

**Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees
September 12, 2025**

ASU SYSTEM FOUNDATION, INC.

Contact: Nicole Frey (870) 972-2576

For the fiscal period ending (unaudited) June 30, 2025, the Arkansas State University System Foundation recorded gifts and other support of \$18,653,408.

Contributions were designated as follows:

ASU-Jonesboro	\$16,142,761
ASU-Mountain Home	\$1,130,790
ASU-Beebe	\$165,798
ASU-Newport	\$1,083,218
ASU Three Rivers	\$122,214
ASU System Foundation	\$8,626

The Foundation reported net assets of \$181,068,391, representing an increase of 14.67% for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2025.

The market value of the ASU System Foundation Endowment Pool for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2025, was \$153,427,739.

The net rate of return for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2025, was 13.72%.

Endowment balances designated per campus are as follows:

Jonesboro	\$133,375,684
Mountain Home	6,661,066
Beebe	2,592,310
Newport	3,396,023
Three Rivers	1,032,643
Red Wolves Foundation	2,218,269
System Foundation	<u>4,151,744</u>
Total	<u>\$153,427,739</u>

**Arkansas State University System
Capital Projects Report
September 12, 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>
Loop Trail Phases III and IV	\$1,244,507	Substantially Complete
LSW Fire Alarm	328,590	Substantially Complete
Fowler Center Tower Replacement	277,256	Substantially Complete
Chick-Fil-A Renovations	953,294	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
Chilled Water Loop-Windgate	2,151,742	Construction Phase
Arkansas Hall Fan Coils	286,000	Construction Phase
Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation	24,219,886	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
Pavilion Remodel	984,190	Construction Phase
Education and Communication Roof Replacement	860,751	Construction Phase
Loop Trail E-Phones	487,339	Construction Phase
Collegiate Park Exterior Renovation	662,672	Construction Phase
Union 2 nd Floor Atrium Painting	451,257	Construction Phase
Pavilion ADA Improvements	812,699	Construction Phase
A-State Meat Lab Snack Stick Line	750,000	Design Phase
Ed Leadership Renovation for NYIT	450,000	Design Phase
Kays Hall Renovation	310,000	Design Phase

**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.*

1. 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.

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. 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. This project is complete and awaiting closeout.

4. Chick-Fil-A Renovations

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

Status: This project renovates the existing Chick-Fil-A in the food court. This project is scheduled to be open at the beginning of the fall semester.

5. Lakeport Plantation House Humidity

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: Kinco Constructors
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: ANCRC Grant

Status: This is a grant-funded project to upgrade the HVAC systems for the house. Construction has begun and additional work has been added to the scope to address additional problems from humidity and water intrusion.

6. Collegiate Park HVAC

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

Status: The final phase is complete and awaiting closeout.

7. 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 substantially complete.

8. 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.

9. Arkansas Hall Fan Coils

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
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. Work is set to begin in Summer 2026.

10. 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.

11. 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 along on schedule.

12. College of Veterinary Medicine

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

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

13. 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.

14. 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 those in the student body living on campus. This project is on a fast timeline and is scheduled to be open for the fall semester.

15. 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 and is in the construction phase.

16. Loop Trail E-Phones

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

Status: This project will install additional e-phones along our existing Loop Trail. Construction has begun.

17. Collegiate Park Exterior Renovation

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

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

18. Student Union 2nd Floor Painting

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

Status: This is project will be to paint all of the common areas and stairwells. This will be a phased project until all floors have been completed.

19. Pavilion ADA Improvements

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

Status: This project provides necessary accessibility improvements to the interior and exterior of the Pavilion.

20. A-State Meat Lab Snack Stick Line

Architect/Engineer: Insight Engineering
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Grant Funded

Status: This project is a modification of the existing Agri Meat Lab for the production of meat sticks, and includes equipment and building modifications to the HVAC and roof, as well.

21. Ed Leadership Renovation for NYIT

Architect/Engineer: TBD
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Fall 2027
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will renovate the Education and Leadership Studies building to house additional square footage for NYITCOM. This project is in the RFQ for architect phase.

22. Kays Hall Renovation

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

Status: This project entails the selection of an architect to plan a renovation of the existing Kays Hall residence hall. This will be an extensive renovation to repair structural damage to the aging building. If plans are fully approved, the building is set to be offline from May 2026-July 2027.

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	Complete
Precision Ag Building	767,819	Design Phase
Heber Springs HVAC Boiler Replacement	321,693	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. The balance of the estimated project cost will be funded from institutional reserves.

2. Vet Tech HVAC Replacement Project

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

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

3. Heber Springs Campus Repairs

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

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

4. Precision Ag Building

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: HIRE Grant; Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is for construction of a Precision Ag building. This will be a basic metal building that will provide training and storage space for the Precision Ag equipment, and will include one classroom space and one office space. Funding, in the amount of \$650,000, was awarded through the Arkansas HIRE grant, with the balance to be funded from institutional reserves.

5. Heber Springs HVAC Boiler Replacement

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
Contractor: TBD

Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project replaces two boilers on the Heber Springs campus. One boiler is inoperable, and the other boiler has high maintenance needs, along with controls issues. The new boilers will be stainless steel, have a longer projected useful life with minimal maintenance requirements, and will provide cost and operational efficiencies.

ASU-MOUNTAIN HOME

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

1. Trail Lighting and Landscaping

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

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

2. 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.

3. Campus Roof Repairs

Architect/Engineer: TBD
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Plant Fund Reserves – Insurance Reimbursement

Status: On March 20, 2025, a severe hail storm impacted the Mountain Home campuses, resulting in significant roof damage to nine buildings.

ASU-NEWPORT

PROJECT TITLE	FUNDS AVAILABLE	STATUS
Memorial Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I	\$ 103,000	Design Phase
Center for Health Sciences	6,000,000	Design Phase
Memorial Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II	117,000	Planning Phase
HVAC Replacement Larry N. Williams Student Community Center	447,000	Planning Phase

1. **Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I**

Architect/Engineer: Brackett-Krennerich Architects
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
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. The project design has been approved and it is ready for bid.

2. **Center for Health Sciences Phase I**

Architect/Engineer: Taggart Architects
Contractor: Clark Contractors, LLC
Expected Completion: Fall 2027
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 complete.

3. **Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II**

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

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

4. **HVAC Replacement Larry N. Williams Student Community Center NP**

Contractor: Harrison Energy Partners/Johnson Controls
Expected Completion: Fall 2025

Funding: Deferred Maintenance Reserves

Status: This project replaces two 50 ton package HVAC units at the Larry N. Williams Student Community Center. The current units are no longer useable. Also, the project will update the control systems to allow these new units and the other building units to connect to the central control system (Metasys).

ASU MID-SOUTH

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Adult Education Foundation Repair	\$300,000	Construction
Athletic Weight & Training Room	604,000	Construction

1. Adult Education Foundation

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects
Contractor: Wagner General Contractors, Inc.
Expected Completion: Fall 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 well underway, with foundation pilings currently being installed. Flooring replacement will begin shortly, with completion scheduled for the end of this August.

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 construction phase, and demolition has been completed.

ASU THREE RIVERS

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
New Nursing Building	\$8,000,000	Substantially Complete
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. The construction phase is completed, and equipment and furniture are being installed. The exterior signage, sidewalks, and brickwork have been completed. The project is expected to be completely finalized in early/mid 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 is nearing completion and is anticipated to be finalized in early/mid Fall 2025.

3. **New Workforce Center Renovation & Expansion**

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Fall 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 currently in the 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
Duke Wells Renovations	1,300,000	Design 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, entry repairs to the brick area, painting, and structural repairs. Construction has begun, and the project is scheduled to be completed by March 2026.

2. Smith Hall

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Kinco
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 March 2026.

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 March 2026.

4. Duke Wells Renovations

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

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of Duke Wells HPR Center. The grant includes resurfacing the main and auxiliary gym floors and repairing critical plumbing and mechanical issues, bringing new life to the building. The project is currently in its design phase.



1. Chancellor Summary

- A. Establishing a #OnePack Mindset:** #OnePack is the strategic reorganization and initiative connecting athletics to campus and the community.
 - a. #OnePack breaks down silos across campus, connecting Arkansas State Athletics directly to academics, fundraising, finance, communications, facilities, and community engagement into one unified identity.
 - b. #OnePack also means that we have integrated the ImPACKt Club collective with the Red Wolves Foundation.
- B. Redesign of Scholarship and Enrollment Strategies:** A-State is undertaking a comprehensive redesign of its institutional scholarship and enrollment strategies with a focus on return on investment, enrollment growth, access, student success, and post-graduation employment outcomes.
 - a. A new merit-based aid model will be implemented, guided by predictive yield and ROI analytics.
 - b. The University is conducting a thorough evaluation of international and transfer recruitment strategies.
- C. Strategic Realignment of University Operations:** Campus-wide optimization through external benchmarking and process reviews.
 - a. A-State is implementing data-informed cost reductions and efficiency gains through benchmarking data.
 - b. A compensation study and customer-service training are underway to improve operations, efficiency, and morale.
- D. AI-Driven Strategic Transformations:** Intentional integration of AI across admissions, retention, financial planning, HR, student services, fundraising, among others.
 - a. A-State is building AI agents to enhance predictive analytics, enrollment targeting, content creation, and back-office efficiencies.
 - b. Launched the first phase of the Ellucian *Smart Plan* and *Award* to support student success and retention through AI-driven degree planning tools.
- E. Strategic Plan Execution Model:** The A-State leadership team is executing a new framework focused on alignment, accountability, and delivery to maximize student success, revenue, and efficiency.

2. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

A. Student success stories:

- a. **Victoria Mardis**, a summer 2025 graduate, was named a Beck Undergraduate Scholar and awarded research funding to support her Honors thesis, *Elliptic Curves: The Key to Quantum-Safe Encryption*. Having worked on graduate-level cryptography since her sophomore year, she will begin a PhD in mathematics at Florida State University this fall.
- b. **Destiny Taylor**, a senior zoology major, was awarded a Beck Undergraduate Scholar grant for her research on stress hormones in Arkansas snake species with Dr. Lorin Neuman-Lee to support conservation efforts. She has secured a summer internship with the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission and plans to pursue graduate studies after her December 2025 graduation.

B. Faculty success stories:

- a. **Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolivar**, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and Arkansas Biosciences Institute, and **Dr. Carole Cramer**, emeritus professor of Biological Sciences, along with collaborators, have been awarded a U.S. patent for their innovation in transforming plant tissues into scaffolds for human cell growth.
- b. **Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolivar** and **Dr. Edward Schmid** are partnering on a \$75,000 Arkansas Research Alliance–funded project to explore phenolic-rich plant extracts as nutraceuticals to investigate potential protection against age-related diseases. Their grant is part of ARA’s \$1.86 million Impact Grant initiative, the first to include researchers beyond the ARA Academy.

