

# adhe HIGHER ED REVIEW

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**Save the Date:**

Coordination Commission  
December 4 - 12:30 p.m.  
ADHE  
Little Rock

Joint meeting of Education Boards  
December 10 - 9 a.m.  
Clinton Library  
Little Rock

Task Force on Remediation, Retention and Graduation Rates  
December 20 - 1 p.m.  
State Capitol

ALC Higher Ed Subcommittee  
December 20 - 3 p.m.  
State Capitol

Arkansas Department of Higher Education

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## Director Search for ADHE Narrows Following Coordinating Board Executive Session

At its regular quarterly meeting October 26 at Lyon College, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) announced its decision in considering the applications of 17 people from across the country seeking the director's position at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). Board member Kaneaster Hodges, head of the committee that conducted a nationwide search to fill the position, announced that four applicants will be invited to interview for the position.

The field of applicants was narrowed following an executive session of the board the previous day and re-entered the following morning, intended to select the top contenders.

The applicants selected are: Betty Overton of Spring Arbor, Michigan; James Purcell of Edmond, Oklahoma; and Kermit McMurry of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Lawrence Tyree of Sarasota, Florida. McMurry and Tyree later removed their names from consideration.

The remaining two applicants are scheduled to be interviewed by the Board at the ADHE office in Little Rock in early December.

In other business, the Board elected two new officers to the supervisory committee of the State Board of Higher Education Foundation to replace two officers who have left the committee. Bob L. Burns, a member of the AHECB, was elected president of the committee to replace David Damron, whose term on the Board expired. Dr. Steve Floyd, ADHE interim director, was elected secretary/treasurer, replacing Dr. Linda Beene, former ADHE director who left the agency in July for a position with the University of Arkansas.

The Board approved the 2008 AHECB quarterly meeting schedule, with meetings set for February 1 at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, April 25 at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Research Center in Marianna, July 25 at Arkansas State University-Beebe, and October 14 at the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges Conference in Rogers.



*In an historic first, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets in its quarterly meeting at Lyon College in Batesville, one of the state's private institutions, on October 26. The previous day, the board met in executive session to consider 17 applicants who had expressed interest in the position of ADHE Director.*



AHECB Chairman Dick Trammel (left) and ADHE Interim Director Steve Floyd (right) discuss higher education issues during the Board's retreat November 13. Chairman Trammel appointed three Board members; Kaneaster Hodges, Dan Grant, and Bob Burns as a committee to study funding and authority issues as well as to meet with Governor Mike Beebe at a future date to discuss the Board's concerns.

## Higher Ed Board Retreat Raises Questions About Board Authority

At its retreat, held November 13 at the University of Arkansas System Office in Little Rock, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board tackled issues pertaining to the search for a new director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the question of how much authority the Board actually has in dealing with the state's public institutions.

Although the Board approved four candidates to be interviewed from a field of 17, two of those candidates said they wished to be dropped from consideration, leaving two who will be interviewed for the cabinet-level position on December 5.

The salary of the director, at \$133,937 annually, was cited as a possible factor impacting the search for a new director, with Board members saying the salary is low compared to salaries in other states in a comparable position.

One concern raised at the meeting dealt with how universities spend advertising dollars, with David Leech saying the competition for students amounts to institutions trying to lure the same pool of students away from each other without actually increasing the existing pool.

Both Leech and Kaneaster Hodges noted their beliefs that Arkansas will continue to experience low national rankings if no changes are made to the current higher education system, including the work of the board.

Board Chairman Dick Trammel appointed Hodges, Dan Grant, and Bob Burns to a committee to examine the Board's authority and to possibly meet with Governor Mike Beebe to discuss some possible changes, including increased funding for ADHE.

## Governor Beebe Praises NLR Mayor at Fundraiser Honoring Patrick Hays

Governor Mike Beebe joined state and central Arkansas leaders in helping Pulaski Technical College honor North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Henry Hays at a fundraiser for



Governor Mike Beebe stands with North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Hays and his wife, Linda Hays, during a reception and fundraiser held at Pulaski Technical College.

the college's new Transportation Technology Center. Nearly 500 people attended the "Pulaski Technical College Salutes Mayor Patrick H. Hays" reception and dinner on Oct. 26 in the Campus Center Grand Hall to honor the five-term mayor and his contributions to higher education and economic development. During the keynote address, Governor Beebe praised the state's two-year colleges for improving access to and affordability of higher education and for working closely with business and industry to enhance economic development opportunities. "Colleges are tied closer together to economic development than ever before," Beebe said. He called Mayor Hays a "true public servant" and a "decisive leader," then jokingly accused Mayor Hays of plotting to move the Arkansas State Capitol to the north side of the Arkansas River.

