

adhe HIGHER ED REVIEW

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July 2007

Former ADHE Director Wraps up Tenure at Agency



Dr. Beene accepts a plaque from Dr. Steve Floyd, who was named interim director of the department, in appreciation for her service to the agency.

Dr. Linda Beene, formerly the director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, has officially taken over duties as dean of the School of Continuing Education and Academic Outreach at the University of Arkansas as well as associate provost for academic outreach. A reception, attended by presidents and chancellors from around the state along with numerous government officials and representatives, was held at Trapnall Hall in Little Rock June 27 to commemorate Dr. Beene's tenure of nearly five years with the agency. During that time, voters approved a \$250 million bond package, the Arkansas Course Transfer System was established, the Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative was launched, and four Arkansas colleges were selected to participate in a long-term national study – Achieving the Dream; Community Colleges Count – designed to improve

student retention and graduation rates by studying the reasons college students leave prior to earning a degree. A search committee has been formed to find a replacement for Dr. Beene at the agency. Until a replacement is named, the department will be headed by Deputy Director Steve Floyd, who was named interim director by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board at a special meeting in June.

Inside this issue:

- ADHE Spotlight 2
- A colleague retires 2
- ADTEC awarded 2
- Arkansas Advances 3-6

Save the Date:

Arkansas Higher Education
Coordinating Board Meeting
August 3
University of Arkansas,
Fayetteville

Coordinating Commission
September 11
University of Arkansas System
Office

Arkansas Department
of Higher Education

Steve Floyd
Interim Director

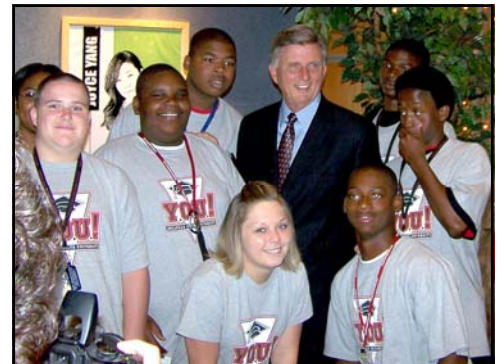
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Y.O.U. Students Meet With the Governor at ASU

Wednesday, July 11 was a big day on the campus of Arkansas State University as participants in the Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) program met with Governor Mike Beebe to hear his views on education. Raised by a single mother who worked as a waitress all her life, Governor Beebe told the students he knows about poverty firsthand and he exhorted them to go as far as they can in their educational careers, saying education is the key to a better, more productive life. Y.O.U. Coordinator Lillian Williams said the students were thrilled to meet with the governor and to hear his story. "Governor Beebe is a living, breathing testament to the power of education to change lives," she said, "and through his example, these students can see they have the potential to go as far as they want to in life if they're willing to work at it." This marked the 20th year of the Y.O.U. Summer Enrichment Program, which provides at-risk students with education, life enrichment, and work experience, along with positive role models in a supportive environment.



Governor Mike Beebe poses with a group of Y.O.U. students during this summer's Y.O.U. enrichment program.

ADHE Associate Director for Planning and Accountability Packs it in for Retirement

For quite a few years at ADHE, Ron Harrell has been known as the "numbers guy." As Associate Director for Planning and Accountability, his duties included gathering statistical information, tracking trends in education, and making quarterly reports to the AHECB, just to name a few. But on Tuesday, June 26, Ron closed that chapter of his life with a retirement party and his announcement that he and his wife will ride off into the sunset in their new motor home. As much as Ron said he loved his work at ADHE, he said he's now looking forward to spending time with his grandchildren and seeing the country.



With a broad smile, Ron Harrell prepares for the next phase of his life following retirement.

ADHE SPOTLIGHT Changing Positions Highlight the Coming of FY08



Julie Phillips, who formerly handled HR issues for ADHE, will become Coordinator of General Administration. She will assist with preparations for AHECB meetings, special projects and events and other administrative duties.