C. Staff success stories:

- a. Through her participation in the “Empower the Pack” mentorship program, **Maria Howard** has successfully transitioned from Custodial Services to an admin specialist III position in Financial Aid and Scholarships.
- b. Retiring staff members, employee service milestones, and a life-saving University Police officer were honored during the 32nd annual Distinguished Performance Awards and Service Recognition Ceremony.
 - i. <https://www.astate.edu/news/retiring-staff-members-and-those-achieving-years-of-service-milestones-honored>
 - ii. <https://www.astate.edu/news/a-state-university-police-officer-honored-at-ceremony-for-life-saving-actions>

3. Academic Affairs

A. Total credentials awarded:

- a. Arkansas State University achieved a historic milestone in academic year 2025, awarding 6,000 total credentials, the highest number of degrees in A-State history.
 - i. Associate degrees increased by 5%; bachelor's degrees grew by 9%; and master's degrees rose by 8%. Most notably, doctoral degrees achieved a remarkable 50% growth.

B. New academic programs:

a. Reconfiguration of an existing program to create a new degree:

- C.P., Limited X-Ray Machine Operator, reconfigured to create A.A.S., Limited Medical Imaging and Safety Specialist
- B.S., Multimedia Journalism, and B.S., Creative Media Production, reconfigured to create B.S., Mass Communications, with emphasis areas in Creative Media, News, and Sports Media
- Ed.S., Educational Leadership, Superintendency Track, reconfigured to create, Ed.S., Superintendent
- M.A.T., Teaching, Special Education K-12, reconfigured to create M.A.T., Special Education K-12

b. 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

c. New certificate program:

- G.C., Master Professional Educator

C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum:

a. 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 Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences to be combined, and renamed, the Department of Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences*
- B.S., Accounting, to be renamed, B.S., Accounting with Data Analytics, and CIP to be changed from 52.0301 to 52.1399*
- B.S., Management, to be renamed, B.S., Entrepreneurial Management and Strategic Leadership*

b. Program curriculum revisions:

- 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*

c. Existing certificate or degree program offered online:

- M.A., History*

d. 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*

D. Discontinued academic programs:

a. 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*
- Deletion, C.P., Sales Leadership**

E. Accreditation visits and news:

- a. B.S. Psychology recently completed an academic program review for ADHE.
- b. The Social Work and Art + Design Departments are completing responses to accreditor reports for their respective programs.

- c. The Office of Accreditation and Assessment is proactively working with program accreditors to ensure compliance with Arkansas Act 341 while maintaining accreditation.

* *Approved by AHECB for A-State at the July 25, 2025, meeting.*

** *Will be submitted to the AHECB for A-State at the October 24, 2025, meeting.*

4. Institution Awards & Honors

- A. **A-State Recognized as Nation's Top-Producing ROTC Program Per Capita for Army National Guard Officers:** Chancellor Todd Shields was recently presented an award by Brigadier General Chad Bridges, 55th Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard, recognizing A-State's ROTC program as the nation's top-producing source of National Guard officer commissions per capita for FY 2024.
- B. **Higher Education Excellence and Distinction (HEED) Award:** Insight into Academia recently announced A-State as an eight-time winner of the prestigious award. The award celebrates institutions that have implemented comprehensive strategies to support student success and foster welcoming learning environments.
- C. **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting:** The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded the 2024 annual comprehensive financial report the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the thirteenth year.
- D. **FBI Medal of Valor: *Lieutenant Andrew Thrasher*** was invited to the FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. and awarded the FBI Medal of Valor by Director Kash Patel during a ceremony on July 16th. The award was earned while serving as a task force officer during an FBI operation in October 2024.

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. **Partnership with JETS to Increase Student Mobility:** Jonesboro City Council has approved a three-year pilot agreement between Arkansas State University and JETS to enhance student mobility on campus throughout the Jonesboro community.
- B. **Second CATALYST Economic Development Forum Planning Underway:** The second edition of CATALYST is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, at the Red Wolf Convention Center and Embassy Suites.
- C. **Ongoing Economic Development and Entrepreneurship Support:** Business accelerator and local economic strategy partnerships.
- D. **Ongoing Community Outreach & Public Health Programs:** Community service projects, clinical partnerships and rural healthcare outreach.
- E. **Community and Organization Fair:** This annual event offers an opportunity for the campus community to connect with local businesses, student organizations and service departments.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

A. Total gifts and private funds amount raised for the quarter:

- a. For the fiscal year, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, the University recorded a total of 27,371 gifts and commitments from 7,042 unique donors for a total of \$30,697,182.82. The overall giving amount includes outright donations of cash, gifts-in-kind, planned gifts and new pledges.
- b. Included is \$9,490,000 commitment from the Windgate Charitable Foundation. Also included is \$10,000,000 in irrevocable planned gifts from donors who wish to remain anonymous.

B. Alumni and fund-raising events:

- a. The Distinguished Alumni Awards Breakfast will be held Saturday, October 25, at 9:00 a.m. at the Cooper Alumni Center. This year's honorees are Christy Clark '92, LaGanzie Kale '03, Dale Morris '70, Ron Rhodes '70, Joe Slayton '80, and Bill Stanley '89.
- b. The 2025 Emerging Young Alumni recipients will be honored at a private luncheon on October 24, at the Cooper Alumni Center. They are Jeffrey Higgins '10, Dr. Will Little '09, William Outlaw '12, Sophie Rogers '17, and Dr. Hunter Smith '10.
- c. **Upcoming alumni events:**
 - 9/6: Alumni Tailgate at Little Rock Zoo for A-State vs. AR game
 - 9/13: Greek and Student Leader Alumni Tailgate
 - 10/25: 50-year, 25-year and 10-year Homecoming Reunions
 - 10/25: Homecoming Tailgate
 - 12/6: Pancakes and PJs
 - 12/6: Howlidays on the Rooftop, ASU System Office
- d. **Recent and upcoming fundraising events:**
 - 8/2: Football Kickoff Party at Embassy Suites
 - 10/9: Basketball Kickoff Party at FNB Arena
 - 10/24: Potential Stewardship Event at the Chancellor's Residence
 - 12/2: Giving Tuesday Fundraiser for Student Emergency Fund

C. New scholarships created:

- A-State Charles and Kay Luter Endowed Scholarship (\$250,000)
- A-State Jerry Berry Arkansas Plant Food Association Endowed Scholarship (\$35,000)
- Bradley Eugene Smith Marching Band Endowed Scholarship (\$25,000)
- Burns-Maynard Veterinary Medicine Scholarship (\$30,000)
- Carla Nimocks Endowed Scholarship in Communication Disorders (\$30,000)
- Donna K. Easley Small Animal Practice Support Endowed Scholarship (\$25,000)
- Dr Beverly K DeWater Psychology Scholarship Endowment (\$198,730)
- Dr. Ruby N. Isom Memorial Scholarship Endowment (\$2,500,000)

- Elledge-Wyatt Memorial Scholarship Endowment (\$25,000)
- ESports Club Endowment (\$25,000)
- John Baine MPA Excellence Endowment Fund (\$55,000)
- Kappa Alpha Steve McFerron Memorial Scholarship Endowment (\$25,000)
- Miles Family Endowed Scholarship (\$30,000)
- Patricia Butcher Cooper Educator Endowed Scholarship (\$30,000)
- Randell Crouch Memorial Scholarship Endowment (\$30,000)
- Rorick Family Veterinary Medicine Scholarship (\$25,000)

D. Notable contributions and major gifts that are public:

- Bradbury Art Museum Directorship Endowment (\$1,566,629.36)
- ESports Club Endowment (\$25,000)
- Windgate 3D Arts Program and Equipment Fund Endowment (\$1,044,419.58)

7. Intercollegiate Athletics

A. Athletics department news and success stories:

- a. The Red Wolves posted a school-record 139.0 points to place second in the Bubas Cup, the Sun Belt Conference's all-sports award.

B. Team news and success stories:

- a. Head baseball coach **Mike Silva** signed a new agreement that extends his contract to June 30, 2031. His first season at the helm in 2025 saw A-State post its best record ever under a first-year head coach, and the Red Wolves collected their most wins since 2019.

C. Student-athlete news & success stories:

- a. Men's golf senior **Jack Maxey** and junior **Thomas Schmidt** were selected to play in the NCAA Auburn Regional, giving the Red Wolves representation at seven of the last eight NCAA postseason competitions.
- b. Senior distance runner **Jacob Pyeatt** was named the Sun Belt Conference Men's Outdoor Track Performer of the Year, and 11 combined student-athletes from the men's and women's teams earned all-conference recognition.
- c. Junior **Colby Eddowes** (decathlon) and senior **Bradley Jelmert** (pole vault) were named outdoor track & field First Team All-America, while senior **Carly Pujol** (pole vault) and sophomore **Noa Isaia** earned Second Team and Honorable Mention All-America accolades, respectively.
- d. A junior kicker on the football team, **Clune Van Andel**, was named the Sun Belt Conference Preseason Special Teams Player of the Year and was one of four A-State student-athletes tabbed preseason all-conference.
- e. Five players, including junior kicker **Clune Van Andel**, senior running back **Ja'Quez Cross**, junior quarterback **Jaylen Raynor**, senior wide receiver **Corey Rucker** and senior defensive end **Bryan Whitehead**, have been

named to at least one of college football's major award watch lists for the 2025 season.

- f. Seventeen student-athletes from A-State's spring sports were named Academic All-District by the College Sports Communicators (CSC).

8. Major Initiatives Update

A. A-State Entertainment District: A public-private campus revitalization to enhance student life, community engagement and revenue.

- a. The A-State Pavilion is currently under renovation as a proof of concept and plans to open as "The DenZone" before Homecoming.

B. Digital Revolution for A-State: A-State is in the final phase of launching a new, modernized University website that strengthens brand identity, improves user experience, and integrates advanced analytics and digital marketing tools.

- a. The new website will leverage a custom-trained AI chatbot to answer questions and connect users to campus resources and provide step-by-step guides to campus processes and procedures.

C. Strengthening the Pack Through Key Leadership Additions

- a. **Dr. Amanda Nickerson** joined A-State in July to fill our long-vacant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management position. Dr. Nickerson previously served in leadership roles at Dallas College, the University of Texas at Arlington, Tarleton State University and Texas Christian University.
- b. After a competitive national search, **Chris Pezman** was hired as our next Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics. At the University of Houston, he was a driving force behind one of the most successful and transformational eras in their history.

- i. <https://astateredwolves.com/news/2025/6/2/chris-pezman-named-arkansas-state-vice-chancellor-for-intercollegiate-athletics.aspx>

- c. **Dr. Fen Yu** has been promoted to a cabinet-level position and will serve as Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness, Innovation and Strategy.

D. Building Access Control Testing: The Campus Card Center, along with UPD and Emergency Management, successfully tested the remotely controlled doors and access points on campus.

E. College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Advances toward Fall 2026 Launch:

- a. The CVM will host its comprehensive site visit by the AVMA Council on Education on January 4-8, 2026.
- b. Program development is on track, with the CVM Teaching Building scheduled for completion in late spring 2026.
- c. More than 400 veterinary practices, including over 100 in Arkansas and southern Missouri, have committed to training students during their clinical year.

- F. Centralized Advising Model Strengthens Student Retention and Success:** The new *A-State of Success* centralized advising model provides comprehensive academic and student support for new and returning students.

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Facilities or Program Grants:

- a. Heritage SITES received a \$1.27 million grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council to complete the final phase of restoring the grain bin complex adjacent to the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum. The site will serve as an educational center.

B. Research Grants:

- a. A-State submitted 14 research proposals totaling \$7.1 million, resulting in three funded awards worth \$1.35 million.

10. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

- A. Workforce Development Partnerships with ANC and ASU-Newport:** Continued collaboration via the HIRED grant with ASU-Newport, Arkansas Northeastern College, Jonesboro Unlimited and regional industries to build talent pipelines and align programs with workforce needs.

- B. Additional Industry Collaborations:** A-State is partnering with major employers (e.g., St. Bernards, NEA Baptist, Hytrol, the steel industry, local school districts, etc.) to design workforce-aligned degree and certificate programs.

- a. Current initiatives include stackable credentials, healthcare training pipelines, and ongoing engagement with the Northeast Arkansas Regional Workforce Alliance.
- b. A-State is also working with the Arkansas Launch initiative and the ARISE initiative to co-design industry-responsive programs, credentialing academies and pathways that improve employability while addressing equity and access gaps.

- C. A-State Ad Agency Builds Client-Based Career Experience:** The College of Liberal Arts and Communication launched the A-State Ad Agency through its Department of Communication to provide students with hands-on experience in digital marketing.

D. Career Development and Engagement Office (CDE):

- a. In FY25, 226 employers participated in campus career fairs. This was the first year of data collection and will serve as the baseline for FY26.
- b. Additionally, 273 individual student advising appointments were held during the same period.
- c. During the fourth quarter, CDE visited 41 regional companies to discuss their engagement with the University.



Chancellor Summary

- A. Celebrating 60 Years of Partnership with the Little Rock Air Force Base
 - a. On September 18, Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASU-BEEBE) will celebrate 60 years of educational partnership with Jacksonville's Little Rock Air Force Base. [Learn more below.](#)
- B. Nursing Enrollment Increased
 - a. After the first year of the Arkansas Linking Industry to Growing Nurses (ALIGN) grant activities, ASU-Beebe experienced a one-year, 82% increase in nursing enrollment. [Learn more below.](#)
- C. The [2025-26 ASU-Beebe Performing Arts Series](#) Announced
 - a. The series includes an exciting array of performances, including symphonic band concerts, choral showcases, theatre productions, and engaging lectures. Noteworthy in the upcoming season are a lecture from Dr. Dan Littlefield from the Sequoyah National Research Center on October 30; the College's annual Community Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2; and a visit from Dr. Jan Pol, star of *National Geographic's*, "The Incredible Dr. Pol," in March of 2026.
- D. Development of the Precision Agriculture Program and Facility Continues
 - a. On August 12, the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) Review approved ASU-Beebe's, "Method of Finance for the Precision Agriculture Building". The proposed curriculum continues through the approval process. Read more below in both the [Academics](#) and [Grants Sections](#), and in ASU-Beebe's Capital Projects Report.
- E. ASU-Beebe Launches "The Charge: Vanguard Voices"
 - a. ASU-Beebe launched its first-ever podcast on August 18. The first episode featured its guests, Augustus Harris, ASU-Beebe Student Government Association President, and Dr. Jennifer Methvin, ASU-Beebe Chancellor. The name, "The Charge", reflects both ASU-Beebe's *Vanguard* spirit and its mission to inspire, motivate, and energize listeners with stories, insights, and conversations that move our community forward. Future episodes will explore topics, such as innovative academic programs, career and technical education spotlights, behind-the-scenes conversations with faculty, and alumni success stories from across Arkansas. "The Charge" podcast can be



found on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify Podcasts](#), along with a video version on the [ASU-Beebe YouTube](#) Channel.

Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

- A. ASU-Beebe Students Compete at National SkillsUSA Conference Following State-Level Success
 - a. Students from the ASU-Beebe Searcy Campus Regional Career Center, the Lonoke Business Academy Regional Career Center, and the Heber Springs campus competed in the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, held June 23–27, in Atlanta, Georgia. Ten students advanced to nationals after earning top placements at the Arkansas SkillsUSA state competition, hosted April 16 in Hot Springs.
 - b. SkillsUSA is a national membership association that prepares high school and college students for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor as a model of employer-driven workforce development.
- B. Arkansas State University-Beebe Emergency Medical Services Awards
 - a. At the recent [Arkansas Emergency Medical Technician Association](#) (AEMTA) conference, ASU-Beebe students, Catilyn Siler and Carl Alford, both received Becky O’Bar Paramedic Memorial Scholarships from the Arkansas EMS Foundation. In addition, ASU-Beebe EMS adjunct instructor, Josh Rainbolt, was voted EMS Instructor of the Year. Rainbolt is a 1996 graduate of our allied health program and has taught EMS at ASU-Beebe for five years.
- C. ASU-Beebe Student Honored at 2025 Breakfast of Champions for Summer Cereal Drive Contribution
 - a. Incoming Student Government Association President Augustus Harris was honored with an award at the 2025 Breakfast of Champions for his outstanding efforts during the THV11 Summer Cereal Drive. On the morning of the cereal drive, Van the Vanguard, along with students Gus Harris and Carter Blackmon; Dean of Students Zackery Tucker; and Alumni & Special Events Coordinator, Charlotte Hall, represented ASU-Beebe at the Beebe Walmart, alongside THV11 meteorologist Tom Brannon. Together, they donated 120 boxes of cereal to support the Arkansas Food Bank and to help



fight hunger across the state. Charlotte Hall also issued a friendly challenge to ASU-Beebe alumni to get involved and give back to the community.

Academic Affairs

A. Academic Year 2025 Credentials

- a. In May 2025, ASU-Beebe awarded 193 certificates of proficiency, 193 technical certificates, and 357 associate degrees. For Academic Year 2025, ASU-Beebe has awarded 422 certificates of proficiency, 321 technical certificates, and 636 associate degrees, for a total of 1,379 credentials. In addition, in AY 2025, Adult Education awarded 106 high school diplomas, a 20% increase over AY 24.

B. Precision Agriculture

- a. Thanks to a [\\$2.3 million Higher Industry Readiness through Educational Development \(HIRED\)](#) award, ASU-Beebe is proposing a 31-credit hour TC and a stackable 9-credit hour CP in Precision Agriculture. The CP will also be embedded as a new optional emphasis area in the AS in Agriculture, as a transfer pathway to A-State's BSA in GIS & Precision Agriculture. In addition, the resources provided by the grant will allow ASU-Beebe to develop a training center for Arkansas's agriculture industry, including a cadre of non-credit offerings in Precision Agriculture.

C. Accreditation Visits & News

- a. Following a January 30 site visit, on May 27, the [National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships \(NACEP\)](#) notified ASU-Beebe that the concurrent enrollment program has been re-accredited for another seven years, through 2032. ASU-Beebe was initially accredited in 2009 and reaccredited in 2017.
- b. Veterinary Technician program self-study for American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) reaccreditation was submitted on July 22. The site visit is scheduled for September 24-25.

Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. [ASU-Beebe to Celebrate 60 Years of Educational Partnership with Little Rock Air Force Base](#)



- a. ASU-Beebe will commemorate 60 years of educational partnership with Little Rock Air Force Base this September with a free community celebration at its LRAFB campus. The event will feature interactive exhibits, health screenings by allied health students, an on-site ambulance demonstration, and a Teddy Bear Clinic in collaboration with Cabot Emergency Hospital. Unity Health will host a stroke-awareness display, and Jacksonville fire and police departments will offer safety demonstrations. Academic advisors will be available for prospective students. Dr. Jennifer Methvin, Chancellor at ASU-Beebe, emphasized the significance of the partnership, established in 1965, as one of the most enduring in the College's history and reaffirmed ASU-Beebe's commitment to serving both military and civilian learners. Guests will receive a commemorative coin, enjoy a cookout sponsored by First Arkansas Bank & Trust, and benefit from event-support provided by Connect2First and First Electric Cooperative.
- B. [ASU-Beebe Heber Springs Featured on KATV's Good Morning Arkansas](#)
 - a. On June 25, ASU-Beebe Heber Springs was featured on KATV's *Good Morning Arkansas* during a special segment celebrating the local community and Freedom Fest. Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Ali West, and Director of Admissions, Bailey Carl represented ASU-Beebe to showcase the campus and its exceptional academic programs.

Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. Gifts and Private Funds
 - a. Between May 1 and August 1, ASU-Beebe raised a total of \$41,026.16 in gifts and private funds. These contributions represent a combination of employee giving, private donations, Development Council member support, and community partners.
 - b. Highlights of the quarter include the following:
 - i. \$4,000, secured for the John Deere Agri Tech program scholarships;
 - ii. \$2,500, sponsorship for the LRAFB 60th Celebration from First Electric & Connect2First; and
 - iii. \$2,000, established for the Robin Hayes Inspirational Achievement Scholarship.
- B. Alumni & Fund-raising Events
 - ASU-Beebe will host a Theatre Alumni Reception, scheduled for November 8.



C. New Scholarships

- a. Our newest scholarship is the [Leon Morris "GRIT" to Graduate Scholarship](#), established by Todd and Lee Ann Burrow with a \$5,000 gift. This scholarship supports students who have demonstrated exceptional grit: the courage, resolve, and determination to continue their educational journey despite adversity.

D. Notable Contributions & Major Gifts

- a. [Stallion Transportation Group-Butch Rice, \\$15,000, Diesel Mechanics \(May\)](#)
- b. [Tri-State Trucking, \\$2,500, Diesel Mechanics \(May\)](#)
- c. First Electric/Connect 2First, \$2,500, for the LRAFB anniversary event, bringing their giving amount to \$12,000 for this calendar year.

Major Initiatives Update

A. ASU-Beebe Launches New Student and Staff Portal

- a. The launch of the new **my.asub.edu portal** was a tremendous success, marked by celebrations across the Beebe, Heber Springs, and Searcy campuses. Students, faculty, and staff gathered to learn about the portal's enhanced features and streamlined access to essential resources, while enjoying food, giveaways, and meaningful conversations. The ASU-BEEBE community showed enthusiastic support for this important advancement in student services. The portal is now live and accessible, using standard ASU-Beebe login credentials.

B. [Launch of Hire Vanguard Initiative to Boost Student Success](#)

- a. ASU-Beebe launched the Hire Vanguard initiative on May 19, aiming to ensure that students secure employment or internships upon graduation or transfer. The program connects students to local businesses through internships, traditional and micro, as well as part-time and full-time opportunities. It supplements academic preparation with career counseling, résumé assistance, interview coaching, and networking events. Jesse Gonzalez, Career Placement Coordinator, described Hire Vanguard as a “game-changer for our students” that also benefits area employers seeking skilled talent. The initiative builds on the success of the Regional Career Center in Searcy, reinforcing community partnerships, including White County 911 Dispatch, which engages EMS students through presentations, and fostering “direct pathways from education to employment” for both learners and local organizations.



Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Federal and State Grant Updates

- a. The HIRED Grant progress report was submitted on June 26 to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Precision Agriculture faculty member, Keith Perkins, joined the college in July. The purchase of equipment continues, and curriculum development is complete and in the final approval processes. Architect drawings and plans are moving forward for the construction of the ASU-Beebe Center for Precision Agriculture Training Building.
- b. The ALIGN Grant Year 1 Outcome Metrics Report was submitted to the state on July 17. Highlights of the outcomes reported include the following:
 - i. Added four additional nursing cohorts from FY 24 to FY 25;
 - ii. Added the first 2 Online AAS-RN cohorts;
 - iii. Added 2 Cleburne County LPN cohorts (1 to 3 total, with plans to add 2 additional Cohorts in 25-26);
 - iv. Increase enrollment in Practical Nursing Students (LPN) by 82% from FY 24 to FY 25 (65 to 118 students);
 - v. Increase enrollment in Registered Nursing Students (AAS-RN) by 82% from FY 24 to FY 25 (33 to 60 students);
 - vi. 100% NCLEX pass rate for LPN completers;
 - vii. 94.4% NCLEX pass rate for RN completers;
- c. The Beebe campus and the Heber Springs campus Trio Student Support Services grants both received continued federal funding in July 2025.

