

# adhe HIGHER ED REVIEW

Volume V, VI

December 2007

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## Save the Date:

Executive Council  
January 8—11 a.m.  
ADHE

ICAC Meeting  
January 8—2 p.m.  
ADHE

Coordinating Board Meeting  
February 1, 2008  
Henderson State University  
Arkadelphia

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](http://www.adhe.edu)

## New ADHE Director to Take Reins in the New Year

In a special called meeting December 10 at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board concluded the selection process of a new director for the agency. The position was awarded to Dr. James Purcell, currently serving as Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning and Analysis with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. He will succeed Dr. Linda Beene who resigned in July to take a position with the University of Arkansas.

Dr. Purcell brings to the department over 20 years of education experience, serving with higher education institutions in Alabama, Louisiana, and Georgia in addition to his service in Oklahoma. While with the Oklahoma State Regents, Dr. Purcell developed two of the five public agenda initiatives for higher education; a state-wide adult degree completion program and higher education's response to the health care worker shortage. During his tenure in Oklahoma, the state moved from 46<sup>th</sup> to 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation in the number of adults in Oklahoma aged 25 and over who hold bachelor's degrees.

Dr. Purcell, who was contacted on December 10th and accepted the position, is expected to start between January 15 and February 1, 2008. He will lead the agency that coordinates with 33 colleges and universities in the state, has an operating budget of over \$3 million, and administers approximately \$50 million in state-funded scholarships and grants annually.

The Coordinating Board met December 5 in executive session to begin deliberations between two finalists for the position, concluding the process December 10 following an executive session.

The Department of Higher Education has been led since July by Dr. Steve Floyd, deputy director of the agency, who was named interim director by the board to serve during the search for a new director.

"I just want to say personally what a great job our interim director has done and how much help he's been during this search," said board member Kaneaster Hodges, chairman of the search committee, upon the conclusion of the special meeting.

"This is an exciting time for higher education in Arkansas and for those of us who serve at the agency," said Dr. Floyd. "Dr. Purcell is taking leadership during a time when Governor Mike Beebe has committed his administration to educational and economic excellence, leading the state into the future. This is a vibrant, dynamic agency staffed with highly qualified people who will no doubt help to make this transition a smooth one."



On December 10, members of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board met to finalize its choice for a new ADHE Director. Pictured are (left to right) Joe Bennett, Jodie Carter, Bob Burns, ADHE Interim Director Steve Floyd, AHECB Chairman Dick Trammel, Kaneaster Hodges, Dan Grant, David Leech, and Steve Luelf.



*Dr. Jim Purcell*

## Governor Speaks Before Joint Session of Education Boards



*Governor Mike Beebe speaks before a joint session of the boards of Education, Higher Education, and Workforce Education December 10. "The key to the future of this state will always rest in the ability of our educational institutions to deliver a quality education and preparation of our students for the workforce," Governor Beebe told the boards.*

Addressing a joint meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities December 10, Governor Mike Beebe said it was appropriate that the three boards meet together to address issues of common interest as the state moves ahead in meeting twin goals of higher achievement in education and economic development.

"All of these are inter-related and perform in their area the component they are responsible for," Beebe said. "You're all married to each other. Whether you're black or white, rich or poor, urban or rural, you're success is dependent upon one another, and my success in my job performance is dependent upon your job performance."

The governor said the state is beginning to see results from early efforts to inject more rigor into curriculums, but said there is already a generation of students in the pipeline who have not benefited from the programs. Governor Beebe said he would like to see more children going into Pre-K programs as well as after school programs to assist students who have fallen behind. He also said the state needs more training and education for those who are out of school and already in the workforce to enhance their knowledge and skill sets.

Governor Beebe told the group that he doesn't know all the answers to the challenges facing the state during his 10 minute address, but he has confidence in those who are searching for the answers to help steer the state in the right direction.

"That's why I have good, hard-working, competent people that I trust for good advice," he said.

