

**Arkansas State University System  
Board of Trustees  
June 6, 2024**

**ASU SYSTEM FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Contact: Nicole Frey (870) 972-2576**

For the period ending March 31, 2024 (unaudited), the Arkansas State University System Foundation recorded gifts and other support of \$29,949,974.

Contributions were designated as follows:

ASU-Jonesboro	\$28,806,633
ASU-Mountain Home	376,487
ASU-Beebe	221,932
ASU-Newport	390,583
ASU-Three Rivers	118,545
ASU System Foundation	35,795

The Foundation reported net assets of \$154,736,387, representing an increase of 31.39% for the period ending March 31, 2024.

The market value of the ASU System Foundation Endowment Pool for the period ending March 31, 2024, was \$128,660,282.

The net rate of return for the period ending March 31, 2024, was 9.66%.

Endowment balances designated per campus are as follows:

Jonesboro	\$110,980,584
Mountain Home	6,022,289
Beebe	2,350,501
Newport	3,027,218
Three Rivers	922,459
Red Wolves Foundation	2,087,743
System Foundation	3,269,489
Total	<u>\$128,660,282</u>

**Arkansas State University System  
Capital Projects Report  
June 6, 2024**

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

**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (A-STATE)**

<b><u>PROJECT TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
Misc. Bldg. Site Demolition	\$4,008,109	Substantially Complete
Arkansas Biosciences Inst. First Floor Exhaust Upgrades	901,297	Substantially Complete
Ed/Comm-5 Classroom Renovation-Lounge	350,000	Substantially Complete
FNB Arena AHU Replacement Phase 2	860,553	Substantially Complete
Fowler Center Lighting	186,744	Construction Phase
FNB Arena New Sound System	180,291	Construction Phase
Village Apartments Repairs and ADA Modifications	6,343,509	Construction Phase
Collegiate Park HVAC	340,800	Construction Phase
Lab Science West Fire Alarm Replacement	328,590	Construction Phase
First National Bank Arena AHU Replacement Phase 1	1,078,839	Construction Phase
ABI Cage Washer	560,299	Construction Phase
Student Union Security Access	455,631	Construction Phase
Library Security Access	420,959	Construction Phase
Dyess Roof Replacement	271,629	Construction Phase
Loop Trail Phases III and IV	1,149,353	Construction Phase
Lab Science West 333 Classroom Renovation	354,036	Construction Phase
Sorority Houses HVAC	246,129	Construction Phase
Campus Fiber Redesign	213,907	Construction Phase
FM Fire Alarm Panel Upgrades	104,555	Construction Phase
Arena/Stadium Daktronics Upgrades	292,755	Construction Phase
Football Stadium Seats	182,286	Construction Phase
FNB Arena Courtyard	171,360	Construction Phase
Armory-Beck Center and Kitchen	536,032	Construction Phase
Campus Security	1,153,354	Construction Phase
Caraway Rd. Closure Improvements/Parking Deck Entrance	999,999	Design Phase
Arkansas Hall Fan Coils	286,000	Design Phase
University Hall Fan Coils	273,000	Design Phase
Tyronza Grain Bin Remodel	1,916,383	Design Phase
Windgate Art and Innovation Center	25,219,886	Design Phase
Ed Comm Bathroom Renovation – ADA	100,000	Design Phase

**1. Misc. Building Site Demolition**

Architect/Engineer: WER  
Contractor: Meadows Contractors  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
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. Arkansas Biosciences Institute First Floor Exhaust Upgrades**

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit  
Contractor: RGB  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The scope of this project is to provide a stand-alone exhaust system for the west wing of the first floor of the ABI building. The project is substantially complete.

**3. Ed Comm-5 Classroom Reno-Lounge**

Architect/Engineer: AMR Architects  
Contractor: TBD  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
Funding: College of Communications Departmental Funds

Status: The classroom portion of this project is complete. The lounge remodel is complete.

**4. FNB Arena AHU 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.

**5. Fowler Center Lighting**

Architect/Engineer: N/A  
Contractor: Gateway Sight and Sound  
Expected Completion: TBD  
Funding: Rental and Lease Revenue

Status: This project is an upgrade of the lighting in Riceland Hall.

**6. FNB Arena New Sound System**

Architect/Engineer: N/A  
Contractor: Gateway Sight and Sound  
Expected Completion: TBD  
Funding: Athletics and University Reserves

Status: This project is an upgrade of the sound system in the FNB Arena.

**7. Village Apartments Repairs and ADA Modifications**

Architect/Engineer: Cromwell Architects-DCI Engineering  
Contractor: Nabholz Construction  
Expected Completion: Fall 2024 (line up)  
Funding: University Reserves

Status: Exterior building repairs to the Village Apartments began in June 2014 with Nabholz Construction. This work will be phased over multiple years, but the projected completion date is planned for November 2024.

**8. Collegiate Park HVAC**

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers  
Contractor: RGB Mechanical  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
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.

**9. Lab Science West Fire Alarm Replacement**

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit  
Contractor: Johnson Controls Fire Protection  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
Funding: University Reserves

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

**10. First National Bank Arena Air Handler Unit Replacement Phase 1**

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit  
Contractor: RGB Mechanical  
Expected Completion: Fall 2024  
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.

#### **11. ABI Cage Washer**

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

Status: The original cage washer has reached its end of life. A new washer has been ordered and is expected to be delivered in Fall 2024.

#### **12. Student Union Security Access (Margin)**

Architect/Engineer: Steiling Architecture  
Contractor: Ditta Door, A State ITS  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
Funding: University Reserves/Access and Security Fee

Status: The project upgrades the exterior entrances for lockdown and electronic access and adds additional cameras. Parts and materials have been ordered and construction is underway.

#### **13. Library Security Access**

Architect/Engineer: Steiling Architecture  
Contractor: Ditta Door, A-State ITS  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
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. Parts and materials have been ordered. Construction is proceeding with considerable progress.

#### **14. Dyess Roof Replacement**

Architect/Engineer: WER  
Contractor: Baldwin and Shell  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
Funding: University Reserves/Insurance Claim

Status: The wood shingles have moved beyond their design life. This project has replaced the existing shingles and is addressing water damage from the leaking roof inside the building. The project is substantially complete.

#### **15. Loop Trail Phase 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 plan to extend the existing campus trail system into the northeast quadrant of the campus and to connect the residence halls to the campus core. It 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. Funding is in place and construction has begun.

**16. Lab Science West 333 Classroom Renovation**

Architect/Engineer:	Brackett Krennerich
Contractor:	Bailey
Expected Completion:	Fall 2024
Funding:	University Reserves

Status: The project transforms an existing underutilized laboratory into a new classroom.

**17. Sorority Houses HVAC**

Architect/Engineer:	Insight
Contractor:	RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion:	Fall 2024
Funding:	University Reserves

Status: The project will remove and replace the HVAC units for all sorority chapter rooms.

**18. Campus Fiber Redesign**

Architect/Engineer:	N/A
Contractor:	Cline Environmental
Expected Completion:	Fall 2024
Funding:	University Funds

Status: The project adds to the existing fiber loop on campus.

**19. FM Fire Alarm Panel Upgrades**

Architect/Engineer:	N/A
Contractor:	Johnson Controls
Expected Completion:	Fall 2024
Funding:	University Reserves

Status: The project upgrades the existing fire-alarm panels at Facilities Management.

**20. Arena/Stadium Daktronics Upgrades**

Architect/Engineer:	N/A
Contractor:	Gateway Sight & Sound
Expected Completion:	Fall 2024
Funding:	University Reserves

Status: This project upgrades the sound system and related equipment in the FNB Arena.

## **21. Football Stadium Seats**

Architect/Engineer:	N/A
Contractor:	N/A
Expected Completion:	Fall 2024
Funding:	University Reserves

Status: This project replaces some of the existing football stadium seats.

## **22. FNB Arena Courtyard**

Architect/Engineer:	Pickering
Contractor:	Meadows Construction
Expected Completion:	Fall 2024
Funding:	University Reserves

Status: This project replaces the concrete paving in the courtyard adjacent to the Hames Room and addresses the drainage for the area. Construction on this should begin soon.

## **23. Armory – Beck Center and Kitchen**

Architect/Engineer:	Cooper Mixon
Contractor:	Baldwin and Shell
Expected Completion:	Spring 2025
Funding:	University Reserves

Status: The Beck Center work is complete, and the kitchen renovations are in the construction phase.

## **24. Campus Security**

Architect/Engineer:	N/A
Contractor:	N/A
Expected Completion:	TBD
Funding:	Access and Security Fee

Status: This project is designed to provide campus security improvements. The project is overseen by ITS and includes such items as cameras and lighting.

## **25. Caraway Road Closure Improvements/New Parking Deck Entrance**

Architect/Engineer:	Crafton-Tull
Contractor:	TBD
Expected Completion:	TBD
Funding:	University Reserves

Status: This multi-phase project will update drainage and building access to the parking deck from Caraway Road. Phase I is a new entrance to the parking deck that will be added south of the closed portion of Caraway Road.

**26. 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.

**27. University Hall Fan Coils**

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers  
Contractor: RGB Mechanical/Other  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
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.

**28. Tyronza Grain Bin Remodel**

Architect/Engineer: Revival Architecture  
Contractor: TBD  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
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 bidding phase.

**29. Windgate Art and Innovation Center**

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

Status: This project creates an Art and Innovation building to house functions for both Art and Engineering. The project is in the construction document phase.

**30. Ed Comm Bathroom Reno - ADA**

Architect/Engineer: Steiling  
Contractor: TBD  
Expected Completion: TBD  
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project is to renovate the restrooms in Ed Comm for ADA accessibility. The design is complete.



## ASU-BEEBE

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Bloodworth Nursing Building Project	\$1,976,093	Planning/Design
Vet Tech HVAC Replacement Project	160,000	Planning/Design

### 1. Bloodworth Nursing Building Project

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers  
Contractor: Flynn Co  
Expected Completion: Fall 2024  
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: TBD  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
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.