Workforce Development, Employer Engagement & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

A. [Adult Education to Present GED Kickstart Event](#)

- a. ASU-Beebe's Adult Education Center hosted a free GED Kickstart event on June 26, 2025, at the Janett and Larry Crain Memorial Library in Searcy. The event connected community members with resources for GED preparation, workforce certificates, college readiness, and training programs in welding and computerized machining. All Adult Education faculty and staff were present to greet attendees and share information about the Center's free services. "This event was more than an educational opportunity—it was a way to invest in one's future, build confidence, and open doors to a better life," said Gina Ramey, Adult Education Director. Local businesses and advisory board members donated door prizes and refreshments in support of the event. Four individuals who attended have already enrolled in the Adult



Ed program to pursue their Arkansas high school diplomas. Future GED Kickstart events are being planned for Heber Springs, Beebe, and Augusta.

- B. Department of Workforce & Community Development Summer Training Highlights
 - a. Basics of electrical trainings were delivered for both of Searcy's Walmart Distribution Centers in June. Participants from their Industrial Maintenance teams came through this two-day, 16-hour introductory electrical training, which equips students with the core competencies needed to support electrical system operation and reliability.
 - b. In July, Schulze & Burch (Searcy) engaged in customized MiG/Tig Maintenance Welding training. The 20-hour training focuses on stainless steel welding, maintaining internal equipment, and served six members of their maintenance team.
 - c. In August, ASU-Beebe delivered leadership training to 20 supervisors from St. Jean in Heber Springs. The series includes four different leadership sessions.



1. Chancellor Summary

A. Gotaas Hall Expansion and Renovation

- a. In March 2024, Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH) was notified of a \$6,000,000 appropriation for the expansion and renovation of Gotaas Hall, the college's nursing and allied health education facility. Thanks to Senator Boozman, this appropriation allows for modernization and better alignment with clinical settings that students and graduates will experience in their health-related careers. As of August 2025, federal project officers notified ASUMH that all necessary background work was completed, providing green-light status to begin the bid-sequencing needed for design and construction.

B. Element451 Launch

- a. During the last quarter, ASUMH culminated a year-long planning and implementation phase by deploying Element451 as the college's Customer Relationship Manager (CRM). To date, the early focus has been on refining the admissions application process and recruiting engagement and collaterals. In the three months since Element451 launched, over 650 applications have been successfully processed with 413 students officially admitted to the college. Going forward, ASUMH will be able to add AI functionality, allowing for expedited processes for staff perspective and enhanced communication for prospective students.

C. Executive Leadership Org Structure

- a. Following the departure of ASUMH's previous Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA), the decision has been made to consolidate the VCAA position and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs position into one Executive Vice Chancellor (EVC) role. The search for the EVC began in August 2025 and will continue until filled. In the interim, former ASUN Chancellor, Dr. Sandra Massey, is serving as VCAA.

D. New Student Success Center

- a. As of June 30, 2025, ASUMH closed its on-premises bookstore. The space previously occupied by the bookstore and adjacent staff areas are being converted into a student-centered advising and activity space, designed to improve retention-and-completion rates. The newly renovated space will



accommodate five student-success staff members, space for student organizations to meet, student lounge areas, and study space.

2. Student, Faculty, & Staff Success Stories

A. Student success story descriptions

- a. Miranda Croney, Summer 2025 Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) graduate, a non-traditional student, and mother of two, transitioned from a production-based career to healthcare after discovering her passion for home health work. With strong support from her family, she enrolled in the CNA program and excelled, graduating at the top of her class in Summer 2025. Miranda plans to enter the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program in January 2026, followed by the LPN-to-RN (Registered Nurse) bridge program in January 2027.
- b. ASUMH students brought home top honors from the recent SkillsUSA Arkansas State Championships, an annual event that showcases the best career- and technical education students in the state. Elizabeth Watson earned the title of State Champion Welder, demonstrating exceptional skill and precision to take the gold medal in her event. Also in welding, silver medals were awarded to Lee Lawrence, Justin Lane, and Cameron Bess, while Elijah Hunter earned the bronze medal in the Automotive Parts Specialist competition.

B. Faculty success story descriptions

- a. In Spring 2024, the ASUMH Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence released its first ethical AI guidebook to support responsible implementation and use of AI in higher education. Following a collaborative campuswide effort, the guidebook was revised in Spring 2025 to incorporate significant student input and feedback from various stakeholders. Key updates include tailored recommendations for students, faculty, and institutions; new guidance addressing AI sustainability; and practical, customizable resources designed to meet the specific needs of individuals and institutions.
<https://static.visionamp.co/rubix/20250508/ai-guidebook-56883.pdf>
- b. Brian Bigelow, Marine Manufacturing Instructor, earned his associate's degree in 2025. Before joining ASUMH through a grant-funded initiative, he spent twenty years in the marine manufacturing industry. Since joining the institution, Brian has excelled in all aspects of campus life, culminating in his election as Faculty Senate President in 2025. As a non-traditional



student, he continues to demonstrate exceptional success in higher education and is involved with all aspects of campus life.

C. Staff success story descriptions

- a. In June 2025, ASUMH hosted a faculty and staff-led regional professional-development conference, titled *Better Together: Connecting Colleges*. The event brought together approximately 110 employees from ASUMH and six other community colleges, fostering both professional and personal growth through a series of breakout sessions and roundtable discussions. Feedback from attendees highlighted the enriching nature of the content and emphasized the significant value found in connecting with peers from other campuses.
- b. In July 2025, the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund Student of the Month was ASUMH's own Danielle Frencl. Danielle is a full-time mom, full-time employee in the Career Pathways program at ASUMH, and a recent graduate of ASUMH, with both a technical certificate and an associate's degree.

3. Academic Affairs

- A. Total credentials most recently awarded
 - a. 358 credentials were awarded for Spring 2025.
- B. New academic programs
 - a. N/A
- C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum
 - a. The Marine Manufacturing program is revamping curriculum to meet industry needs by incorporating process-specific painting as a part of the curriculum.
 - b. Business Calculus will be deleted from the Associate of Science in Business degree plan, as it is no longer required and is replaced with United States Government, in order to comply with Act 556.
 - c. University Physics 1 and Lab is being added to the Physical Sciences block on the Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Science degree plan.
 - d. Introduction to Engineering will be added to the directed electives in the Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences degree plan.



- e. Introduction to Psychology will be deleted from the Associate of Science in Education Middle Level Education (Grades 4-8) degree plan. This course is no longer required for this transfer degree. This deletion reduces the required credit hours from 18-19 to 15-16.

D. Discontinued academic programs

- a. N/A

E. Accreditation visits & news

- a. The Funeral Sciences accreditation visit occurred in late April, with the anticipated receipt of the site-visit team report in October.
- b. The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program accreditation site visit was conducted in early 2025 and results are expected in September. Ninety percent of the suggested program modifications (shared by the site-visit team during the exit interview) have already been addressed.
- c. Initial preparations have begun related to ASUMH's 10-year reaffirmation process with the Higher Learning Commission (2027-2028).

4. Community Engagement & Partnerships

A. 14th Season of Performing Arts at ASUMH

- a. The ASUMH Performing Arts Series is entering its 14th season this academic year. The series will educate, enlighten, and entertain with five performances of music and dance, a Gaston Lecture Series speaker, and a free Arvest Concert Series presentation. The series has four endowments and major sponsors this season. In addition, Patrons of the Performing Arts give above-and-beyond the price of tickets and attend pre-show receptions that are sponsored fully by Judicious Spirits and Little B's - both local businesses that donate 100% of the reception food and drink for approximately 150 patrons each season.
- b. The series will introduce two additional family shows this spring with sponsors and additional ticket revenue.

B. Mountain Home Art Walk

- a. The Mountain Home Art Walk is a unique partnership between the City of Mountain Home and Arkansas State University-Mountain Home that provides access to public art and leisure activities for residents and visitors to the Twin Lakes Area. A recent installation of sculptures, by celebrated artist Dale Rogers, has been enthusiastically received in the community, resulting in



private funding to secure all eighteen pieces of art by Rogers. The investment of approximately \$200,000 in private funding has created a haven for public art in our area.

5. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. Total gifts received
 - a. Gifts received for April, May, and June 2025 totaled \$555,548.55. This includes receipt of a pledged estate gift in the amount of \$487,352.91. The remaining 49 gifts received during the quarter totaled \$68,195.64, with an average gift amount of \$1,391.75.
- B. Alumni & fund-raising events
 - a. The Mountain Home Charity Golf Classic has supported the Czeschin-Newth Workforce Development Center for ten years. This year's tournament raised \$36,700 for equipment and other needs at the facility for technical programs.
- C. New scholarships created
 - a. A partnership with Friends of the North Fork and White Rivers has resulted in the creation of "Seen on the Trail," a program to develop an online repository of photographs and lesson plans for the K-12 school system. The partnership has resulted in Dodd Creek erosion-prevention measures along the creek that runs through the ASUMH campus. Both the Biology Department and the Education Department at ASUMH have worked with Friends of the Rivers on these projects, which has resulted in \$6,000 in new scholarships being awarded.

6. Intercollegiate Athletics

- A. Athletic Department news & success stories
 - a. Landon Hay was hired as Baseball Coach/Athletic Director for ASUMH. Coach Hay comes to us after five years as the Head Baseball Coach at Highland Community College in Kansas. He brings almost a decade of experience in college baseball. He has hired Kyle Carver as his assistant coach, who is a Magnolia, Arkansas, native. Coach Carver played collegiately at Allen Community College in Kansas and Lyon College in Batesville.
 - b. ASUMH Softball will take a one-year hiatus. The hiring of a new coach is imminent, and we will compete in softball again during the 2026-2027 school year.



B. Team news & success stories

- a. Ckyler Tengler and Spencer Mounce were named to NJCAA Region 2 All-Region team, for their efforts in 2024-2025.

C. Student Athlete news & success stories

- a. Two incoming freshmen, Ryder McClain and Lincoln Sherry, won the American Legion AAA State Tournament with Mountain Home Locker Room Post 52E.

7. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Career Coach Grant Renewal

- a. The Arkansas Career Coach Program grant was approved for \$114,927 and will serve Cotter, Flippin, Mountain Home (two coaches) and Yellville (part-time) public school districts. The grant funds come from the Arkansas Department of Education's Division of Career and Technical Education and are matched by the school districts.

B. Federal or state grants information for research

- a. ASUMH is partnering with ASTATE on a Department of Education grant application to secure funding to establish and expand a statewide consortium of Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) that provides a model Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Program (CTP) for students with intellectual disabilities (ID), leading to meaningful credentials, competitive integrated employment, and increased independence. As a partner institution on this grant, ASUMH intends to host an inclusive postsecondary education program at our site and provide support where needed. ASUMH also plans to support the consortium, allowing more data-driven expertise to be used in Arkansas to expand education for students with intellectual disabilities.

8. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement, & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

- A. Eight workforce training classes were conducted for 125 students.



- a. Training included Basic Life Saving (BLS), Student Resource Officer (SRO), Behavioral Health, Forklift, CDL, Leadership, Propane Handling, and Introduction to Microsoft.



1. Chancellor Summary

A. Proudest Achievements at ASU-Newport

- a. ASU-Newport (ASUN) was designated an Opportunity College by Carnegie Classifications. This prestigious honor affirms ASUN as a national model for fostering student success through access, opportunity, and workforce impact. The classification evaluates how well institutions serve their communities and how graduates' outcomes compare locally. We are proud to be "Empowering Individuals. Advancing Communities".

B. Strategic Enrollment Management Plan

- a. In partnership with VisionPoint Marketing, ASUN is in the final stages of development of a three-year Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP). Guided by ASUN's brand pillars — access, affordability, and accountability — the SEMP outlines a unified, data-informed roadmap to reach and serve high-potential populations, including first-time-in-college (FTIC) students; adult learners; transfer students; and underserved minority and rural populations. At the same time, it addresses the imperative to streamline internal workflows, align financial aid and communication strategies, and deliver a personalized and student-centered experience at every stage of the enrollment journey.

The SEMP is built on the following six strategic focus areas:

1. **Scholarship optimization** to remove financial barriers for "borderline" students and expand equitable access;
2. **Competitive positioning** informed by peer benchmarking and labor-market insights;
3. **Student feedback integration** to ensure services and policies align with real student needs;
4. **Financial aid transparency** to simplify cost understanding and drive inquiry-to-enrollment conversion;
5. **Brand-aligned communication** to amplify ASUN's differentiators and streamline the decision-making process; and
6. **Macroeconomic responsiveness** to guide program planning in alignment with workforce and demographic trends.



2. Student, Faculty, & Staff Success Stories

A. Student Success

- a. Our state SkillsUSA winners and faculty traveled to Atlanta, GA, to attend the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference on June 23-27. The opening session featured remarks from keynote speaker Mike Rowe, who is known as a host, narrator, producer, and advocate for career and technical education. The event included the largest industrial education trade show in the nation, along with sessions focused on leadership development and career exploration opportunities. Students from across the country competed against our Cosmetology, Welding, and Energy Control Technology (ECT) students for medals and prizes. Although ASUN did not win any medals at the national level this year, ASUN students and faculty served as outstanding ambassadors for the state.

B. Faculty Success

- a. Diesel Technology instructors, Jesse Simmons and Garren Fears, attended the ASE Instructor Training Conference in Saint Louis, MO, on July 21-24. They received over twenty hours of technical and instructor training from the leading manufacturers in the diesel and automotive technology industries.
- b. John Judd, ASUN's instructor of Advanced Manufacturing, was a presenter at the HI-TEC (High Impact Technology Exchange Conference) in Minneapolis, MN, on July 21-24. He shared data and described his experiences as principal investigator on ASUN's Creating Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Program.

C. Staff Success

- a. Several ASUN employees participated in the Delta Arts Festival, which was held in Downtown Newport, AR, on June 6-7. This event brings many visitors to Newport.
- b. Ken Beach, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, attended a meeting with the NEA /Society for the Human Resource Management chapter at WTC to share the vision and opportunities available to employers with ASUN's HIRED Grant efforts.



3. Enrollment & Recruitment

- A. Current Traditional Enrollment Status
 - a. Summer I: Student enrollment increased by 10%, compared to last year, with a total of 1,508 students enrolled this summer, up from 1,369 last year.
 - b. Summer II: Student enrollment increased by 25%, compared to last year, with a total of 1,040 students enrolled this summer, up from 831 last year.
- B. Recruitment & application trends
 - a. Fall 2025: As of 8/7/2025, enrollment is up three%, compared to the same date last year.
 - b. New Student Orientations occurred on August 4 at the Newport campus, August 5 at the Jonesboro campus, and August 7 at the Marked Tree campus.
 - c. ASUN has admitted over 1,100 students thus far for the Fall 2025 term, and we are continuing to admit students during our heaviest time of enrollment. We are running approximately a week ahead of the numbers for admitted students from Fall 2024. Of those admitted, approximately 42% (475) have enrolled, with 252 of those being new freshmen. We hope to continue admitting and enrolling students through the first day of classes. Based on historical data, we can expect to see continued growth in all areas of our enrollment mix in the four weeks before census day.

4. Academic Affairs

- A. Total credentials most recently awarded
 - a. ASU-Newport's Summer Commencement took place on June 26 at the ASU-Newport Center for the Arts. We celebrated the hard work and achievements of our remarkable graduates. A total of 160 students graduated, and 389 awards were distributed.
- B. New academic programs
 - a. The AAS in Data Science-Data Analytics begins Fall 2025
 - b. Approved at AHECB in July:
 - i. Certificate of Proficiency Process Controls
 - ii. Certificate of Proficiency in Automation & Engineering Controls



- c. A Letter of Intent has been submitted to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board to establish an Associate of Applied Science in Automation & Electrical Technology. The Automation & Electrical Technology program will train students to install, calibrate, modify, and maintain automated systems. Graduates will also learn to maintain and troubleshoot electrical and computer-based equipment. These roles are vital for the smooth operation of automated systems and equipment. These in-demand skills are needed across various industries, including food processing, durable goods manufacturing, and consumer goods production, all of which are within ASUN's service area. We expect to accept the first students into the program August 2026. We plan to submit the full proposal to ADHE by November 3 and present it to the AHECB at the January 2026 meeting.
- C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum
 - a. Certificate of General Studies-simplified the electives section (approved by AHECB in July)
 - b. Associate of Science in Education-increased total credit hours to allow for additional science courses needed for transfer (approved by AHECB in July)
 - c. Certificate of Proficiency in Corrections-substituted a course to meet industry needs (approved by AHECB in July)
- D. Discontinued academic programs
 - a. None
- E. Accreditation visits & news
 - a. The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP): application is in review by the peer review team.
 - b. The Higher Learning Commission's 10-year reaffirmation visit is scheduled for March 15-17, 2027. Teams are working diligently to prepare for the visit.
 - c. Prison Education Program applications were submitted to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on July 1, 2025. The applications have been recommended for review by the HLC-Change Panel and will move to the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) for consideration.

5. Institution Awards & Honors

- A. NISOD Excellence Award
 - a. William Tate, Instructor of Agriculture Technology, and Regena White, Director of Nursing/Advanced Instructor of Nursing, were honored as



recipients of the NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) Excellence Award during the 2025 NISOD Conference.

6. Community Engagement & Partnerships

A. ASUN Summer Camps

- a. Aviator Exploration Camp was held from July 8 to July 10 at ASU-Newport for students entering 4th and 5th grades. This three-day camp offered hands-on experiences in crime-scene investigation, agriculture, engineering, and virtual reality, all designed to ignite curiosity and inspire future dreams.
- b. Ken Beach, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, and John Judd, Instructor of Advanced Manufacturing, hosted a Robotics Camp on June 10-12, where students learned to program industrial robots. They explored the effects, that automation exerts upon modern industries, and collaborated to develop advanced technology and problem-solving skills. We are excited to see where these new skills will take them next!
- c. ASUN supported an Electrical Engineering Camp at Brookland's summer childcare program. Students explored circuitry and grids that powered electrical devices, such as radios, sirens, fans, motors, and lights. This hands-on experience was an excellent introduction for young campers to explore basic circuitry concepts.
- d. The University of Arkansas hosted the 2025 Engineering Camp on July 7-11 on the ASU-Newport campus.
- e. 3D Printing Camp was held at Tech Depot in Newport, AR, on July 8-10. ASUN Workforce Department and NEDC partnered to deliver a 3D Printing Camp at Tech Depot. During this free three-day camp, students transformed their mental creations into physical reality, using 3D printing technology. Students learned the entire 3D printing process, from model design in 3D space to creating unique 3D objects.
- f. A MicroBit Coding Camp was held at Tech Depot in Newport, AR, on July 23-25.

- ### **B. ASUN Culinary Arts program hosted an Open House Event on June 2, 2025, which provided a chance for the community and potential students to interact with Chef Lisa Godsey and explore program opportunities.**



- C. We welcomed a new class at the High Voltage Lineman Technology New Student Orientation on June 24. Participation consisted of new students, parents, and sponsors. Approximately 120 people were in attendance.

7. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. Total gifts and private funds raised for the quarter
 - a. Quarters 1-3 FY25: \$368,541
 - b. Quarter 4 FY25: \$251,308
- B. Alumni & fund-raising events
 - a. ASUN hosted the annual spring fundraiser, in conjunction with the Kentucky Derby. The event, “Talk Derby To Me”, raised almost \$50,000 to support Aviator Athletics.

8. Intercollegiate Athletics

- A. Athletics Department news & success stories
 - a. Seven ASUN Softball student-athletes were honored with a special graduation ceremony on May 21 at the Newport campus. These remarkable individuals had earlier missed the main Commencement ceremony while competing in the NJCAA South Central Regional Tournament. We are proud of their achievements, both on the field and in the classroom. Congratulations to the graduates!
- B. Team news & success stories
 - a. Nine members of the ASU-Newport Aviators’ women’s softball team have been named to the 2024–25 NJCAA All-Academic Teams, a prestigious honor, recognizing outstanding academic performance among student-athletes across the nation. These Aviators demonstrated their commitment to academic excellence by maintaining a GPA of 3.60 or higher during the academic year. This recognition, by the National Junior College Athletic Association, underscores the strength of ASUN’s student-athlete culture—where success in the classroom is just as valued as success in competition.



9. Major Initiatives Update

A. New approved DOL

- a. ASUN has added its fourth DOL Registered Apprenticeship Pathway-Industrial Controls. This was a major milestone requirement in the WERX Grant. This apprenticeship aligns closely with our TC and AAS GenTech (eventually AAS Automation and Electricity).
- b. We are excited to announce ASUN's "Navigate in 8" initiative, which allows students to complete core General Education courses in just 8 weeks at the Newport campus. This flexible format enables students to accelerate their academic progress, while receiving high-quality support. All classes will be conducted on-site at the Newport campus and are designed to help students advance without compromising academic standards.
- c. Progress continues on funding for the new Center for Health Sciences Building. A major request, through U. S. Senator Boozman's Office, for nearly \$8 million has left the committee and will be up for a vote after lawmakers return in September.
- d. In an effort to increase fiscal transparency, ASUN has adopted, for certain technical programs, a transparent tuition model that provides a long-range view of student costs.

10. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Federal or state grant information for facilities or programs

- a. The \$5 million EDA grant for the Health Science Center is still in progress;
- b. In September, in Marked Tree, ASUN will provide a planned community event, with support from the State Opioid Recovery IV grant (\$35,000), in order to address substance abuse in the most affected communities we serve. Our PTK and Student Affairs office also secured an Arkansas Collegiate Network Mini-grant (\$2,200) to support substance-abuse awareness, as well.
- c. ASUN is an active partner in the Higher Industry Readiness through Educational Development (HIRED) program, established by the Workforce Initiative Act of 2015-CREST Center (Phase 1-\$7.5 million). This grant is for



the development of a joint training center shared by A-State, Arkansas Northeastern College, and ASUN. While this Center is still seeking funding and development for the building, the partnership is already being solidified. ASUN has offered space in the Workforce Training Center near the Jonesboro Campus to allow ANC to offer STEEL Industry training, beginning as early as Fall 2025.