Dr. John Ahlen, president of the Arkansas Science and

Technology Authority, during a brief presentation, said Arkansas must embrace science and technology courses if the state is to make the quantum leaps necessary to stay competitive, saying technical knowledge has been on the decline.

Dr. Ahlen compared the old economy to the new economy, saying competition has moved from a regional and national arena to the global arena, placing Arkansas in competition with foreign countries as well as neighboring states. He noted that advances in the capabilities of personal computers will enable about 60 percent of the skills currently needed to be replaced by computers within the next 22 years.

"Are we preparing our students and our workforce for that day?" he asked.

Ahlen noted that although Arkansas has difficulty attracting students into science and technology fields, a recent Arkansas STEM Coalition conference indicated a high level of concern.

"The Arkansas STEM Coalition conference attracted 400 people," he said, "while the national conference attracted 800. That tells me that Arkansas is interested."

Following Governor Beebe's and Dr. Ahlen's addresses, ADE Commissioner Ken James, ADHE Interim Director Steve Floyd, and ADWE Director Bill Walker each presented information comparing Arkansas with other states in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and with the rest of the nation.

Dr. Ken James noted that Arkansas currently is above the national and SREB averages in fourth grade reading at the basic level but below the national average at the proficient level. The state still lags behind the national average in eighth grade math scores, he said, but is even with the SREB average at the basic level. But at proficient level in math, the state is well below the national average and slightly below the SREB average.

"Math has always been the Achilles Heel in the state," he said.

Bill Walker said the number of adults in Arkansas without a high school diploma enrolled in adult education is above both the national and SREB averages. He also said the pass rate in Arkansas among those taking the GED is far above both national and SREB averages.

Dr. Steve Floyd, speaking on the viewpoint from higher education, said a big challenge coming up is the trend toward more minority students enrolling in higher education coupled with a lower success rate for those same students. He said efforts must be made to keep students in school and then to graduation.

During a half-hour question and answer session following the presentations, the Smart Core curriculum was spotlighted as a way to get high school students into higher education. Dr. James said Smart Core students consistently score higher on average on the ACT than those who don't take the more rigorous curriculum.

"Folks, this isn't rocket science," James said.

## Joint Session-continued

Dr. Floyd pointed to Smart Core as the basic starting point to help students prepare for college or the work force, saying the state must see a cultural shift toward higher education to begin making large gains in economic development.

"We've got a huge challenge to get the message out to our children and grandchildren that they need Smart Core," Dr. Floyd said. "This is what we need if we want to move our state forward."



ADHE Interim Director Steve Floyd (left), ADE Commissioner Ken James (center), and ADWE Director Bill Walker answer questions at the end of a December 10 joint board meeting where Governor Mike Beebe spoke.

Executive Director of the Arkansas Association of Public Universities (AAPU) Tim Wooldridge speaks about the goals and mission of the association to a group of economic and business development



liaisons from its member institutions during a December 7 luncheon, hosted by the AAPU, at the Little Rock Club.

## ADHE United Way Fund Drive Hits 100 Percent Participation

Dr. Steve Floyd, Interim Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, wanted to help increase the department's annual United Way donation total, so he came up with a novel way to motivate employees of the agency.



Ameedah Munir (right) serves Interim Director Steve Floyd a pie during a celebration ceremony at ADHE after the agency posted a 100 percent participation rate and 40 percent increase in donations to the United Way.

"Everyone who contributes to United Way this year will have their name go into a pot," he said at a recent agency staff meeting. "We'll draw names out for prizes and the grand prize winner will get to put a pie in my face."

With that incentive, 100 percent of the agency employees donated a portion of their paychecks for a grand total of \$7,211, about a 40 percent increase over last year.

"I'm so proud and humbled to work with such a hard-working and giving group of people," Dr. Floyd told the staff at the final drawing where the results were announced. With AHECB Chairman Dick Trammel and United Way officials looking on, Dr. Floyd drew the name of Ameedah Munir, the agency receptionist.



AHECB Chairman Dick Trammel looks on as Dr. Steve Floyd keeps his end of the bargain with the agency.

