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Save the Date:

Coordinating Board Meeting
October 25-26
Lyon College
Batesville

Coordination Commission
November 6-12:30 p.m.
UA System Office

Higher Education Task Force on
Remediation, Retention, and
Graduation Rates
November 15-1:00 p.m.
State Capitol

ALC Higher Education
Subcommittee
November 15-3 p.m.
State Capitol

Arkansas Department
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Interim Director Speaks to Deans' Association

"Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities" was the subject of a speech delivered by Dr. Steve Floyd to the Arkansas Deans' Association meeting on the campus of UCA October 1st. Dr. Floyd pointed out the importance of higher education institutions to the economic development of the state as a whole, but also recognized the community and regional impact each individual campus has in its area.

"It's almost intuitively recognized by community leaders what it means to have an institution of higher education in their community," he said.

In 11 years as Deputy Director of the Department of Higher Education, and now serving his second stint as Interim Director, Dr. Floyd said he has toured all campuses in the state and knows the resources they bring to the state.

Some examples he pointed out are AD-TEC and the work it is doing to develop the manufacturing capacity of Delta workers, the Cyber College at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Sam Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas and an array of medical research programs at UAMS.

"Everywhere, we have exciting, dynamic programs that are improving the



Dr. Steve Floyd, Interim Director of ADHE, addresses the annual meeting of the Arkansas Deans' Association, held October 1st at the University of Central Arkansas. Dr. Floyd addressed the topics of "Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities in Higher Education."

quality of life for our state," he said.

Dr. Floyd also pointed out a number of challenges facing higher education, a major one being success rates. The need to improve those success rates, he said, has drawn the attention of both the Legislature and the Governor's Office, with changes in the funding formula being considered as a method of raising success rates.

"We have an all-time high in the number of students coming into our institutions," he said, "but we're not getting enough of them to stay."

Another issue Dr. Floyd focused on was that of

remediation, saying high remediation rates directly impact the likelihood of student success.

He said as tuition costs increase, public expectations of higher education are increasing as well.

Several opportunities to address the challenges were noted, with Dr. Floyd mentioning the Achieving the Dream project, designed to find ways to increase retention of lower-income students, and the Algebra II Project which seeks to align math standards in high schools to more closely mirror the needs and expectations of higher education and the workforce.

"This is an exciting time to be in higher education," he said. "We have the opportunity to address issues we've been facing for a long time."



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

GO! Opportunities Grant Publicity Brings in a Flood of Applications

When the GO! Opportunities Grant, Governor Mike Beebe's initiative to assist low-income students with college expenses, was rolled out in late August, the Little Rock marketing firm of Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods was called upon to assist in getting the word out.

That marketing push, utilizing the combined efforts of the Governor, ADHE Interim Director Steve Floyd, and a team comprised of ADHE and Governor's Office personnel utilizing radio, television and newspaper advertising, brought in more than three thousand applications before the October 1 deadline.

Governor Beebe and Dr. Floyd participated in a series of press conferences around the state during the week of August 27. That was followed by a conference call September 14 with Presidents and Chancellors around the state in an effort to promote the program to all eligible students already enrolled in higher education. It is expected that approvals of the applications will be completed by early November, and the students will be notified of their award.

NCLB Grant Money to be Disbursed

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education received \$680,000 as part of the federal No Child Left Behind program from the U.S. Department of Education to improve P-16 education partnerships. ADHE will establish policies for dispersing the funds to higher education institutions who will partner with local education agencies to improve subject matter competence and instructional skills of prospective and current Arkansas elementary and secondary school teachers.

ADHE will also oversee the grant and serve as an advocate for professional development and training of teachers in mathematics, science, social studies, language arts, foreign languages and the arts.

Designed to increase the number of highly qualified teachers, particularly in mathematics and science, the projects strengthen content and instructional skills and integrate the use of technology for teachers' instructional practice to raise student achievement.

ADHE Associate Director for Planning and Accountability Announced

The position of Associate Director for Planning and Accountability at ADHE, vacant after the retirement of Ron Harrell, has been filled. Laura Tyree, an Oklahoma native who formerly held the position of Director of Research and Analysis with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, began her work with ADHE on October 1. Prior to the six-and-one-half years Laura worked for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, she served for over 13 years as Director of Institutional Research for the University of Central Oklahoma.