- d. ASUN will submit its final report on an Energywerx ITAC Planning Grant from the Department of Energy. This \$200,000 grant allowed for building institutional capacity to serve as an Industrial Assessment Center (ITAC) for Small and Midsized Manufacturers (SMMs). This provided trainings for 40-60 incumbent workers from area SMMs by bringing in experts to provide training. This program also supported multiple summer outreach camps to help area youth explore skills needed for energy and manufacturing jobs.
- B. Federal or state grants information for research
 - a. ASUN has an NSF grant: Creating Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Program (CAMPP), which is completing its second year of funding and will complete its annual report to the agency this month. This is a research grant (\$340,000), studying interventions to increase successful trainings and participant access to credentials and training in Advanced Manufacturing. ASUN also participates in Scaling Learner Opportunity and Economic Growth Across Arkansas with the Education Design Lab (\$50,000). As one of eight institutions in the first cohort, ASUN is working with regional employers and program faculty to design skills-based, microcredential pathways to help fill gaps in the state workforce.

11. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement, & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

- A. ASUN WAGE Program
 - a. The ASUN Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE) program celebrated the graduation of another group of students on June 12, at the McPherson Correctional Unit. The event was attended by Tonya Gates, Director of the Prison Education Program Engagement; Warden Faust; Wage Coordinator Daniel Lee; and other staff members who honored the achievements of our newest graduates. Congratulations to all of the students!



B. Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operator Class

- a. Darrin Thomason, Instructor of Advanced Manufacturing, recently conducted a credit-bearing Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Operator class at Southwest Steel Processing in Newport. This initiative offered essential CNC skills training to five employees, allowing them to earn college credits while working on-site. The success of the program was made possible by the collaborative efforts of Ken Beach, Assistant Director of Workforce Development; the Southwest Steel team; Darrin Thomason, Instructor of Advanced Manufacturing; and Andrea Jones, One-Stop Coordinator, who went above and beyond to assist with enrollments.



1. Chancellor Summary

A. Enrollment Update

Summer 2025 enrollment was very strong, with a 23.5% increase in headcount and a 33.2% increase in student semester credit hours over last summer.

Enrollment for Fall 2025 will continue through October 9, but is trending in a strong direction. Headcount, as of August 13 was at 1,109 (up 1.37 percent over Fall 2024 end-of-term headcount). Student semester credit hours stood at 10,090 (up 5.1 percent over end-of-fall 2024 SSCH). These numbers will continue to fluctuate, as additional enrollments, no-shows, and withdrawals are processed through the Fall 2 short-term semester.

B. Continued Support - Complete College America

As part of our long-standing partnership, Complete College America recently provided ASU Mid-South with \$10,000 and a content expert, Dr. Afi Wiggins, Managing Director of the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin, to assist with the enhancement of our institutional assessment practices. This funding will allow us to execute a collaborative fall assessment conference, as part of our annual professional-development offerings to faculty and staff.

C. Great Colleges to Work For - Honor Roll Designation

For the second consecutive year, ASU Mid-South has been named by the Chronicle of Higher Education, and by Modern Think, as a Great College to Work For®, based on feedback obtained via independent survey of our faculty and staff. Only 76 colleges nationwide received this distinction. Please note: public release of this information is embargoed until September 19th at which time it will be published in a special issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Also, for the second consecutive year, ASU Mid-South has achieved Honor Roll Status, being recognized in five categories:

1. Professional Development;
2. Confidence in Senior Leadership;
3. Faculty & Staff Well-being;



4. Shared Governance; and
5. Faculty Experience

2. Student, Faculty, & Staff Success Stories

A. Student success story:

1. In May, ASU Mid-South selected current student, Latrice Warren, as its 2025-26 Arkansas Community Colleges Academic All-Star. She will be formally recognized on October 14 by the Arkansas Community Colleges Association at its conference in Hot Springs. Warren will also receive ASU Mid-South's ACC Academic All-Star Scholarship, which will cover \$500 of her tuition for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters.

Warren had long dreamed of becoming a nurse but set aside her ambitions, in order to raise her family and make sure that they earned bachelor's degrees, while she continued working at a plant. When her employer of 28 years announced the plant's closure, she and her husband agreed it was finally time for her to return to school. Tragically, her husband died suddenly, leaving her overwhelmed by the loss. ASU Mid-South staff encouraged Latrice to continue her studies, and she has definitely excelled. She holds a 4.0 GPA, participates in every student organization on campus, and presented at the national Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society Conference in March.

She will graduate in the spring with an Associate of Applied Science degree in health studies and plans to continue her education at Arkansas State University.

2. In May, the faculty and staff of ASU Mid-South selected Stephanie Thomas as our 2025-2026 ACC Outstanding Alumna. A proud graduate of ASU Mid-South, Stephanie embodies the values and mission of the college in every aspect of her work. She teaches in a Title I school with a high poverty index—an environment that demands more than just academic instruction. Stephanie rises to that challenge daily, going far beyond the classroom curriculum to meet the needs of the whole child. As a dedicated elementary school teacher in the West Memphis School District for the past 15 years,



Stephanie has not only excelled in her profession, but has also become a beacon of hope and inspiration for her students and her community. She will be formally recognized at the November Board of Visitors Meeting on the ASU Mid-South campus.

B. Faculty success story:

In May, ASU Mid-South faculty and staff selected Shelly Sullins as the College's 2025-26 Arkansas Community Colleges Outstanding Faculty Member. Sullins is known for her unwavering commitment to student success, academic excellence, and campus involvement. A graduate of the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, where she also worked in the TRiO program as an administrative assistant, she went on to earn degrees from Lyon College and A-State.

Drawing on her own struggles with math and experiences as a nontraditional student, Sullins connects with students in a way that inspires confidence and a love for learning. She regularly participates in recruitment events, attends conferences, and mentors both students and fellow faculty members. She is recognized not only for her deep content knowledge, but also for her ability to engage and motivate students while supporting her colleagues and the institution as a whole.

C. Staff success story:

In May, ASU Mid-South named Director of Computer Services Tom Cook as its 2025-26 Arkansas Community Colleges Outstanding Staff Member. Cook has served the institution for more than 30 years, earning a reputation for dedicated service, tenacious problem-solving skills, and humility. He is considered part of the College's foundation and culture, valued as both a supportive colleague and a tireless advocate for students and the college's mission. His upcoming retirement will mark the end of 41 years of service, which began when the institution was known as Mid-South Vo-Tech. His departure will leave a tremendous void in both the College and in the hearts of those who have worked alongside him.

3. Academic Affairs

A. Total credentials most recently awarded:

	2025 Final
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Certificates of Proficiency	403
Technical Certificates	107
Associate of Arts	39
Association of Science	37
Associate of Applied Science	26
TOTAL AWARDS	612
Unduplicated Graduates	308

B. New academic programs:

1. No new academic programs to report.

C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum:

1. ASU Mid-South has acquired a new FANUC CRX-10iA collaborative robot, using fiscal 2025 Perkins Reserve Grant funding. The robot will complement a larger equipment purchase underway through the state's HIRED Grant initiative. The investment is part of a strategic effort to modernize the College's mechatronics program and develop new automation and robotics offerings. About \$450,000 will be committed to equipment and training.
2. ASU Mid-South recently procured a truck-driving simulator for use in its Commercial Driver Training program. The Virage VS60-CDL Truck Simulator was purchased using one-time funds and will save an estimated \$61,500 per year in labor, equipment repair, and consumable supply costs. Over the simulator's estimated five- to seven-year lifespan, total savings to the institution is projected at \$307,500 to \$430,500.

D. Discontinued academic programs

1. No discontinued academic programs to report.

E. Accreditation visits & news

1. No accreditation visits or news to report.



4. Institution Awards & Honors

A. Great Colleges to Work For

For the second consecutive year, ASU Mid-South has been named by the Chronicle of Higher Education and by Modern Think as a Great College to Work For®, based on feedback obtained via independent survey of our faculty and staff. Only 76 colleges nationwide received this distinction.

Also for the second consecutive year, ASU Mid-South has achieved Honor Roll Status, signifying recognition in multiple categories. This year we were recognized in the following five categories:

- Professional Development;
- Confidence in Senior Leadership;
- Faculty & Staff Well-being;
- Shared Governance; and
- Faculty Experience.

ASU Mid-South was previously recognized in 2017, 2018 (Honor Roll Status), 2020, and 2024 (Honor Roll Status). In 2019, the College was one of 19 institutions named to the list of Most Promising Place to Work in Community Colleges, by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and Diverse Issues in Higher Education.

Please note: public release of this information is embargoed until September 19, at which time it will be published in a special issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education.

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

A. Facilities Use Agreement with the West Memphis School District (WMSD)

ASU Mid-South has entered into a one-year facilities use agreement with the WMSD to house its Special Education Division on our campus. That unit, consisting of eight WMSD staff members, will occupy a portion of the Jeremy Jacobs Center on the North Campus, until a new space can be secured within their District. Their previous facility was destroyed by spring floods.

B. Community Open House with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

On July 19, ASU Mid-South partnered with the members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to host a school resource fair and community open house. More than 500



families who visited the Reynolds Center received district-mandated clear backpacks and other necessary school supplies, while also learning about the programs and services offered by the College. College staff were on hand to provide information about admissions and financial matters, and technical program faculty were available to provide hands-on demonstrations and simulated experiences for those parents and children who wanted to learn more about opportunities in welding, information technology, or mechatronics.

C. West Memphis Rotary and West Memphis Chamber

ASU Mid-South is the new home of the West Memphis Rotary Club, which meets every Tuesday in Room 100 of the Jeremy Jacobs Center. The West Memphis Chamber Board meets in the same space on the second Wednesday of each month. The College provides the meeting space to both organizations, free of charge, as a community service.

D. Continued Support - Complete College America

As part of our long-standing partnership, Complete College America recently provided ASU Mid-South with \$10,000 and a content expert, Dr. Afi Wiggins, Managing Director of the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin, to assist with the enhancement of our institutional assessment practices. This generous funding will allow us to execute a collaborative fall assessment conference, as part of our annual professional development offerings provided for our faculty and staff. The conference will engage personnel from Student Services, Learning & Instruction, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Technology & Research with external content experts.

E. ARAG Legal Insurance for Students

Legal issues can hinder the ability to receive an education, keep a job, secure adequate housing, and more. To help students address these challenges, ASU Mid-South is once again partnering with Ascendium® and ARAG® to offer a legal plan that helps them stay on track with their education.

The program, which initially began in the in the spring of 2025, costs the College nothing to provide. For most covered matters, ARAG network attorney fees are paid in full by Ascendium®. For items not covered, students receive a 25% discount on a



network attorney's normal rate. Students are still responsible for non-attorney costs, such as court filing fees, copy fees, and mediation fees.

