

adhe HIGHER ED REVIEW

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August-September 2007

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Save the Date:

CAO Meeting
September 18—9:30 a.m.
ADHE

ICAC Meeting
September 25—2 p.m.
ADHE

Presidents Council
October 2—11 a.m.
ADHE

AATYC Conference
October 14-16
Hot Springs

Coordinating Board Meeting
October 26
Lyon College
Batesville

Arkansas Department
of Higher Education

Steve Floyd
Interim Director

114 East Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: 501-371-2000
Fax: 501-371-2001

www.adhe.edu

STEM Coalition Examines Education/Economic Link



Governor Mike Beebe addresses members of the Arkansas STEM Coalition on the importance of aligning education with economic development.

Speaking before the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Coalition in Little Rock September 5, Governor Mike Beebe called learning a life-long process and said education and economic development are inextricably linked to one another.

“If you have a dollar, you can’t give a dollar either to education or to economic development,” the Governor said. “You have to give 50 cents to education and 50 cents to economic development, or 60 cents to educa-

tion and 40 cents to economic development. They are too closely tied together to pay attention to one and not the other.”

Educators, policy makers and business leaders from around the state were at the Statehouse Convention Center September 5 to hear recommendations from panelists concerning the teaching of science and mathematics, to discuss overall rigor of courses in primary, secondary and postsecondary education, and to examine ways to more closely align education curricula with the needs of business and industry in the state. Specific policy recommendations will be made to the Governor and the General Assembly.

Perkins Training Held at Department of Higher Ed

Training for new Perkins coordinators was held on August 30 at ADHE. While the training was for new coordinators (those with less than 2 years in the coordinator position), all interested parties were welcome to attend. The agenda included basic responsibilities of the coordinator, training of the coordinator’s handbook, preparation for the Perkins 5-Year Plan and training of the newly developed Perkins web site, www.adheperkins.com. The training will be offered again on September 20.



Moneica West, ADHE Coordinator of Federal Programs, conducts training for new Perkins coordinators at ADHE on August 30. Assisting in the training was Gloria Venable (not pictured), also a federal programs coordinator at ADHE.

Dick Trammel to Head Higher Education Board in the Coming Year

At its regular quarterly meeting August 3 at the University of Arkansas, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) approved the election of Dick Trammel as Chairman of the Board along with a slate of new officers elected for the current year. David Leech was re-elected vice-chairman of the board, Lynda Johnson was re-elected to the position of secretary, Dan Grant was re-elected to serve as Academic Committee chairman, and

Steve Luelf was elected as Finance Committee chairman. Three new board members; Dr. Joe Bennett of Harrison, Dr. Charles Allen of Little Rock, and Bob L. Burns of Magnolia were introduced.

Dr. Steve Floyd, interim director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, reported that in the last 10 years, the number of degrees and certificates awarded each year by public colleges and universities has increased by 49 percent, surpassing the rise in total enrollment of 40 percent during the same time period. The greatest increase was seen in the number of associate degrees awarded, with an 85 percent increase to 5,259 degrees awarded in 2006. Baccalaureate degrees awarded annually increased by 20 percent to 8,935 awarded in 2006, while graduate and professional degrees awarded rose by 33 percent over the same time period.

A public hearing was held outlining amendments to the rules and regulations for the Washington Center Scholarship Program. Tara Smith, coordinator of financial aid at ADHE, presented the program's rules and regulations, which will award approximately 20 Arkansas students annually up to \$6,000 to participate in the internship program. Smith said participating students must attend an Arkansas institution, be a second-semester sophomore with a minimum 2.75 grade point average, and be sponsored by the institution they are attending. She said it is anticipated that the first scholarships will be awarded in the spring 2008 semester and this is the first year Arkansas has participated in the program.



Newly elected AHECB Chairman Dick Trammel (seated at center) listens as Lieutenant Governor Bill Halter (standing at podium) addresses the Board at its August 3 meeting at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Also pictured are ADHE Interim Director Dr. Steve Floyd (seated far right) and Board members Dr. Anne Trussell (front left) and Dr. Joe Bennett (front right).

Based on a report by Dr. Stanley Williams, senior associate director for finance, the board approved the distribution of nearly \$646,000 from the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund to higher education institutions based on funding received by the state out of mineral lease funds. Henderson State University received approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling approximately \$9 million for auxiliary purposes. Annual debt service of the bond issue would equal about \$612,000 for 25 years at an annual interest rate of five percent.