## ADHE Spotlight

Philip Axelroth, Assistant Coordinator of Financial Aid at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE), was recently honored for his service to the Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFAA). As a member of the association's Electronics Initiative Committee, Phil helps the association with its use of technology to more effectively carry out its mission of helping students secure financial aid for higher education. He has served as the committee chairman for the past three years and administers the association website. Phil has worked for ADHE since January, 1991, after retiring from the United States Air Force with 20 years of service.



**Philip Axelroth**

## Higher Education Task Force Hears About Successful Kentucky Project

Members of the Higher Education Task Force on Remediation, Retention and Graduation Rates were provided evidence that dramatic gains in education can be achieved through a concerted effort during a presentation by Dr. Steve Floyd, ADHE interim director and a member of the task force. "Double the Numbers: Kentucky's Plan to Increase College Graduates," lays out an ambitious plan to raise the number of bachelor's degree holders from 19 percent in 2000 to 32 percent by 2020.

Since 2000, Kentucky has raised the annual number of degrees and credentials by 62 percent, contributing to a 22 percent increase in per capita income. However, even with those gains, Kentucky still lags behind most of the nation in the number of adults with bachelor's degrees and per capita income. A report by the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation shows that, at the current rate of improvement, it will take 154 years for the state to reach the national average per capita income.

Dr. Floyd said that Arkansas is gaining ground as well, but noted any improvements have to be measured against gains made in the rest of the nation.

"We're making progress," he said, "but so is everyone else. We're trying to hit a constantly moving target."

Dr. Ed Franklin, director of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges and also a task force member, said that current methods of measuring retention and graduation are outmoded, and track only a fraction of students moving through the system.

He said that makes it difficult to get an accurate picture of how well Arkansas is really doing in efforts to improve education. Franklin said the current method of

measuring those benchmarks by tracking cohorts of first time/full time, degree seeking students does not take into account the changing demographics of student populations. He told the panel that the current method, which is used for federal reporting standards, was developed years ago when the typical college student entered a four-year university after high school graduation and would then receive a degree from that native institution.

Current reporting methods, he said, do not take into account that older students are now entering higher education at a greater rate, many are non-degree seeking, and that those who take longer than the national reporting standard of 150 percent of the minimum time required for graduation, don't get counted as completers if they require more time.

Senator Gilbert Baker, a legislative member of the task force, said the number of adults who currently hold a bachelor's degree or higher, should be held as a goal and not a measurement.

"When you keep your eye on the prize," he said, "that's the prize."

Senator Baker made a motion, accepted by the committee, to set as a goal a six percent rise in the number of

adults holding bachelor's degrees by the year 2015.

Dr. Sally Roden, Dean of Undergraduate Studies at UCA; Dr. Karen Hodges, ARSC Director of Remediation and Retention Activities at the University of Arkansas; and R. David Ray, Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UAM; presented an overview of research from the university perspective on the current state of higher education in Arkansas.

Southeast Region	
Strategies	2020 Target
Increase high school graduates	7,039
Increase GED graduates	2,957
Increase 2- to 4-year transfers	1,872
Increase bachelor's degrees prod.	4,692
Import bachelor's degree holders to Kentucky	10,414

*Dr. Steve Floyd, interim director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, presents a report on education gains made in the state of Kentucky seven years into a major higher education initiative; "Double the Numbers: Kentucky's Plan to Increase College Graduates."*

## International Visitor Leadership Program Educators Pay Visit to ADHE

On November 8, Dr. Floyd and ADHE staff members welcomed participants from the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The IVLP annually brings to the United States approximately 5,000 foreign nationals from all over the world to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience America firsthand. The visitors are current or potential leaders in government, politics, the media, education, labor relations, the arts, business and other fields.

The participants were: Professor Ehsan Uddin Ahmed, Director of Student Affairs, American International University of Bangladesh; Ms. Zeljka Pitner, International Relations Officer, International Relations Office, University of Zagreb; Ms. Janetta Sika Akoto, Assistant Registrar, University of Cape Coast in Ghana; Mr. Paticio Jose, Ph.D., Rector, Institute for International Studies of Mozambique; Ms. Syeda Farhana Jahangir, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Frontier Womens University, Peshawar, Pakistan.

# Arkansas Advances

- Emily Fisher, of Roe, recently received the Outstanding Student Award by the Arkansas Collegiate Drug Education Committee (ACDEC) for her positive influence and motivation of her peers at **Arkansas State University-Beebe**.