Laura Tyree

Eleventh Day Headcount Indicates Record College Enrollment

The preliminary headcount and full-time equivalent enrollment at public and independent Arkansas colleges and universities for the fall 2007 semester has set a new record with headcount enrollment of nearly 150,000 students. Full-time equivalent enrollment at the public higher education institutions is also an all-time high with just over 100,000 students.

Non-credit students are not counted in the following preliminary headcount enrollment summary for fall 2007:

Total Statewide Opening Fall Preliminary Enrollment of On-Schedule, For-Credit Students: Total preliminary headcount enrollment in public and independent higher education institutions is the highest ever at 149,982 students, which is 3.1 percent higher than 2006 and 12.7 percent higher than 2003. Since 1990, enrollment increased by more than 64,000 students, an increase of 74.6 percent.

Public Colleges and Universities: Total preliminary headcount enrollment at the public institutions is an all-time high at 135,453, which is three percent more than 2006. Since 2003, enrollment increased 12.9 percent.

Independent Colleges and Universities: Independent institutions also had a record-setting headcount enrollment of 14,529. This is 3.9 percent higher than 2006. Since 2003, enrollment in this sector has increased 10.5 percent. Arkansas Baptist College showed the highest gain in this sector, nearly doubling enrollment over last year with a 93.8 percent increase over the fall 2006 headcount.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment: FTE enrollment measures the total number of credit hours in which full- and part-time students enroll. Statewide FTE enrollment at public colleges and universities is also at an all-time high with 100,007 students.

Knowledge-Based Economy Moves Closer With Research Grant

Arkansas's economic goal of becoming more knowledge and technology-based made great strides with the announcement of \$13.5 million in research grants for three state universities.

The release of \$1.5 million by Governor Mike Beebe from the Accelerate Arkansas funds is part of a potential three-year, \$4.5 million state match to accompany \$9 million awarded to the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority (Authority) by the National Science Foundation.

The announcement puts into action the federal grant received earlier in September and allows the state to initiate a research and economic development package that has been two years in the planning. In a ceremony at the State Capitol, the research grant project, known as Arkansas ASSET Initiative (Advancing and Supporting Science, Engineering and Technology), was formally accepted by the three universities.

Joining Governor Beebe were Dr. B. Alan Sugg, President of the University of Arkansas System; Dr. Les Wyatt, President of Arkansas State University; John A. White, Chancellor of the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville; Joel Anderson; Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and Dr. Gail McClure, Vice President for Research at the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority.

"Research is the key to propelling Arkansas's future in new and exciting directions and creating high-paying jobs," Governor Beebe said. "John Ahlen and his team at the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority stepped up and made the push for these grants, knowing the poten-



Standing behind Gov. Beebe are (from left) Dr. Gail McClure, vice president for research, ASTA; Dr. John White, chancellor, UAF; Dr. Joel Anderson, chancellor, UALR; Dr. Les Wyatt, president, ASU System; and Dr. Alan Sugg, president, UA System.

tial benefits for our universities and for economic development in this state."

The three-year budget, which targets developing research areas with commercial applications, will be distributed in these amounts: University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, \$4,220,584; University of Arkansas at Little Rock, \$3,392,502; and Arkansas State University, \$1,900,447. In addition, the three institutions will compete for \$2,458,456 in bioproduction research seed money over the next three years.

The Authority's three-year budget of \$1,528,012 will provide statewide programs and projects that will strengthen entrepreneurial training, collaborative research and faculty exchange, undergraduate research and internship programs, and communication among the research community.

The initial \$1.5 million state match came from the research portion of the Accelerate Arkansas strategic plan which was enacted during the 2007 legislative session. The state match dollars being distributed are for one year, but additional funding will be sought. The Accelerate Arkansas strategic plan includes entrepreneurship, early-stage risk capital and research building blocks for economic development.

Arkansas ASSET Initiative will focus on two areas of research: wireless nanosensor systems, representing an investment in equipment and students, and plant-based bioproduction, representing a major investment in human resources. An integral component of this program will be entrepreneurial training and support for commercialization of new technologies.