The board approved a proposal by the University of Central Arkansas in Conway for a Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership Studies program designed to prepare program graduates to assume leadership roles in both the private and public sectors.

Three new master's degree programs were approved by the board: A Master of Science in Agricultural Regulations proposed by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; a Master of Science in Nursing at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville; and a Master of Science in Special Education – Instructional Specialist offered by distance technology at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

An Associate of Applied Science in Military Technologies proposed by Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock was approved, and the board also approved five Technical Certificate and Certificate of Proficiency programs proposed by three institutions.

Programs in cosmetology, industrial equipment maintenance technology, and computer and network installation and repair technology were approved for South Arkansas Technical Community College in El Dorado; a program in hospitality services was approved for the University of Arkansas at Monticello; and a program in radio and television broadcasting was approved for Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas in DeQueen.

In other business, outgoing AHECB Chairman Kaneaster Hodges announced that a nationwide search is now underway to find a director for the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to replace former Director Linda Beene, who left in June to accept a position with the University of Arkansas. Dr. Steve Floyd will continue to serve as interim director during the search.

Arkansas Receives \$13.2 Million Grant From ExxonMobil to Boost AP



Flanked by officials from ExxonMobil, the National Math and Science Initiative, educators and lawmakers, Governor Mike Beebe announces a \$13.2 million grant designed to help continue gains made in Advanced Placement courses in the state.

Arkansas became one of only seven states to receive money from a new grant, primarily funded by ExxonMobil, designed to help boost Advanced Placement (AP) scores by Arkansas students. The state is already recognized nationally as a leader in AP improvements, and the \$13.2 million in funding over six years seeks to build upon those improvements. Created by the National Math and Science Initiative, the grant will fund training and incentive programs for AP and pre-AP courses to help get students better prepared for college-level work in math, science and engineering. The state will establish a nonprofit organization based at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, which authored Arkansas's successful grant proposal, to use the grant at about 20 high schools around the state, with the potential to expand to more schools in the future, the release said. The primary goal will be to increase the number of AP students who score three or higher on their AP exams each year through initiatives that will include additional teacher training and achievement incentives for students. Between 2002 and 2006, Arkansas led the nation with a 15.5 percent per-capita growth

in the number of students passing math, science and English AP exams. Arkansas is requiring all high schools to offer AP courses in core subjects by the 2008-2009 school year and already pays for students to take AP exams.

STAR Commission Makes Awards to Aspiring Teachers

The State Teacher Assistance Resource (STAR) Commission awarded 452 Arkansas students with STAR tuition assistance at its annual meeting August 7 at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Lieutenant Governor Bill Halter, presiding over his first meeting as head of the commission, said that putting teachers in critical needs areas in Arkansas is an important linchpin in economic development for the state.

"We're not just trying to compete with Mississippi and Tennessee," Halter said. "We're competing with countries like China and India. These other countries are putting vast resources into education."

The STAR Program offers tuition assistance in the form of forgivable student loans for students who agree to teach either in subject areas suffering from a shortage of qualified teachers, or in geographic regions having difficulty in attracting qualified teachers, or both. The awards range from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

Halter asked the commissioners present at the meeting, educators from around the state, for input on how to attract more teachers into critical fields such as math and science, and to underserved areas of the state. The commissioners agreed that teacher pay is a big issue both in recruitment and retention of teachers.

Dr. Steve Floyd, interim director of ADHE, welcomed the commissioners and Lieutenant Governor Halter, saying the department is committed to the state's twin goals of improvement in education and economic development.

ADHE Spotlight



ADHE Career Pathways Data Research Analyst Mark Lane shows off a cake presented to him by ADHE employees September 7. Mark, a member of the Arkansas National Guard, is being deployed to Iraq for his second tour of duty.

