

**Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees
June 5, 2025**

ASU SYSTEM FOUNDATION, INC.

Contact: Nicole Frey (870) 972-2576

For the period ending March 31, 2025 (unaudited), the Arkansas State University System Foundation recorded gifts and other support of \$7,068,972.

Contributions were designated as follows:

ASU-Jonesboro	\$5,576,801
ASU-Mountain Home	\$575,312
ASU-Beebe	\$116,932
ASU-Newport	\$694,661
ASU Three Rivers	\$98,665
ASU System Foundation	\$6,601

The Foundation reported net assets of \$164,761,375, representing an increase of 4.35% for the period ending March 31, 2025.

The market value of the ASU System Foundation Endowment Pool for the period ending March 31, 2025, was \$135,723,404.

The net rate of return for the period ending March 31, 2025, was 4.79%.

Endowment balances designated per campus are as follows:

Jonesboro	\$117,022,367
Mountain Home	6,255,792
Beebe	2,399,629
Newport	3,169,833
Three Rivers	956,683
Red Wolves Foundation	2,106,070
System Foundation	<u>3,813,030</u>
Total	<u>\$135,723,404</u>

**Arkansas State University System
Capital Projects Report
June 5, 2025**

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

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (A-STATE)*

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Baseball Turf	\$2,175,637	Closeout Phase
LSW Fire Alarm	328,590	Closeout Phase
Misc. Bldg. Site Demolition	4,008,109	Substantially Complete
Loop Trail Phases III and IV	1,244,507	Substantially Complete
Baseball Field East Electrical	191,730	Substantially Complete
Lakeport Plantation House Humidity	594,000	Construction Phase
Collegiate Park HVAC	1,251,801	Construction Phase
Tyronza Grain Bin Remodel	1,916,383	Construction Phase
Parking Services Renovation-Old Wesley Building	970,740	Construction Phase
Chilled Water Loop-Windgate	2,151,742	Construction Phase
Arkansas Hall Fan Coils	286,000	Construction Phase
University Hall Fan Coils	273,000	Construction Phase
Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation	25,219,886	Construction Phase
Chilled Water Loop-Power Plant Electrical Upgrades	298,850	Construction Phase
College of Veterinary Medicine	30,720,890	Construction Phase
Student Union Roof Replacement Phase 2	2,039,249	Construction Phase
Education and Communication Roof Replacement	860,751	Construction Phase
Collegiate Park Exterior Renovation	662,672	Construction Phase
Student Union 2 nd Floor Atrium Painting	353,157	Construction Phase
Fowler Center Tower Replacement	277,256	Construction Phase
Northpark Plaza Renovation	4,762,029	Design Phase
Pavilion Remodel	995,000	Design Phase
Kays Hall Renovation	310,000	Planning Phase

1. Baseball Turf

Architect/Engineer: FieldTurf
Contractor: FieldTurf
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project is complete and awaiting closeout.

**In an effort to streamline the Capital Projects Report and focus on higher-impact initiatives, all projects with budgets under \$250,000 have been removed from this section. These smaller-scale projects will continue to be tracked separately.*

2. Lab Science West Fire Alarm Replacement

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

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

3. Misc. Building Site Demolition

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

Status: Demolition of the Fine Arts Center Annex is complete and sitework is complete. The HPSS pool building demolition is complete. University Circle houses have been removed and sitework is being completed. We are waiting for final pay request.

4. Loop Trail Phases III and IV

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

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

5. Baseball Field East Electrical

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Cline Environmental and CWL
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The scope of this project is to replace junction boxes and upgrade the electrical system at the baseball field for lighting and scoreboard controls. This project is substantially complete and awaiting closeout.

6. Lakeport Plantation House Humidity

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: Kinco Constructors
Expected Completion: August 2025
Funding: ANCRC Grant

Status: This is a grant-funded project to upgrade the HVAC systems for the house. The project is under construction.

7. Collegiate Park HVAC

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

Status: The scope is to replace the remaining R-22 units with new 14 SEER R-410A units. This is a multi-year phased project. The final phase of construction has begun.

8. Tyronza Grain Bin Remodel

Architect/Engineer: Revival Architecture
Contractor: Olympus Construction
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: ANCRC Grant

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

9. Parking Services Renovation-Old Wesley Building

Architect/Engineer: Steiling Architecture
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project converts the existing building, which used to house the Wesley Student Center, into offices for Parking Services. This project is in the construction phase.

10. Chilled Water Loop-Windgate

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: Upgrades to the chilled water loop and Central Plant are necessary to provide chilled water for the new Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation. A new chiller and cooling tower will be installed. This project is in the construction phase.

11. Arkansas Hall Fan Coils

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

Status: The scope is to replace the existing fan coil units with new units. This will be a multi-year phased project. This project is in the construction phase.

12. University Hall Fan Coils

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

Status: The scope is to replace the existing fan coil units with new units. This will be a multi-year phased project. This project is in the construction phase.

13. Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation

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

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

14. Chilled Water Loop Power Plant Electrical Upgrades

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: Upgrades to the Central Plant are necessary to provide chilled water for the new Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation. Electrical upgrades have begun and work is moving forward on schedule.

15. College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon Architect
Contractor: Nabholz
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Bond Issue

Status: Construction has begun for the CVM at the intersection of University Loop East and University Loop West. The 56,000 square-foot facility will house administrative academic, and technical spaces to support the new Veterinary School. This project is scheduled to be completed in May of 2026.

16. Student Union Roof Replacement Phase 2

Architect/Engineer: Morris and Associates
Contractor: Roberts McNutt
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: Revolving Loan Fund

Status: This project is the second phase of the roof replacement for the Student Union and will complete the roof replacement plan. This project is in the construction phase.

17. Education and Communication Roof Replacement

Architect/Engineer: Morris and Associates
Contractor: Mid-Ark Roofing
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: Revolving Loan Fund

Status: This project is a complete roof replacement for the Education and Communication Building. This project is in the construction phase.

18. Collegiate Park Exterior Renovation

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Nabholz
Expected Completion: Winter 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will repair and replace damaged exterior siding and trim on buildings 2, 6, and the community building for Collegiate Park. This will be a phased project until all buildings have been completed. This project is in the construction phase.

19. Student Union 2nd Floor Painting

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Nabholz and Vincent Painting
Expected Completion: December 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will paint all of the common areas and stairwells of the second floor of the Student Union. It will be a phased project until all floors have been completed. It is currently in the construction phase.

20. Campus Fiber Loop Phase II

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Cline Environmental
Expected Completion: December 2025
Funding: University Funds

Status: The project adds to the existing fiber loop on campus. We are currently waiting for an agreement with Union Pacific for a right-of-way request, in order to bore under the railroad. This project is in the construction phase.

21. FNB Arena LED Outside Signs

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit
Contractor: RGB Mechanical and Gibson Sign Mart
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will include large, lighted graphics for each entrance at the Arena.

22. Fowler Center Cooling Tower Replacement

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will replace the cooling tower at the Fowler Center.

23. Northpark Plaza Renovation

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

Status: This project renovates the existing Northpark Plaza building for the RESTORE program.

24. Pavilion Remodel

Architect/Engineer: AMR Architects
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project renovates the existing Pavilion for use as an entertainment and retail establishment designed to cater to the student body living on campus. This project is on a fast timeline and is scheduled to be open for the fall semester. It is in the design phase.

25. Kays Hall Renovation

Architect/Engineer: Not selected
Contractor: Not selected
Expected Completion: Fall 2027
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will select an architect to plan a renovation of the existing Kays Hall (residence hall). This will be an extensive renovation to update and repair the aging building. If fully approved, the building is set to be offline from May 2026-July 2027. This project is in the planning phase.

ASU-BEEBE

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Bloodworth Nursing Building Project	\$1,976,093	Complete
Vet Tech HVAC Replacement Project	160,000	Complete
Heber Springs Campus Repairs	131,000	Substantially Complete
Precision Ag Training Center	450,000	Design Phase

1. Bloodworth Nursing Building Project

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

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

2. Vet Tech HVAC Replacement Project

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

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

3. **Heber Springs Campus Repairs**

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

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

4. **Precision Ag Training Center**

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Winter 2025
Funding: ALIGN Grant

Status: This project is being undertaken to create a space to house equipment and to create instructional space for the new Precision Ag Training Program that was created from an ALIGN Grant from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. This project is funded 100% by the ALIGN Grant proceeds.

ASU-MOUNTAIN HOME

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Gotaas Hall Renovation/Remodel	\$6,000,000	Planning Phase
Campus Roof Repairs	975,000	Planning Phase
Trail Lighting and Landscaping	420,000	Design Phase

1. **Gotaas Hall Renovation/Remodel**

Architect/Engineer: TBD
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: Federal HRSA grant

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

2. Campus Roof Repairs

Architect/Engineer: TBD
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: Plant Fund Reserves – Insurance Reimbursement

Status: On March 20, 2025, a severe hailstorm impacted the Mountain Home campuses, resulting in significant roof damage to nine buildings. This repair project is in the planning phase.

3. Trail Lighting and Landscaping

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

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

ASU-NEWPORT

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Memorial Walking/Biking Trails Marked Tree (MT) Phase I	\$ 103,000	Design Phase
Center for Health Sciences	6,000,000	Design Phase
Memorial Walking/Biking Trails Newport (NP) Phase II	117,000	Design Phase

1. Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I

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

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

2. Center for Health Sciences Phase I

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

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

3. Walking/Biking Trails Newport (NP) Phase II

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

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

ASU MID-SOUTH

PROJECT TITLE

FUNDS AVAILABLE

STATUS

Adult Education Foundation Repair

\$300,000

Construction

Athletic Weight & Training Room

\$300,000

Design

1. Adult Education Foundation

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects
Contractor: Wagner General Contractors, Inc.
Expected Completion: Summer 2025
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is to repair the foundation in the Adult Education department in the Workforce Center Building. The project is underway, with demolition and soil borings completed. Project repairs will begin shortly, with completion scheduled for mid-July.

2. Athletic Weight & Training Room

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects
Contractor: Baldwin & Shell
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is to create a weight room and training space for the baseball and softball programs in the Workforce Technology Center Building. The project is in the design phase, with Baldwin & Shell enlisted as the contractor.

ASU THREE RIVERS

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
New Nursing Building	\$8,000,000	Construction Phase
Ritz Theatre Renovation–Phase V	1,355,611	Construction Phase
New Workforce Center Renovation & Expansion	2,819,250	Design Phase

1. New Nursing Building

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

Status: The Federal Department of Health and Human Services grant is funding this construction project. Interior lighting fixtures, HVAC equipment, and millwork have been completed. The exterior signage, sidewalks, and brickwork have been completed. Construction is expected to be finalized late Summer/early Fall 2025.