## ASU-MOUNTAIN HOME

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
ASUMH Tech Center Expansion	\$1,707,000	Substantially Complete
ASUMH Trail Lighting and Landscaping	420,000	Design

### 1. ASUMH Technical Center Expansion

Architect/Engineer: Architecture Plus  
Contractor: Gregory Construction  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
Funding: Grants

Status: ASUMH has received a Regional Workforce Development grant, which includes \$808,000 for construction, as well as a grant from the Arkansas Office of Skills Development, which includes \$699,000 for construction. Expanding the Tech Center will support ASUMH's boat manufacturing, injection molding, and

extrusion manufacturing and enlarges it by an additional 6,300 square feet. Construction began in February 2023.

**2. ASUMH Trail Lighting and Landscaping**

Architect/Engineer: Halff Associates  
Contractor: TBD  
Expected Completion: Summer 2024  
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 Alternatives Program grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation, along with 20% matching institutional funds.

**ASU-NEWPORT**

<b><u>PROJECT TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
Arts Center Parking Lot Repaving Project	\$478,000	Construction
ASUN Memorial Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II	106,000	Bidding Phase
ASUN Memorial Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase II	103,000	Design Phase
ASUN Center for Health Sciences Building Project	7,494,000	Design Phase

**1. ASUN Center for the Arts Parking Lot Repaving**

Architect/Engineer: Brackett-Krennerich Architects  
Contractor: Sugg Construction, Inc.  
Expected Completion: July 2024  
Funding: Deferred Maintenance Funds, Institutional Reserves

Status: This project will repair and repave the parking lot at the Center for the Arts on the Newport Campus. The project is funded by Deferred Maintenance Funds and Institutional Reserves.

**2. ASUN Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II**

Architect/Engineer: Cromwell Architects  
Contractor: TBD  
Expected Completion: Fall 2024  
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.

**3. ASUN Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I**

Architect/Engineer: Brackett-Krennerich Architects  
Contractor: TBD  
Expected Completion: Fall 2024  
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.

#### **4. ASUN Center for Health Sciences Phase I**

Architect/Engineer: Taggart Architects  
Contractor: TBD  
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. The RFQ process to select a General Contractor is in process, and initial design has begun with the architects.

### **ASU MID-SOUTH**

<b><u>PROJECT TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
FedEx Aviation Maintenance Finish-out	\$1,971,000	Substantially Complete
Reynolds/Univ Center Chiller Replacement	2,138,000	Substantially Complete

#### **1. FedEx Aviation Maintenance Finish-out**

Architect/Engineer: Polk, Stanley, Wilcox  
Contractor: Wagner General Contractors  
Expected Completion: May 2024  
Funding: PBI Grant + Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is to complete the finish-out phase of the mezzanine level of the FedEx Aviation Maintenance Building. The project will complete the 7,000-square-foot facility by adding two classrooms, additional restrooms, an elevator, and a student lounge area. The last phase of the project, including the elevator and building inspections, should be completed by the end of May 2024. The contractors have identified their punch-list items and are currently wrapping up those remaining tasks.

#### **2. Reynolds Center/University Center Chiller Replacement**

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects  
Contractor: Baldwin & Shell  
Expected Completion: May 2024  
Funding: Endowment Funds, Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is to combine and upgrade the chillers for the Reynolds Center and University Center. The contractors have concluded the second phase of the project, which was the actual chiller replacement. They have identified their punch-list items and are currently wrapping up those remaining tasks.

## ASU THREE RIVERS

<b><u>PROJECT TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
Ritz Theatre Renovation–Phase IV	\$1,261,977	Construction
New Nursing Building	8,000,000	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 and visual systems, house and stage lighting, and auditorium renovations and seating. Clark Contractors has completed subcontractor bidding, and construction has begun.

### 2. **New Nursing Building**

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

**Status:** Lewis Architects Engineers have been meeting with Administration and Nursing faculty regarding design features of the Nursing Building. Clark Contractors, LLC, has been chosen as general contractors. The design phase is mostly complete.

## HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY

<b><u>PROJECT TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>
Caddo Center (Phase II)	\$1,400,000	Substantially Complete
Caddo Center (Phase III)	1,191,606	Construction Phase
Barkman House	850,000	Construction Phase

### 1. **Caddo Center (Phase II)**

Architect/Engineer:	SCM Architects
Contractor:	TBD
Expected Completion:	Summer 2024
Funding:	Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) FY2023-2024 Grant

**Status:** The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of the Caddo Center as a one-stop shop for students. These funds from the ANCRC, to adapt the shell of the Caddo Building, will allow continuation of the preservation of the historic Caddo Center, and provide space for Admissions, Financial Aid, Housing, and Advising and Tutoring. This will improve the impression created upon entering the campus and will expand the number of persons viewing the artifacts and the associated information highlighting their importance to the history of Arkansas. This project is currently in the final stages of construction.

**2. Caddo Center (Phase III)**

Architect/Engineer:	SCM Architects
Contractor:	Kinco Constructors
Completion:	Summer 2025
Funding:	Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) FY 2023-2024 Grant

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

**3. Barkman House**

Architect/Engineer:	SCM Architects
Contractor:	Nabholz
Completion:	Summer 2025
Funding:	Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) FY 2023-2024 Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of the Barkman House. The grant will include new roofing, repairing all historic wood on the exterior of the building, adding insulation and duct repairs, painting, and structural repairs. Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2024, and the project is scheduled to be completed by May 2024.

**Arkansas State University  
Board of Trustees  
June 6, 2024**

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

**Academic Affairs and Research:**

- The Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Institutional Actions Council voted to approve the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program for the Arkansas State University (A-State) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM).
  - Dr. Heidi Banse, Associate Dean for Education Strategy at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, was selected as Dean of the CVM and will begin work on July 22, 2024.
- The HLC ten-year comprehensive evaluation visit was conducted in April 2024. The report from the committee will be available in late May 2024.
- HLC's Institutional Actions Council voted to approve Qatar as an A-State location; it officially opens on July 1, 2024.
- Dr. Kristin Johnson is leading a multi-project initiative called the Howl RESTORE (Research, Education, Service, Transition, and Outreach through Reflective Engagement) Hub. The projects are funded by the Arkansas Department of Human Services for a total of \$31,315,468 over the next five years. Major goals of the Howl RESTORE Hub are to study and improve care for clients, who have intellectual or developmental disabilities and clients in foster care. Additionally, the Howl RESTORE Hub will transform how the Medicaid system supports clients and care providers in Arkansas.
- Twenty-six faculty and staff members from Academic Affairs opted into the Optional Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program. There will be demonstrable salary savings for two years as a result of these retirements.
- Academic units have implemented cost-saving measures this academic year, including canceling low-enrollment classes. As a result, we have significantly increased our return on all summer academic workload, as well as on the December and May interim terms, compared to last year.
- Dr. Cherrisse Jones-Branch was appointed as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Communication, effective July 1, 2024.
- Dr. Brad Rawlins will serve as interim dean for the Graduate School, effective July 1, 2024. A national search for the permanent dean will commence in early Fall 2024.
- Due to the retirement of Dr. Mary Jane Bradley, the process of appointing an interim dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Science has begun, with an expected start date of July 1, 2024.

- Seven faculty members received 2023-24 Faculty Achievement Awards. These competitive awards recognize faculty members, who go above and beyond to serve our students in the areas of teaching, advising, scholarship, and service. The seven faculty members are the following:
  - **Excellence in Academic Advising**, Ms. Rashele Wade, Assistant Professor of Social Work and BSW Program Director;
  - **Excellence in Professional Service**, Dr. Ryan Sullivan, Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities and Coordinator of Vocal Studies;
  - **Excellence in Teaching, Non-Tenure-Track**, Dr. Topeka Singleton, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership;
  - **Excellence in Teaching, Tenure-Track**, Dr. Jerica Rich, Assistant Professor of Animal Science;
  - **Emerging Faculty Scholar**, Dr. Lucy Barnhouse, Assistant Professor of History;
  - **Provost's Medal for Excellence in Instruction**, Dr. Ryan Kelly, Professor of Reading;
  - **Chancellor's Medal for Research and Creative Activities**, Dr. Argelia Lorence, Vaughn Endowed Professor of Metabolic Engineering;
- Academic Affairs and Research graduated 2,701 students during two commencement ceremonies on May 4, 2024. Trustee Clark attended both ceremonies and Interim President Myers attended the afternoon ceremony.

#### **Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Actions:**

The following program was approved by AHECB at the April 26, 2024, meeting:

#### **PROGRAM DELETION/INACTIVATION OR REACTIVATION**

- Deletion, B.A., Art

#### **Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Actions:**

The following will be submitted to the AHECB at the July 26, 2024, meeting:

#### **EXISTING CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED ONLINE**

- C.P., Esports Management
- B.S., Global Supply Chain Management

#### **PROGRAM CURRICULUM REVISION**

- D.P.T., Physical Therapy
- B.S., Clinical Laboratory Science
- B.S.R.S., Radiologic Sciences

### **NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

- C.P., Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
- C.P., Personal Financial Wellness
- G.C., Marriage and Family Therapy
- G.C., Pre-Kindergarten Academy

### **NAME OR CIP CHANGE OF EXISTING CERTIFICATE, DEGREE, MAJOR, OPTION OR ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT**

- Departmental name change: Department of Political Science, to be renamed, Department of Government, Law & Policy;
- Departmental name change and reorganization: Department of Emergency Management and Occupational Health, to be renamed, Department of Health Sciences & Risk Management; Dietetics, Health Studies, and Public Health programs to be moved under the Department;
- College name change: College of Sciences and Mathematics, to be renamed, Beck College of Sciences and Mathematics.

### **PROGRAM DELETION/INACTIVATION OR REACTIVATION**

- Deletion, A.A.S., Land Surveying & Geomatics;
- Deletion, B.S., Land Surveying & Geomatics;
- Deletion, C.P., Data Visualization and Information Design;
- Deletion, C.P., Marketing Analytics;
- Deletion, C.P., Museum Studies;
- Inactivate, B.S.E., Chemistry;
- Inactivate, B.S.E., Physics;
- Inactivate, B.S.E., Biology.

## **ATHLETICS**

### **Athletics Administration:**

- The “Howl on Wheels Red Wolves Road Show” is returning with additional locations in this year’s lineup. The 2024 coaches caravan will feature six stops, beginning May 20 and running through June 18.
- During A-State’s fourth annual Day of Giving, Athletics raised \$320,025 as part of the University’s \$837,936 total contributions during the 24-hour event. The \$320,025 raised represents a 311% increase over the previous year’s amount and was the second-highest total for the Red Wolves Foundation in the event’s four-year history.