*Emily Fisher receives the Outstanding Student Award from the MC during Arkansas Collegiate Drug Education Committee's Annual Prevention Conference.*

Fisher received the award at the Annual Prevention Conference where students were recognized for the first time.

The ACDEC is a statewide coalition made up of colleges across Arkansas to educate students on drug and alcohol use as well as prevention efforts. Fisher became involved in 2005 with Safe Spring Break Week and has been making a positive impact on students since. She helped recruit and plan the first Alcohol Awareness Week at ASU-Beebe and has utilized her artistic ability in designing T-shirts for events. This past spring, Fisher helped plan, coordinate and execute "Don't Get Lost" Safe Spring Break to include a week-long scavenger hunt in cooperation with Residence Life, a candle light vigil with MADD, a survival fair, obstacle course and dance.

- Arkansas State University's** Dr. Roger Buchanan and Dr. Robyn Hannigan have secured a substantial Undergraduate Research and Mentoring (URM) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to recruit minority or under-represented high school seniors who are interested in careers in science. The grant of \$810,000 over a five-year period will involve first-year and second-year college students in mentored research teams and will provide peer and tutoring support. Most of the grant dollars will go to qualified students as scholarships and as wages. The URM will support the RISE-UP (Research Internships in Science of the Environment-University Program) program at ASU. ASU's NSF-funded RISE-UP program is one of only eight such programs in the United States. RISE-UP seeks specifically to increase access and opportunity for under-represented students. Students will receive scholarships of up to \$5,000 per year to use toward tuition, fees, books, and room and board.



*Arkansas State University-Newport was honored at the recent annual conference of the AATYC when three faculty members were chosen to serve on the board of directors of the association. New officers from ASUN are Dr. Allen Mooneyhan, President; Joe Campbell, Vice President; and Larissa Clark, Faculty Representative. Mooneyhan serves the campus as Division Chair of Business and Prison Programs; Campbell is an Assistant Professor of Social Sciences; and Clark is Assistant Professor of Life Sciences.*

- Students and faculty from **Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas** were involved recently in a unique and innovative way to combat the onset of flu season. ARNEC students helped the Sevier County Health Department administer more than 1,400 flu shots to area residents, and participants in the mass inoculation never even had to leave their cars. Instead, they gathered at the local fairgrounds where they lined up for the shots while still inside their cars. A community effort made necessary paperwork available to those needing the shots prior to the event, and volunteers retrieved completed paperwork, or helped those who needed assistance. CCCUA RN students under the direction of Sarita Floyd helped administer the shots, while students from the CCCUA CAMP program helped to interpret for Hispanic clients. This is the third year for the program, although only the second year for the drive-through format. The idea was the brainchild of Sevier County Judge Dick Tallman, who was searching for a way to inoculate large numbers of people in the event of a pandemic without exposing those same people to disease.



# Arkansas Advances Continued

- More than 275 students, spectators, and participants gathered at **Mid-South Community College** on Saturday, October 27, for the Mid-South BEST Robotics competition. Following a "2021: A Robot Odyssey" theme, teams built automated devices (robots) to travel the surface of Mars, load provisions, and transport them for storage. All



*Students from Benton High School make some adjustments to their robot during the BEST Robotics competition at Mid-South Community College*

teams played multiple three-minute matches to determine the winners. Participating schools included West Memphis Christian, West Memphis West Junior High, **West Memphis East Junior High**, CHEF Home School, Benton High School, West Memphis High School, and Marvell Middle School. MSCC received a \$15,000 grant from the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority to serve as a hub for the competition.

- **NorthWest Arkansas Community College** (NWACC) President Dr. Becky Paneitz and NWACC Foundation Board Chair David Thrasher announced recently that the NWACC Foundation has fulfilled the Walton Family Foundation's first year's challenge of \$2 million. Last April, the NWACC Foundation announced a \$4 million matching gift from the Walton Family Foundation to help construct the Global Business Development Center to house NWACC's business programs. The terms of the gift require NWACC Foundation to raise \$2 million in matching funds in 2007 and \$2 million in 2008. The first year's matching funds have been made possible by five donors. The Global Business Development



*Flanked by students and faculty, Dr. Becky Paneitz announces the fulfillment of NorthWest Arkansas Community College's first year challenge of a \$4 million matching grant from the Walton Family Foundation.*

Center is a component of the NWACC Foundation's \$16 capital campaign. Other campaign projects are a nursing center and a scholarship endowment. NWACC plans to break ground for the Shewmaker Center for Global Business Development Center in the first half of 2008 for it to be ready for occupancy for the fall semester of 2009.