2. Ritz Theatre Renovation – Phase V

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

Status: The ANCRC grant, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Heritage, is funding Phase V renovations, which include incorporation of the former TV repair shop building. Construction has begun and is anticipated to be complete by Fall 2025.

3. New Workforce Center Renovation & Expansion

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Winter 2026
Funding: HIRED Grant Funds

Status: The HIRED grant, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Commerce, is funding the renovation and expansion, which include incorporation of the former El Parion restaurant. The architect is in the plan design stage, with bids to be solicited in Fall 2025.

HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Mooney Hall	\$700,000	Construction Phase
Smith Hall	400,000	Construction Phase
Russell Fine Arts Hall	800,000	Construction Phase

1. **Mooney Hall**

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

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

2. **Smith Hall**

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

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of Smith Hall. The grant will include a new cooling tower, painting, and structural repairs. Construction has begun, and the project is scheduled to be completed by May 2025.

3. **Russell Fine Arts Hall**

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

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of Russell Fine Arts Hall. The grant includes renovating the music, band, and auditorium areas, and repairing all historic wood, lockers, painting, and flooring. Construction has begun, and the project is due to be completed by May 2025.

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees Report
June 5, 2025**

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

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

- Awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Music to country music star and Grammy Award-winner Ashley McBryde at the Spring Commencement on May 10;
- Continued working with community leaders and elected officials to build support for A-State's Career Readiness Education and Skills Training (CREST) workforce development initiatives;
- Supported Intercollegiate Athletics during the current leadership transition, focusing on building a championship culture of collaboration and communication;
- Presented the 2025 R.E. Lee Wilson Award to Amber Yates of Salem. Yates, a communication studies major in the College of Liberal Arts and Communication, graduated from A-State in December.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Academic Affairs and Research:

- **Degrees Awarded:** Arkansas State University graduated 2,830 students between two commencement ceremonies on May 10, 2025. This represents a 5% increase over last spring.
- **College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM):** The CVM leadership continues to build community partnerships with veterinary practices and other agencies in Arkansas and beyond to support their innovative competency-based veterinary curriculum. The CVM has been approved for a comprehensive site visit, and the inaugural Doctor of Veterinary Medicine class is expected to begin in Fall 2026, pending successful accreditation.
- **Research Updates:** Since January 2025, Arkansas State University has been awarded \$1,543,854 from 12 separate proposals. Additionally, 24 proposals have been submitted for a total of \$14,606,446. Research and Technology Transfer continues to implement improvements to protocols and procedures, as well as offering individual guidance and intensive workshops to support faculty research. The Create@State Symposium showcased students' co-curricular research, scholarly, and creative works in a professional setting. Participation increased 18% this year, with 183 student abstracts featured.

- Five faculty members received the following 2024-2025 Faculty Achievement Awards:
 - **Excellence in Professional Service:** Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Associate Professor of Renewable Energy Technology
 - **Excellence in Teaching, Non-Tenure-Track:** Kayla Travis, Assistant Professor of Nursing
 - **Excellence in Teaching, Tenure-Track:** Dr. Niamat Hossain, Assistant Professor of Engineering Management
 - **Emerging Faculty Scholar:** Dr. Ehsan Naderi, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering
 - **Chancellor's Medal for Research and Creative Activities:** Dr. Jianfeng (Jay) Xu, Professor of Biochemical Engineering

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Actions

The following were approved by AHECB for A-State at the April 25, 2025, meeting:

NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

- C.P., Engineering Management Systems
- C.P., Construction Management
- C.P., Pre-Law Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy
- G.C., Geographic Information Systems

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Actions

The following will be submitted to the AHECB for A-State at the July 25, 2025, meeting:

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

- Departmental name change and reorganization: Department of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences, and the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences are to be combined, and renamed, the Department of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences
- B.S., Accounting, is to be renamed, B.S., Accounting with Data Analytics, and CIP is to be changed from 52.0301 to 52.1399; and
- B.S., Management, is to be renamed, B.S., Entrepreneurial Management and Strategic Leadership.

RECONFIGURATION OF EXISTING CERTIFICATE/DEGREE PROGRAM TO CREATE NEW DEGREE

- C.P., Limited X-Ray Machine Operator, is to be reconfigured to create A.A.S., Limited Medical Imaging and Safety Specialist

- B.S., Multimedia Journalism, and B.S., Creative Media Production, is to be reconfigured to create B.S., Mass Communications, with emphasis areas in Creative Media, News, and Sports Media;
- Ed.S., Educational Leadership, Superintendency Track, is to be reconfigured to create, Ed.S., Superintendent; and
- M.A.T., Teaching, Special Education K-12, is to be reconfigured to create M.A.T., Special Education K-12.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM REVISION

- M.A.T., Athletic Training
- B.S.E., Elementary Education
- B.S., Management
- B.M.E., Instrumental Music
- B.M.E., Vocal Music
- B.S., International Business
- G.C., Building Level Administration
- G.C., Curriculum Director
- M.S.E., Curriculum and Instruction (all tracks)
- Ed.S., Educational Leadership (Curriculum Director Track; Gifted, Talented and Creative Director Track; and, Special Education Director Track)
- D.P.T., Physical Therapy
- M.A.T., Teaching

EXISTING CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED ONLINE

- M.A., History

PROGRAM DELETION/INACTIVATION OR REACTIVATION

- Inactivation, B.S.E., World Languages and Cultures
- Deletion, Concentration in English as a Second Language under M.S.E., Educational Theory and Practice
- Deletion, Concentration in Instructional Technology under M.S.E., Educational Theory and Practice
- Deletion, Ph.D., Educational Leadership
- Deletion, C.P., Android Application Development
- Deletion, Emphasis in Virtual Reality Production under B.S., Digital Technology and Design
- Deletion, Emphasis in EMT – Basic under A.A.S., Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management

- Deletion, C.P., Entrepreneurship
- Deletion, C.P., Game Production and Development
- Deletion, C.P., Health Coaching
- Deletion, C.P., Virtual Reality Content Design and Filmmaking
- Deletion G.C., Student Affairs
- Deletion, G.C., Early Childhood Special Education-Integrated B-K
- Deletion, Emphasis in Hospitality Management under B.S., Management

NEW MINOR, EMPHASIS, OPTION, TRACK, OR CONCENTRATION

- Minor in Applied Leadership and Soft Skills
- Minor in Medical Humanities
- Emphasis in Business Law and Compliance under B.S., Business Administration

NEW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

- G.C., Master Professional Educator

EXISTING PROGRAM OFFERED AT AN EXISTING OFF-CAMPUS LOCATION

- B.A., Psychology, B.S., Computer Science, and B.S.E., Special Education K-12, to be offered at A-State Qatar

ACCESS AND INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT (AIE)

Access and Accommodation Services (AAS)

- The number of new students registered during this period is 102. This brings the total active registration numbers to 1,198.
- During the previous quarter, approximately 875 tests were administered.
- Our office processed four e-text requests and 12 technology/assistive devices checkouts.
- The AAS Transportation Program has facilitated approximately 215 pickups and drop-offs and completed approximately 26 classroom setups (e.g., seating accommodations, classroom signage for allergy accommodations).
- Approximately 21 emotional support animals (ESAs) have been approved, bringing the total number of ESAs on campus to 196.
- AAS staff attended four training sessions and conducted one workshop during the quarter. These trainings are disability-specific in terms of programming and

service delivery. They also satisfy continuing-education requirements for state and national licenses and certifications held by AAS staff members.

- From April 7-10, Access and Accommodations hosted Disability Awareness Week, in partnership with the Multicultural Center and the Women's Business Leadership Center.
- AAS, in collaboration with the ASU System legal team, has received approval for an assistive animal operating procedure.
- AAS facilitated the awarding of three privately funded scholarships to students.
- The AAS physical accommodations specialist has begun an accessibility assessment of buildings and grounds. Findings and recommendations will be reported to Facilities Management to assess any recommended changes.

Institutional Engagement

- The Division of Access and Institutional Engagement sponsored or assisted the following events:
 - A-State Women's Basketball Alumni Day - Feb. 1;
 - Black Heritage Gospel Extravaganza - Feb. 5;
 - 18th Annual Black History Month Soul Food Dinner - Feb. 7;
 - NYIT 5th Annual Research Symposium - Feb. 10;
 - A-State Women's Leadership Conference - April 3;
 - 2025 Excellence Awards Ceremony - April 23.

Faculty/Staff Engagement

- AIE sponsored a reception for the Empowering the Pack mentorship program on April 4.
- AIE provided funding to assist the Department of Music in attending the Music by Women Festival in March 2025, held in Columbus, MS.

Student Professional Development

- AIE provided funds to assist four students with conference expenses and upcoming study abroad opportunities.
- AIE provided funding to cover the INSPIRE student outreach dinner held on April 7.
- AIE funded spring stipends for the Student Diversity and Recruitment (SDR) team. The SDR helps grow enrollment by visiting schools across Arkansas and neighboring states.

Multicultural Center (MC)

The Multicultural Center works to create a welcoming and inclusive campus environment by providing programming that promotes an appreciation for community development.

We are committed to affirming students' overall experiences and serving as a support system and resource for the concerns and needs of students from all backgrounds.

- Between January 2025 and March 2025, the Multicultural Center welcomed more than 500 visitors.
- The MC Black History Month Committee spearheaded a full schedule of events for the month of February to celebrate Black history and culture.
- The MC Women's History Month Steering Committee hosted five programs throughout March 2025.
- The MC co-hosted the World Cultural Fair with the Mayor's Youth Advancement Council. The fair aimed to unite different cultures through performances, exhibits, and interactive experiences.
- The MC welcomed over 100 attendees at the annual Multicultural Center Graduation.
- The MC implemented structured check-ins with student employees to encourage reflection on their academic progress, co-curricular involvement, and workplace experiences.

ATHLETICS

Athletics Administration

- The Sun Belt Conference announced updated standings for the 2024-25 Bubas Cup, the league's all-sports award, and the Red Wolves are atop the standings after piling up 89.0 points through 11 sports scored.
- Chancellor Todd Shields announced that a national search for the Red Wolves' 14th all-time athletics director.
- A-State alumnus and former football letterwinner Johnny Allison was officially inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame.

