mahjong Classes from September 12 to September 26. Whether you are new to mahjong or looking to improve your skills, this is an excellent opportunity to learn from experienced local players. For more information regarding future classes, contact Debbie Jewell at library@asun.edu.
- The Aviator Classic Golf Tournament, held at the Newport Country Club on September 6, was a great success. This four-person scramble was a day of fun, competition, and community spirit, supporting Aviator Athletics.
- The Board of Visitors meeting was held on the ASU-Newport campus on November 20. We appreciate the members' dedication and time commitment to serving.

ASUN Academic Program Notifications

Curriculum Revision

- To better align with American Culinary Federation standards, we are changing CA1003 Introduction to Food Systems to Food Safety and Sanitation. The ServSafe Manager Certificate will be incorporated into this course. Also, CA1053 Bar and Beverage will be moved to the TC and replaced with CA1263 Nutrition. These changes adjust the CP in Culinary Arts from 15 to 12 credit hours.

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees Report
December 13, 2024**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University Mid-South**

Enrollment Update

Fall 2024 marks the second consecutive fall semester of growth for ASU Mid-South. While headcount increased by only five students year over year, the total number of student semester credit hours (SSCH) increased 7.3 percent. That increase indicates that attending students are enrolling in more courses than during the previous fall semester.

While overall enrollment showed a mere 0.6 percent growth, enrollment in short-term (8-week semester) coursework indicated significant increases. Short-Term 1 showed a 24.2 percent increase in headcount and a 24.6 percent increase in SSCH. Short-Term 2 revealed a 14.2 percent increase in headcount and a 14.3 increase in SSCH. These increases reflect a changing landscape in higher education, as more students are eschewing the traditional 16week model of instruction, in favor of a model that provides them a more flexible and quicker return on their investment of time and tuition.

Higher Learning Commission Update

▪ **Reaffirmation of Accreditation**

On August 30, ASU Mid-South received the following confirmation that the Institutional Actions Committee (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission, "...continued the accreditation of Arkansas State University Mid-South with the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2033-34." This long-awaited result follows a 10-Year Comprehensive Evaluation Site Visit by a Peer Review Team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which was held on April 8-9. This positive outcome was the culmination of a lot of hard work and a committed team effort. Special thanks go to Dr. Emilee Sides, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, for

her outstanding leadership as Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) and for her positive spirit throughout the preparation and review processes.

- **New HLC Peer Reviewers Appointed**

Vice Chancellor for Student Services, Jeremy Reece, and Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, Dr. Emilee Sides, were both recently selected to become a part of the Higher Learning Commission's Peer Corps of reviewers. The insight and knowledge they will gain from this experience will no doubt help to inform our own internal policies and processes and help to ensure that ASU Mid-South remains solidly positioned for our next accreditation cycle.

Complete College America (CCA)

- **Annual Convening**

CCA invited ASU Mid-South to present an overview of its student-success work at its Annual Convening, held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 17-21. A team, consisting of Chancellor Debra West, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Jeremy Reece, Vice Chancellor for Learning and Instruction Jeff Gray, and Dean for Student Success Dr. Stephanie Krehl, will be discussing the various changes the College has made to advising, course scheduling, developmental education, financial aid, and student support services in its efforts to incentivize credit accumulation and credential completion. ASU Mid-South has increased its IPEDS graduation rate from 13% to 50% and its overall student success rate (which includes graduation, retention, and transfer) from 38% to 69% over the past six years and continues to be recognized by Complete College America as a national leader in its efforts to improve student success.

- **CCA Leadership Academy Participants Selected**

CCA is dedicated to empowering leaders from Predominantly Black and Historically Black Community Colleges (PBCCs and HBCCs) through Mid-Manager and Executive Leadership Academies. The mission of these year-long, leadership-development programs is the following: (1) to develop and empower leaders from PBCCs and HBCCs; and (2) to build a robust network

of change-makers who are committed to fostering student success and transforming institutions for the better.

ASU Mid-South is pleased to announce that Bridget Stewart, Director of our PBI (Predominantly Black Institutions) Grant, was accepted to Complete College America's PBCC/HBCC Mid-Manager Leadership Academy. We also congratulate Jeff Gray, Vice Chancellor for Learning and Instruction, who was accepted into the Complete College America's PBCC/HBCC Executive Leadership Academy.

Because these leadership programs are competitive, these deserving individuals' selection reflects not only the quality of their applications, but in the words of CCA, "...their outstanding accomplishments and commitment to advancing educational equity and their potential to make a significant impact in the community-college landscape." ASU Mid-South is thrilled to have them represent us in this year's leadership cohorts, and we look forward to the new perspectives and innovative ideas they will bring back to our campus as a result of their participation.