Once 11th-day rosters are validated, eligible students will be notified of the benefit. To qualify, students must be non-concurrent, degree-seeking, and enrolled in six or more credit hours.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

A. Total gifts and private funds amount raised for the quarter

- a. For the second quarter, donations totaled \$65,000, largely from employee payroll deductions, monthly givers, and annual scholarship donors.
- b. The Foundation's investment portfolio grew 7.06% in the second quarter, increasing from \$8.8 million to \$9.3 million.

B. Alumni & fundraising events

No fundraising or alumni events were scheduled for second quarter.

C. New scholarships created

No new scholarships were created in second quarter.

D. Notable contributions & major gifts that are public

A \$15,000 gift was received to support Greyhound Softball Scholarships. That donor wishes to remain anonymous.

7. Intercollegiate Athletics

A. Team news & success stories

The ASU Mid-South Greyhounds baseball team has been awarded the 2024-25 ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award by the American Baseball Coaches Association, a national recognition given to teams that maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for the academic year. ASU Mid-South is the only program in NJCAA Region 2 and the only college in the Arkansas State University System to earn the



distinction this year, placing the Greyhounds in elite academic company among more than 440 college baseball programs recognized nationwide!

B. Student-athlete news & success stories

The ASU Mid-South Greyhounds baseball team had eighteen players named to the NJCAA All-Academic Teams. Those included First-Team members Jax Graham, Cohen Jorgenson, and Jona Patten (4.0 GPAs); Second Team members Max Bayne, Colton Coleman, Jacori Hardaway, Holden Jones, Kayden Perriloux, Reggie Reed, and Kayden Whitlock (3.80-3.99 GPAs); and Third Team members Parker Andel, Parker Bray, Jack Burkes, Dainan Burrows, Drew Busby Mathew Dutton, Kaleb Tejada, and Layne Rivers (3.60-3.79 GPAs). Two Greyhound basketball players were named to the Third Team All-Academic Team. Those were Point Guards Charalyn Rester for the Women's Team and Samuel Chapin for the Men's Team.

8. Major Initiatives Update

A. Softball

ASU Mid-South will field its first softball team this academic year. Ten softball players are currently enrolled for the fall semester, with recruitment on-going.

B. Expansion of Concurrent Instruction to Area High Schools

ASU Mid-South has traditionally taught all concurrent coursework on its home campus. In response to increased local demand following the passage of the ACCESS Act, the College worked over the summer to put processes and approvals in place to begin offering courses, when appropriate, on local high school campuses. The transition has presented short-term challenges, including validating instructor credentials, accommodating varying academic calendars, and adapting to changing bell schedules. College officials said they hope the new policies and procedures will give districts the flexibility they want while protecting the academic integrity of ASU Mid-South's course offerings.

C. Revised College-Level Placement Score Pilot

The Arkansas Division of Higher Education encourages the use of multiple measures for college placement, requiring at least a 75% likelihood of earning a "C"



or better. Recent research shows that a high school GPA is a stronger predictor of success than standardized test scores.

An analysis of ASU Mid-South student data from Fall 2022–Summer 2025 found that students with a 3.0+ high school GPA consistently met or exceeded the 75% success benchmark in Composition I and II, while those below 3.0 fell short. Results were consistent across adult and concurrent students, though concurrent students with GPAs below 3.0 were too few in number for meaningful conclusions.

Based on these findings, ASU Mid-South will pilot using a 3.0 HS GPA as a placement option for concurrent students in most general education courses, excluding College Algebra and Real World Math. This will help determine whether the standard can be expanded to all students in the future.

D. Architectural Brainstorming Session on Student Spaces

Members of ASU Mid-South’s leadership team and other key personnel met June 18 with on-call architects from Polk, Stanley and Wilcox to discuss refreshing and reimagining of student-facing spaces in the Library, Student Success Center, Café Grill, and Student Lounge Area of the University Center. Those spaces have remained largely unchanged for more than 25 years, even as today’s students now have vastly different needs and expectations. Modern students seek more collaborative learning areas, multifunctional spaces, comfortable and inclusive lounges, convenient access to power outlets and USB ports, stronger Wi-Fi capabilities, and a more vibrant campus culture. While discussions are still in the early stages, the results will help shape a long-term plan to modernize these areas while honoring the buildings’ classic architectural design.

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Federal - TRiO Student Support Services

On July 3, ASU Mid-South received notification that our federal TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) grant had been renewed. That grant, totaling \$348,489 per year over five years, provides funding to support college-initiatives related to retention and success for students who are first generation, low-income students, or who have disabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, tutorial services,



academic advising and counseling, mentoring and coaching, leadership development, educational field trips, career exploration and planning, financial literacy, and transfer assistance.

B. State - Career Pathways Initiative (CPI)

Community colleges across the state were notified in late June that CPI, the state grant that provides educational support to impoverished custodial and noncustodial parents of children under the age of 21, would be reduced by \$1.5 million, statewide. As a result, institutional awards were reduced significantly, most notably in funds used for direct student support students. Additionally, all travel funding for the program was eliminated, and institutions were asked to pick up 10 percent of salary and fringe for their CPI personnel.

ASU Mid-South elected to cover the balance of salary and fringe for the two CPI employees on its staff and will consider CPI travel requests on an as-needed basis. The total amount awarded to ASU Mid-South for this program for FY26 is \$253,502, making it down from the \$299,172 awarded in FY25.

C. Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V)

ASU Mid-South recently received notification that its share of the state's allocation of the Federal Perkins V Grant would be \$50,541 for FY26. That funding goes to support improvement in retention and placement, credential attainment, and non-traditional participation in the College's CTE programs. These funds will be dedicated to offset salary costs for the College's Practical Nursing Director position and for modernization of technology in the Auto/Diesel Technology program.

10. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

A. Coca Cola Consolidated

ASU Mid-South has entered preliminary discussions with Coca-Cola Consolidated to provide employee training in mechatronics. The company has requested a two-semester course sequence totaling 16 credit hours. This program would offer skills training that complements on-the-job training for production line employees transitioning into industrial maintenance and helps establish a pipeline of qualified



applicants. Instruction would focus primarily on electricity, mechanical drives and bearings, and programmable logic controllers.

B. Hino Motors Manufacturing

ASU Mid-South has partnered with Hino Motors Manufacturing to provide weekend commercial driver's license instruction to incumbent Hino workers. The training began July 19 and will conclude September 14. Employees with Hino, as well as one employee of Paschall Truck Lines, which is another local transportation company, are enrolled in the program. All students are receiving financial assistance from their employer or will be reimbursed upon successful completion of the program.

C. West Memphis Fire Department

The West Memphis Fire Department has launched an in-house program to provide EMT-Basic certification for newly hired firefighters, partnering with ASU Mid-South to deliver the training. The first cohort completed the six-week course this summer, running from May 19 to June 27. Offering the EMT portion locally reduces the time firefighters must spend training at the Arkansas Fire Academy in Camden and cuts training and travel-related costs for the department. Four of the five participants passed the national registry exam on their first attempt and earned their license, resulting in an 80% licensure rate so far.



1. Chancellor Summary

- A. HLC Four-Year Reaffirmation
 - a. ASUTR's four-year review for reaffirmation was submitted in June. On August 8, we received notification that our Open Pathway Assurance Review was completed with no recommended monitoring.
- B. Visit to SCCTC by Governor Sarah Sanders, Senator Tom Cotton, and Secretary of Education Linda McMahon
 - a. On August 12, as part of the Secretary of Education's **"Giving Education Back to the States"** tour, Secretary McMahon, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Senator Tom Cotton, and other state and local dignitaries visited the Saline County Career Technical Campus (SCCTC). Following the tour, a roundtable discussion was held with business and industry leaders, local superintendents, and college representatives. During the discussion, business partners emphasized the vital role SCCTC plays in preparing a skilled workforce for Saline County.
- C. College Receives Certificate of Occupancy for New Nursing Building
 - a. Clark Construction has completed the Nursing Building and issued the College its certificate of occupancy. Furniture, fixtures, and equipment are now being procured, supported by a \$500,000 grant from the Office of Skills Development for equipment purchases. The College anticipates hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony in October or November.
- D. Natural State Baseball Showcase Announcement Press Conference Is Held at Dickey-Stephens Park
 - a. On July 31, a press conference at Dickey-Stephens Park officially announced the upcoming Natural State Baseball Showcase. This exciting event, scheduled for October 10 and 11, will bring together all nine two-year colleges with baseball programs to celebrate and showcase the talents of our student athletes. The showcase is proudly supported by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education, the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, Print-Mania, and the Delany and Eric Atchison Family, with additional sponsors expected to join in support.



- E. ASU Three Rivers Provides Backpacks for Chamber of Commerce Back-to-School Bash
- a. On August 31, the Hot Spring County Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Back-to-School Bash, providing local students with backpacks and essential school supplies. For the fourth consecutive year, ASU Three Rivers proudly sponsored the backpacks. This year, college staff distributed a total of 450 backpacks to area residents, supporting students as they prepare for the new school year

2. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

A. Student Success

William Cline has been named the 2025 ACC (Arkansas Community Colleges) Academic All-Star representing ASU Three Rivers (ASUTR). A first-generation college student, William has distinguished himself through leadership as Vice President of the Student Government Association and through his active participation in eSports and the TRiO program. Following his graduation with an Associate of Arts degree, he plans to pursue his passion for cooking by enrolling in a Culinary Arts program, with the goal of becoming a professional chef.

B. Faculty Success

ASUTR is proud to announce its recipient of the annual NISOD Excellence Award. This year's honoree is Patty Weak. For over 30 years, Ms. Weak has demonstrated professionalism and excellence in the classroom, teaching various courses in reading, mathematics, psychology, and student success. She has always received excellent student evaluations and is a patient, supportive instructor who provides varied instructional methods, accessible demonstration of concepts and processes, and extra encouragement to her students, as needed. "The joy of teaching comes not from the lessons I deliver, but from the growth I witness in my students as they discover their own potential. Teaching is my way of giving back, shaping the future one student at a time, and watching them grow into the amazing individuals they are destined to be," stated Ms. Weak.

In addition to her contributions in the classroom, Ms. Weak serves as the Adjunct Faculty Coordinator for the Arts, Sciences, and Business division. In this position, she has responsibilities in recruiting, credentialing, and



onboarding new adjunct instructors, leading faculty development activities, conducting classroom observations, and facilitating solutions when problems arise.

C. Staff Success

Daphne Trigg, an administrative specialist in the Health Sciences division, has been honored by her peers as the Outstanding Staff Member and will represent ASU Three Rivers at this year's ACC Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas. She earned this recognition for her consistently positive attitude and her readiness to assist whenever needed, exemplifying dedication and professionalism in every aspect of her work.

3. Academic Affairs

A. Total Credentials Most Recently Awarded

- a. May 2025 (622 credentials): Associate degrees, 25; Technical Certificates, 47; Certificates of Proficiency, 550;
- b. August 2025 (81 credentials): Associate degrees, 35 (27 RN); Technical Certificates, 46 (35 PN).

B. New Academic Programs

None

C. Revamped Academic Programs or Curriculum

ASUTR has submitted a Letter of Notification to the ADHE Coordinating Board to revamp our current AAS in Management to an AAS in General Business. This change will streamline our current business offerings, allowing for a single AAS degree, while also allowing flexibility within the degree for "concentration areas" for students.