Football

- A-State's entire 2025 schedule was announced and includes a pair of midweek games that will be nationally televised.
- A-State announced that all lower-level season ticket purchases at Centennial Bank Stadium will include a per-seat donation to the Red Wolves Foundation, as well as a five percent "One Pack" fee that will be applied to the price of tickets only.

Men's Basketball

- The Red Wolves claimed their second all-time Sun Belt Conference regular-season championship and first since 1998, while earning a top-four seed in the league tournament for the second consecutive year.
- Arkansas State led the Sun Belt Conference in average home attendance during the regular season.
- The Red Wolves made their fifth appearance in the NIT, the first since 1991.

- Ryan Pannone was announced as the Red Wolves' 18th all-time head men's basketball coach.

Women's Basketball

- Arkansas State won the Sun Belt Conference Tournament for the first time in school history and made its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament.
- Head coach Destinee Rogers signed a new agreement that extends her contract to March 31, 2029.

Track & Field

- Sixteen student-athletes earned All-Sun Belt Indoor Track & Field honors, including Men's Field Performer of the Year Colby Eddowes and Women's Field Performer of the Year Michelle Ogbemudia.
- The men's squad finished runner-up at both the Sun Belt Conference Indoor and Outdoor Championships.
- Senior thrower Michelle Ogbemudia earned Second Team All-America honors after placing 12th in the weight throw at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Women's Bowling

- The Red Wolves made their 17th straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament.
- Maggie Thoma, Kaylee Back and Karli VanDuinen were recognized by the National Tenpin Coaches Association (NTCA) as All-America selections.

Men's Golf

- Jack Maxey won the Sun Belt Conference individual championship, helping lead the Red Wolves to a runner-up finish in the stroke-play portion of the tournament.
- Thomas Schmidt was named the Sun Belt Conference Golfer of the Year for the second consecutive season, and Jake Wallis was chosen the league's Freshman of the Year.
- Jack Maxey and Thomas Schmidt were selected to compete as individuals in the NCAA Regional being played at the Auburn University Club.
- Head coach Mike Hagen signed a new agreement that extends his contract to June 30, 2030.

Women's Tennis

- The Red Wolves finished the 2024-25 season with 13 wins, the program's most since 2008.
- A-State claimed its first victory in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament since 2015.
- The Red Wolves' five Sun Belt Conference wins were the program's most since 2000 (7).

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT, GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Admissions Outreach

- Fall 2025 enrollment numbers look strong. As of May 6, enrollment is up by 802 students, representing an 11% increase compared to this time last year.
- Fall 2025 applications have also continued to grow, surpassing Fall 2024's final total and up 6% from this time last year.
- The freshman application withdrawal rate for Fall 2025 is 2.2%, down from 4.7% this time last year for Fall 2024.
- Special group visits from January to May have increased by 10% over last year.
- A-State received 482 applications for the KAIT8 Community Scholarship giveaway. Of those 482 applications, more than 150+ students applied with a 4.0 GPA.

Recruitment

- Identified and targeted high-performing and low-performing schools to outline spring travel engagements;
- Implemented new strategies focused on yielding currently admitted students through specific event types.

Early College Programs

- Established partnerships with 19 schools for the 2025-26 academic year, representing a 27% increase from the previous year;
- Signed MOUs with eight new partner schools;
- Onboarded 18 new high school instructors. All instructors have been fully credentialed through the A-State faculty-credentialing process.

Financial Aid (FA)

- Continued partnership with Admissions to send targeted messages to incoming students for 2025-2026;
- Assisted Admissions recruiters with senior awards ceremonies;
- Processed Fall 2025 transfer scholarships;
- Processed summer aid for currently enrolled students;
- More than 2,500 scholarships were offered for 2025-26 to first-year students.
 - Valued at nearly \$12.5 million;
 - Initiating the projection process for the upcoming class based on the roster of students currently registered for New Student Orientation.

Study Abroad Initiatives

- Spring 2025: Twenty-one students are currently abroad.
- Study Abroad is currently exploring potential University partners in Greece.

International Student Recruitment

- Removed agent contracts from nine agents with no yield;
- Created a new onboarding process for verified agents;
- Conducted a recruitment trip to Vietnam.

- Met with VNIS recruiter and seven subagents to discuss recruitment strategies and support;
- Met with Ho Chi Minh City Technical University for a 2+2.

International Student Services (ISS)

- Hosted three different country-specific festivals
 - India – Holi Festival;
 - Nepal – Nepali New Year;
 - Vietnam – Lunar New Year;
 - Bangladesh – Victory Day.
- ISS has reduced I-20 processing to 3-4 days, down from 2-3 weeks.
- ISS has achieved a 100% OPT success rate.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

First National Bank Arena (FNBA) Events

- **Currently on Sale:**
 - Dwight Yoakam and Ashley McBride – September 5;
 - Whiskey Myers – September 18;
 - Jon Pardi – September 20;
 - Mercy Me and Toby Mac – October 2.

Environmental Health and Safety:

- Completed safety training with CLACL. Courses included emergency evacuation, fire safety, storm weather awareness, and hazardous material disposal;
- Completed the Campus Safety Walk with the Student Government Association.

Human Resources:

- The Mountain Home campus was added to the TALEO software and is currently training individuals in its use.
- The evaluation process for all staff, associate and assistant deans, vice chancellors, chairs, and deans was started.

Payroll Services

- Submitted the W-2 forms for calendar year 2024 (2944) for Jonesboro and Henderson (738). In February, we submitted the 1095 forms for Jonesboro and Henderson;
- Continued to work with employees on submitting and approving the Banner Time Entry time sheets on a weekly basis and provide trainings, if necessary.

Red Wolf Wellness

- Hosted a six-week Spring Fitness Challenge for faculty and staff, with participants training alongside our professional staff and interns. Additionally, we collaborated with the campus benefits coordinator to host fun, recreational fitness activities that promoted team building, improved workplace morale, and supported productivity.

Title IX and Institutional Equity:

- Provided Title IX training during New Employee Orientations;
- Assisted seventeen students with pregnancy and parenting rights;
- Collaborated with multiple units and planned programming for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Training & Development:

- Hosted 57 new staff members for orientation during the months of January, February, and March; began the fourth cohort of Leadership A-State in February;
- Added four new courses to the Learn Center and launched Learning Plans for GLBA and CSA to the campus.

University Safety Emergency Management (USEM):

- Completed annual campus fire sprinkler inspections;
- Held an Emergency Action Plan meeting with ABI;
- Hosted a safety committee meeting with Liberal Arts and Communications;
- Conducted fire drills with University Housing;
- Performed safety inspections of fraternity houses with JFD.

Enterprise Risk Management:

- Completed the insurance payment process for the Christmas break 2022 freeze event.

Controller's Office:

- DFA's sales-tax division came to campus to provide sales tax training for Procurement, Accounts Payable, and General Accounting.

Treasurer's Office:

- The Treasurer's Office is working to identify and assist students with outstanding balances for spring who are registered for summer and fall classes.
- 1098T and 1042S statements have been successfully submitted to the IRS for tax year 2024.

Procurement:

- The Procurement Service’s annual vendor show had 388 attendees this year.

University Police Department (UPD):

- The members of the University Police Department completed a combined total of 5,716 hours of professional development training in calendar year 2024. Training included courses in Defensive Tactics, Standardized Field Sobriety, Active Shooter, Hazardous Materials, Radar, FEMA training, NIMS training, Cultural Diversity, Racial Profiling, Use of Force, Behavioral Health Response, Sexual Assault Response, and Ethics.
- The department received 62,832 phone calls through the dispatch center, generated 8,161 calls for service and officer-logged activities, conducted 1,668 traffic stops, worked 132 vehicle accidents, responded to 75 medical calls and 108 fire alarms, and generated 808 incident reports in calendar year 2024.
- Members provided a total of 19 hours of campus safety education to approximately 1,891 campus participants in calendar year 2024.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

University Marketing

- Coordinated with Enrollment Management to identify incoming high school seniors from Northeast Arkansas to feature on a new “Stay Here. Go Far.” billboard campaign for Red Wolf Boulevard;
- Continued to make progress on the development of a new university website, scheduled to launch in Fall 2025;
- Hosted a “topping off” reception for Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation;
- Designed assets to support the new Pack Portal digital campus hub;
- Began finalizing concepts to pitch for the Marion Berry Overpass multi-use trail divider barricade;
- Collaborated with Finance and Administration to release the new Economic Impact Report, highlighting A-State’s role as an economic driver for the region.

University Communications

- Produced 79 media releases, highlighting the achievements of our students, faculty, and staff;
- Continued producing the weekly “Inside A-State” e-publication highlighting faculty and staff research, awards, and recognitions;
- Continued the “Daily Digest” campus newsletter, informing the campus of current events;
- Continued serving as the curator for the University Calendar, the central repository for all events on campus.

Publications and Creative Services (PCS)

- PCS continues to serve as an internal advertising agency for major campus initiatives.
- Created marketing collateral for the proposed CREST building focused on uniting workforce development in Northeast Arkansas.
- Currently working on new campaigns for Honors College, CLAC, College of Veterinary Medicine, and more.

Digital Creative Media (DCM)

- DCM completed filming assets to promote the “Freshman-to-Physician” pathway program.
- Photography added an AI-based search component to our digital asset manager, enabling visual search for images beyond included metadata.
- Videographers produced supporting assets for the 2025 Day of Giving campaign in collaboration with University Advancement.

Social Media

- Arkansas State’s primary social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, Threads, YouTube) produced the following metrics:
 - Impressions: 12,476,944;
 - Engagements: 349,980;
 - Total audience: 298,986 (+6,780);
 - Video views: 465,509;
 - Published posts: 972.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- Continued upgrades to SSO by migrating existing applications to a new, optimal SSO provider. The launch of the new Pack Portal (Pathify), a one-stop-shop experience for students, faculty, and staff, ensures a seamless transition after initial login to other platforms. Collaborating with Ellucian to allow for the same experience throughout Summer 2025.
- Development of updated procedures and guidelines in follow-up to feedback from the internal GLBA audit to ensure A-State, alongside all campuses in the System, are aligned with security processes and protocols.
- Expansion of A-State’s Knowledgebase (KB), in conjunction with academic and administrative departments, to allow for institutional chatbot to be used on the new website, scheduled for launch in Fall 2025.