New Hybrid Classrooms

ASU Mid-South's five-year Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant, entitled "Increasing Student Success Through Technology, concluded on September 30, 2024. This grant, awarded just prior to the pandemic in the fall of 2019, provided for the strategic implementation of various technology-driven initiatives to support delivery of both instruction and student-support services. It arrived at a critical time, as the pandemic soon forced the College to shift to more online-and-alternative delivery instruction and support.

During the last quarter of the grant, funds were directed to the redesign and equipping of two classrooms, one in the University Center and the other in the Southland Science Building, which where they were converted into hybrid classrooms. These enhanced learning environments, popular with both students and faculty, allow for a mix of students to be present in the physical classroom, as well as for students joining the class virtually. They provide faculty and students more flexibility, allowing individuals to connect to the class from home when they

must, while simultaneously maintaining the in-person classroom experience for those who prefer more robust, face-to-face engagement.

New Ambulance Simulator

ASU Mid-South recently purchased and installed a state-of-the-art ambulance simulator, thanks to funding provided by its Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) grant. This programmable simulator joins with ASU Mid-South's ambulance as a valuable training tool in efforts to fulfill the demand for EMS, EMT, and Paramedics in our region, while ensuring that our graduates are positioned to be job-ready on day one.

BOSCH Grant

ASU Mid-South is the recipient of a \$10,000 Bosch Community Fund Grant. Bosch Community Grant funds support education programs focused on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), robotics and environmental sustainability. ASU Mid-South's grant funding will be used to support the College's Information Systems Technology program, including the purchase of routers and switches for its CISCO Networking Academy. Funding is by invitation only, and ASU Mid-South has been invited to participate in each round of funding since the program's inception in 2015.

Strategic Planning

ASU Mid-South kicked off its 2025-2028 strategic planning cycle on November 22, with a Campus Luncheon and Planning Meeting. The first step in this work, which will conclude in the spring, was to engage on-campus stakeholders in an analysis designed to gauge our institution's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Dr. Martin Eggensperger, President of Black River Technical College, facilitated this highly interactive activity. Results will inform the College's Planning Committee as it works to update ASU Mid-South's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON)

Service Advisory Panel

Dr. Michael Lejman, ASU Mid-South's Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Technology and Research, will begin serving a two-year term on the ARE-ON Service Advisory Panel (ASAP), effective January 2025. ASAP's purpose is to provide strategic guidance that helps shape ARE-ON's services and initiatives to better serve its member institutions throughout the state. ARE-ON is a not-for-profit organization, the mission of which is to promote, develop, and apply leading technologies to support and enhance research, education, public safety, health care, and economic development in the state of Arkansas.

Small Works on Paper Exhibit

ASU Mid-South hosted the 37th Annual Exhibition of Small Works on Paper in the Donald W. Reynolds Center on November 8–25. This annual, juried, touring, visual-art exhibition showcases 2D artwork, no larger than 18-by-24 inches, that is created by Arkansas artists. All work selected for this exhibit must be original, on paper, and completed within the last two years. Submitting artists must be on the Artist Registry. The exhibit at ASU Mid-South was made possible by the support of the Arkansas Arts Council, the Arkansas Department of Heritage, DeltaARTS, and the Rocky Smith Endowment for the Arts at ASU Mid-South.

Academic Program Notifications

ASU Mid-South reports the following academic program status changes (inactive or deleted) this quarter:

Deleted:

- CP in Process Technology
- CP in Marine Diesel Technology

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees Report
December 13, 2024**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University Three Rivers**

Saline County Career Technical Campus

Saline County Career Technical Campus (SCCTC) received a \$20,000 planning grant through the HIRED Grant process and an invitation to submit a larger grant request in mid-November. The focus of the program is to develop pathways for skills-development in the advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and defense sectors.

Arkansas State University Three Rivers Adult Education

A new Integrated Education and Training (IET) program is underway at our Malvern Site. The Certified Clinical Medical Assistant training class will conclude in late October, with a new class beginning in early November. These eight-week courses provide specialized training and prepare students for certification exams in their respective fields.

Malvern Campus Career Center and Workforce Development Update

The Skills USA annual Fresh Country Fund Raising drive was a success, generating more than \$23,000 in sales and donations. This resulted in a profit of approximately \$9,000 to support student activities.

Our Workforce Development's partnership with West Fraser Qualified Millwright and Electrician programs continues, with 2,442 hours of training scheduled through the end of FY 2025. We are currently conducting the ASUTR Professional Development Academy for the following mills: West Fraser of Joyce, LA; Angelina, TX; and Henderson, TX; as well as Xpress Boats and Veranda Luxury Pontoon; the Clark County Workforce Training Group (Siplast, South Central Electric Cooperative/South Central Connect, Drumco, Samantha's Café and Bakery, Arkadelphia Alliance); RBD Construction; Jasper Lumber Co., Jasper, AL; Southeastern Timber Do, Akerman MS.