As Coordinator of Institutional Finance, Ashley Pettingill will direct research for college finance systems, assist with the development of the funding formulas and implementation of data collection. She was formerly a financial officer.



Janet Lawrence Ragland has assumed duties of General Counsel for ADHE. She is responsible for handling all legal matters pertaining to the department, statute interpretation, ensuring compliance with state and federal law, and other duties pertaining to legal issues.

ADTEC Awarded by Southern Growth Policies Board for Innovation

The Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium, which includes five community colleges in eastern Arkansas, received a Southern Growth Policies Board 2007 Innovator Award during the Southern Workforce Summit on June 3-5, 2007. ADTEC, which focuses its energies on a collaborative and comprehensive approach to economic development in the Arkansas Delta, includes Mid-South Community College, Arkansas Northeastern College, Arkansas State University-Newport, East Arkansas Community College and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas. Consortium goals include sharing faculty, equipment, curriculum, and best practices; providing a broad range of services at a lower cost; and promoting regional economic development. MSCC representatives at the summit included Dr. Glen Fenter, president; Dr. Robert Gunter, Vice President for Workforce Technology; and Pauline Pieper Vernon, Dean of Business and Community Outreach. ANC, ASU-Newport, EACC, and PCCUA also sent representatives to the conference. Other notable attendees from Arkansas included Dr. Linda Beene, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education; Dr. Ed Franklin, Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges; Maria Haley, Execu-



tive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; Kathryn Hazelett, Director of Policy for Gov. Mike Beebe; Collette Honorable, Executive Director of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board; Stephen Lease, Director of Workforce Training for the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges; Rex Nelson, Alternate Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority; and Dr. Karen Wheeler, Associate Director for Academic Affairs for the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. ADTEC joined winners from 12 states and Puerto Rico at the ceremony and reception hosted by Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt. The Arkansas consortium was chosen from more than 200 nominees in the Southern region as an outstanding initiative in workforce development. With the theme of "Building the Next Workforce," the conference included a diverse collection of national and regional leaders from 23 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. Discussion centered on strategies for creating a culture of lifelong learning and entrepreneurship in which workers consistently update their skills, encouraging workers to be more innovative, linking workforce-training initiatives to economic development initiatives, and building industry-education alliances with higher education and emerging and existing industries.

Arkansas Advances

- Chesapeake Energy Corporation and the Cleburne County Rotary Club recently presented Jesse Foster with a scholarship to attend **Arkansas State University-Heber Springs**, a center of ASU-Beebe, to earn a Certificate of Proficiency in Petroleum Technology. Chesapeake has agreed to fund \$50,000 in scholarships through two Arkansas Rotary districts over the next year to state students who are interested in fields of study relevant to the energy industry. The Chesapeake scholarships will be offered through Rotary Districts 6150 and 6170 which include White, Faulkner, Cleburne, Van Buren, Conway and Pope Counties. These are the counties where Chesapeake is currently focusing its exploration and development of natural gas from the Fayetteville Shale formation. Foster, of Pleasant Plains, graduated from Midland in 2002. Since graduation, Foster has been trying to find a career that is right for him and says he has been interested in the energy industry since the words "Fayetteville Shale" were first mentioned.



Jesse Foster receives a scholarship from Chesapeake through the Cleburne County Rotary Club to attend ASU-Heber Springs. Pictured (left to right) are: Carol Troy, Chesapeake director of corporate communication; Lowell McLanahan, Rotary District 6170; Jesse Foster, scholarship recipient; Paul Roberts, Chesapeake; Judi Sims, governor of Rotary District 6150; Alex Aiken, Heber Springs Rotary; Dr. Eugene McKay, Chancellor of ASU-Beebe; Joe Tournear, Manager of Heber Springs Wal-Mart.