- Athletics held its annual student-athletes award banquet, the “State Awards,” at First National Bank Arena, celebrating the Red Wolves’ academic success, athletic achievements, and community service.

### **Football:**

- A school-record of nine student-athletes from the 2023 football team were named to the 2024 National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF) Hampshire Honor Society, which is comprised of players, from all divisions, who each maintained a cumulative 3.2 GPA or better throughout their careers.
- The Red Wolves hosted their annual Pack Day Spring Game at Centennial Bank Stadium, which included a free youth clinic, food trucks, and autograph/photo opportunities with the team.

### **Track & Field:**

- Jim Patchell was named both the Men’s and Women’s Sun Belt Conference Indoor Coach of the Year. Pole vault champion, Bradley Jelmert, earned the league’s Men’s Field Performer of the Year honor, while Michelle Ogbemudia was tabbed the Women’s Newcomer of the Year.
- Jelmert Bradley became the first A-State men’s track & field student-athlete to medal at the NCAA Indoor Championships since 2017, taking silver in the men’s pole vault. Colby Eddowes placed seventh in the heptathlon as the Red Wolves had two student-athletes tabbed First Team All-America for the first time since 2014.
- The Red Wolves finished the indoor championship 24th in the nation, earning the program’s first top 25 finish since 2014.
- Director of Track & Field and Cross Country Dr. Jim Patchell, the program’s all-time winningest head coach, was selected as part of the 29th class of the Arkansas Track & Field Hall of Fame.

### **Men’s Basketball:**

- Junior guard Avery Felts was chosen Academic All-District by College Sports Communicators (CSC).
- The Red Wolves ended their season as one of just five Division-I programs, under the guidance of a coach in his first year, to go from 20-plus losses in a season to 20-plus wins the next. The program claimed a 20-win season for just the seventh time in school history.
- Head coach Bryan Hodgson signed a new agreement extending his contract through 2029.
- After a stellar postseason run to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament championship game, the Red Wolves advanced to the semifinals of the Ro College

Basketball Invitational (Ro CBI) after making their first postseason tournament since 1999.

- Senior guard Caleb Fields and junior guard Taryn Todd were both named All-Sun Belt Conference, as first and second-team selections, respectively.
- Senior guard Caleb Fields was named Second Team All-District 23, as voted on by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC).
- The Red Wolves posted 11 Sun Belt Conference wins, their most since 2016-17. They also secured the No. 4 seed in the league tournament, their highest non-divisional seeding since 2014.
- The Red Wolves defeated Louisiana in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament semifinals by 27 points, their largest margin of victory ever in an SBC Tournament game, before knocking off No. 1 seed Appalachian State to advance to the finals for the first time since 2007.

### **Women's Bowling:**

- Emma Stull, Karli VanDuinen, Brooklyn Buchanan, and Faith Welch were recognized by the National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) as All-America selections.
- Advancing to the national championship match for the third time in the last four seasons, and for the fourth time in program history, the Red Wolves finished as runner-up in the National Collegiate Bowling Championship.

### **Women's Tennis:**

- A-State improved its wins total over last season by six matches, finishing the year with eight victories that were its most since the 2012 campaign.
- Student-athletes Rebecca Brody, Yasmine Humbert, Sarah Millard, and Nejla Zukic were all selected to the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team.

### **Women's Golf:**

- Making their first postseason appearance in program history, the Red Wolves finished fourth at the Golfweek National Golf Invitational. They also posted a school-record single-season stroke average of 294.42.

### **Men's Golf:**

- Thomas Schmidt claimed runner-up honors, and for the first time in program history, the Red Wolves won the stroke play portion of the Sun Belt Conference Men's Golf Championship.
- The Red Wolves claimed their second Sun Belt Conference championship and third conference title, also winning the SBC in 2019 and American South in 1989. A-

State went on to compete in an NCAA Regional for the first time since 2021 and for the seventh time in program history.

### **Women's Soccer:**

- Playing Harding in a spring exhibition contest, the Red Wolves competed in both their first-ever night game and contest at Centennial Bank Stadium.

## **DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **Access and Accommodation Services (AAS):**

- Forty-two students have registered for AAS since April, bringing the total to 1,110.
- AAS provided approximately 300 van pickups and class drop-offs this quarter.
- AAS staff held seven professional development training sessions with faculty, staff, and students.
- By the end of June, AAS will have awarded four privately funded scholarships to students with disabilities for the upcoming academic year.

### **ADVANCE:**

ADVANCE is a program for faculty from underrepresented groups who provide guidance, support, and resources on their path to tenure and promotion.

- The following workshops were coordinated by the faculty liaison, Dr. Lille Fears:
  - **Unlocking Bold Leadership:** Challenged participants to discover and cultivate the key traits that define bold leaders;
  - **Learning to Lead with Grace:** Explored the barriers or challenges faced in navigating higher education;
  - **Don't Do This! A Brief Journey through Best and Worst Practices from Pre-Tenure to Tenure:** Provided tips for faculty pursuing tenure.

### **AmeriCorps:**

- In recognition of National AmeriCorps Week, the NRWCEP held a luncheon for city officials and community stakeholders, featuring a proclamation by the mayor of Jonesboro.
- Two Red Wolf Mentors completed 300 hours of service and received certificates of completion for serving their community through the NRWCEP.
- The NRWCEP director attended the annual America's Service Commission Conference in Minneapolis.

### **Community Engagement:**

- Activities sponsored or co-sponsored during this period included promotional spots on KLEK radio, supported a class visit to the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, sponsored the performance stage at the NEA Cultural Expo, coordinated

with Arkansas Game and Fish to host its Family Fun Day event at the A-State Pavilion, and supported the Strong-Turner Association's annual 3.0 GPA Celebration, along with three additional programs.

- The 2024 Excellence in Diversity Awards Ceremony recognized three faculty members with the Excellence in Diversity Award, and presented two additional nominees with a Champion of Diversity Award.

#### **Diversifying Our Curing Community (DOCC):**

- DOCC was a grant-funded program for students interested in a career as a medical doctor. Grant funds ended on December 15, 2023.

#### **Multicultural Center (MC):**

- The MC staff held their semester graduation program with 40 graduates participating and an audience of over 100.
- The MC staff and ambassadors have begun planning activities for Fall 2024.
- The MC will staff information tables at each New Student Orientation and will attend the annual Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Conference, hosted by NYIT and St. Bernards Healthcare.

#### **Student Diversity Recruitment:**

- Planning has begun for the fall INSPIRE program, an extended orientation program for first-year students.

### **ENROLLMENT MANGEMENT, GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH**

#### **Undergraduate Recruitment:**

- We are cautiously optimistic about new student enrollment for the Fall 2024 semester. We are within 100 domestic students preregistered for Fall 2024, compared to our final 11<sup>th</sup> day numbers last year. Below are some key statistics:
  - **Applications:** 6,373 Fall 2024 vs. 5,033 Fall 2023 (+26.6%)
  - **Accepts:** 4,810 in Fall 2024 vs. 2,275 in Fall 2023 (+111%)
    - **Accepts from Arkansas:** 3,945 for Fall 2024 vs. 1,775 Fall 2023 (+122%)
  - **Transfer Admits:** +18% for Fall 2024
- We are up 28% in group campus visits from January - May compared to 2023
- More than 91% of the 800+ students, who attended a Red Wolf Jumpstart admitted student event in Spring 2024, registered for New Student Orientation, suggesting a very high yield from the event series.
- Early college program numbers are up 21%, due to expansion into Gravette and the Arkansas Arts Academy in Northwest Arkansas.

- As we prepare for the Fall 2025 recruitment cycle, we have already reached out to more than 20,000 seniors and juniors across Arkansas.
- We are moving forward with a new enrollment, management-marketing campaign: Great Minds, Big Hearts.
- We are currently planning major social media, outdoor, TV, and geo-targeting marketing campaigns.
- We are analyzing the success of our current scholarship programs and offerings.

#### **International Programs:**

- International Programs continues to track ahead. Numbers are up from 105 in Summer 2023 to 127 in Summer 2024. We also expect significant growth in international students for Fall 2024.

### **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

#### **First National Bank Arena (FNBA):**

- FNBA hosted A-State and several high school commencement ceremonies.
- Tickets are on sale now for Zach Williams and Brantly Gilbert.

#### **Red Wolf Wellness (RWW):**

- RWW implemented a 12-week Health & Fitness Coaching Program catered to faculty and staff, spanning from February 5th to April 26th. With 31 participants enrolled, the program features personalized coaching by our team of personal trainers and interns.
- Our team introduced LIFT, a strength training course emphasizing both upper and lower body workouts, with participants attending sessions twice per week.
- We developed a Fitness and Activity Points Challenge slated to coincide with the conclusion of the spring semester.

#### **Training & Development:**

- Training & Development hosted 66 new staff members for orientation during the months of January, February, and March and began the third cohort of Leadership A-State in February.
- We added six new courses to the Learn Center, and coordinated Safe Zone Facilitator training for 17 new team members on campus.

#### **University Safety and Emergency Management (USEM):**

- Worked with contractor on annual Fire Alarm inspections;
- Worked with JFD on spring fraternity house inspection and follow-up;
- Held spring fire drills for residents' halls;

- Distributed updated Emergency Action Plans throughout campus;
- Hosted G-367 Emergency Planning for Campus Executives Training.

#### **Enterprise Risk Management:**

- Continued implementation of the Henderson State University Vehicle Safety Program within Banner and gathered historical data for document imaging and preservation;
- Presently obtaining out-of-state driving reports.