- Completed technical implementation of CourseDog, centralized academic scheduling software, in preparation for training throughout the summer and a launch in Fall 2025.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Student Wellness Initiatives

- Red Wolf Reset was held in April to encourage healthy habits for college students. Students participated in plate smashing, mini massages, painting and other activities to promote stress relieve, stress management, and coping strategies.
- Club Sports completed a successful academic year. A total of 228 Club Sport participants competed in various events for Softball, eSports, Men's Soccer, Cricket, Ultimate Frisbee, Spirit Squads and Rugby. The eSports team won a national championship, playing Rainbow Six in the National eSports Collegiate Conference.
- A total of 92,933 accessed the Red WOLF Center during the 2024-2025 academic year, with 943 unique students participating in Intramurals.
- During the 2024-25 academic year, the Wilson Counseling Center engaged with 4,917 students through individual counseling sessions, intake sessions, small group sessions, classroom presentations, workshops, crisis appointments, wellness meetings, and outreach events.
- Student Conduct adjudicated a total of 721 conduct cases during the 2024-2025 academic year. The most common student conduct violations are connected to alcohol, pet possessions, damage to property, drugs, and quiet hours.

Student Activities

The following notable campus student events occurred during the Spring 2025 term:

- Student Government Association hosted annual elections. Jake Williamson (President) and Kate Malone (Vice President) were sworn into office and will serve the student body from April 2025-March 2026.
- Student Activities Board hosted annual SpringFest in April. This fair-style event featured rides, games, carnival food, a petting zoo, customized merchandise, and more. More than 1,000 students attended this event, making it one of the largest campus activities this academic year.
- Greek Life hosted "Greek Life to Real Life" for graduating seniors in April. The program connected students with community business leaders and campus professionals. The event offered networking opportunities, professional development tips, and advice on transitioning into the workforce.
- The A-State Food Pantry served 1,379 unique individuals throughout the 2024-2025 academic year. Various student organizations, departments, and individual

students/employees donated food items, personal hygiene products, and monetary donations to support the Food Pantry.

- Social media continues to influence campus life. The following engagement statistics reflect the impact of the various Student Affairs accounts.
 - Impressions: 4,168,302;
 - Engagements: 153,969;
 - Audience: 45,596;
 - Total Sent Messages: 3,002;
 - Total Received Messages: 3,986;
 - Video Views: 526,998;
 - Largest Audience Growth:
 - @AStateStudentLife Instagram: +273 followers;
 - @AStateHousing Instagram: +266 followers;
 - @NPCAState Instagram: +230 follower.

University Housing

- The campus housing occupancy for Spring 2025 is 2,887 demonstrating a 7% increase from Spring 2024.
- Anticipated summer housing occupancy is 608. Summer residents will arrive to campus at the end of May.
- University Housing resident assistants hosted a variety of educational and social programming throughout the semester in each of their residential areas. These have been informative, fun, and well attended.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Advancement Services

- For the third quarter of the fiscal year, January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, the University recorded 6,277 gifts and commitments from 2,462 individual donors totaling \$4,943,176.30. This amount includes outright cash donations, gifts-in-kind, planned gifts, and new pledges. Included is a \$1,500,000 testamentary commitment that will benefit scholarships for the football program.
- The fifth annual Day of Giving generated 330 gifts and commitments from 244 donors, raising \$535,690.76. Thirteen of those donors gave for the first time. The campaign included \$14,511.80 specifically designated for the One Pack initiative.

Alumni Relations

- Alumni Association membership continues to grow. In the third quarter, the 1924 Sustaining Life category increased by 6.7 percent, largely due to the successful 100 Memberships for 100 Years life membership drive.

- The following eight high school seniors were selected from approximately 185 applicants to receive the License2Howl (L2H) Scholarship.
 - Hutch Bristow of Nettleton High School;
 - Reese Deman of Malvern High School;
 - Madison Fischer of Valley View High School;
 - Jacob Keedy of Newport High School;
 - Chloe Miller of Marion High School;
 - Isaac Mirafuentes of Jonesboro High School;
 - Henlee Morton of DeWitt High School;
 - Alexis Rogers of Gosnell High School.

There are now 32 L2H scholarship recipients receiving a combined \$160,000 annually.

- Planning is underway for a tailgate on September 6 in conjunction with the A-State vs. University of Arkansas football game. The Alumni Association is partnering with the Red Wolves Foundation and Centennial Bank for this special event.
- Homecoming is set for October 25, 2025. This year, the Distinguished Alumni awards banquet will be a breakfast on the morning of October 25. The alumni and fans tailgate will be held before kick-off.
- Many alumni engagement events are scheduled for 2025, including the following:
 - May 8 – Red Wolves on the Rooftop – ASU System Office, Little Rock;
 - June 23-24 – St. Louis Alumni Events – St. Louis;
 - August 16 – Annual Watering Hole (NPC Bid Day), Jonesboro;
 - September 6 – Tailgate at Little Rock Zoo for A-State vs. Arkansas game;
 - Homecoming Weekend
 - Distinguished Alumni Breakfast – Cooper Alumni Center;
 - Homecoming Tailgate Saturday – Cooper Alumni Center;
 - November 2025 – Tentative Grizzlies Game with Alumni;
 - December 6 – Pancakes & PJs – Cooper Alumni Center;
 - December 6 – Howlidays on the Rooftop – ASU System Office, Little Rock;
 - December – Tentative Bowl Activities.

Career Development and Engagement

- During the third quarter, the office hosted six career fairs, five workshops and made classroom presentations in 14 classes.
- A total of 119 employers engaged with 441 students at the fairs. Beyond events, 91 one-on-one appointments were held for resume reviews, mock interviews, and career planning.
- There were three faculty classrooms that partnered with Career Development to integrate services such as a resume-review session, Big Interview assignment or attendance of fair/workshop for extra credit opportunities.

Advancement Marketing and Communications (AMC)

- Launched a first-time donor journey email campaign to provide meaningful touchpoints throughout the donor's first year and encourage ongoing support.
- Collaborated with campus partners to develop a comprehensive Day of Giving marketing strategy, including targeted emails for each college and key affinity groups, as well as social media ads and mailed communications.
- Led the Day of Giving rebrand in partnership with Publications and Creative Services, resulting in the new "One Pack" theme now used beyond the campaign itself.
- Coordinated press releases highlighting the establishment of the Burns-Maynard Scholarship for the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Patricia Butcher Cooper Educator Scholarship for the College of Education and Behavioral Science.
- Partnered with Athletics and the Chancellor's Office to support a Zoom Lunch and Learn focused on NIL (name, image, likeness) developments.

**Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees Report
June 5, 2025**

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

Establishment of Scholarship in Honor of Chuck Wisdom, Jr.

Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASUB) is proud to announce the establishment of the Chuck Wisdom, Jr., Agricultural Heritage Scholarship, honoring the legacy of a beloved 30-year faculty member, veteran, mentor, and community leader. Chuck Wisdom passed away unexpectedly on March 10 of this year at the age of 55. He was a lifelong resident of Beebe, who dedicated his life to serving his country, educating future generations, and strengthening the community he loved. Wisdom joined ASU-Beebe in 1995 and served as Assistant Professor of Agriculture, where he was known for his hands-on, practical approach to agricultural education, utilizing the ASU-Beebe farm and facilities to enrich his students' learning experiences.

In addition to teaching, Wisdom served as the longtime advisor of the Ag Club and was instrumental in organizing the annual Ag Day, which celebrated its 69th year at ASUB in February. Additionally, since 2001, he helped organize the ASU-Beebe volunteers for the Sunshine Rodeo, a much-anticipated, rodeo-themed event for students with developmental disabilities. Beyond the classroom, Wisdom was a proud veteran of the Arkansas Air National Guard, serving for 35 years, including a tour in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He rose to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, following in the footsteps of his personal hero, his father, Chief Master Sergeant Charles Wisdom, Sr.

The Chuck Wisdom, Jr., Agricultural Heritage Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student attending ASUB who is pursuing studies in agriculture. The scholarship celebrates Wisdom's lifelong commitment to our nation, to education, and to the students whose lives he helped shape.

Students Compete in SkillsUSA State Contests

Students from the ASUB Searcy Campus Regional Career Center and the Lonoke Business Academy Regional Career Center recently competed in the Arkansas SkillsUSA competitions and received awards at a ceremony held on April 16 in Hot Springs. The awards presented are as follows:

- College Division
 - Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration: Alexander Langston, third place;
 - Marine Service Technology: Eric Collins, first place, Lucas McClure, second place, and Bailey Spinks, third place;
 - General Welding Technology: Hannidy Mills, third place;
 - Diesel Engine Technology: Brennan Gustin, first place, and Caden Ring, second place;
 - Diesel Job Skills Demonstration: John Shadell, first place, and Lane Rudesill, third place;
 - Automated Manufacturing: Jeremiah Donnell, Conner Yancey, and Enrique Hernandez, first place;
 - CNC 3 Axis Programming: Conor Graves, second place, and Evan Soles, third place;
 - Automotive Parts Specialists: Evan White, second place;
 - Power Equipment Technology: Jesse Lemons, first place, and Nick Bush, second place;
 - Power Equipment Technology Job Interview: Spencer Chapel, second place.
- High School Division: ASUB-Searcy RCC
 - Marine Service Technology: Matthew Ruther, first place, Drake Dee, second place, and Sean Duncan, third place;
 - Diesel Engine Technology: Rolando Perez, first place, and Brandon Underwood, third place;
 - Automated Manufacturing: Kylan Elliott, Josh Jones, and Gaebriel Lewis, third place;
 - Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair: Terron Gambetta, second place, and Jackson Dillon, third place;
 - Power Equipment Technology: Aden Lemons, second place,
- High School Division: Lonoke Business Academy RCC
 - Related Technical Math: Andrew Wiencek, first place;

- Diesel Technology: Wesley Clifton, second place;
- Job Interview Skills: Maria Avila, second place, and Rosie Moysh, third place.

First-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 23-27 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. SkillsUSA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor as a successful model of employer-driven workforce development.

ASUB Partners with Quitman School District

Academic year 2024-25 marked the first academic year of the Quitman School District Building Trades Program becoming a part of the ASU-Beebe Regional Career Center. Five area high schools now send students to participate in this program, in which 10th–12th grade students come together to build, and then sell, a home at public auction—gaining real-world experience and learning the value of their hard work.

This has been a beneficial partnership between ASU-Beebe and Quitman Schools, a partnership which has greatly expanded access for area students. Dr. Methvin was honored to, once again, bestow upon Superintendent Dennis Truxler and the school district a “Heart of the Vanguard Community Partner Award” at the May 5 joint meeting of the Cleburne County Economic Development Foundation and the Heber Springs Area Chamber of Commerce meeting, where Dr. Brendan Kelly, President of the ASU System, was the keynote speaker.