Shortly beforehand, Chairman Trammel, who had stopped by to watch the proceedings, told agency personnel how proud he was to serve on the board that oversees the agency.

"You are a great group of people," he said. "It's an honor to be associated with a group of people like the ones who work at the Department of Higher Education."

A United Way wrap-up event will be held near the end of March or in early April.

## Recruitment of Minority Students in Healthcare Professions Discussed

Achieving a diverse student population is a challenge for most pre-service programs. While each institution struggles to attract under represented groups into their programs, they often end up competing for the same students. Cynthia Moten, ADHE Coordinator of Academic Affairs, joined representatives from Arkansas's universities and Partners for Inclusive Communities to discuss the recruitment of minority students into health care professions. The group decided that one way to address the challenge is to work together to attract more students of various backgrounds into the healthcare profession by targeting younger students to think about health professions at an early age.

# Arkansas Advances

- On November 6<sup>th</sup>, **Southern Arkansas University Tech** announced the impending resignation of current chancellor, Dr. Steve Franks. Franks announced to staff that he has agreed to take a position in Alabama as the president of Central Alabama Community College in January of 2008 and will be concluding his time at SAU Tech by the end of the year. He will be replaced as chancellor by Corbet Lamkin. Franks is originally from Alabama where his father, son, daughter-in-law and newborn granddaughter, Lydia, currently live. Franks came to SAU Tech in July, 2005 from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education where he served as Director. A strong believer in adult education, Franks has worked to strengthen adult education and business and industry training services during his time at the college. He says he is committed to finishing out his time working on various projects at the college and with Dr. David Rankin, President of SAU Magnolia, to make a smooth transition for SAU Tech through the end of the year.



*Dr. Steve Franks*

- Years before graduating from **Ouachita Technical College's** Cosmetology Program in July 2006, TraShawna Bailey knew she wanted to be a hair stylist. It was always some-



*TraShawna Bailey stands in front of the hairstyling business she founded following her graduation from OTC.*

thing she enjoyed doing and had been told that she did a good job. She did not want to simply style hair; she had aspirations of owning and operating her own business. For TraShawna, the road to achieving her dream was not always easy. She encountered many obstacles in trying to open her shop, including rezoning and plumbing problems. However, TraShawna was determined to own her own salon, and finally, her persistence paid off. She is now the proud owner and operator of *Sassy Shawn's Salon*, located at 526 Church Street in Malvern. TraShawna opened her business in March, and specializes in braids, custom nails, unique hairstyles and more. TraShawna attributes much of her success to Ouachita Technical College's Career Pathways Program.

- Dr. Janet F. Smith has announced that she has accepted the Presidency of Columbia State Community College in Tennessee. Smith, the current president of **Rich Mountain Community College**, will assume the new position February 18, 2008. Her appointment was confirmed in a special called meeting of the Board of Regents, Friday, November 30. Columbia is located just south of Nashville, Tennessee and is part of the Tennessee Board of Regents System, the sixth largest higher education system in the nation. President Smith, a native of Tennessee, will be moving close to her hometown.



*Dr. Janet Smith*

- The second event in the 2007-08 **SouthArk** Lecture Series was held Thursday, November 1, when Dr. Guion "Guy" Bluford, Jr., spoke in the 1940 WPA Gymnasium on the west campus of South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado. His presentation, entitled "Flying Aboard the International Space Station" was accompanied by a slide show and then followed by a question-and-answer session



*Dr. Guy Bluford, Jr.*

and a reception in his honor. Dr. Bluford's visit was co-sponsored by the El Dorado Public Schools and included several events during the day to give groups of local students access. Dr. Bluford is the founder and president of the Aerospace Technology Group, an aerospace technology and business consulting organization, specializing in aviation and space-related technology development, analysis, and marketing-related activities. Prior to that, he was employed by Northrop Grumman as vice president of Microgravity R&D and Operations. Prior to that, he was a NASA mission specialist and payload commander astronaut on four Space Shuttle missions. He was selected in the first class of space shuttle astronauts in 1978 and was the first African American to fly in space in 1983 aboard Space Shuttle Challenger. In addition, he flew on a Spacelab flight as payload commander in 1985, a Department of Defense Strategic Defense Initiative Office flight in 1991, and a classified Department of Defense flight in 1992. During his career with NASA he has logged over 688 hours in space.