#### **Information and Technology (ITS):**

- Three of five campus-wide IT infrastructure refresh projects are well underway. This portion consists of underground boring of fiber lines from building-to-building distribution entry points, and supporting last year's full campus network switch updates/replacements.
- During the previous quarter, the focus of the Banner Central Support team was working with both four-year campuses to manage the Financial Aid/FASFA changes. Banner Central Support, along with Ferrilli consultants, collaborated with both the four-year and two-year campuses daily to work through the issues leading towards student advising and accurate awarding of financial aid.
- Excellent progress in IT security was achieved and measured at all seven campuses via the internally developed IT Security Maturity Matrix standard rubric and scorecard. This includes coverage for the GLBA (Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act) via a compliance check sheet, along with internal and external monitoring of security threats. Strength in collaboration across all seven campuses allowed for a clear legislative assessment in these areas.
- Overall, the 24x7 use, availability, and support of information technology across each campus is stable, with capacity and scalability for all students, faculty, and staff.

#### **Fiscal Operations:**

- **Controller's Office:** Travel Services is updating its website, training materials, and Concur messages in response to the DFA's updated travel policy for state employees. Property Accounting began departmental inventories and has completed twenty so far.
- **Treasurer's Office:** Student Financial Services is working to communicate with students, who still have outstanding spring term balances, in order to minimize outstanding accounts receivable to the extent possible.
- **Procurement:** The annual vendor show was held March 27 and had an attendance of more than 300 faculty and staff members.

- **Auxiliary Services:** The Inclusive Access program (Opt-Out), guaranteeing first day access to textbooks and lower prices for students, had nearly \$643,000 in sales this spring semester. Dining's "Late-Night Breakfast," served by University administrators and staff, served 573 students from 10:30 p.m. until midnight on April 25.
- **Budget Planning and Development:** We are finalizing completion of the FY 2025 budget.

#### **Delta Center for Economic Development:**

- The Delta Center provided a three-session entrepreneurship training in April. Paul Guess, President of CEO of Guess and Company; Dr. Clint Vogus (NGCOB); and representatives from SBTDC, AEDC, EAPDD, and Arkansas Capital Corporation were presenters.
- We administered the second session of the Arkansas Delta Women's Leadership Academy in El Dorado, and the Delta Regional Authority's Leadership Program in Baton Rouge, LA.
- The Delta Center joined UCA and The Utilities to provide leadership training and information at the 2024 Arkansas Leadership Consortium in Conway.
- The Delta Center presented at the Delta Symposium on the integration of Hoxie Public Schools.

#### **University Police Department (UPD):**

- All sworn personnel have completed training in Cultural Diversity, Advanced Use of Force, Ethics, Racial Profiling, Behavioral Health and Crisis Intervention, Sexual Assault Investigations, Prescription Drug and Opioid Overdose (Narcan Use), Domestic Violence, Duty to Intervene and Post Custody Care, and Law Enforcement Response to Autism Spectrum Disorders, for a total of 62 continuing education hours in 2024 to date.
- Annual firearms training and qualifications for handguns and rifles are currently in process.
- New police vehicle graphics were designed and applied to the new patrol units. The new graphics incorporate the Red Wolves logo into the design. The agency is completing a full transition to new uniforms for all patrol staff. The new uniforms include a color change and outer carriers to better distribute the police equipment weight which reduces officer fatigue and injury.
- Monthly training has started for our sworn staff, using our new virtual training simulation environment (VirTra). During April and May, we provided training using our virtual simulator for the Jonesboro Police Department cadets, which included officers from around the region, and the Jonesboro Police Citizens' Police Academy.

- The agency is preparing for an annual accreditation review with the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies.

## **UNIVERSITY MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

### **University Marketing:**

- Marketing has designed and placed ads in the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, *Jonesboro Sun*, *Arkansas Business*, *Soirée*, *Arkansas NEXT*, *Hooten's*, *Miss Arkansas*, Facebook, Instagram, and more.
- We have designed and installed new A-State signage to pair with the newly redesigned "Welcome to Jonesboro" signs.
- The University website project continues to progress. We have finished the discovery phase and are currently working on site maps, wireframes, and design direction. The new website is on pace for an early 2025 launch.
- We are currently finalizing advertising budget and marketing strategies for FY 24-25.

### **University Communications (UC):**

- UC continues to produce news releases to highlight major campus announcements, events, and the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff.
- We coordinated PR for the following campus events:
  - Convocation of Scholars – Month of April;
  - Women's Business Leadership Conference – April 4, 2024;
  - A-State Day of Giving – April 9, 2024;
  - Create@State – April 18, 2024
  - Wilson Award Ceremony – April 25;
  - 2024 Spring Commencement Ceremonies – May 4, 2024.

### **Publications and Creative Services (PCS):**

- PCS has collaborated with the Provost's Office to add new visual elements to the University commencement ceremonies.
- It has designed theme art for the Howl RESTORE partnership with DHS.
- We have a completed design and layout of the College of Veterinary Medicine self-study for the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education.
- PCS continues to serve as an internal advertising agency for major campus initiatives.

### **Digital Creative Media (DCM):**



- DCM provided A/V support for the Arkansas Department of Education meeting at A-State on April 11, 2024.
- We launched the website and interest forms for the College of Veterinary Medicine clinical affiliate program.
- Videos and other visuals for New Student Orientation sessions were produced.
- We are starting work on a new website for the First National Bank Arena, and will shift to a platform that is easier to use and requires less maintenance.
- DCM continues to produce high-quality photos from campus events, as well as in-studio and candid photography of everyday campus life.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### **University Housing:**

- The anticipated campus resident total for Summer 2024 is 518.
- A-State is hosting Varsity cheerleading and dance camps during the month of June. High school students from the area will be participating in one of the four residential camps offered during the month. Varsity is expecting a total of 1,160 student participants.

### **Student Events on Campus:**

- The National Pan-Hellenic Council Greek chapters visited local elementary and junior high schools to highlight campus life at A-State.
- The 2024-25 Student Government Association President/Vice President were installed during the month of April. Micayla McGowen will serve as president and Ahniya Williamson will serve as the vice president.
- Natan Gomez, from Irapuato, Mexico, is the 2024 Wilson Award recipient. He was honored at the annual Wilson Award event. Five additional students were recognized as Distinguished Service Award recipients: Baily Blackmon of Perryville, Christopher Crutchfield of North Little Rock, Ann Long of Jackson, MO, Garrett Partain of Lepanto, and Khushi Singh of Bryant.
- The Student Activities Board hosted traditional campus events during the spring semester, including SpringFest, Day at the Park, and Stock the Food Pantry.
- Rugby players participated in post-season matchups and advanced to the national semi-finals. The team finished the year ranked as a top-ten team.
- The Global Student Leader program traveled to Italy in May. Student participants visited multiple locations, experienced the country's unique culture, and immersed themselves in Italy's rich history.
- New Student Orientation sessions are scheduled for May and June. Each session features an academic college, offers students and parents information about campus life, and provides the opportunity for students to connect with peers. This

program is designed to welcome students to campus, prepare students for the fall semester, and highlight the benefits of student engagement.

- The Food Pantry continues to offer a much-needed service to the campus community. The pantry served 2,110 during Fall 2023 and 2,157 during Spring 2024.
- Volunteer A-State partnered with several campus departments and Sodexo to promote a “Stock the Food Pantry” drive during April. Campus residents were encouraged to donate food items, clothing, personal hygiene items, or room décor. The items will be used to assist new campus residents during summer and fall.
- The Red WOLF Center student usage total from August 1, 2023 - May 15, 2024 is 65,239. Wellness and recreation are key aspects of student life. The Red WOLF Center offers an array of options for student to maintain a healthy lifestyle and interact with peers.
- Group fitness classes include yoga, spin, sculpt, cardio/tone, HIT, and butt/guts. Intramural events hosted throughout the semester include pickleball, basketball, bowling, soccer, softball, and table tennis.

## **UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

### **Advancement Services:**

- For the third quarter, the University recorded a total of 6,025 gifts and commitments from 2,496 individual donors for a total of \$3,252,243.59. The overall giving amount includes outright donations of cash, gifts-in-kind, planned gifts, and new pledges.
  - Included is a significant philanthropic commitment from the Beck Foundation, Inc., which provided the impetus for the naming of the Beck College of Sciences and Mathematics. The Becks’ gifts will endow multiple funds within the Beck College.

### **Alumni Relations:**

- Homecoming is set for October 26, 2024. There will not be a Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner this year. The Alumni Association will be celebrating 100 years on October 25, at the Cooper Alumni Center. More details to come.
- Thanks to Arkansans’ support of the License2Howl program, eight seniors from around the state will receive the 2024 License2Howl Scholarship. They are Cole Cureton of Westside HS, Sidney Green of Bryan HS, Keller Hall of Paragould HS, Carter Hearn of DeWitt HS, Benjamin Ino of Bald Knob HS, Sophie Puckett of Valley View HS, John Rowton of Harrisburg HS, and Parker Todd of White Hall HS. These students were selected from approximately 150 applicants.
- Association membership numbers continue to increase. The third quarter report shows an increase of 4.86% in 1924 Sustaining Life Memberships. The association has begun a 100 Memberships for 100 Years 1924 Life Membership drive.
- **Upcoming alumni engagement events include the following:**

- June 24-25: St. Louis Alumni Events:
  - Cardinals vs. Braves baseball game;
  - Happy Hour at Live! by Loews;
  - Busch Stadium tour;
  - Cardinals Hall of Fame Museum;
  - Grant's Farm Clydesdale VIP tour.
- August 17: Annual Watering Hole (NPC Bid Day) – Jonesboro
- September 7: Tailgate at Cooper Alumni Center before Red Wolves Football vs. Tulsa
- October 25-26: Homecoming Weekend
  - Class of 1973 50-Year Reunion – Cooper Alumni Center
  - Alumni Association Centennial Celebration, Friday evening – Cooper Alumni Center
  - Homecoming Tailgate, Saturday – Cooper Alumni Center
- November: Tentative "Culture at the Cooper" event
- December 7: Pancakes & PJs – Cooper Alumni Center
- December 7: Howlidays on the Rooftop – ASU System Office, Little Rock
- December: Bowl activities (tentative)

**Arkansas State University System**  
**Board of Trustees Report**  
**June 6, 2024**

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

**PTK Recognized as a Five Star Chapter for the Second Year**

For the second year in a row, the ASUB Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society was recognized as a Five Star Chapter at the recent PTK Catalyst International Convention in Orlando, Florida. Five Star Chapter is PTK's highest level of distinction. Those attending from ASUB were PTK members Alexandra Perez, Jacob Cater, Zanib Ali, and Cyndy Rios, along with PTK co-chairs Meredith Gordon, assistant professor of Biology, and Eddie Supratman, assistant professor of History and Comparative Religion. The group presented an educational forum on intentional student engagement. Since the ASUB PTK chapter was chartered in April 2022, membership has grown from 139 to 270.