Quitman Schools, together with the Construction Building Trades Program, held an auction to sell their 2024-2025 project home on May 3, selling the house for \$75,000. ASUB is excited to support the expansion of the program to include college credit through ASUB beginning this fall.

SGA Renaissance Faire

The Vanguard Renaissance Fair opened on April 5 and despite the inclement weather, provided an unforgettable journey back in time. Members of the ASUB Student Government Association planned, built props, designed costumes, and wrote scripts in order to turn the Owen Center into a vibrant medieval village. To celebrate the College mascot and the spirit of Vanguard, students and guests explored interactive booths featuring basket weaving, face painting, caricatures, dreamcatchers, fortune telling, a wizard's den, crown making, magic wands, and even a medieval jail. Those who completed quests throughout the day were knighted by the college mascot, Van, and welcomed into the Order of the Vanguards.

2024-2025 Performing Arts Season

The ASUB theatre department presented their original adaptation of "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" on April 24-27. "The Patchwork Girl of Oz" is a student adaptation of the seventh book in L. Frank Baum's Oz series. "'The Patchwork Girl of Oz,' displays our students' boundless creativity as they stretch their imaginations and technical skills to create a world all its own," said Ryan Gibbons, Assistant Professor of Communication and Theatre.

ASUB presented 7 Bridges: The Ultimate Eagles Experience on April 1 in the Owen Center Theater. The sold-out performance featured the authentic and legendary music of the Eagles without backing tracks or harmonizers. Renowned for their musicianship, vocal precision, and dynamic stage presence, 7 Bridges is known for delivering the perfect mix to captivate any audience. Band members include Jason Manning as Glenn Frey, Keith Thoma as Don Henley, Bryan Graves as Randy Meisner/Timothy B. Schmit, Rob Evans as Joe Walsh, Blake Hall as Don Felder, and Vernon Roop as Joe Vitale. ASUB 2024-2025 Lecture-Concert Series extends special thanks to sponsors, Arkansas Radio, First Community Bank, Eoff & Associates Realty, Inc., and First Electric Cooperative, for supporting this event.

ASUB Department of Music recently presented spring concerts. The Symphonic Band, under the direction of Dr. Brent Bristow, Director of Bands and Professor of Music, performed on May 1. Selections included works by Richard Saucedo, Robert W. Smith, Randall Standridge, Tyler Arcari, Douglas Wagner, Carol Brittin Chambers, Jocelyn Hagen, Frank Ticheli and Rob Romyen. ASUB Singers and Chamber Singers held their spring concert on May 6. Under the direction of Mary Jo Parker, the ASUB choirs were joined by the Beebe High School Mass Choir and Chamber Choir, directed by Sam

Holtcamp, for a powerful and inspiring performance. The evening closed with a moving combined performance of “Awake the Harp” and “City Called Heaven.”

The ASUB Art Department featured the art exhibit, “Stories & Symbols,” by Jeff Young throughout the month of March. Young, an educator and artist working primarily in charcoal, graphite, and handmade paint, lives and works in central Arkansas, where he has taught at the University of Central Arkansas for 29 years. Young’s narrative drawings often use objects, including toys, plants, tools, and coffee cups as visual metaphors. Recently, Young has explored metaphors he employed earlier in his career, such as gloves and toy robots, and demonstrated how they might be perceived in a new way. He has exhibited his work in 48 regional and national juried exhibitions, has presented at over 50 state and national conferences, and is co-author on six articles published in journals, such as “Studies in Art Education” and “Visual Arts Research.”

ASUB Academic Program Notifications

On April 25, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviewed the following program actions for ASUB:

New Certificate

- Certificate of Proficiency in Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (CIP 51.0904; DC 0186; 7 credit hours; Fall 2025 (8/1/2025)) EMS 2017 Advanced EMT

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees
June 5, 2025**

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

Summer Professional Development Courses

Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH) will host its 2025 Summer Conference, titled "Better Together: Connecting Colleges," on June 11–12, 2025, at the Vada Sheid Community Development Center. Organized under the Title III initiative, this professional-development event is designed to foster collaboration among higher education professionals through keynote presentations, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities. The conference features a comprehensive agenda that supports the development of professional skills, promotes cross-institutional collaboration, and reinforces strategies for student success. Now in its second year, the 2025 conference will include participants from other colleges in the region for the first time. Dr. Jenny Bloom, a tenured professor at Florida Atlantic University and founder of the Office of Appreciative Education, will deliver the keynote address on June 11. With extensive experience in academic advising and student affairs, Dr. Bloom brings valuable insights into student engagement and success, having presented at over 500 institutions and conferences.

Donation of Extruder from Danfoss

ASUMH received a generous equipment donation from Danfoss Power Solutions, in the form of a commercial-grade extruder. This equipment will be incorporated into technical-education training programs and used to strengthen hands-on learning opportunities for students pursuing careers in advanced manufacturing and industrial technology at the Robert L. Myers Technical Education Campus in the Czeschin-Newth Workforce Development Center.

SkillsUSA Competition

ASUMH proudly transported fifteen of its top Technical Education students to compete in the state-level SkillsUSA competition, held in Hot Springs. Each student represented our College with skill, strength, and professionalism. Several students earned top honors, highlighting the excellence of ASUMH's technical programs.

Elizabeth Watson earned the gold medal in Welding, claiming the title of State Champion—an exceptional achievement in one of the most competitive trades. Lee

Lawrence, Justin Lane, and Cameron Bess won a silver medal in Welding Fabrication, showcasing impressive teamwork and technical expertise. Elijah Hunter earned a bronze medal in the Automotive Parts Specialist category, demonstrating strong knowledge in automotive systems and parts management.

APEX Lecture Series

ASUMH hosted an APEX student presentation on April 28, titled “Literature in Frames: Storyboarding Pivotal Moments of Short Stories,” in McMullin Lecture Hall. The event included a 45-minute lecture, followed by a Q&A session and reception in Dryer Hall. Mia Green, an ASUMH student, who graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in May 2025, led the presentation. She explored the educational value of storyboarding in literary analysis, highlighting key moments in three short stories: "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner, "Good Country People" by Flannery O'Connor, and "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. She used Kurt Vonnegut's “The 8 Shapes of Stories” to guide her analysis. Mia was mentored by Dane Hustead, ASUMH's digital-design instructor, who helped shape her interdisciplinary approach. She plans to transfer to UCA to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in mental health counseling.

Expansion of STEM-Focused Pathway

ASUMH continued expanding its STEM program offerings to better support students interested in engineering and related fields. Beginning in Fall 2025, new courses—including Calculus II and III, Physics-Based Calculus I and II, and Introduction to Engineering—are added to the schedule. These courses provide students with a cost-effective way to advance their academic progress before transferring to a four-year institution. Jessica Clanton was appointed as the program advisor to guide students through this enhanced pathway.

Academic Program Notifications

Program Deletion/Inactivation or Reactivation:

- Deleting, T.C., Web Development
- Deleting, C.P., Web Development
- Deleting, A.A.S., Workforce Technology

**Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees Report
June 5, 2025**

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

Strategic Priority 1: Student Success

- Mark Hanan, Director of Instructional Design and Distance Education, spoke to the Computer Network Technology students about artificial intelligence in IT. Some topics discussed included AI's involvement in the workforce, substituting AI for traditional methods used in the past, and learning ways that students can optimize their use of AI alongside their current skills.
- On April 10, the job-readiness ASUN Wage program held a graduation ceremony for another cohort of students at the McPherson Unit in Newport, Arkansas. Warden Nurzuhal Faust, accompanied by ASUN staff members, attended the event.
- Dr. Susan Cooper's World History class learned that much of our knowledge of ancient civilizations comes from discovering burial palaces and/or tombs. The students were tasked with creating their own burial palace or tomb, in which they were asked to place items they would use in the afterlife. They found creative ways to express their personalities and learned more about each other. The project was enjoyable for everyone, and seeing what each person added to their burial palace was interesting and a lot of fun.
- ASUN Applied Sciences Division soared high at the Arkansas Skills USA Conference in Hot Springs! Students brought home fifteen individual medals, and each program that participated in the competition this year brought home at least one medal. Medalists were the following:
 - Cosmetology: gold, silver, and bronze;
 - HVACR: gold;
 - Auto Parts Specialist: gold;
 - Electrical Construction Wiring: gold, silver, and bronze;
 - Welding Fabrication Team (secondary): bronze;
 - Metal Fabrication Team (post-secondary): bronze;
 - Information Technology Services: bronze.
- ASUN Education students, guided by Associate Professor Stacy Mooneyhan, painted the community room at the Allen Park Community Center in Jonesboro, AR, as part of their community service project.
- Tonya Gates, Director of Prison Education, presented Ambra Evans with her Certificate of Proficiency in Welding and other American Welding Society certifications. Congratulations, Ambra.
- Amy Beth Dowdy, one of the most renowned rice consultants in Missouri and the Mid-South, spoke to the Ag Tech students about her 35-year career in agriculture. She presented a slideshow on what she looks for in a rice crop during the scouting season and discussed job opportunities in the rice industry.

Ms. Dowdy is well-known in Missouri and Arkansas for her contributions to the agricultural industry. She is also a three-time brain surgery survivor.

Strategic Priority 2: Employee Success

- Daniel Parten, a graduate of our Computer Networking Technology (CNT) program and the Coordinator of IT Services at ASUN, spoke to our second-semester CNT students about his experience working in IT. He emphasized the need for continuing education and the significance of maintaining professional certifications and compared his on-the-job learning experiences with those he had while in the program.
- Congratulations to Latisha Clark, Advanced Instructor of Nursing, for completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Way to go, Tish!
- Congratulations to John Judd on being selected as a presenter at the HI-Tec Conference in Minneapolis, MN, from July 21 to 24. He will share his knowledge about the Creating Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Program (CAMPP). HI-TEC is a national conference on advanced technological education where secondary and postsecondary educators, counselors, industry professionals, trade organizations, and technicians can update their knowledge and skills.
- Congratulations to Andrea Jones, Regena White, Porsha McGregor, Dr. Stacie Hay, and Ken Beach, who recently completed the eight-week Dale Carnegie Course on Human Relations and Effective Communication. They were congratulated on their achievement, and their success was celebrated at a special recognition night, hosted by the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce on March 4.
- Ken Beach, the Assistant Director of Workforce Development, served as a judge for the State Girl Power Competition at the Saline Career and Technical Center in Benton, AR, on February 26.