Achieving the Dream Update Delivered to Higher Education Task Force

A joint meeting held by the Legislative Task Force on Higher Education Remediation, Retention, and Graduation Rates and the ALC Higher Education Subcommittee featured information from SREB, NCHEMS, Jobs For the Future, and other national groups. The Task Force has been studying Governor Beebe's stated desire to place greater emphasis on success rates in higher education funding. Richard Kazis, with Jobs For the Future, outlined policy proposals for Arkansas during its participation in a study by Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count. The Arkansas policy proposals outlined by Kazis included development of state-level benchmarks for student success, creation and adoption of a new funding formula based on student success, establishment of a partnership between adult basic education and higher education at the state level, and support of new approaches to teaching and learning. A national meeting of all 84 Achieving the Dream Colleges (in 15 states) will be held the week of February 4, 2008.



ADHE Associate Director for Academic Affairs Dr. Karen Wheeler (left) and ADHE Interim Director Dr. Steve Floyd (right) visit with Richard Kazis following his address to the Higher Education Task Force and Higher Education Subcommittee.

Arkansas Advances

- Arkansas State University-Beebe recently hosted the Central Arkansas High School Counselor Articulation Workshop, which is sponsored by the Arkansas Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (ArkACRAO).

This is an annual event that allows High School Counselors and High School Career Orientation Instructors the opportunity to receive the latest information from colleges and universities across the state of Arkansas. A total of 160 representatives were present.



Katrina Farris and Amanda Moore (seated) of ASU-Beebe, along with David Mayes, Director of Enrollment Management (back) and Rosalyn Ballard, counselor on ASU-Searcy campus (standing on the right) help people register at the Articulation Workshop

- More than 120 students, teachers, mentors, and parents participated in the Kickoff event for the BEST Robotics competition at Mid-South Community College on September 15. At least eight teams are scheduled to square off on Game Day at the college on Oct. 27.



Participants in the event included West Memphis East Junior High School, West Memphis West Junior High School, West Memphis High School, Marion High School, West Memphis Christian, Benton High School, Marvell Middle School, and the Home School Association. MSCC received a \$15,000 grant from the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority to host the inaugural Mid-South BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) competition in Crittenden County.

- ASU-Newport employees are proud supporters of the Jackson County Relay for Life. Fundraising projects on campus have varied over the years, but one of this year's is a keeper: a quilt made in memory of family and friends lost to cancer and in honor of those who have survived. Pictured with the quilt are



Tamya Stallings, Director of Computer Services and ASUN team captain; Debbie Keyton, Network Manager, who digitally prepared the pictures to place on the quilt; Debbie Snetzer, Division Chair Secretary, who painstakingly made the quilt; and ASUN Chancellor Dr. Larry Williams. The quilt will be on display in the ASUN Library for all to see. In addition to the quilt, the ASUN team raised money for the American Cancer Society with a bake sale, fun pictures at the relay, and a drawing.

- Dr. Jesse Coker of Rogers has made a gift to the NorthWest Arkansas Community College nursing program. His gift will establish a scholarship for a need-based scholarship for a current nursing student. Dr. Coker was hospitalized earlier this year and was taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers. He was so impressed with the quality of care given by his nurse, who happened to be a nursing graduate of NWACC, that he decided to create a \$1,000 scholarship for the College's nursing department. The scholarship will be named in honor of one of his close friends, Sue Verwey, who is a member of the NWACC nursing faculty.



Pictured left to right are NWACC Director of Nursing Education Elaine Holloway, Dr. Jesse Coker, NWACC nursing faculty Sue Verwey, and NWACC Associate Director of Development Meredith Brunen.

- Gaye Manning, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration for Southern Arkansas University Tech, was officially recognized by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) in a recent article published in the September 2007 issue of *Business Officer*, a publication provided to the membership institutions of NACUBO. Manning, interviewed by Jeffery N. Shields, provides a look at how her own career in higher education started and provides insight into the issues that face universities and colleges today. Manning officially became the Chair for NACUBO on August 1, 2007. With two decades of experience in the business of higher education. Manning is known for her fairness, dedication to hard work, and her southern charm. Manning is married to SAU Tech Physical Plant Director, Gerald Manning, and has one son, Zachary, who currently attends the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.