ASUTR Workforce hosted several Welding Basics classes in September and will provide professional development training for Southern Bancorp in Arkadelphia in November.

Student Affairs and Retention

On September 23, ASU Three Rivers hosted the ASU Three Rivers College Fair, which was attended by students from Malvern, Poyen, Ouachita, Glen Rose, and Magnet Cove High Schools.

Six hundred twenty-eight ASU Three Rivers students received federal, state, institutional, or private aid, totaling \$5,223,523.76, an average of \$8,317.71 for each student. Vergina Smith, ASUTR's Associate Vice-Chancellor for Student Retention and TRiO Director, scheduled a Community Advisory Board Meeting/Ministers' Alliance Friendsgiving Dinner for November 11, and the Retention Awareness Council's "Sip 'N Mingle" event for December 9.

Our College Learning Advocate received 39 referrals, affecting 36 students from Early Alerts, PCS Course face-to-face meetings, C.A.R.E. (Campus Assessment Response and Education) Team referrals, and high school career coaches. We are pleased that ASUTR's Career Pathways program has been approved for continued funding from DHS for FY25, receiving \$417,988.

The Eagle Outreach Pantry served 56 unduplicated households in August, with 24 of these being new families. In September, the Pantry served 44 households, 20 of which were new. As of October 7, 2024, the Pantry had assisted 20 households, with seven being new clients.

College Advancement and Community Outreach

- Press Releases and News Announcements (posted at ASUTR.edu):
 - [ASU Three Rivers Foundation and Donor Scholarship Recipients Recognized at First Scholarship Donor Reception](#)
 - [Dr. Brendan Kelly Begins Tenure as New President of Arkansas State University System](#)

Eight Employee Education Opportunity Grants were awarded to employees seeking their bachelor's or master's degrees through ASU or HSU for the Fall 2024 semester.

Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees
December 13, 2024

Chancellor's Report
Henderson State University

Spring and Fall 2025 Recruitment:

Recruitment for Spring and Fall 2025 is in full swing. This year, we have a full admissions staff (the first since 2017). We have also added two full-time Texas and Louisiana recruiters. Below are the current recruitment statistics:

- A. Applications – Fall: +601 (+54%)
- B. Admits – Fall: +641 (+80%)
- C. Students Accepting Scholarships – Fall: +362
- D. International Applications: +7
- E. Spring Admits: +80

High School Visits:

The Henderson Admissions team has visited more than 35 high schools and college fairs in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas since August. We have also begun holding “T-shirt Days” at many area high schools, where the chancellor visits and we give each student a T-shirt (acting as a walking billboard among their classmates). We have held T-shirt Days at Centerpoint, Cutter Morning Star, Malvern, Arkadelphia, Mena, Lake Hamilton, and Sheridan (upcoming).

Fiscal Strength:

Henderson continues to make great strides in fiscal strength. We held a budget review with our University Budget Committee in October, confirming that we met our budget for the fall. We received a clean audit from the state, and our Moody's rating was upgraded to Baa1. We will hold a second budget review in February. These are tremendous signs of increased stability.

Advertising:

We continue to increase our advertising on social media, billboards, radio, television, and in print. We will have two billboards in Texas beginning in the spring semester.

The Reddie Network:

In cooperation with our Board of Visitors and Alumni Board, we launched the Reddie Network. This organization engages alumni in recruiting, internships, job placement, and fundraising. Educators were our initial target group. Since its November 1 launch, 518 alumni have become members.

Academics:

We will submit our new three-year (90-hour) Criminal Justice degree to the ADHE Coordinating Board for final approval in January.

Our new Film Acting major will begin in Fall 2025, pending approval.

A recent ACE visiting accreditation team gave a very positive review of our Master's in Nursing degree. This will now proceed to the national board.

We received a \$50,000 Windgate Foundation grant in November for classroom technology upgrades in our Teachers College.

Campus Renovations and Improvements:

General campus improvements continue, including power washing, painting, carpentry repairs, and new signage. We are developing a needed green space along Henderson Street for intramural sports, band practices, and university events. Renovations to Russell Fine Arts Building, Mooney Hall, Smith Hall, and two chemistry labs will begin before Christmas. The historic Henderson Bell, restored thanks to the Henderson Foundation, was dedicated on November 16. It's located on the south lawn.

Athletics:

The Battle of the Ravine football game drew over 9,700 spectators to Carpenter-Hagood Stadium. Gate revenues exceeded \$44,000 (compared to \$12,000 last year).

We are hiring a new track coach (process to be completed by Christmas), and the track program will resume in August 2025.

Fundraising is underway for several sports, including a covered batting and pitching facility for baseball.

Cafeteria and Community:

In September, we opened the Malachi Smith Cafeteria to the community for Sunday lunch and dinner (12:00–5:00 p.m.). Since September 15, 1,032 community members have dined there on Sundays.