Strategic Priority 3: Institutional Excellence

- Arkansas State University-Newport (ASU-Newport) has been designated an Opportunity College by Carnegie Classifications, recognizing its success in promoting student access and strong workforce outcomes. This designation is part of a new classification system, measuring how well institutions serve their communities and the earnings of their graduates. Only 479 colleges nationwide received this honor, with ASU-Newport being one of only seven in Arkansas. Chancellor Dr. Johnny M. Moore emphasized the importance of this recognition for the University's mission of providing accessible education and boosting economic mobility. Provost Dr. Typhanie Myers added that the recognition highlights the transformative impact of higher education on rural communities, noting significant earnings improvements for ASU-Newport graduates.
- Several faculty and staff attended a virtual workshop hosted by the Achieving the Dream series on Artificial Intelligence Exploration and Learning. The workshop was entitled, "Ensuring Inclusive Learning Experiences." Faculty from the Newport and Jonesboro campuses participated. They learned about various tools to use in the classroom and discussed issues associated with the emerging technology of AI.

- Dean Anna Westman conducted professional-development training on April 25, at the Newport campus as part of the ongoing Assessment and Teaching series for the Applied Science and General Education faculty.
- Our Beta Nu Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Student Officers and Advisors attended the Annual PTK Catalyst Conference on April 3-5 in Kansas City, MO. The chapter won regional Oklahoma/Arkansas awards, including the College Project award for the HIA Project, the REACH Award for our recruitment efforts, recognition as a top 5 chapter in the region, and the prestigious 5-Star Chapter of Distinction. At the international level, recognition awards were given for Outstanding New Advisor, presented to Dr. Jeanna Mason; Outstanding Alum to Meghan Cantara; and our chapter was recognized for being in the top 100 chapters internationally! Way to go, Beta Nu Gamma! PTK President Cheyenne Sheppard and Vice Presidents Jonathan Lindley and Liberty Loy, along with advisors, attended sessions with amazing speakers, which included former Olympic gymnast Laurie Hernandez, Steve Burns (from *Blue's Clues*), and Miguel Cervantes from *Hamilton*. There were also education forums, a national college transfer fair, the Gala Award Dinner, and explorations of downtown Kansas City!
- In March, members of the 2024-2025 class of the Arkansas Community College (ACC) Leadership Institute visited the state Capitol. The ACC Leadership Institute provided training to emerging community-college leaders in Arkansas. Many graduates have gone on to become college Presidents, Chancellors, Vice Presidents, Chancellors, and other key administrators. Members learned about the legislative process, attended committee hearings, and toured the facility. Our very own Dr. Stacie Hay was part of this group.
- The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) offered training for Career and Technical Education (CTE) faculty across the state. This training was organized by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and supported by the ADHE Perkins and the Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC). Adrian Manor, an instructor of Surgical Technology, participated in the training.
- On April 8, the faculty promoted their programs during Early College Senior Day, which several local high schools participated in.
- On April 10, ASUN-Jonesboro hosted a Manufacturing Day event.
- Spring Fling took place on April 14, 15, and 16 at the ASU-Newport, Jonesboro, and Marked Tree campuses.
- ASUN held commencement ceremonies on May 9 at the Newport Campus, Center for the Arts. Our Board of Visitors (BOV) member, Bryce Shelton, was the guest speaker. We honored 399 graduates and conferred 759 degrees.
- The Board of Visitors' quarterly meeting was held on our campus on May 14.
- A site visit from Achieving the Dream (ATD) coaches is planned for May 28-29. We eagerly anticipate hosting them at the ASU-Newport campus.
- The Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Spring Induction Ceremony occurred on the ASUN-Jonesboro campus on March 18.

- Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) hosted a St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunt on all campuses on March 17.
- The ASU-Newport, Jonesboro, and Marked Tree campuses celebrated "Dr. Seuss Week" from March 3 to 7, as part of National Read Across America Week.
- On March 6, Career Coaches held Health Professions Day at the Marked Tree Campus, with 55 students in attendance.
- Mrs. Iris D. Clark, a native of Newport, AR, spoke at ASUN's Black History Month celebration on February 26. She graduated from the Newport School District in 1982, earned her Bachelor of Science in Education in 1993, and her Master of Science in School Counseling in 2005 from Arkansas State University. With 28 years of experience in education as a teacher, counselor, and administrator, Mrs. Clark is passionate about serving her community, guiding youth, and supporting those facing challenges. She encourages others to use their gifts to serve others.
- ASU Newport's Energy Control Technology Program on the Marked Tree Campus held its annual wiring competition for local high school students on February 25. Students competed in circuit wiring, tool identification, and circuit schematic drawing, and they also took an electrical exam to test their basic knowledge. Justin Burnett, from Valley View High School, won first place and received a \$1,500 scholarship. Angel Llanes, from Jonesboro High School, secured second place and received a \$1,000 scholarship. Levi Moore, from Piggott High School, earned third place and a \$750 scholarship.
- The ATD Leadership Team from ASU-Newport attended the annual DREAM Conference in Philadelphia, PA, where educators and thought leaders from 300 colleges gathered to share strategies for student success and equity. The conference focused on access, momentum, mobility, and community impact, offering more than 65 labs and workshops to help participants implement practical strategies at their institutions. The event aimed to build connections and strengthen a community that works towards enhancing student engagement and success.

Strategic Priority 4: Community Engagement

- Welding instructor Justin Upchurch arranged for a member of the recruiting agency, Onin Staffing, to meet with ASUN manufacturing-program students to discuss job opportunities. One student secured a position that day and began working at Hytrol in the evenings! Creating opportunities for student success is what we do best!
- ASUN Library hosted a Shattered Glass Art Class on May 1.
- ASU-Newport's Automotive Service Technology program hosted its 22nd Annual Service Skills Seminar on April 22, 2025. The seminar seeks to inspire high school students to pursue careers in the automotive service industry. Westside, Valley View, Jonesboro, Greene County Tech, and Rivercrest students participated in the event.
- On April 15, ASU-Newport and 2 Chicks Florist & More hosted an Easter "Some Bunny Loves You" Floral Party at the ASUN Library! The party showcased a charming moss bunny atop a distinctive arrangement of spring flowers.
- ASUN's Creating Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Program (CAMPP) held an open house in Jonesboro on April 10. This event showcased our manufacturing programs to the public, inviting

industry partners and the community to engage with program faculty and learn more about our offerings in manufacturing.

- ASUN had a strong presence at the 35th Business Expo on April 2, held at the First National Bank Arena in Jonesboro, AR. This Expo offered over 250 businesses an opportunity to connect with more than 6,500 prospective customers and network with regional industry partners.
- Newport, Arkansas, celebrated its 150th anniversary with a Sesquicentennial Celebration on April 5 in the downtown park. Activities honored the city's proud past and bright future. Highlights included a competition for Newport High School graduating classes to win a \$500 donation for a nonprofit; a Historic Newport Photo Contest, hosted by the Jackson County Historical Society; and the Rails Along the River Model Railroading Expo at the Iron Mountain Train Depot. Children were able to enjoy bounce houses, a petting zoo, and a fishing derby. The event also featured a historical exhibit, vintage videos, the opening of a time capsule, a tournament, vendors, tailgate spots, Legendary Pacers and Gib Ponder Band music, food from downtown restaurants and food trucks, and more. Everyone enjoyed this special event.
- ASU-Newport Career Coaches hosted an Agri event on April 2.
- On April 18, ASUN-Jonesboro hosted a disaster simulation. This simulation involved a natural-disaster response, with local police, fire fighters, and EMS services participating to ensure that it was as realistic as possible. Several nursing students participated as casualties.
- ASUN-Marked Tree hosted an Automotive Services Technology (AST) Competition on April 22.
- ASU-Newport hosted the "Talk Derby to Me" fundraiser to support Aviator Athletics. This event occurred on May 3 at The Vault 1916 in downtown Newport, AR. A contest was held for Derby Spirit, a live auction, and a 50/50 split.
- We were thrilled to offer a French Cooking Class at our ASUN-Jonesboro location, featuring Chef Lisa Godsey, on April 11. This hands-on cooking experience explored the rich flavors of French cuisine. Participants prepared three classic dishes that beautifully blended tradition and culinary artistry. The participants worked in pairs to cook the meal and then came together to enjoy their creations. The class was open to individuals aged eighteen and older.
- On March 15, the Science Olympiad occurred at the ASU-Newport campus, attended by faculty, staff, and students. The 2025 Science Olympiad was a huge success, with ASUN hosting five junior high and seven senior high teams from Central and Northeast Arkansas. It was a day filled with exciting competition, involving brilliant young minds as teams competed head-to-head in intellectually challenging science events, including forensics, ecology, disease detection, towers, and more. Special thanks to all our volunteers—students, faculty, and staff—who showed up despite disruptive overnight storms. With approximately 100 participants, coaches, and families in attendance, we couldn't have achieved this without the support of our volunteers.
- On March 13, a Weld-a-Thon was held at the ASUN-Jonesboro Campus. The 16th annual Northeast Arkansas Weld-a-thon took place at the ASUN-Jonesboro Campus. Students from all corners of Northeast Arkansas competed for prizes and institutional scholarships worth over \$20,000. Fourteen

generous industry sponsors made this possible. Congratulations to Greene County Tech for winning first place. Their school won a Fronius TransSteel 2700 multi-process welding system, and each team member received welding gear, a \$1,500 scholarship to ASUN, and a first-place medal.

- ASUN was well-represented at the Be Pro Be Proud Draft Days, held at Nettleton High School on February 27. This event matches regional employers with graduating seniors for in-person interviews. Approximately 23 companies, 33 schools, 2,573 expo students, and 349 interviewing seniors were in attendance.

ASUN Academic Program Notifications

Program Reconfigurations

- ASUN is reconfiguring its Certificate of General Studies, and has opened the electives section.
- ASUN is reconfiguring its Certificate of Proficiency-Corrections, and replaced a course.

New Certificate Programs

- Certificate of Proficiency, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Process Controls
- Certificate of Proficiency, Automation and Engineering Controls

Curriculum Revisions

- Associate of Science in Education has increased its total credit hours.