# Arkansas Advances Continued

- Jim Hannah, Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, spoke to students at the **University of Arkansas at Monticello** December 4 in the Memorial Classroom Building auditorium. Chief Justice Hannah's appearance, which was open to students, faculty, staff and the general public, was followed by a reception in the MCB lobby. Hannah discussed the latest legal trends as well as gave advice to students planning law careers. Hannah became chief justice in 2004 after being appointed to the Supreme Court in 2001. He began his judicial career as city judge for Kensett and Rosebud, was the Juvenile Judge of White County from 1976 to '78, and chancery and probate judge for the 17th judicial district from 1979-99. Hannah holds a law degree from the University of Arkansas.
- A new power plant featuring a slate of energy-saving measures expected to save the **University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)** and others \$3.5 million a year was celebrated recently with an open house. The West Central Energy Plant was built to provide utility service to more than 1 million square feet of new construction on campus and to the nearby Arkansas State Hospital and electrical service to the Arkansas Department of Health campus. The plant's energy-saving features include items such as insulated windows, high-efficiency lighting and equipment to better regulate energy consumption. Also included is heating and cooling technology that simultaneously produces 155-degree water for water heating and space heating along with 38-degree chilled water for cooling and dehumidification purposes. It is one of the first such units to be installed in the United States. Usually different pieces of equipment are used to heat and cool water. The facility's emergency generators can provide electrical power and cooling to all UAMS patient care areas in the event of a power failure. In a complete power failure, power can be restored in minutes, with generators that can operate for 48 hours before refueling.
- A 22-year-old marketing major from the **University of Arkansas - Fort Smith** was featured in a Nov. 28 article in "USA Today" after her success in taking online courses through UA Fort Smith. Hannah Cross of Greenwood, who expects to graduate in May, was interviewed for the article after her name was given to the magazine by Christy Williams, executive director of the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Crawford and Sebastian Counties. Cross, who was able to access her classes at her convenience, credited the



*Chief Justice  
Jim Hannah*

availability of online classes for her being able to continue her education. By the time she graduates, Cross said she will have taken 14 of her courses online.

- Lou Dobbs of CNN drew a crowd of more than 600 people to the Statehouse Convention Center for a **Clinton School of Public Service** program and book signing November 27. Dobbs touched on issues related to immigration, national security and U.S. trade policies before taking several questions from the audience. While blasting the current leadership in both the Bush Administration and Congress, Dobbs urged all in attendance to register as independents rather than as Republicans or Democrats. Dobbs was introduced by Clinton School student Geoffrey Kearney, a fellow Harvard College graduate. The visit was part of Dobbs' latest tour to promote his new book, "Independents Day: Awakening the American Spirit," a look at the critical issues and challenges of the 2008 elections. The bestselling author of "War on the Middle Class," Dobbs is the anchor and managing editor of "Lou Dobbs Tonight" on CNN. Following the lecture, he signed copies of his book and visited with guests.
- Brian Berry has been hired to fill the position of vice chancellor for enrollment management and student services at the **University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville**. He previously held positions at Arkansas Tech University, Arkansas State University at Beebe, and Southern Arkansas University – where he served as dean of students immediately before coming to UACCB. Berry's qualifications include a bachelor of science in economics and marketing from Arkansas Tech University and a master of education in college student personnel from Loyola University of Chicago. He has also completed course work and comprehensive exams for a doctor of education degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is working on his dissertation. As Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Services, Berry will be responsible for the areas of financial aid, marketing, student recruitment and admissions, student development, tutoring services and career services. Berry's goals for the coming year, in addition to growing enrollment, includes streamlining the admissions process for new students and the registration process for both new and returning students.