Arkansas Advances

- The first Diana's Dollars Scholarship, a **National Park Community College** Division of Nursing scholarship in the amount of \$500, was recently awarded to **Shirley Welch**, a practical nursing student at NPCC. Ms. Welch completed her education in June and will start to work as an LPN in the local community. This scholarship is given by an anonymous individual from Hot Springs Village who donated money to endow this scholarship and requested that it be named in honor of Diana Christensen. The donor of this scholarship, after observing Mrs. Christensen in her nursing role, wanted to help caring nursing students complete their education, enter the workplace, and join the nursing profession. In June, this donor provided another endowed scholarship through Diana's Dollars.
- **SAU Tech's** Multimedia Film & Video Production students worked at the recent Forrest L. Woods Tour event that was held in Hot Springs on the weekend of August 3rd. This was the biggest fishing tournament ever held with a single fisherman winning one million dollars. SAU Tech students worked with Fox Sports Net in shooting video and doing grip work. According to instructor, Steve Taylor, the days started at around 4:30 in the morning and ran until about 7:00 each evening. Two of the students were actually on the water filming the National Guard World Junior Championship Event that was held simultaneously with the Forrest L. Wood Cup Pro Event. The final catch weigh-in on Sunday was broadcast live to Wal-Mart stores across the country as well as to U.S. troops in Iraq.
- The **University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service** welcomed its third class into the unique Master of Public Service (MPS) degree program with orientation on August 11. The 30 students represent the largest class since the school's opening in August of 2005. With the new class, the Clinton School continues to admit candidates with a variety of backgrounds, including five international students hailing from Vietnam, China, South Africa, Brazil and Jordan. Fifteen of the 30 students are men, 15 are women and the average class age is 28 years old. Fifteen of the students have Arkansas connections having been raised, attended college or worked in the state. The MPS program is a full-time graduate program taking two years to complete (accelerated program, 18 months). Core courses are completed in the first year, with elective course-work and three major public service projects (group, international and individual) completed during the program. The entire program is enriched by dialogue with a series of distinguished visitors who discuss such topics as current events, foreign policy and career options.
- **NorthWest Arkansas Community College** has announced that **Dr. John G. Tuthill** has been named Associate Vice President for Student Learning. Dr. Tuthill began work August 1, reporting to Executive Vice President for Student Learning Dr. Chip Ates. Dr. Tuthill also will work on behalf of NWACC with accrediting agencies, such as the North Central Association, and partner with community and state agencies. During his 18-year career as a history professor, Dr. Tuthill taught at colleges and universities in Alabama, California, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Guam, the Marshall Islands, and Ukraine, where he was a Fulbright Scholar. As a community college administrator, Dr. Tuthill served at Ilisagvik College in Barrow, Alaska, as Dean of Instruction, and the College of the Marshall Islands, where most recently he was Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.
- Two members of the **University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton** faculty and staff received awards for outstanding academic achievements recently. **Danny Gifford**, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration instructor at UACCM, received the "Outstanding Senior 2006-2007" award from the UALR Donaghey College of Information Science and Systems Engineering in the department of Engineering Technology. Gifford is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in electronics and computer engineering technology at UALR. Gifford has been employed by UACCM since 1997. **Clara Paquette**, Assessment and Retention Coordinator at the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton, has been selected as the Outstanding Master's Student in Adult Education from the Department of Rehabilitation, Human Resources and Communication Disorders at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Paquette received her master's degree in May during the UA-Fayetteville College of Education and Health Professions commencement exercises. Paquette has been employed by UACCM since 1998.



Dr. John G. Tuthill



Danny Gifford



Clara Paquette

Arkansas Advances Continued

- Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe took a tour of the Baldor Technology Center at the **University of Arkansas - Fort Smith** recently, a tour that ended with Gov. Beebe speaking words of praise for UA Fort Smith. The governor's tour began when he met five students representing the Western Arkansas Technical Center, an on-campus program that provides area high school juniors and seniors in 18 school districts an opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school. Each student told the governor how many hours of college credit they had accumulated and outlined their future plans. The governor then took in portions of some of the labs and classrooms, touring an electronics lab, meeting graphic design students and seeing some of their work, and viewing a demonstration video of animation done by computer-aided drafting and design students.



Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe hears from students Sam Jones, Jennifer Glanton, Laci Self, Logan Cochran and Debbie Banos. At right are Dr. Paul B. Beran, UA Fort Smith chancellor, and Pat Widders, dean of the College of Applied Science and Lifelong Learning.

- Chuck Werninger**, manager and owner of digital print shops, has joined the **University of Arkansas at Little Rock** as manager of the Office of Communications's print shop, Director Judy Williams announced. A former Air Force ROTC flight commander at the University of Oklahoma and aerospace engineering major at Boston University, Werninger was a digital specialist at Democrat Printing and Lithographing Co. from 2003 until joining the University. Previously, he owned Green Mountain Color Inc, a small digital print shop in Little Rock and managed up to 18 employees as manager of an AlphaGraphics franchise also in Little Rock.