- Dr. John B. (Jack) Zibluk**, of the **Arkansas State University** Journalism Department, was elected to a full term as vice president of the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) at the organization's annual summit meeting in Portland, Ore. Zibluk was named chair of the NPPA's first strategic planning effort. He organized and moderated a panel



Dr. John B. (Jack) Zibluk

discussion on bridging the gap between the academic and professional worlds. Zibluk also co-chaired the photojournalism speakers' program, which included six Pulitzer Prize winners.

- An eight-hour course on basic computer security will be offered at **Arkansas State University-Searcy**, a technical campus of ASU-Beebe, this summer. Internet and computer security are becoming increasingly important. Attacks on computers are becoming more frequent and more sophisticated. Inappropriate material has infiltrated computer systems jeopardizing personal information and child safety. By taking this course, students will be introduced to such topics as email hoaxes, chain letters, worms, viruses, SPAM, Virus Scanners, Adware Scanners, Windows Updates, Firewalls, User Accounts, and Web Browsers-tracking a child's browsing history and using software to block objectionable web content.
- Kids from area schools participated in a week long Kids' College on the campus of **Arkansas State University-Newport**. The annual event invites students completing grades 4, 5 and 6 for a week of fun and learning. This year's theme, "Our World of Wonder" offered courses in a variety of subjects, including Arts & Crafts Around the World, It's a Math World, Arkansas: Our Place in the World, Citizens of the World, and old Kids' College favorites like cooking, chess, and Pencil Perfect, a drawing course.



Kids' College participants got in a full week of fun and learning at ASU-Newport's Kids' College last month. This year's theme for Kids' College was "A World of Wonder."

- Frank Adams**, Chancellor of **Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas**, has issued a statement following the passage by Little River County voters of a permanent quarter-cent sales tax to support operations of the College's Little River

Arkansas Advances Continued

campus at Ashdown. "On behalf of the faculty and staff, I am very pleased that the voters of Little River County have seen fit to make this investment in keeping the University of Arkansas close to their homes. We have made some promises during this campaign regarding new programs and further developments to be made at our Ashdown campus, and we fully intend to keep those promises. If there is doubt in anyone's mind about whether or not we intend to keep the promises we have made, they only need to ask someone who lives in Sevier or Howard County."

- The **University Of Arkansas Community College at Hope** has announced this year's recipients for the Outstanding Faculty Member Award and the Spirit of Excellence in Service Award. The 2007 Outstanding Faculty Member is **Marc Turner**, an instructor in the Arts and Humanities Division. He teaches courses in Composition, Literature and Drama. Turner has directed student plays over the last several years and has appeared in several Southwest Arkansas Arts Council productions. He is



Marc Turner

a talented musician who regularly plays in a band and was instrumental in organizing student "Jam Sessions" held on the college campus. This year's recipient of the Spirit of Excellence in Service Award is **Nancy Bailey**. Bailey serves as a technician in the Telecommunications Department. She has also designed and taught numerous community services classes for UACCH. She received the National Institute for Staff and



Nancy Bailey

Organizational Development Excellent Award for the 2004-2005 academic year, and was recognized as an outstanding advisor for Phi Theta Kappa at the regional conference in Oklahoma City. Bailey has helped provide technical support for many community organizations, including the Hope City Police, the Clinton Birthplace Foundation, Hope High School, the School of Hope and the Arkansas Department of Health.

- Jeremy Rodgers, a rising junior from Mills High School, scrutinized his calculations before placing his soda straw "rocket" in a launching pump and sending it off on a graceful arc over the front lawn of **University of Arkansas at Little Rock's** engineering building. He was one of 15 Pulaski County high school

students chosen to participate in a two-week Aerospace Summer Academy sponsored by the Central Arkansas Aerospace Alliance, a partnership between UALR, the Little Rock School District, Pulaski Tech, the Little Rock Airport Commission, and area aerospace and aviation companies to promote student interest in aerospace careers. The goal: to encourage science-minded students to consider careers in aerospace industry. **Vernard Henley**, director of educational outreach and diversity at UALR's engineering and information technology college, said the two-week academy experience showed the students how math theories learned from a textbook can be applied to send a rocket soaring across the sky. The object, Henley said, is to capture their interest and open their minds to possibilities. It seems to be working for young Jeremy Rodgers. "I've never taken trig and now I love it," said Rodgers, who had planned on playing football to get into college. "I'm getting hooked. I'm starting to like this more than football."