*Lou Dobbs*

# Arkansas Advances Continued

- Arkansas State University-Newport** Chancellor Dr. Larry Williams recently signed a "5-Star" Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve at the ASUN campus. The "5-Star" Statement of Support confirms that ASU-Newport:



*Pictured are: Captain Larissa Clark, ASUN Assistant Professor of Life Sciences; ASUN Chancellor Larry Williams; retired Major General Don C. Morrow (former adjutant general of Arkansas); and Colonel Jim Summers, Commander of the Arkansas Air National Guard's 189<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.*

- Signed a Statement of Support publicly demonstrating its support for its employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve; Reviewed its Human Resources policies to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act Law; Promotes training for managers and supervisors to effectively manage its employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve; Adopted policies and programs that are "Above and Beyond" what is required by the USERRA Law; Is an advocate for employee service in the National Guard and Reserve and will help to promote the mission of ESGR. Colonel Jim Summers, 189th Airlift Wing commander, along with representatives of the state's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve office were on hand for the signing. One of the officers in the 189 AW, Captain Larissa Clark, is also an Assistant Professor of Life Sciences at ASU-Newport.
- The Arkansas Tech University Board of Trustees approved a number of proposals designed to help Tech address its rapidly growing enrollment and improve its campus infrastructure during its regular monthly meeting at the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. The board approved budget transfers that will lead to the physical plant offices and shops moving to a new facility on the north end of campus near the Tech farm. The move will in turn allow the university, per board action, to begin the planning phase of converting Hughes Hall back to its original use as a residence hall. Plans are also in place to renovate Critz Hall and return it to use as a residence hall. At the moment, Hughes Hall and Critz Hall are both occupied by the physical plant. Once they are returned to use as residence halls, Hughes Hall and Critz Hall will help Tech address its need for on-campus student housing. The university has experi-

enced a 204 percent increase in the number of students living in campus housing during the past 11 years.

- Elementary and middle school teachers at Cedarville recently began to use a peer observation tool developed by the College of Education at the **University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**. Dr. John Jones, dean of UA Fort Smith's College of Education, and Dr. Dan Foreman, superintendent at Cedarville, initiated the Cedarville Instructional Partnership, which includes monthly visits to Cedarville. Accompanying Jones was Laura Witherington, director of the Western Arkansas Education Renewal Zone at UA Fort Smith. The peer observations are followed by discussions on possible ways to improve instruction. The tool was developed over the course of last spring for faculty in the College of Education to use in their own peer observations. In fact, public school teachers and administrators have been impressed that the College of Education faculty are holding themselves to such high standards in mentoring and professional growth.
- Long time partners, **National Park Community College** and **Henderson State University**, have launched a cooperative endeavor to provide a seamless avenue to teacher licensure on the NPCC campus. An informational meeting was held on the NPCC campus on November 6, to explain the partnership to over 70 area residents who were interested in obtaining a Pre-K-4th Grade or Middle School teacher certification. With NPCC providing the freshman and sophomore level courses and HSU providing the junior and senior level courses on the NPCC campus, students could complete the Bachelor of Education degree and be granted an Arkansas Teaching Certificate without leaving Garland County.

- More than 40 students and staff members of the Hino Technical Skills Academy of Tokyo, Japan, visited **Mid-South Community College** on Oct. 26 to participate in a cultural and educational exchange with students in MSCC's Technical Center programs. This is the second year that students from the Hino Skills Academy have visited MSCC. Mid-South students and staff teamed up to prepare gifts and presentations for the visitors from



*Mid-South Community College President Dr. Glen Fenter presents Hino Technical Skills Academy Principal Mr. Hideyuki Tajima with a gift designed and produced by students in MSCC's Advanced Manufacturing program.*

Japan, and they also collaborated on a large, engraved plaque presented by MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter to Hino Technical Skills Academy Principal Mr. Hideyuki Tajima.