Gaye Manning

Arkansas Advances Continued

- A Sept. 14 keynote address by former U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers was part of a group of activities scheduled for the **University of Arkansas - Fort Smith** campus as part of the American Democracy Project. Bumpers' speech, "The Constitution: Don't Tinker With It," was part of the American Democracy Project. Bumpers served as governor of Arkansas for four years and served in the U.S. Senate for 24 years.



Dale Bumpers

The American Democracy Project is an initiative of 219 campuses, according to Dr. Alice Taylor-Colbert, chair of history, geography and political science. Taylor-Colbert and Mandy Keyes, who is assistant registrar, are co-chairs of the project for UA Fort Smith. Taylor-Colbert said the theme for UA Fort Smith's inaugural year of the project is "Freedom and Responsibility."

- Tom Fleener, a 1995 graduate of **UALR's Bowen School of Law**, recently spoke on his experiences as a military defender of a detainee at the U.S. military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. An accomplished trial attorney and expert in trial advocacy, Fleener served as an Army JAG officer for eight years both prosecuting and defending soldiers around the world. He left the active Army in 2003 to take an appointment as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in Cheyenne, Wyoming. In late 2005, he was recalled to active duty in the army specifically to represent alleged al Qaeda propagandist Ali Hamza al Bahlul of Yemen. While looking through Department of Defense memoranda and presidential orders and the commission regulations, Fleener was shocked by what he found: The rules required defendants to accept a pro bono military lawyer. Fleener has since returned to civilian life. He was profiled in the August 2007 edition of GQ Magazine in an article titled, *The Defense Will Not Rest*. He has been an outspoken critic and public commentator on the use of special military trials for terrorist suspects. He provided a first-hand look into Guantanamo Bay while discussing the Military Commissions Act of 2006 and the legal response to the war on terror.



Tom Fleener

- Brenda Van Dusen, Multi-Media Specialist at the **National Park Community College** Library, recently received the 2007 Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional Award for distinguished paraprofessional library service in Arkansas

libraries. She was honored during the annual Arkansas Library Association Conference held at the Hot Springs Convention Center September 9-11, 2007. This award is based on the role of the individual in promoting staff development and issues of concern to paraprofessionals as well as participation in the Arkansas Library Association. Brenda served as an officer of ALPS (Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals) from 2004-2006, as ALPS conference chair in 2006, and conference co-chair in 2007. She served as Regional Rep for the Southwest area of the state from 2002-2004 and served as secretary in 1996. She has been involved with the organization for 13 years. Mary Farris-White brought information from the American Library Association's national paraprofessional initiative back to Arkansas and was instrumental in organizing ALPS at the state level in 1991. Mary served as ALPS chair in 1993. After completing her MLIS degree, she served as President of the Arkansas Library Association in 1997 and continues to encourage the NPCC Library staff to remain active in ALPS.

- Dr. Dorothy Everts, associate professor in the School of Social and Behavioral Science at the **University of Arkansas at Monticello**, has been named president of the Arkansas Sociological and Anthropological Association (ASAA). The ASAA is a professional organization whose goal is to "promote the highest level of education in sociology and anthropology in the state of Arkansas and to further the knowledge of the discipline."



Dr. Dorothy Everts

Everts joined the UAM faculty in 1999 from Arizona State University. She holds a bachelor's degree in secondary science education from the State University of New York at Potsdam, a master's degree in communication from Arizona State, and a Ph.D. in sociology from Arizona State. She is currently working on a sociology textbook which will examine changes in the family structure across four distinct historical periods from 1600 to the present. She hopes to publish the book in 2010.

- Several speakers participated in an official ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 20 for a new section of student apartments at the **University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**. The 180-bed, 96-apartment expansion to Sebastian Commons brings the total complex to 480 beds. The apartments are one-, two- and four-bedroom apartments. The gated complex features fully paid utilities, including wireless high speed Internet and expanded basic cable service. Residents also have an on-site fitness center, a study room, a laundry room, and outdoor recreation areas.