**Students Compete in SkillsUSA State Contests**

Students from the ASUB Searcy Campus Regional Career Center recently competed at the Arkansas SkillsUSA competitions held in Hot Springs. Twenty-one students received awards in the following technical areas:

- College Division
  - Job Interview Category: Jacob Sartin, second place, and Nathan Turner, third place.
  - Job Skills Demonstration A Category: Alex Haggard, second place
  - Architectural Drafting Category: Keith Moore, second place
  - CNC 3 Axis Milling Programmer Category: Evan Soles, second place
  - Diesel Equipment Technology Category: John Dumbaugh, third place
  - Electrical Construction Wiring Category: Jacob Woodard, second place
  - Marine Service Technology Category: Justen Gentry, second place and Johnathan Morehead, third place
  - Power Sports Category: Hannidy Mills, first place, and Jared Scheel, third place
  - Technical Drafting Category: Conor Graves, second place
  - Automated Manufacturing Technology Category: Team members Dillon Hamilton, Breanna Stracner, and Ethan Brown received first place
- High School Division
  - CNC 3 Axis Milling Programmer Category: Joshua Jones, second place
  - Diesel Equipment Technology Category: Cam Kitzmiller, first place and Tate Cofer, second place

- Automated Manufacturing Technology: Team members Dallas Pence, Gareth Ireton, and Gaebral Lewis received second place.

Winners of the state contests have the opportunity to represent their respective schools and the state of Arkansas at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference on June 24-28 in Atlanta, Georgia. SkillsUSA is a national membership association open to high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations, including health occupations, and for further education.

### **Campus Cares Challenge**

Thanks to the generosity of faculty, staff, and fellow students, a total of 2,010 items were donated to the Campus Cares Support Pantries, an initiative championed by the Student Government Association to redirect the campus food pantries to include basic needs and hygiene products. In addition, the Engage Arkansas grant is matching these donations, bringing the total to 4,020 items. The meals and essential items collected will make a real difference in the lives of our students on each of our campuses.

### **Teddy Davis Educational Scholarship Established**

In honor of her 41 years of administrative leadership service at ASUB, the College has established a privately funded scholarship in honor of Dean Teddy Davis, who is retiring on June 30. The Teddy Davis Educational Scholarship is open to full-time ASUB students with a minimum GPA of 2.5. It's an opportunity available to students across all ASUB campuses.

Davis received her associate of arts degree from ASUB in 1978. She then transferred to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and earned a bachelor of science in education with a focus in social studies in 1980, a master of science in education with a focus in political science in 1981, and a specialist degree in community college teaching in 1983. Davis' teaching experience began as a student teacher of eighth-grade history in Jonesboro in the spring of 1980, and she later returned to ASU in the fall of 1980 to continue her degree, while serving as a graduate assistant from 1980 to 1982, and then as a teaching intern from 1982 to 1983. Returning to ASUB as an Instructor in 1983, she was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1987 and Associate Professor in 2008. Davis' administrative leadership began in 2002 as Division Chair of the Education and Social Sciences Division, until ASUB was reorganized in 2017. She continued to serve as Program Coordinator of the Arts and Humanities Division from 2018 to 2020. Named Interim Dean of the Arts and Humanities from 2019 to 2020, Davis has served as Dean since 2020.

Those wishing to contribute to the Teddy Davis Educational Scholarship fund should contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at ASUB at (501) 882-8855, visit <https://www.giveasub.com/givenow>, or by mail at ASUB Office of Institutional Advancement, c/o Teddy Davis Educational Scholarship, P.O. Box 1000, Beebe, AR 72012.

### **Students Participate in "Educators Rising" State Conference**

On April 12, ASUB's Educators Rising Club participated in the group's state conference in Hot Springs. ASUB students judged varsity and junior-varsity teaching competitions, and students Brianna Staples and Ivy Cantor hosted a successful breakout session on teacher mental health. Penny Cook, Assistant Professor of Education, and Amber Bramlett, Assistant Professor of Education advise the ASUB Educators Rising Club.

### **Students Present at UA Little Rock Research and Creative Works Expo**

On April 19, several of our students presented at the UALR Research and Creative Works Expo at the Jack Stephens Center. Nursing student, Jordan Hegarty, presented on the importance of experiential learning and shared her experience from the ASUB trip to Oslo, Norway, in February under the guidance of Dr. Kayla Sapkota, Assistant Professor of Business. ASUB Publishing Studio students, Angelica Barrick, Jakyla Butler, Julie Hartsell, Avery McMullen, Takira Rucker, and Ella Wise, led by Dr. Jodi Whitehurst, Associate Professor of English, presented their publication process with *Uncharted* magazine. Also, students Alexis Alford, Oscar Alvidrez, and Alexis Schroyer, guided by Meredith Gordon, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Dr. Jake Marquess, Professor of Biology, presented their study involving defensive coloration in caterpillars of tropical rainforests in Costa Rica, following a special topic class trip to the area. Dr. Joseph Scott, Dean of the Math and Science Division, attended with the students.

### **Searcy Business Showcase**

On April 4, the ASUB Searcy campus hosted the annual Business and Industry Showcase and Career Fair. The Fair offered high school students an excellent opportunity to visit with industry representatives and learn about STEM-focused career programs offered through the ASUB Regional Career Center (RCC) on the Searcy campus. 35 exhibitors and representatives from healthcare, financial, manufacturing, automotive, diesel, power sports, and military career fields displayed their equipment and products in the Student Center. First Security Bank and First Electric Cooperative sponsored the event. Approximately 150 current ASUB students attended the event along with 300 prospective students.

### **Heber Springs Campus Hosts 2024 Arkansas Historical Association Conference**

The Arkansas Historical Association's 83rd Annual Conference was held in Heber Springs on April 25-27. ASUB Heber Springs campus hosted opening events, with a historical documents preservation workshop and the organization's quarterly Board of Trustees meeting. The second day of the conference opened with a welcome address from Heber Springs Mayor Kasey Griffin, and attendees enjoyed conference sessions, organized around the theme of "Picturing Arkansas: Depictions of Its People in Art, Photography, Literature, Music, and Media," at the Red Apple Inn. Guided tours to Greers Ferry Dam and the John F. Kennedy Overlook, led by Arkansas Congressman Wilbur D. Mills biographer Kay Goss and former Cleburne County Judge Jerry Holmes. Another tour, focusing on mid-twentieth-century residential architecture and the history of Eden Isle, was led by Rachel Patton, Executive Director of Preserve Arkansas and the president of the Arkansas Historical Association. Blake Perkins, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academics at ASUB and the Arkansas Historical Association vice president, emceed the

conference's annual awards banquet. The conference wrapped up with the keynote lecture on renowned photographer and former Cleburne County resident Mike Disfarmer (1884-1959) by University of Arkansas folklore professor and author Robert Cochran. ASUB English Instructor Barbara Castle presented "Medieval Kings, Pagans, and Hillbilly Poets: Beowulf, Trent Reznor, and Johnny Cash" in a session on Arkansas music.

### **ASUB Academic Program Notifications**

On April 26, 2024, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviewed the following program actions for ASUB:

#### **Curriculum Revision**

**Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technology** (DC 0660; CIP 51.1004; 72 credit hours) changed to Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technology (CIP 51.1004; DC 0660; 72 credit hours; Fall 2024 (8/1/2024))

##### Deleted Course

MATH 1013 Technical Math

##### Added Course

MATH 1043 Quantitative Literacy

**Certificate of Proficiency in Patient Care Technician** (CIP 51.3902; DC 1614; 14 credit hours) changed to Certificate of Proficiency in Patient Care Technician (CIP 51.3902; DC 1614; 14 credit hours; Fall 2024 (8/1/2024))

##### Deleted Courses

LPN 1107 Certified Nursing Assistant (optional)

PCT 1204 Patient Care Technician II

BIOL 1103 Medical Terminology I

HIA 1103 Medical Terminology I (optional)

##### Added Course

PCT 1207 Patient Care Technician II (changed from 4-hour course to 7-hour course)

#### **Program Reconfiguration**

**Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing** (CIP 51.3901; DC 4661; 46 credit hours) reconfigured to create the Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing High School Program (CIP 51.3901; DC 2235; 46 credit hours; Fall 2024 (8/1/2024))

LPN 2109 Nursing I

LPN 2209 Nursing II

LPN 2309 Nursing III

LPN 1110 Fundamentals of Nursing I

LPN 1209 Fundamentals of Nursing II

**Arkansas State University  
Board of Trustees  
June 6, 2024**

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

**ALIGN Grant**

Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH) and Baxter Health received a grant in the amount of \$625,175, through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, for the Arkansas Linking Industry to Grow Nurses (ALIGN) Program. The award will allow ASUMH and Baxter Health to develop an innovative new partnership that will create a clinical pre-residency experience for students at Baxter Health by expanding simulation lab experiences and by standardizing nursing clinical practices. This collaborative initiative aims to increase the LPN and RN nursing admission capacity at ASUMH, to actively recruit and retain clinical nurse educators, and to decrease the time required for graduates to integrate into hospital situations.

**Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Grant**

ASUMH will receive \$450,000 from the Delta Workforce Grant Program, through the Delta Regional Authority, to establish an extrusion and injection molding program at the Dr. Robert L. Myers Technical Education Campus. The grant is part of a \$10 million investment in projects across eight states, through the Delta Workforce Grant Program (DWP). The new training will be available in the 2024-2025 academic year, and the classes will apply toward a degree in Mechatronics.

**Gotaas Hall Expansion Appropriation**

A legislative package, presented by U.S. Senator John Boozman and signed into law in March, will help fund enhanced health education at ASUMH, through a \$6 million appropriation. The funding will help support the expansion of the ASUMH healthcare education facility in Gotaas Hall, which currently includes simulation laboratories with lifelike medical mannequins, an ambulance simulator, and classrooms that replicate hospital rooms. The expansion will create more educational opportunities for ASUMH students and will enhance technology to develop our future medical workforce.