Students from Pulaski County High School prepare their rockets for lift-off during the recent two-week Aerospace Academy, sponsored by Central Arkansas Aerospace Alliance and held on the grounds of UALR.

- It's been a few years since **Bill Lovell** enrolled in a class at North Arkansas College. In fact, the last time the Harrison native and retired Wal-Mart executive sat as a student in a campus classroom was at Twin Lakes Vocational-Technical School-now **North Arkansas Col-**



NorthArk Trustee Bill Lovell looks over the college's credit and noncredit class schedules. Assisting him are (from right) Charla Jennings, director of admissions, and Amy Bell, director of community education.

Arkansas Advances Continued

lege's North Campus. This fall, Lovell and the other eight members of the North Arkansas College Board of Trustees are going back to school at the institution they govern. They all plan to take either a credit or noncredit course. Class choices by the nine trustees run the gamut from Lovell's pick of a short-term community education course on the ABC's of Investing taught by Anna Popke to a semester-long, three-credit class chosen by Norma Ellis Cutler on the History of Ancient Rome led by instructor Peter DeStefano. The point, according to trustee Melanie Savells, who is in her 17th year as a member of Northark's board, is to emphasize the value of lifelong learning. Savells will take a credit class from Sherry Bishop in Adobe Photo Shop to assist her efforts as an aspiring painter. For attorney Jim Sprott, who will skip lunch two days each week to earn one credit in a weight training class under the direction of Seychelle Mahoney, the course is part of an overall fitness plan. James Troy Massey, a history buff, plans to enroll in Fred Berry's Arkansas History class for three hours of college credit on Wednesday evenings. Laretta Moore will take Microsoft Excel, a community education offering taught by Dale Garner. Kirk Campbell, one of the college's newest board members, will take a community education class in Conversational Spanish taught by Beatriz England. Jim Milum will take K.C. Jones' First Aid-CPR, a noncredit offering, and Northark Board Chairman Wayne Thompson and his wife, Peggy, are both signing up for Don West's "Israel and the Middle East: Biblically, Historically, Currently."



NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE'S president, Dr. Jeff Olson, and vice president of learning, Dr. Gwen Gresham, (both standing) are shown assisting college trustees (from left) Jim Sprott, Jim Milum, Wayne Thompson, Laretta Moore, Kirk Campbell, Melanie Savells, Norma Ellis Cutler, and Troy Massey as they look over the college's 2007 credit and community education class schedules. All nine Northark board members will take a college class this fall.

- **NorthWest Arkansas Community College** English instructor **Linda Lovell** was nominated and accepted the opportunity to co-chair the College's Action Project I, "Improve communication and leadership processes for greater collaboration and effectiveness," as submitted to AQIP/Chicago. Lovell began work at NWACC in fall 1996 as an adjunct English instructor. Her most recent accomplishment was broadening her understanding and appreciation for Irish mythology, history, and literature by spending three weeks in Ireland. She also has written entries for the online Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/>. She plans to continue working on that project, she said.



Linda Lovell walks along the beaches of Ireland during a recent trip to study Irish mythology.