D. Discontinued Academic Programs

None

E. Accreditation Visits & News

The HLC Peer Reviewer report confirms that all five Criteria and their Core Components have been met for the four-year review. Fact-checking of the Peer Reviewer Report was completed and submitted to the Review Chair on August 7, 2025. The formal HLC report is expected to be received within the coming weeks.



4. Institution Awards & Honors

- A. ASUTR Top 5 Finalists in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's* "Best of the Best"
- In July, ASU Three Rivers was honored to be nominated by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* in its annual "Best of the Best" Awards. The college was recognized in the category of Best Community College, while SCCTC (Saline County Career Technical Campus) received a nomination for Best Trade/Technical School. The next round of voting began on August 10 and will determine the winner and two runners-up in each category

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. DYS (Division of Youth Services) Partnership
- SCCTC and DYS have launched a new partnership to give multiple options for career experiences to students in their custody. The "Cottages" program is built around two-week experiences for specific technical programs. So far, programs have been offered through the Mike Rowe Work Ethics Training, as well as in Automotive and Computer Networking. We are also working on launching an additional program for older students that includes longer training with specific tracks to employment. This program has started a tower-climbing cohort and is working to improve the process for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. The total amount of private funds is \$6,893, raised from June 1-August 13, 2025. The total includes payroll deductions, golf tournament sponsorships (received after the tournament), memorials for Mr. Chuck Middleton designated for SCCTC, seats at the Ritz Theatre, and general donations.
- B. Alumni & fund-raising events
- C. New scholarships created
- D. Notable Contributions & Major Gifts
- \$2,000 was received from Kinney Black, combined with an additional \$1,000 received from Mr. Black in Spring 2025, to be awarded as one-time \$500 awards to nursing students in need.

7. Intercollegiate Athletics



A. Athletics Department news & success stories

ASU Three Rivers Baseball is excited to welcome two new coaches to the program. Head Coach Tucker Hughes brings extensive experience and academic expertise, holding an M.A. in Organizational Leadership/Sports Management from Waldorf University and an M.Ed. in Higher Education from Georgia Southern University. He previously served as Head Softball Coach at Southeast Arkansas University. Joining him as Assistant Baseball Coach, Lane Gordon comes from the University of Arkansas at Rich Mountain and holds a B.A. from Alcorn State University. Their combined experience and dedication are poised to strengthen the baseball program and support student-athlete success.

B. Team news & success stories

Last spring, the ASU Three Rivers softball team advanced to the Regional Tournament in Ardmore, Oklahoma, reaching the third day of competition. In addition to their athletic achievements, the team excelled academically, finishing the season with an impressive collective GPA of 3.4.

C. Student-athlete news & success stories

ASU Three Rivers recently celebrated several notable achievements among its student-athletes. Audrey Messer, a spring graduate, signed to play at the University of Texas–Dallas, an NCAA Division II school in the Lone Star Conference. In baseball, graduate Dylan Herriage signed with NCAA Division II University of Arkansas–Fort Smith in the MIAA Conference, while graduate Hunter Rook signed with NCAA Division II Henderson State University in the Great American Conference. In addition to these athletic accomplishments, numerous student-athletes earned academic honors, including placement on the Chancellor’s List, Dean’s List, and recognition from the Honors College.

8. Major Initiatives Update

A. ASUTR and HSU Partnerships

On August 6, ASU Three Rivers Chancellor Dr. Steve Rook, Provost Pat Simms, and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Jackie Yarbrough met with Henderson State University counterparts—Chancellor



Dr. Trey Berry, Provost Dr. Celya Taylor, and Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Chris Adams—to explore collaborative opportunities. The discussions focused on strengthening academic program partnerships and enhancing campus security, reflecting a shared commitment to innovation, student success, and the safety of their communities.

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Federal or state grants' information for facilities or programs

The construction of our new nursing facility is nearing completion, with furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FFE) procurement currently pending. The Office of Skills Development (OSD) has committed \$500,000 for equipment and furnishings, which is expected to be expensed within the next few months. Additionally, the solicitation process for contractors on our Workforce Construction Project (HIRED), valued at \$2,819,250, is now underway.

10. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

A. West Fraser Workforce Training Center

- a. Naming rights for our new workforce facility are being finalized (West Fraser). With the approval of the Board of Trustees, the new facility will be named the West Fraser Workforce Training Center for 10 years.

B. Launch of Advisory Panels

- a. On August 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., SCCTC welcomed over 70 business and industry partners to campus as they kicked off their new program advisory structure. These participants are selected from Saline County and the surrounding region and represent the trades taught at the campus. The current plan is to hold two meetings per year, with additional programs selected as needed.



1. Chancellor Summary

- A. Henderson has completed the fundraising for the new Intramural / Band - Green Space. The campus has been without intramural fields and a dedicated band practice space since 2015. Demolition of the ½ block area between Henderson and Haddock Streets is scheduled to begin on October 31. The project total cost is \$203,000.
- B. Major focus for this year has been to increase enrollment in the freshman class, but also in transfers, and in the overall campus enrollment. The statistics “to date” are very encouraging and are included in the “Enrollment” section of this report.
- C. The dedication of the Caver College of Aviation, Science and Nursing is schedule for Thursday, August 14. We will be honoring Dr. Caver and his \$9,000,000 commitment to Henderson State University. This represents the largest gift in the history of the institution. The events for the day include a lunch, an unveiling ceremony, and a celebratory dinner.
- D. HSU has allocated funding to expand the Aviation fleet. Four additional planes will be purchased by the end of the calendar year 2025. Two of these new planes are already on-site. The Aviation program has also increased the number of flight instructors to fifteen. This is the largest number of instructors since 2017.

2. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

- A. The HSU Honors Program resumed its annual summer European Study Tour. This was the first time the trip has occurred since 2021. Seven honors students and two faculty members participated in the two-week trip.
- B. Reddie athlete Bobbi Bazzle was recently notified that she was a 2024-2025 NCAA Woman of the Year nominee. Bobbi was a four year stand out on the Henderson Women’s Basketball Team. She plans to attend law school in the fall.



3. Finance & Administration

A. Key revenue and expense trends

Tuition and fees exceeded budget by 18.3%, reflecting stronger-than-expected enrollment. Auxiliary revenues finished 5.4% above budget, supported by increases in housing and food service activity. Scholarship expenses increased by 17%, largely due to streamlined waiver processes and high-value institutional awards. Compensation and benefits remained under budget, helping offset increased student support spending. E & G supplies and services slightly exceeded budget, consistent with cost increases tied to high enrollment and year-end operations.

B. Actual v. budget performance & analysis for past 3 months

E & G revenue increased by approximately \$1.0 million over Q3, maintaining a positive trajectory into year-end. E & G expenses rose in Q4 due to increased supplies and services activity, consistent with year-end departmental spending, but remained within budget parameters. Compensation remained steady and under budget, supporting balanced execution. Auxiliary revenue increased by \$366,000 over Q3, ending the year above budget. Auxiliary expenses did not materially increase and remained below budget, reflecting strong fiscal discipline. Overall, Q4 spending and revenues tracked closely with budget, and no significant variances were noted

4. Enrollment & Recruitment

A. Current traditional enrollment status

As of 8-11-25 these are the current enrollment statistics

- Freshman registered: 571 (+48.3%)
- Transfers registered: 174 (+24%)
- Readmits registered: 68 (+17%)



- Overall students registered: (+6%)
- Housing numbers: (+12%)
- Graduate students registered: (-2%)
- *Heart Start* – Summer registration sessions: (+40%)

5. Academic Affairs

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

- **Curriculum Revision**
 - CP - Digital Media Production Certificate (increasing from 12 to 15 hours)
- **Curriculum Revision & Existing Program to be Offered by Distance Education**
 - GC - Dyslexia Therapy Graduate Certificate (aligned with new state competencies)
- **New Concentration/Option**
 - MSE - Special Education K-12: *non-licensure option*
 - MSN - Nursing: *Nursing Education*
- **Program Reconfiguration**
 - GC - Special Education K-12 Graduate Certificate

New graduate certificate created from MSE in Special Education K-12; the full degree will continue to be offered.

A. Total credentials most recently awarded



HSU graduated 395 combined undergraduate and graduate students during the May Commencement.

B. New academic programs

Associate of Arts in Aviation

C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum

Teacher Education program now has a completely online option

D. Accreditation visits & news

The HSU College of Business received word of continued accreditation through AACSB in April.

Accreditation visits for Social Work and for Engineering will occur in October of 2025.

7. Community Engagement & Partnerships

A. Description of community outreach or partnership activity

The effort to attract our community and regional citizens to campus continues with Sunday meals in the cafeteria. To date, 6,102 members of the community have dined with us on campus since last September.

B. Henderson and Rich Mountain Community College signed a 2+2 completion arrangement for K-6 Early Childhood Education.

C. Henderson and ASU Three Rivers has begun discussions of an automatic admissions agreement for graduates of ASU Three Rivers.

8. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

A. Total gifts and private funds amount raised for the quarter was \$605,000.



B. Alumni & fund-raising events

Henderson held Alumni Events recently in Northwest Arkansas and in Dallas. In August, an additional alumni gathering will occur in Hot Springs.

The *Reddie Network* will soon launch its third phase in September. This third recruitment effort with alumni will concentrate on alumni in Health Professions. Previous Reddie Network phases have centered on Education Alumni and Aviation Alumni. The *Reddie Network* was launched to engage Henderson alumni to help the University in recruitment, job placement, internships and fundraising.

C. New scholarships created

A Reddie alumni has recently committed \$250,000 to new scholarships at Henderson to aid students in various majors within the Teachers College.

D. The HSU Foundation reported that the university endowment increased by \$3,782,000 between June 2024 and June 2025.

E. Henderson received a \$1,300,000 ANCRC grant in May to begin Phase I renovation of the Wells Center. Renovation parameters include main gym floor, auxiliary gym floor, piping throughout the building, roof repair, and a new boiler. Renovation began on August 1.

9. Intercollegiate Athletics

A. All spring sports teams at Henderson succeeded in going to post season play. This includes men's and women's golf, tennis, softball, and baseball.

B. Track

Brett Charlton has been hired as the new track coach for both men and women. He has already begun his recruitment for 2026. He has a goal to bring in 60 athletes to HSU for next fall. Fundraising is also continuing to resurface our existing track in Carpenter-Hagood Stadium.

C. Golf



The HSU men's and women's golf team both qualified for Nationals this year. This marks the third year in a row that the Reddie golf teams have qualified and participated.

D. Player Development Facility

The fundraising for the covered baseball and softball Player Development Facility is nearing completion. We hope to begin construction of this practice venue by December of 2025.

10. Major Initiatives Update

A. Major initiative description

- a. Completion of the Mooney Hall restoration (College of Business) will occur at the end of August. This was made possible by an ANCRC grant.
- b. Completion of the Russell Fine Arts Building restoration will occur at the end of August. This was made possible by an ANCRC grant.
- c. Completion of the Smith Hall HVAC system replacement and first floor painting occurred on August 8. This was made possible through an ANCRC grant.
- d. Restoration of two Chemistry Labs in Reynolds Science Center are now complete. This was made possible through an insurance settlement.

11. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

- A. 2025 ANCRC Grant received for the Wells Center repairs and restoration. The amount of the grant was \$1,300,000. The grant will be used to replace all the piping in the building, a new boiler, roof repairs, and restoration of the gym floor.