**Technical Campus Grand Opening and Technical Center Dedication**

A grand opening for the Dr. Robert L. Myers Technical Education Campus and dedication of the Czeschin-Newth Workforce Development Center is planned for May 30, 2024, to celebrate the substantial progress that has been made toward the completion of the campus and facility. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held, and tours of the facility will be available for guests. Members of both the Czeschin and Newth families plan to be in attendance.



## **Arkansas State University System**

### **Board of Trustees**

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### **Chancellor's Report**

#### **Arkansas State University-Newport**

#### **Strategic Priority 1: Student Success**

- ASUN Honors Program student, Zoei James, a shining example of our commitment to student success, presented a poster session on "Adolescent Substance Usage" at the prestigious NextGen Humanities Conference Student Symposium in Little Rock from March 6-9, 2024. Her exceptional work, a part of her honors project for the Lifespan Development class, was completed during the Fall Semester of 2023. Zoei, currently enrolled in the Traditional Nursing program, continues to embody the spirit of academic excellence at ASUN.
- On February 20, the ASUN Marked Tree Campus hosted the highly competitive ECT Wiring Competition, a testament to the caliber of students we attract. Eighteen students from five high schools vied for scholarships to attend ASUN, showcasing their skills and determination. James Mata, from JHS/NEACTC, emerged as the first-place winner, with Kade Johnson and Lawson Tompkins from Piggott High School securing second and third place, respectively.
- The fifteenth annual Northeast Arkansas Weld-a-thon event, held on February 20 at the ASUN Jonesboro Campus, was a resounding success. Thirteen high schools participated, and students competed for prizes and ASUN scholarships. We are grateful for the support of our sponsors, including Greenbrier; Best Manufacturing, Inc.; Fronius USA LLC; Ozarc Gas Equipment & Supply, Inc.; FMH Conveyors; Hytrol; Ace Industrial Products; JMS Metal Services, Inc., Messer Gases; Nucor Steel; Trinity Rail Services; Workforce Training Consortium; Great Dane; The Systems Group; Gas Innovations; Scotchman Industries; and Profax/Lenco. Their contributions, prizes, and scholarships, exceeding \$25,000, demonstrate the industry's recognition and support for ASUN.
- ASUN student Catherine Frans has been named a Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar for 2024. As a result of this award, she will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The selection process for this award was based on students' scores in the All-USA Academic Team competition, which received more than 2,200 applications this year. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society sponsor this program.
- The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society of ASUN's 5-Star Beta Nu Gamma Chapter recently organized Narcan Training across all three campuses. This training provided ASUN students with the certification to administer Narcan, a life-saving drug, in case of an accidental overdose.
- Dr. Tim Burcham, the Director of the University of Arkansas NEA Rice Research and Extension Center, visited the Newport campus to explain some of the Center's initiatives to the agriculture students.
- Several students representing multiple programs, including Automotive Service, Energy Control, Computer Networking, Advanced Manufacturing, Welding, and Diesel Technology, attended the Arkansas Skills Competition held at the Hot Springs, AR Convention Center on April 17. Students from

the nine Applied Science programs at ASUN participated, and won 11 medals, including four gold medals in Esthetics, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, and Energy Control Technology. These gold medalists are now eligible to compete in the National Competition, which will take place in Atlanta, Georgia. We are incredibly proud of our talented and accomplished students!

- Masen Woodall, an honors student and Aviator basketball player, attended the ACC Student Leadership Association Conference in Little Rock, along with Lana Gonzalez, Student Government President, and Shyler McElhannon, Student Government Senator.
- Honors Program Spotlight! Our honors students recently participated in inspiring luncheons with our leadership team as part of their Honors Leadership Seminar course, which Dr. Typhanie Myers facilitated. During the event, the students presented their Vision Boards, which showcased their bold dreams and aspirations, including a piece on self-efficacy. Seeing these students set such high standards for themselves is truly impressive!

### **Strategic Priority 2: Employee Success**

- Congratulations to Zach Altom for earning his Master of Science in Nursing, and to Maddie Staggs for attaining her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- Chef Lisa Godsey was featured in April's "Occasions Magazine," showcasing her talents and the remarkable Culinary Arts program at ASUN-Jonesboro.
- Charles Walker, Director of Workforce Development, represented ASU-Newport at a panel discussion on Workplace Best Practices, hosted by the Arkansas Economics Development Commission (AEDC) at the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce. Other panelists included representatives from Hytrol, Life Plus, and UACCB.
- Mark Hanan, the director of Instructional Design and Distance Education, allowed the Diesel Technology IGNITE program students to virtually explore the world of diesel technology on March 29 at the ASU-Newport Campus.
- The Student Career Closet will soon open on the top floor of the Newport campus library. Guidelines for donations will be announced. Kudos to the Dean of Students, Debbie Hardy, and Director of Career and Transfer Services, Christy Mann, for launching this student-support initiative.
- Assistant Professor of Psychology Amanda Spurlock, an International Certified Yoga Therapist, collaborated with the Aviator Women's Softball Team to enhance their strength, endurance, and positive mind-body focus.
- The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board has unanimously approved the launch of ASUN's A.A.S. Radiologic Technology program. The program will be based on the Newport campus and is tentatively scheduled to begin in Spring 2025. A round of applause is due to Dr. Stacie Hay and the Division of Health Professions faculty and staff.

### **Strategic Priority 3: Institutional Excellence**

- Achieving the Dream (ATD) has announced that it has selected seven rural community colleges for the second cohort of its Accelerating Equitable Outcomes initiative. These colleges will become part of ATD's nationwide network of more than 300 community colleges. They will collaborate with the network to share strategies and learn innovative, evidence-based ways to serve rural communities. The

colleges selected for this program are Arkansas State University-Newport, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Coconino Community College, Eastern Shore Community College, Isothermal Community College, Riverland Community College, and Wor-Wic Community College. It's worth noting that Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas is the only other active Arkansas college involved in the ATD network.

- ASUN was nominated for the Best of Northeast Arkansas Contest, sponsored by Jonesboro Radio Group.
- Hytrol donated stainless steel sheet stock, worth \$8,000-\$10,000, to ASUN's manufacturing and workforce programs.
- The ASUN Prison Education Program has achieved a significant milestone: the first female inmates have received AWS certification in Gas Metal Arc Welding and Shielded Metal Arc Welding.
- On February 29, ASUN Career Coaches and Dr. Monica Mobley, Dean for STEM, hosted the Lunch and Learn speaker, Dr. Francisco Muller-Sanchez, an assistant professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Memphis.
  - The Lunch and Learn Series was developed in partnership with M&P Bank, in conjunction with efforts by the Newport Economic Development Council, to provide community outreach in conjunction with the Great American Eclipse. Career coaches from various schools participated in virtual outreach with 125 high school students from Northeast Arkansas. Students learned about several career paths Dr. Muller-Sanchez considered in Air and Space Science, such as aeronautical engineering or satellite technician. Coaches distributed outreach materials developed by Dr. Mobley for the regional education cooperatives and ASUJ Eclipse glasses courtesy of the DCTE.
- The Northeast Arkansas Science Olympiad was held on the ASU-Newport Campus on February 24. The event was a tremendous success, and we owe much gratitude to our student volunteers from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the Honors Program, and our Natural Science degree-seeking students.
- PTK, Student Life, and Associate Professor of Criminology Michael Moody provided IGNITE students with Narcan training. The training qualified students to administer Narcan in case of an overdose.
- Our Adult Education Department has been selected to receive D&E funding for its application. This means that the department will continue to receive ABE, GAE, and SNAP E&T funds (if applicable) and will be able to provide adult education and literacy services in Craighead, Jackson, and Poinsett Counties. We congratulate Dr. Amber Grady, Director Barbara Warren, and the Adult Education Staff for this recognition.
- The ASUN spring commencement ceremonies took place on May 10, 2024, with two sessions: the Health Professions Ceremony at 11:00 a.m. and the General Education, Adult Education, and Applied Sciences ceremony at 2:00 p.m. A total of 349 graduates received 514 degrees and certificates during the event. Cassidy Chrestman Powers from Bay High School received the Charles L. Welch Presidential Scholar Award, presented to a two-year college graduate in the ASU System transferring to A-State or Henderson State University. Each community college within the System will select one graduating student annually for this unique award.

#### **Strategic Priority 4: Community Engagement**

- The "Girl Power to the Max" competition occurred on February 22nd, at the Workforce Training Center (WTC) on ASUN's Jonesboro campus. Approximately 30 young ladies from nearby school districts will participate in this event, demonstrating their skills in CNC Plasma, CNC Wood, and CNC Laser Cutting. All winners will progress to the "Girl Power to the Max" state competition, scheduled for March 7th at the Saline County Career & Technical Campus.
- The Culinary Arts program held a pasta class on March 26, open to the community. Participants made fettuccini, cheese ravioli, and tomato sauce.
- Dr. Monica Mobley recently visited the Crowley's Ridge Education Cooperative in Harrisburg. Her objective was collaborating with science specialists to develop a lesson plan focused on the Eclipse topic, which K-12 teachers can implement in their classrooms.
- On March 5, the Newport campus hosted an IGNITE Day as a part of the Early College Program. More than 100 high school students from Bradford, Augusta, and Cedar Ridge visited the campus. They were introduced to various opportunities in fields, such as Health Professions, Criminal Justice, Welding, and Diesel Technology.
- On March 28, the fifth McPherson WAGE class had their graduation ceremony. Tonya Gates, the Director of Prison Education Program Engagement; Daniel Lee, the Assistant Professor of Adult Education; Joe Campbell, the Dean for Liberal Arts; and Assistant Warden Moss were in attendance.
- John Judd, Instructor of Advanced Manufacturing, held a class on Electricity for Homeowners, covering electrical basics and simple repairs.
- Tad Terrell, a representative from Green Point Agriculture, spoke to students in the Agricultural Resource Management course about ag retail and general farming.
- On March 14, we hosted the ASU System Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting. The BOT approved several items, including two new program proposals: A.A.S. in Business Supervision and Management and A.S. in Data Science. Kudos to the entire ASUN Family for rolling out the red carpet to the Board of Trustees, System Office Staff, and System Universities.
- On March 14, the Automotive Service Technology Program held its 24th annual high school competition. The event was attended by 23 students from different schools, including Jonesboro, Valley View, Brookland, Bay, Greene County Tech, and Nettleton. The students competed for scholarships and bragging rights. Gabriel Hosier from Nettleton High School was the first-place winner, followed by Dakota Harris from Greene County Tech in second place. Eli Leslie from Jonesboro High School was awarded the third-place winner title.
- ASUN student-athletes collaborated with the Newport Economic Development Commission to prepare a mass mailing for the Jackson County Historical Society. As part of their Service Learning for Introduction to Education course, the students addressed and readied 727 letters for mail delivery. The students enrolled in the Teacher Education program, partnered with Jonesboro Parks and Recreation, and completed a service-learning project. Their goal was to plant new trees and prune the existing ones in the downtown area of Jonesboro. This project allowed the students to give back to the community and learn about the vegetation that thrives in Arkansas, the plants that add color and beauty, and the art of pruning trees. The Mayor of Jonesboro, Harold Copenhaver, and the Director of Parks and Recreation, Danny Kapales, joined the ASUN students in this project. The students were highly

impressed by the knowledge and expertise about planting and pruning of city employees Adam Larson and Antwane Blair.