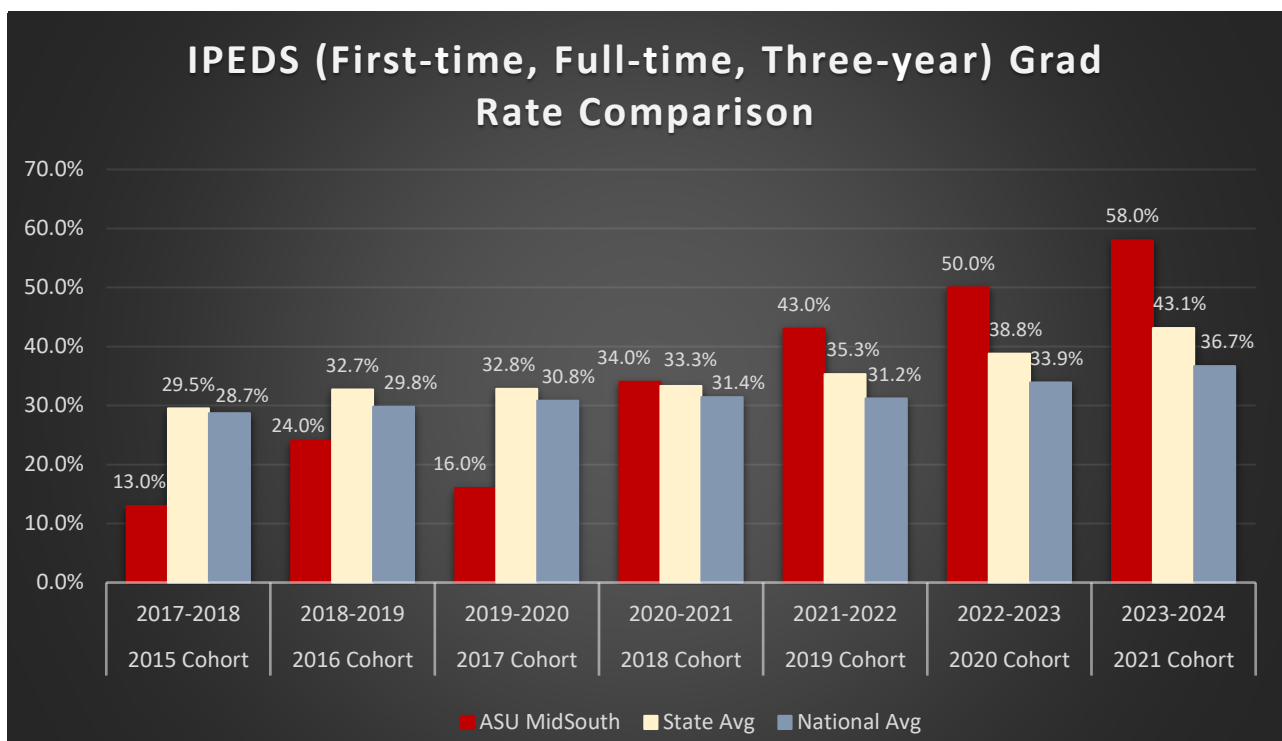
**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees Report-
June 5, 2025**

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

IPEDS Completion Rate Increase

ASU Mid-South increased its completion rate again in 2024, as measured by the National Center for Education Statistic's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Survey. This federally administered survey measures the completion rates of all first-time entering, full-time students at 150 percent of the normal time to degree. Thus, for community college students enrolled in two-year associate degree programs, it is a three-year completion measure.

ASU Mid-South's IPEDS completion rate rose from 50 percent last year, to 58 percent this year, marking four consecutive years of significant growth, as well as four consecutive years of exceeding both the state and national averages (43.1 percent and 37.7 percent, respectively). In fact, ASU Mid-South's completion rate measure at 100 percent of time (or two years) is 42 percent. Various changes to programs, policies, and practices since 2015 have contributed to this remarkable improvement, which has been recognized nationally by both Complete College America and the Gates Foundation.



2025 Commencement Enhancements

ASU Mid-South introduced two new traditions to our commencement exercise this year, both of which are designed to highlight our College's maturation as an institution of higher education. These are the ceremonial mace and academic gonfalon.

The ceremonial mace, or highly ornamental staff, dates back to medieval Europe, where it signified authority. More recently, it was adopted by colleges and universities as a symbol of institutional integrity and academic freedom. ASU Mid-South's ceremonial mace was borne by a faculty member selected by their peers. It represents scholarship, academic integrity, and the authority of the institution to confer degrees.

The academic gonfalon, or banner, represents the six broad academic divisions under which all of our degrees and certificates are organized: Allied Health; Advanced Manufacturing; Transportation; Business & Computer Science; Teacher Education; and Liberal Arts. The word "gonfalon" comes from the Italian "gonfalone", referring to a pointed, hanging banner or standard that was used by guilds in medieval times. ASU Mid-South's gonfalons were displayed on the stage where degrees are conferred.



The introduction of a ceremonial mace and academic gonfalons added color, formality, and symbolism to our commencement ceremony, elevating the experience for our graduates, many of whom were the first in their family to receive a college degree, as well as for their families and friends. For our concurrent graduates, it further distinguishes their college commencement ceremony from the one they will experience from their high school.

New Developmental Education Initiative with the Community College Research Center (CCRC)

ASU Mid-South was recently recommended by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to participate in the CCRC's *Developmental Education Reform Innovation Incubator Community of Practice* (CoP). The recommendation was based on the leadership that ASU Mid-South has shown in developmental-education reform in the state of Arkansas. This initiative, which will run from late April 2025 through June 2026, will pair a project team from ASU Mid-South, as well teams from three other colleges from throughout the nation, with researchers from the CCRC at Columbia University in New York. Through this work, ASU Mid-South will be able to continue to refine the approaches we have deployed to improve developmental education on our campus, including the early adoption of multiple-measures placement, self-paced progression, and, more recently, a shift to a 100 percent co-requisite instruction model.

As part of the CoP, ASU Mid-South will receive \$75,000 from the Gates Foundation to support project-related expenses, including staff time (e.g., release time and/or stipends); materials and supplies; travel expenses; and incurred college costs related to CCRC research activities (e.g., site visits). We are proud to be recognized for our leadership in this capacity for more than a decade, as well as for the opportunity to continue to refine the work that we do to improve student success. Our Vice Chancellor for Learning and Instruction, Jeff Gray, who has long been a leader in developmental education reform at ASU Mid-South, will serve as the campus liaison for this project.

Engage, Educate, Empower: Building Bridges, Creating Change

On April 11, ASU Mid-South hosted its annual student- and community-focused conference, sponsored by our PBI Grant. This year's conference theme was "Education and AI (Artificial Intelligence)", and it provided a platform for educators, students, and

community leaders to come together, foster dialogue, share practical knowledge, and offer global perspectives. The agenda for the day-long event included the following:

- **Session 1: Local Educator Panel**

A panel of local educators, all of whom are ASU Mid-South alumni, who have become educators, leaders, and public servants. Panelists reflected on the current state of education, as well as the ways in which their time at ASU Mid-South shaped their paths and deepened their commitment to serving their communities.

- **Session 2: AI and Its Coming Impact on Educational Lessons from Here and Abroad**

This session was led by Colin Matsinhe, a Berlin-based AI and EdTech strategist, co-founder of SozUp, and leader of AI-driven initiatives at TU Berlin, Parloa, and Cleverly. An expert at the intersection of AI and education, he guided participants through the opportunities and challenges emerging from this developing industry.

- **Session 3 : The Coming Promise and Peril of AI**

This session was led by Dr. Nakeema Stefflbauer, distinguished tech ecosystem builder and international speaker, specializing in ethical AI, who holds an M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University, a B.A. from Brown University, and an executive MBA from the Quantic School of Business and Technology. This session focused on navigating the complex balance between AI's promise and its potential risks, especially involving privacy, labor markets, and societal cohesion.

Session 4: The Journey to Building the Tech Centers That Power Our Data Future

This session was led by Francis Kiasisua, engineer; infrastructure strategist, and AI-driven, energy-systems expert, specializing in large-scale tech and energy deployments. This session offered a unique perspective from one of the literal architects behind the infrastructure powering the AI revolution. Kiasisua's path to becoming a Product Manager at Meta bridges the electrical engineering, public policy, and energy fields he has drawn upon to help build the data centers driving our internet future. He shared the paths taken to get where he is, some of the challenges he has overcome, and the resilience it took to carry him through. He also reflected on the future he's helping to build and what it would take to make his extraordinary journey possible for others.

It was a great venue for our faculty, staff, students, and our community to gather and dialogue about the impact of AI on our collective future.

National Consortium on College Men of Color (NCCMC) Webinar

The National Consortium on College Men of Color (NCCMC), based at San Diego State University, is comprised of minority-serving institutions throughout the nation. It hosts trainings, information-sharing sessions, and provides resources and research-based insights that support institutional efforts in improving outcomes for college men of color. On May 2, the consortium hosted a webinar for its members that was focused on the following topic: Student Success Coaching and Academic Advising Strategies to Support College Men of Color. Because of the work that ASU Mid-South has done to improve student success, Bridget Stewart, Director of ASU Mid-South's PBI (Predominantly Black Institution) Grant, was invited to serve as a panelist for this discussion, alongside Linda Fair, Academic Advisor for the Minority Excellence Association at Black Hawk Technical College (WI), and Pedro Gonzalez, Success Coach at Pima Community College (AZ). We are proud of the work we have done to improve outcomes for all ASU Mid-South students, and this webinar provided yet another avenue to highlight our success and to help others.

Skills USA

After a five-year hiatus, ASU Mid-South was proud to once again participate in the state SkillsUSA competition on April 14-16, in Hot Springs. Five of our students - four secondary and one adult - competed in the following categories: Diesel Equipment Technology, Information Technology Services, Technical Computer Applications, and Welding.

Two ASU Mid-South students medaled in the Technical Computer Applications competition. **Leroy Scott** won the gold medal in the secondary-student competition, and **Jeremy Lamarre** was awarded the silver medal in the post-secondary competition. **Gunner Thorpe**, a secondary student in the Diesel Equipment Technology contest, finished just out of medal contention in his category, winning fourth place.

As a gold medalist, Scott will receive a tuition-waiver award from the Arkansas Association of SkillsUSA, which is valid at any participating technical or community college within the state of Arkansas and applicable for up to a complete program of study. He will also travel to Atlanta, Georgia, in June to compete in the National Skills USA Competition, where he will be joined by fellow student, Jeremy Lamarre, who will serve as

an alternate should the gold medalist in the post-secondary category be unable to compete.

Academic Program Notifications

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

**Arkansas State University
Board of Trustees Report
June 5, 2025**

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

Health Sciences

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) has officially approved ASU Three Rivers' candidacy presentation, representing a major milestone in the institution's ongoing accreditation journey. This approval positions the Health Sciences program for continued advancement, with the site visit tentatively scheduled for the Spring 2026 term. This important step underscores ASUTR's commitment to excellence in nursing education and continuous improvement.