Chuck Werninger

- Fighting through an uneasy adolescence is tough enough for a 14-year-old girl, but imagine your father is not around and your mother is the frequently outrageous host of a punk-rock radio show who'll say anything on the air. That's the premise of a new book, *A New Kind of Music*, written by **Diane Payne**, assistant professor of English and director



Diane Payne

of the Writing Center at the **University of Arkansas at Monticello**. The 153-page book is being published by Kristen Bailey and is available for \$11.99 in paperback at www.lulu.com. The central character of Payne's novel is Layla, a 14-year-old girl struggling to fit in at school and in her community while trying to avoid the embarrassment caused by her "shock-jock" mother. As a result, Layla rebels against typical teen-aged radio tastes and becomes a fan of National Public Radio, much to her mother's chagrin. *A New Kind of Music* is Payne's second novel. Her first novel, *Burning Tulips*, was published in 2001 by Red Hen Press. She has had essays, fiction and poetry published in over 100 different magazines. Payne has been a member of the UAM faculty since 2000. She is a graduate of Northern Arizona University with a master's degree from the University of Arizona.

- Noted environmentalist **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** will deliver the inaugural Farris Lecture at the **University of Central Arkansas** on Wednesday, Sept. 19. The event, which will be free and open to the public, will take place at 7 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Performance Hall on the UCA campus. After his address, entitled "Crimes Against Nature," Kennedy will participate in a question-and-answer session with the audience, and a book signing will follow.



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Arkansas Advances Continued

- The **Arkansas State University-Newport** Ambassadors for 2007-2008 are: Hailey Rudd and Brandi Carson who graduated from Newport High School and Scott Gates, Jami Easter, and Kristopher Jackson who graduated from Jackson County School District-Tuckerman. Ambassadors serve ASU-Newport by linking high school students from their alma maters to the campus. They participate in a variety of campus events, welcoming the public and ushering. The students are enrolled in Leadership courses while at ASU-Newport.



Student Ambassadors receive their ASUN shirts and assignments for the semester on the first day of Fall 2007. Pictured are: Back row (L to R), Leadership Instructor Assistant Professor Joe Campbell, Ambassadors Hailey Rudd, Hunter Gates, ASUN Counselor Intern Amber Grady, Ambassador Kristopher Jackson, and Dr. Mary Robertson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Front row (L to R) Ambassadors Brandi Carson and Jami Easter.

- **Arkansas State University-Beebe** recently hosted a business and industry appreciation luncheon at ASU-Searcy, a technical campus of ASU-Beebe. Those in business and industry, that partner with ASU-Beebe in providing training, job placement, and internship to the area workforce, were invited to attend the event. Don Harlan, Vice Chancellor for ASU-Searcy, welcomed those in attendance and ASU-Beebe Chancellor Dr. Eugene McKay, welcomed keynote speaker, Steve Lease, who serves as director of workforce training for the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges. The event was coordinated by Workforce Training, Career Pathways, and the internship programs. Dottie Whiteside, Director of the Economic Development Center, presented an overview of the three departments and how they work together to benefit area businesses and industries. Dr. Bonnie Faupel and Karen Barger, instructors at ASU-Searcy, provided information about the benefits of the internship program to the business participants in attendance. Don Gaines, an employment specialist with

Career Pathways, then presented employment certificates to the business partners and gave additional information regarding the Career Pathways program and how it can assist those seeking training in specific job skills. Additionally, Todd Hunter, a workforce training coordinator, gave information about workforce training. During 2006, there were 3,585 people statewide that received training through the Workforce Training program, resulting in 86,739 hours in total workforce training. This training was made possible mostly through the use of state funded grants.



Steve Lease, director of workforce training for the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges speaks at the ASU-Beebe business and industry appreciation luncheon. The event was coordinated by Workforce Training, Career Pathways Initiative, and interns at ASU-Searcy, a technical campus of ASU-Beebe.



With class registration closing August 28, University of Arkansas Community college at Hope celebrated this semester's enrollment by fulfilling a promise made by the Dean of Business Technology, Willie Buck' that when enrollment hit 1,300 students, he would dance in the College's fountain in his suit. Recently, Buck and other UACCH faculty and staff, including the Chancellor, Dr. Charles L. Welch, celebrated the record high enrollment numbers by dancing in the fountain as promised.