- ASU-Newport Applied Science programs hosted an Applied Science Day, which allowed Cedar Ridge students to participate in hands-on projects, program overviews, and tours.
- Jonathan Ambs, Instructor of Advanced Manufacturing, led a series of classes on April 20 and April 27, including 3D printing, basic automotive maintenance, and home and hobby welding.
- The second-year students in the Agricultural Technology program visited the University of Arkansas Extension Office. They met with the extension agent, Matthew Davis, who discussed the office work and potential job opportunities.
- Ethan Adams, a loan officer at Rabo Agri-Finance, spoke to agriculture students about financing options for farmers and the future of agriculture.
- Instructor Charley Marble and Dean Michael Nowlin hosted the Car Capable Basic Automotive Maintenance class at Marked Tree. Eight 10th and 11th-grade students were eager to learn about basic automotive maintenance and how to deal with minor roadside emergencies.
- Jeremy Bullington, the Precision Agriculture Support Center Manager at Greenway Equipment, visited Ag Resource Management students. Jeremy is accountable for providing support to customers across all 30 Greenway locations. During his visit, he addressed the students on the future of agriculture and the latest advancements in autonomous tractors and tillage. He highlighted how these recent technologies bring new opportunities to agriculture workers.
- Jonesboro and Marked Tree Practical Nursing (PN) and Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) to Registered Nursing (RN) Transition students, along with their instructors Mrs. Tammy Collier and Mrs. Tonya Holden, collaborated with St. Bernards to offer sports physicals to local high school students. They worked hand in hand with the St. Bernards staff and catered to a record turnout of 1,588 students! It's wonderful to see them contribute to the community in such a significant way.
- ASUN collaborated with NEDC to train John 3:17 as part of the "Transitioning from Recovery to the Workplace" program. Over ten weeks, participants were taught effective workplace behaviors, building trust in the workplace, résumé building, interview preparation, computer basics, and Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.

### ASUN Academic Program Notifications

#### Program Reconfiguration

- ASUN is reconfiguring its Associate of Applied Science in Business Technology to create the Associate of Applied Science in Business Management & Supervision.
- ASUN is reconfiguring its Technical Certificate in Business Technology to create the Technical Certificate in Business Management & Supervision.
- ASUN is reconfiguring its Certificate of Proficiency in Business Operations to create the Certificate of Proficiency in Basic Business Management & Supervision.

#### New Certificate Program

- Certificate of Proficiency, Manufacturing Technician.

#### Curriculum Revisions

- Associate of Applied Science, Agriculture Technology

- **Certificate of Proficiency, CNC Operator**
- **Technical Certificate, High Voltage Lineman Technology**

**Arkansas State University  
Board of Trustees Report  
June 6, 2024**

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

**Higher Learning Commission Update**

On April 8-9, ASU Mid-South underwent a successful 10-Year Comprehensive Evaluation Site Visit by a Peer Review Team from the Higher Learning Commission. Thank you to ASU System President, Robin Myers, and to Trustees Clark, Eddington, Rudolph, Gardner, and Harpole for taking part in the governance session of this review. While we have yet to receive our official report, the Peer Reviewers cited several areas of strength during their exit meeting with College administrators.

- First, they spoke about ASU Mid-South's positive institutional culture, which they said was reinforced in every interaction they had – from students, to faculty and staff, to external partners. They lauded the College's preparation. , Specifically, they cited the quality of the assurance argument, how easy it was to read, and how it provided great supporting documentation. They spoke to the quality of participation in the process—from contributing to the assurance argument, to preparing for the visit, to participating in the sessions. It was noted that everyone seemed to be participating because they genuinely wanted to, not simply because they felt they had to, and that the discussions were robust.
- They cited what they referred to as ASU Mid-South's "obvious program agility." Specifically, they noted that the College had been able to pivot from non-viable programs to those that truly seemed to reflect the community's needs. They also noted that the College's programs were aligned with, and responsive to, the changing requirements of the programs' respective registry and certification exams.
- Finally, they stated that, from a federal compliance standpoint, the consumer information provided on the ASU Mid-South website is "exemplary, a model."

As of the writing of this report, the College has not yet received official notification of its reaffirmation of accreditation. However, there is every reason to believe that it will be received prior to the June Board Meeting.

**Paramedic Program Update**

On March 6, ASU Mid-South completed a successful Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) program review. The results of this review were entirely positive, with no standards violations found and a long list of program strengths noted, including the following:

(1) the quality and experience of ASU Mid-South's EMS faculty; (2) the quality and experience of the program's medical director; (3) the support of the College's administration; (4) the commitment demonstrated by the Arkansas Department of Health; and (5) the highly motivated members of the program's advisory committee and clinical partners. In fact, the site visit was so overwhelmingly positive, we received the official Letter of Review (LOR) from CoAEMSP within 24 hours.

This LOR was the final hurdle to clear in the preliminary accreditation process required by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Its successful conclusion signifies a huge step forward in ASU Mid-South's ongoing efforts to deliver high-growth, high-demand, high-wage Allied Health programming to residents of our region. ASU Mid-South's first cohort of Paramedic students will enroll this fall.

#### **Inaugural Charles L. Welch Presidential Scholar Named**

ASU Mid-South graduate, Remonie Whitelow, has been named the College's inaugural Charles L. Welch Presidential Scholar, named in honor of former System President, Dr. Charles Welch. In addition to being an outstanding student, Remonie is an active member of Sigma Kappa Delta Honor Society and works in our Learning Success Center as a tutor and front-desk receptionist. She completed her Associate of Science in Elementary Education (K-6) in May and plans to transfer to A-State and complete her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education on the campus of ASU Mid-South.

#### **Department of Labor Strengthening Community College's Grant**

On April 10, the U.S. Department of Labor announced an award of \$65 million in grants to sixteen colleges in fourteen states. The grant is to be used in expanding each college's capacity to provide training that meets the skill development needs of employers and helps students obtain good jobs. A consortium of Arkansas colleges, consisting of the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College (lead); ASU Mid-South; East Arkansas Community College; Southeast Arkansas Community College; and Northwest Arkansas Community College, received \$5,736,624 under this initiative, known as the Strengthening Community Colleges Grants Programs. The funds will be used to enhance Allied Health offerings on each of these campuses. ASU Mid-South's portion of this grant totals \$695,075, and will be focused on the establishment of a Practical Nursing program.

#### **ASU Mid-South Student Among State's Top GED Scorers**

ASU Mid-South Adult Education student, Idaysion Caulkins, was honored at the Arkansas State Capitol on April 24, for having the ninth-highest GED score in the state for 2023.

#### **Tommy Goldsby Memorial Wild Game Dinner**

This year's Tommy Goldsby Wild Game Dinner and Auction, sponsored for the eighth time by the ASU Mid-South Foundation, was another tremendous success, raising \$356,000 for the Thomas



Goldsby Memorial Scholarship Fund, the most money ever raised at this event. This annual fundraiser benefits the Tommy Goldsby Scholarship for Concurrently Enrolled Students. That scholarship, created in 2001, allows our area's eleventh- and twelfth-grade high school students to receive both high school and college credit, tuition free, in classes offered at Arkansas State University Mid-South, and allows the College to provide these concurrent classes without discounting tuition.

### **Regional Transportation Plan**

ASU Mid-South's Chancellor, Dr. Debra West, was recently appointed by the West Memphis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to serve as a member of the Technical Committee that is conducting work to inform the 2024 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The focus of the plan includes existing roads, new roads, bicycle lanes, safe streets, traffic jam relief, and cleaner air for Crittenden County and the cities of West Memphis, Marion, and Sunset. The purpose of this committee is to help shape future policies for efficient and safe transportation mobility in the region.

### **Memphis Business Journal Women Who Lead Recognition**

On March 28, ASU Mid-South Chancellor, Dr. Debra West, was recognized as a member of the *Memphis Business Journal's* 2024 Class of Women Who Lead in Education. In addition to Dr. West, this year's class included the following: Jennifer Collins, President, Rhodes College; Lindsay Elkins, Chair of Optometric Education, Southern College of Optometry; Lisa Lang, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, LeMoyne-Owen College; Dr. Youlanda Jones, President, Tennessee College of Applied Technology Northwest; Lilian Nyindodo, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine (BUCOM); Sherria King, Dean of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Mathematics, Southwest Tennessee Community College; Melanie Stovall Murry, University Counsel, University of Memphis; and Gwen Sutton, President, Tennessee College of Applied Technology Memphis.

### **2024 Men of Color Conference**

On April 26, ASU Mid-South hosted its annual Men of Color Conference. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) Grant Initiative, this annual conference is designed to cultivate a community of scholars, who are prepared to excel academically, contribute meaningfully to their respective fields, and positively impact society.

While open to everyone, this year's conference specifically targeted young men of color interested in pursuing studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) fields. It was facilitated by Deeneaus Polk, a graduate of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Ole Miss, and the Harvard Kennedy School. A former Coca-Cola, Fulbright, Croft Institute, and Presidential Scholar, Dee is currently employed by the U.S. Department of Commerce as an Economic Recovery Corps Fellow.