- **Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas** (PCCUA) is offering a new program which could lead to profitable careers in industrial engineering technology, drafting,



*Under the direction of Phillips College Advanced Manufacturing instructor Mike Shaw (R), student Lacy Schwab (L) is shown connecting the contacts in a switch box to be installed on the new advanced manufacturing training line at PCCUA's War Memorial Training Center in Stuttgart.*

and related fields. Made possible through an Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC) grant, this training will provide students with in-depth knowledge, high-tech skills, and hands-on experience in basic and advanced industrial and business processes, technology management, and manufacturing procedures to better prepare students for employment in the Delta.

- Mary Ann Shope has been named vice president for economic development at **Pulaski Technical College** and will lead these efforts at the PTC Business and Industry Center in Little Rock. Her duties will include cultivating and maintaining relationships with existing area businesses to identify their training needs, partnering with **Mary Ann Shope** other economic development entities to develop education components to entice new businesses to the area, working with area schools to create greater linkages between school and work, and overseeing all business and industry training offered at the Business & Industry Center. Shope previously served as director of advancement and public relations at Area Health Education Center Northwest, a regional program of UAMS in Fayetteville, dean of the Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies at NWACC, and director of the Workplace Skills Enhancement Program at UALR.



# Arkansas Advances Continued

- **UA Fort Smith**

graduate Scott Hinson may have been in Japan teaching English for only a few months, but he's already working on a contract to stay longer. Hinson, 24,



*Scott Hinson greets his students at the beginning of class in Japan where he teaches English as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. Hinson went to Japan in August to begin a one-year commitment teaching in two junior high schools.*

graduated from the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith with a bachelor's degree in rhetoric and writing in May 2007. He began his one-year commitment in August 2007 to the JET Program (Japan Exchange and Teaching Program), which is a Japanese government initiative that brings college graduates to Japan to assist and teach in elementary, junior high and high schools. Hinson usually teaches in about four classes a day at two junior high schools, Monday and Tuesday at Takashima and Wednesday through Friday at Saidaiji. He occasionally teaches at an elementary school as well. The in-between time is spent preparing for the next class or studying Japanese. Hinson said he has many friends -- both Japanese and others -- that he has met.

- Arkansas businesses assisted by Arkansas Small Business Development Center headquartered at **UALR** generated more than \$154 million in increased sales and over \$14.3 million in tax revenues in 2006, according to the latest independent assessment study released Oct. 15. The study, conducted by Dr. James Chrisman of Mississippi State University, also showed that ASBDC-assisted clients created 2,046 new jobs and saved 1,076 jobs during the year. The study also showed that businesses that received ASBDC consultation generated \$8.3 million more in state and \$5.9 million more in federal taxes than they would have had they performed at the level of the average business in Arkansas. Additionally, clients reported that ASBDC consultation assisted them in obtaining more than \$66.3 million in financing. All firms that received five hours or more of ASBDC consulting assistance in a given year are surveyed to compare sales and employment changes from the year in which they received assistance in the following year. Changes are then compared with the average changes for all Arkansas businesses during the same time period. Chrisman uses the data to com-

pile the annual economic impact study, waiting two years after the study year to measure impact. The ASBDC is an outreach unit of UALR's College of Business in partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

- It's long been known that age does not have to prevent you from furthering your education. In fact, taking college classes can help keep a person's mind active, build pride, and even help you learn to operate a computer. At least, that's what 87-year-old Etta Mae Thomas of Gurdon says are some of the reasons she enrolled at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope this semester. Ms. Thomas said she's excited about being able to learn new things by taking classes, and that she stays active and involved, even teaching a Sunday School class weekly at her church. She is enrolled in a spiritual class, a reading class, and a class on computers at the college.



*Etta Mae Thomas of Gurdon, an 87-year-old student at UACCH, sits at her computer during one of her computer classes.*



*Allen Ashcraft of Dumas (second from right), a welding student at the UAM College of Technology-McGehee, recently constructed this duck blind as part of a welding class at the McGehee campus. The blind, which will hold up to seven hunters, measured 13 feet by five feet and was fabricated using a blue print created in the welding class. Ashcraft and his grandfather plan to camouflage the metal blind and use it for duck hunting near Dumas. Pictured from left are Sam Thompson, welding instructor, and students Josh Wright of Lake Village, Ashcraft, and Kedrick Mitchell of Montrose.*