Saline County Career Technical Campus (SCCTC)

The Saline County Career and Technical Campus (SCCTC) is pleased to announce the launch of SalineSync—an innovative workforce training consortium established to address regional labor shortages and drive economic development. SalineSync represents a strategic career pathways initiative integrating career exploration, advanced skills training, and dynamic partnerships with industry leaders. Built upon the strong foundation of SCCTC and the workforce development expertise of Arkansas State University Three Rivers (ASUTR), the consortium is dedicated to designing customized training programs aligned with the evolving needs of local employers. Through this initiative, SalineSync seeks to equip students with the specialized competencies required for high-wage, high-demand careers, strengthening the regional workforce and enhancing economic resilience.

Sixty-one students from the Saline County Career and Technical Campus (SCCTC) proudly represented the Career Center at the SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference held in Hot Springs, with several students achieving top honors. Three students earned prestigious gold medals, two secured silver medals, and another two were awarded bronze medals, exemplifying excellence in their respective skill areas.

Arkansas State University Three Rivers Adult Education

As of April 19, a total of forty-six students have completed the requirements for their GED. The program currently holds an Efficiency and Effectiveness Rating of 62%, with a retention rate of 60%, reflecting ongoing efforts to support student achievement and persistence.

Malvern Campus Career Center and Workforce Development Update

Sixty-eight students from the ASUTR Career Center's Malvern campus competed in the SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference held on April 15–16 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. This impressive participation represents over 43% of our enrolled students. Competitors vied for state titles in twenty-five distinct individual and team contests across technical and leadership disciplines. Six students earned gold medals, securing their place at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, this June. Additionally, twelve students received silver medals, and seven students were awarded bronze, showcasing the strength and talent of our Career Center programs.

All programs at the ASUTR Career Center in Malvern offer opportunities for students to earn industry-recognized certifications. Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) testing is conducted on an ongoing basis, with 96% of students passing the written exam and 81% earning licensure on their first attempt. Students in the Medical Professions program have obtained certifications in CPR, 'Stop the Bleed,' and First Aid. Additionally, students in Welding, HVAC, Construction, and Automotive programs have had access to a range of safety and technical certifications, including OSHA, Safety/Pollution2 (S/P2), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications. These credentials enhance students' readiness for the workforce and reflect the Career Center's commitment to high-quality career and technical education."

ASUTR Workforce is currently delivering the ASUTR Professional Development Academy to employees at the West Fraser mills located in Angelina, TX, and Hendersonville, TX. In addition, ASUTR Workforce is actively collaborating with several industry partners, including Xpress Boats/Veranda Luxury Pontoons, the Clark County Workforce Training Group, which comprises Siplast, South Central Electric Cooperative/South Central Connect, Drumco, Southern Bancorp, and the Arkadelphia Alliance, as well as Matthews International. These partnerships reflect ASUTR's ongoing commitment to workforce development and industry-driven training solutions.

Student Affairs and Retention

Criterion team chairs convened on February 21 and March 12 to continue the ongoing work of updating the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assurance Argument in preparation for the College's four-year accreditation update. ASUTR's accreditation was reaffirmed in 2021, with the next update due by June 23, 2025. The chairs meet bi-weekly to report progress, coordinate efforts, and identify any necessary documentation. Relevant documents requiring revision have been forwarded to the appropriate shared governance councils for review and action.

ASUTR held its commencement ceremony on May 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bank OZK Arena in Hot Springs. A total of 639 students applied for graduation, collectively earning 688 degrees and certificates. Of those, 449 graduates indicated their intention to participate in the ceremony.

Provost Pat Simms and Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Retention and TRiO Director Vergina Smith attended the NASH Transfer meetings, hosted by Eric Atchison, and submitted the third Test of Change implementation plan for the spring semester.

The TRiO staff organized and participated in several well-attended campus events, including a Welcome Mixer and a Transfer Fair. In addition, TRiO Student Support Services hosted a series of student-focused workshops designed to enhance academic and career readiness. These included sessions on Financial Literacy, Study Skills, Test-Taking Strategies, Transfer Tips and Scholarships, Résumé Design, Professional Attire ('Dressing to Land the Part'), and Degree Planning and Registration.

Since the last report, the Eagle Outreach Food, Clothing, and Hygiene Pantry has served 71 unduplicated households, supporting a total of 124 individuals. At the start of the Spring 2025 semester, the Pantry officially transitioned to using Oasis Insight for its reporting and data management.

College Advancement and Community Outreach

The Council for Advancement hosted its Second Annual Scholarship and Donor Reception, providing an opportunity for the ten recipients of the ASUTR Foundation Scholarships and the recipient of the Jessie Mae Ashford Scholarship to meet and engage with ASUTR Foundation members and generous scholarship donors.

Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees
June 5, 2025

Chancellor's Report
Henderson State University

Enrollment:

Spring 2025 enrollment geographic statistics include the following:

- A. U.S. States-33 students
- B. Foreign Countries-29 students
- C. Arkansas Counties-students from 69 counties of our 75 counties

Fall 2025 Recruitment:

Fall recruitment is currently looking very promising. Our focus on more personal recruiting, T-shirt days in the high schools, two new Texas recruiters, and now having a full staff since 2018, all seem to be paying off. The current statistics are the following:

- Applications–Fall: +746 (+46%)
- Admit –Fall: +706 (+59%)
- Accepted Scholarships–Fall: +526 students

Heart Start (Summer Registration Days): Registration, to date, is 556, compared to 399 last year (+156 / +46%).

Fiscal Strength:

- In Fall 2024, HSU received a Moody's upgrade (Moody's has since downgraded all of higher education nationally).
- HSU is predicted to end the fiscal year with approximately 100 days cash on hand.
- Our University endowment has risen to just over \$30,500,000.
- We plan to move a number of funds to reserves at the end of the fiscal year. This will constitute the first "true" reserves for the University since 2016.

Academic Program Notifications:

Upcoming Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Actions: The following will be submitted to the AHECB for Henderson State University at the July meeting:

- **Program Reconfiguration to Create New Degree**
 - Associate of Applied Science in Aviation (Commercial Pilot)
The existing bachelor's degree in aviation will continue to be offered.

- **Program Changes**
 - B.S. in Computer Science: new concentration in Software Development
 - B.S. in Natural Sciences: new concentration in Wildlife and Field Biology
- **Existing Program to Be Offered Online (Corrections to ADHE List)**
 - Master of Science in Developmental Therapy
 - Graduate Certificate in Developmental Therapy
- **CIP Code Change (Correction to ADHE List)**
 - BSE in Early Childhood Special Education Integrated (Birth-K) CIP 19.0706 changed to CIP 13.1210

Academic Affairs:

- Henderson is currently conducting four new faculty searches. This is a continuation of a substantial rebuilding of the HSU faculty and the academic community on campus. These searches include faculty members in Engineering, Education, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Physical Education, and Nursing.
- The College of Business was recently notified that it has officially received AACSB re-accreditation.
- The HSU Social Work Program has received preliminary notification of accreditation for the academic program.
- Henderson hosted the 2025 Arkansas Undergraduate Research Conference in April. Five university and over forty students presented their research on various topics.
- We have re-established the Henderson Horizon Investment Club. This student-led investment club manages a portfolio of more than \$1,033,000.
- The Henderson Nursing Program continues to utilize the \$850,000 grant it was awarded in Spring 2024. New simulation laboratory equipment has been purchased and two new Nursing faculty have been hired through this grant.
- Simonson Biology Field Station – The first classes were held at the Field Station since 2019. All repairs and upgrades have been completed.

Campus Renovations:

Campus renovations and improvements currently underway are the following:

- General Campus Facelift–power washing and painting continue to be ongoing;
- Huey Library–new HVAC equipment installation has been completed;
- Flight Operations Center (Airport)–has been painted and new furniture has been added;
- Russell Fine Arts Renovations–ANCRC grant is underway;
- Mooney Hall Outside Renovations–ANCRC grant is underway;

- Chemistry Lab—renovation is underway on two labs;
- Smith Hall Renovations—ANCRC grant has been completed;
- Education Building—complete interior painting was funded by the HSU Foundation;
- Next Year Renovations (ANCRC)—Wells Center.

Athletics:

- All spring sports (Tennis, Softball, Baseball, Women's Golf, Men's Golf) earned post-season play after very successful competition.
- Men's Golf – won the GAC Regular Season Championship
- Women's Golf – won the GAC Regular Season Championship
- Women's Golf – went to regionals and to nationals in Las Vegas
- Baseball – went to regionals in Minnesota
- The search for a track coach is continuing and should be completed by May 30, 2025.

Reddie Network:

Phase I included locating Reddie Educators across the country to join the Reddie Network, which works with HSU alumni to enhance enrollment, jobs, internships, and raising funds. As of this date, 625 Reddie Educators have become members of the Reddie Network. Phase II of the Reddie Network launched in April and focuses on recruiting HSU's Aviation alumni. Currently, 48 Aviation alumni have joined the Network.

Henderson also recently awarded the first two Reddie Network scholarships. These recipients were referred by members of the Reddie Network.

Fundraising:

Significant fundraising efforts continue at Henderson. Some successes from this year include the following:

- Henderson recently received an irrevocable estate pledge from HSU alumni, Troy Caver, in the current market amount of \$7,000,000, to name the Caver College of Aviation, Science, and Nursing (pending Board of Trustees approval). This would be the largest pledge/gift in Henderson's history! We are grateful for this very generous endowment.
- HSU continues to have increased overall amounts raised, compared to 2023-24.
- \$250,000, from the estate James Wage, was donated for naming rights (pending Board of Trustee approval) for the James Reginald Wage Player Development Center for Baseball and Softball. This is another wonderful gift.
- HSU's Day of Giving raised more than \$163,000 from 152 donors, doubling the number of donors from last year's Day of Giving campaign.

Intramural Fields/Band Practice Space/Green Space Complex:

The fundraising campaign to raise funds for new intramural fields/green space/band practice space continues.

- Total cost of the project: \$200,000
- Demolition Phase: \$100,000
- Funds raised to date: \$109,000, enough to begin demolition of five structures on Henderson Street and Haddock Streets.

Georgia Pacific is considering a gift of \$100,000 for the intramural complex, and we should know more information about this gift by May14, 2025.

SSC Contract (Maintenance and Housekeeping):

Henderson is considering the renewal of a five-year contract with SSC. The renewal will be a \$3,500,000 contract that is already included in the 2025-2026 HSU budget. Along with campus services, the renewal will provide the University with \$800,000 for deferred maintenance needs and \$250,000 for critical equipment needs.

Cafeteria and Community:

The Malachi Smith Dining Hall continues to be open to the community for Sunday meals (12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.). To date, 4,240 patrons have dined with us since September 15.