- Officials from the **University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville** and the Cave City School District have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for PROJECT: College Bound, which will begin with the Cave City graduating class of 2008 (excluding students with IEP's exempt from federal and state mandated exams). As part of the graduation requirements,



Marc Walling (standing), Cave City High School principal; Deborah Frazier, chancellor at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville; and Steven Green, Cave City superintendent, sign the Memorandum of Understanding for PROJECT: College Bound on the UACCB campus. PROJECT: College Bound will begin with the 2008 senior class at Cave City.

graduating seniors at Cave City High School will be required to complete the application process for admittance to UACCB. PROJECT: College Bound was implemented last fall as a pilot project (the Southside Graduation Project) at Southside High School, the purpose of which is to assist students in the application process. In fall 2006, 31 percent of the 2006 graduating class at Southside enrolled in classes at UACCB, increasing by 30 percent.

Arkansas Advances Continued

- Max Pearson has donated an additional \$50,000 to **Rich Mountain Community College** for scholarships at a College sponsored luncheon in his honor. This donation from Pearson



Max Pearson and Janet Smith

- brings his total gifts to the College to over \$300,000. Previous contributions from Pearson have included several donations for the creation and continued growth of RMCC's radio station, an initial scholarship endowment, and last fall a \$200,000 endowment for scholarships to RMCC. While being honored for his generosity to RMCC, Pearson was also informed that RMCC nominated him for the 2007 Council for Resource Development (CRD) Benefactor Award. Pearson was honored by CRD's Region VI for his contributions and dedication to education.
- The **University of Arkansas at Monticello** will receive \$379,430 per year for the next four years from the U.S. Department of Education to fund the university's Upward Bound Program, according to Chancellor Jack Lassiter. The Upward Bound Program serves low income and potential first-generation college students from 10 high schools in five southeast Arkansas counties – Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Desha and Drew.
- **Mid-South Community College's** Advanced Manufacturing program will enter its third semester in August, and several new classes have been added to prepare high school students through adults for current and future jobs in the region. All of MSCC's Workforce Technology Center programs focus on development of the local workforce so they can use



Kelly Bearden, Manufacturing Technology instructor at Mid-South Community College, and an MSCC Technical Center student demonstrate some of the processes that can be learned at the West Memphis campus.

want. Clothing, cell phones, computers, automobiles, CDs and DVDs, food and drink, athletic gear, medicine, and cosmetics are all produced during a manufacturing process.

the skills they learn here to secure high-tech, high-paying jobs. On its most basic level, **Advanced Manufacturing** includes the invention and creation of products people need and

- Area high school graduates hoping to land a job in the aircraft completion industry are getting a head-start on their career path with a nine-week Summer Aircraft Manufacturing Technology program underway at **Pulaski Technical College**. Pulaski Tech is offering the program free to 2007 high school graduates in conjunction with the Arkansas Aerospace Alliance and Metropolitan Career and Technical Center. Fifteen high school graduates are participating in the program and are gaining hands-on experience in blueprints, structure fabrication, cabinetry, upholstery and avionics installation. The course is designed to prepare workers for jobs in the aircraft completion industry and to help supply the workforce needs of Central Arkansas businesses and industries.
- The **University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences** (UAMS) marked the high points for construction of a 10-floor, 540,000-square-foot expansion of UAMS Medical Center and the adjacent five-floor, 100,000-square-foot Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI) with a double "topping out" ceremony. **White steel beams**, signed by **UAMS employees** and supporters, were raised into place to mark the highest point of construction on each building. Both the hospital expansion and PRI are expected to be completed in late 2008.



Construction workers at UAMS raise a steel beam into place in a "topping out" ceremony marking the highest point of construction of the 540,000 square foot expansion of the UAMS Medical Center.

- **Henderson State University** is sponsoring and hosting the 13th annual Summer Institute for Prospective College Students. The one-week residential program is designed to help high school sophomores, juniors and seniors prepare for college life and encourage them to pursue a post secondary education by enrolling in a college or university. The institute includes a variety of sessions and activities designed to address the specific needs of these students as they prepare for the transition from a secondary education environment to postsecondary education. Individuals from the university, public schools and community work together and serve as facilitators and supervisors of the sessions and activities. During the one-week program, students live in campus housing and dine in the campus dining hall.