Through a series of speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, the conference addressed the unique challenges faced by men of color in higher education and STEAM industries. Session topics included *Discovering the Soundtrack to Your Community*, with Offbeat Records Owner Phillip Rollins; *Your Blueprint, Your Grind*, with Cybersecurity Expert Rod Singleton; and *Empowering Voices: Men of Color Heard Around the World*, which was a Zoom panel discussion led by model Lucas Lyle, actor Rob Marshall, and musician Marlin Williford, all of whom live and work in Germany. The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Corey Wiggins, Federal Co-Chair of the Delta Regional Authority.

#### **Academic Program Notifications**

ASU Mid-South has no academic program status changes (inactive or deleted) to report this quarter.

**Arkansas State University System  
Board of Trustees Report  
June 6, 2024**

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

**Arkansas State University Three Rivers Adult Education**

Arkansas State University Three Rivers Adult Education recently submitted its Request for Proposal of Funds (RPF). The application was approved and guaranteed funding for the next four years.

**Malvern Campus Career Center and Workforce Development Update**

Our Workforce Development's partnership with West Fraser Qualified Millwright and Electrician programs continues. We are currently conducting the ASUTR Professional Development Academy for the West Fraser mills in Leola, AR, Joyce, LA, Angelina, TX, and Henderson, TX; Xpress Boats and Veranda Luxury Pontoons; 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; and Southeastern Timber Co., Akermany, MS (one class). ASUTR Workforce facilitated Excel training for Hostess Brands in Arkadelphia. We conducted Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Excel Training.

**Student Affairs and Retention**

Our registrar reports that 564 students earned 614 degrees and certificates in May. We also received a \$198,464 grant to fund Career Coaches at Benton Junior High School and Benton High School, Malvern High School, and Sheridan High School, as well as the College Learning Advocate at ASU Three Rivers.

The Early Alert program offers assistance to students with attendance, behavioral, or academic needs. Our College Learning Advocate, Ms. Kimberly Stecker, received 30 Early Alerts with 32 students needing intervention. She made in-person and e-mail contacts to help those struggling with academic progress and held 28 in-person student meetings, 7 in-person meetings with faculty members, and 2 in-person meetings with student groups on our campus. The TRiO report total for Computer Lab and Academic Tutoring contacts for January 18, 2024, to April 3, 2024, was 160.6 total hours.

A team of ASUTR administrators and directors met with local high school counselors and administrators for “Let’s Talk” sessions to share program, scholarship, and support offerings related to their specific student populations. Counselors have responded positively by calling and emailing for more information and encouraging and assisting students to apply to ASUTR for Fall 2024 enrollment. These meetings were held in conjunction with our informational assemblies and ASUTR T-shirt distributions for Juniors in the following districts: Malvern, Magnet cove, Glen Rose, Bismarck, Poyen, and Ouachita. The team was comprised of Dr. Rook, Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Carla Crutchfield, Malvern Career Center Director John Bratton, Director of Admissions Keesha Johnson, Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs Pat Simms, Associate Vice-Chancellor for College Advancement Amber Childers and Associate Vice-Chancellor for Student Retention Vergina Smith.

### **Financial Aid**

The 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) required a new Banner financial aid setup. Testing is nearing completion; training is ongoing for aid processing. In response to multiple errors created by the legally mandated new FAFSA, the US Department of Education has provided free professional assistance from Blue Icon, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators consulting service for higher education institutions administering federal student aid. ASU Three Rivers will have a Blue Icon Technical Consultant and two Blue Icon Processing Consultants to assist us through June 30.

### **Finance and Administration**

Construction on Phase IV of the Ritz Theatre renovation project by Clark Contractors began in April.

### **College Advancement and Community Outreach**

College Advancement streamlined internal communication with employees by combining the employee newsletter and the Monday Morning Minute videos sent to employees via email. This weekly email includes updated links to the athletic schedules, upcoming events, and café specials for the week. Monthly links are included to show employees celebrating Years of Service milestones and the birthdays for each month. The video is uploaded every Sunday evening and scheduled to be delivered to employee mailboxes at 8:00 a.m. every Monday. These

videos and links directly respond to our campus-wide survey indicating communication preferences.

Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Retention, Ms. Vergina Smith, and the C.A.R.E. (Campus Assessment Response and Education) team met with U.S. Secret Service Special Agent Bryant on April 11 to discuss implementing the “Enhancing School Safety” program. The C.A.R.E. Team provides support for all students, faculty, and staff at Arkansas State University Three Rivers. The team offers counseling services, addresses food insecurities, and creates spaces to improve the well-being of our entire campus community.

### **Academic Affairs**

The College currently offers an Associate of Applied Science in Accounting and an Associate of Applied Science in Management. The Associate of Applied Science in General Business streamlines the existing business degree plans by developing a business core with specializations through directed electives in management, accounting, marketing, and data. Alternatively, students can obtain a more generalized business degree by taking a variety of business electives.

The Associate of Applied Science in General Business degree was unanimously approved by the ASUTR Board of Visitors on May 7, 2024.

**Arkansas State University  
Board of Trustees Report  
June 6, 2024**

**Chancellor's Report  
Henderson State University**

**Heart Start Registration Days**

Henderson State University's Heart Start summer registration days for freshman is trending now at about 7% above last year's numbers. Many personal recruiting methods have been implemented including hand-written notes, phone calls, personal meetings with recruits and t-shirt days with prospective students.

**Transition to Colleges Well Received**

On May 22, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved HSU's recommendation to restructure the University Colleges into four Learning Communities:

- (1) Business, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship; (2) Applied Professional Science and Technology;
- (3) Health, Education, and Social Sustainability; and (4) Arts and Humanities.

Based on input from HSU faculty, staff, students, and alumni, Chancellor Berry proposed re-establishing the academic units into four University Colleges, as follows:

- 1. Teachers College
- 2. College of Performing Arts and Social Sciences
- 3. College of Aviation, Science, and Nursing
- 4. College of Business

The transition to Colleges has gone smoothly and has received thorough support on campus.

**Acquisition of Golf Cart for Campus Tours**

Southern Bancorp has donated the funding for a six-seat golf cart for campus tours. We are grateful for their generous contribution to making campus tours more comfortable.

**Insurance Settlement**

An insurance settlement between HSU and the Arkansas Insurance Department resulted in \$850,000 to be used to restore the University's largest chemistry lab.

**Sale of Property**

Appraisals and surveys have been scheduled for properties approved to be sold by HSU. These properties include Newberry Hall, Hickory House, Smith-Garner House, Ramsauer House, and two vacant lots that are not contiguous to campus.

### **Nursing Program Grant**

Henderson's Nursing Program received a grant of \$761,200 from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Skills Development to expand nursing education. The grant will cover upgrades in equipment and the hiring of additional nursing faculty.

### **Cabe Foundation Grant**

The Cabe Foundation awarded HSU \$100,000 to upgrade and enhance our recruitment efforts for 2024-2025.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

### **Criminal Justice to Return**

HSU has announced that a bachelor of arts in criminal justice is returning as a major degree. It is offering the degree due to two key factors—available career opportunities and student interest in the program. The search for a professor and revising curriculum has begun.

### **HSU and NYIT**

The NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine is a medical school that operates on the University's Jonesboro campus. Its mission is to train doctors to help fulfill the increasing need for physicians in Arkansas and the greater Mississippi Delta region. The medical school actively leads a number of health outreach and health education events throughout the state and region. NYIT and Henderson will provide preferred admission to NYIT for 10 prospective HSU freshmen. A joint committee will select the 10 freshmen, and if students meet the requirements, upon graduation they will matriculate into the medical school.

### **Arkansas Aviation Academy**

Henderson's Department of Aviation is Arkansas's only university program that offers a four-year bachelor of science degree specifically in aviation. It seeks to provide a quality, safe, and professional aviation program that will meet or exceed the FAA standards in preparing our students for careers in the aviation industry.

### **Education Specialist**

Henderson submitted a Letter of Notification (LON) to the AOHE to add a Special Education Supervisor option to the Education Specialist degree in Curriculum Leadership.

### **25 Letters of Notification**

HSU submitted 25 Letters of Notification to the ADHE to revise existing academic programs and the new academic restructure for approval at the July ADHE Coordinating Board meeting.

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bowen School of Law**

The Bowen School of Law and HSU have signed an MOU to create a partnership to begin a preferred admissions program offering qualified students, who attend Henderson, a direct path to law school at the Bowen School of Law. This is part of their Pathway Program.

### **Biology – HSU Students and Faculty**

A contingent of four HSU students and their faculty mentors, Drs. Brett Serviss and Renn Tumblison, presented their research at the annual meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Science, held this year at UA-Fort Smith on April 5-6. HSU Biology students, Zoie Autrey, Michael Brotherton, Lydia Serviss, and Tiffany Taylor delivered the results of their research to a scientific academic forum.

### **NYIT Population Health Course**

The first NYIT Population Health Course, taught by NYIT faculty, was completed on Henderson's campus this year with over 30 students enrolled.

### **NYIT Project H.E.A.R.T. Camp**

The NYIT Project H.E.A.R.T. Camp, to be hosted on Henderson's campus, is scheduled for June 6-9, 2024.

### **Digital Media Camp/Band Camp – June**

A Digital Media Camp is scheduled for June 25-28.

### **Special Ed Endorsement**

Henderson was awarded the Special Education Endorsement grant, bringing in 60 graduate students.

### **ESOL Grant**

Henderson was awarded ESOL grant, bringing in 75 graduate students.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### **Eclipse Community Event**

Henderson hosted the Eclipse Community Event at the Carpenter Haygood Stadium, serving over 1,000 faculty, staff, students, and community and regional visitors.

## **ATHLETICS**

### **Henderson Athletics**

- Henderson State University athletes were recognized for having the highest graduation rate among Arkansas universities.
- Henderson's Women's Basketball team won the GAC tournament.
- Two Henderson individual swimmers became National Champions in April.
- Two Henderson swimming relay teams won the National Championship in April.



- Henderson's women's golf team and our men's golf team won the GAC Championship (4.
- Henderson's women's golf team won the NCAA DII Regional and will proceed to nationals in Florida.