

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD**  
**Regular Quarterly Meeting**  
**April 19, 2019**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The April 19, 2019, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in Little Rock. Chair Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Jim Carr, Chair  
Al Brodell, Vice Chair  
Chris Gilliam, Secretary  
Keven Anderson  
Dr. Olin Cook  
Sam Sicard  
Dr. Michael Stanton

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Charles Allen  
Lori Griffin  
Sherrel Johnson  
Greg Revels

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director  
Nick Fuller, Deputy Director  
Dr. Jessie Walker, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs/Research & Analytics  
Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations  
Sonia Hazelwood, Associate Director for Research and Analytics  
Alisha Lewis, Associate Director of Communications  
Beth Stewart, Program Specialist for Research and Analytics  
Lillian Williams, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs  
Jeanne Jones, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs  
Terrance Youngblood, Program Specialist for Academic Affairs  
Alana Boles, Program Director for Private and Out-of-State Education  
Chandra Robinson, Program Coordinator for Institutional Finance  
Micah Gilbert, Network Support Specialist  
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

Presidents, chancellors, institutional representatives, members of the press, and guests were also present.

Chair Carr began by thanking everyone for coming to the meeting. He then expressed his appreciation to the Coordinating Board for their dedication to higher education. He stated that this is a very interesting time to work together and bring higher education forward. Arkansas has great potential, said Carr.

Dr. Maria Markham welcomed everyone to the quarterly meeting. She then introduced the Coordinating Board members and ADHE staff. Thanking them for their service.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Approval of Minutes

Al Brodell moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Dr. Michael Stanton seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2  
Director's Report

*Institutional Changes*

Dr. Markham began by announcing a couple of institutional leadership changes. Dr. Terisa Riley has been recommended as the next chancellor for the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. Riley currently serves as the senior vice president for student affairs and university administration at Texas A&M University – Kingsville.

Dr. Martin Eggenesperger has been named the president of Black River Technical College. Eggenesperger currently serves as the vice chancellor for academic affairs at the Arkansas State University Mountain Home.

*Recognition of AHECB Members*

Markham recognized Sam Sicard and Dr. Charles Allen for their work on the Coordinating Board. She noted that this could possibly be their last board meeting due to term limits. Sicard was appointed to the Coordinating Board in 2014 and is serving a term that will expire in May 2019. Allen was appointed to the board in 2007 and is currently serving his second term that will also expire in May 2019.

Markham noted that SB619 amended the membership requirements for the Coordinating Board. The requirements no longer set a limit on the number of members the board can have with an undergraduate degree from the same Arkansas institution. A current or recent membership of a public board is no longer required. In addition, there are no term limits. Markham encouraged potential applicants to submit an application for appointment.

*LIFE at Northwest Arkansas Community College*

Dr. Todd Kitchen, Vice President of Student Services at Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), provided information about the Learning Improvement Fun Empowerment (LIFE) program at NWACC. Kitchen stated that LIFE is more than just a basic college readiness program for high school students who want to attend college. NWACC engages students who are mostly first generation and often do not have adequate support at home to take the leap into higher education. Students leave the program with something that goes far beyond basic guidance. It is a powerful experience which creates a ripple effect affecting our entire community, said Kitchen.

Started in 2012 with 85 attendees, this summer we are expecting close to 300, said Kitchen. Our highlight activity is a 2 or 3 day Summer Program where we work together with not only our college staff but also our community to help empower students.

#### *Reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins CTE Act*

Monieca West, ADHE Federal Program Manager, discussed the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The federal program has been reauthorized and will be effective July 1, 2019. Commonly called Perkins V, the legislation is designed to be more flexible and streamline performance measures. The focus is on alignment with in-demand jobs and on employability skills for all students, including those designated as special populations, particularly those who have been chronically unemployed or underemployed. The expenditure of funds at the college level will be driven by a comprehensive need assessment conducted in consultation with a diverse group of stakeholders. Based on identified needs and gaps in performance, a four-year local application will be submitted to ADHE for approval. The application will guide which academic programs and student success initiatives will be supported during Perkins V.

#### *Financial Aid Update*

Jonathan Coleman, ADHE Financial Aid Program Coordinator, provided an update on ADHE financial aid programs. He noted that ADHE updated some of their deadlines. The application deadline has been pushed back to July 1, allowing students the opportunity to take an additional ACT. The scholarship renewal deadline has been moved to October 1, matching up the deadline to request a hold on their scholarships. On April 5, approximately 9,400 traditional students were awarded the Academic Challenge. Coleman stated that 28,000 traditional students and 3,726 non-traditional students are on the roster to be paid for spring 2019.

#### *Legislative Update*

Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director for Governmental Relations provided an overview of the higher education legislation passed during the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the General Assembly. Clemmer began by discussing Act 755, which amends the law concerning the use of higher education funds. This act also amends the law concerning private resident and correspondence schools and amends the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship eligibility requirements, noted Clemmer. After reviewing several bills, Clemmer noted that her complete summary would be posted on the ADHE website.

### Agenda Item No. 3 Annual Report on Credentials Awarded

Sonia Hazelwood presented summary and detailed information about credentials awarded. The last five academic years show a steady growth of credentials with 44,571 credentials awarded to all institutions in AY 2018. Total AY 2018 credentials for all institutions increased 1.2% over AY 2017 and showed a 7.8% increase since AY 2014.

The 4-year universities had the largest one-year increase showing a 5.3% increase over total credentials awarded in AY 2017. Both the 2-year colleges and the private/independent institutions showed decreases comparing AY 2018 to AY 2017. The 2-year colleges had a 4.2% decline, while the private institutions showed a one-year decrease of 3.6%, explained Hazelwood.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 4  
Annual Report on Student Retention  
and Graduation

When looking at all sectors together, the state's fall-to-fall retention rate of 68.0% for the Fall 2017 cohort has increased 3.1% over the Fall 2013 rate of 64.9%. The 4-Year public institutions have consistently reported a slight increase in the fall-to-fall retention rate for the last five cohorts. Most recently, 73.9% of the Fall 2017 first-time in college cohort returned for their second year in Fall 2018.

The 2-Year college fall-to-fall retention rates remain consistent at around 50% - 51% for each cohort. The Private/Independent institutions retention rates vary more than those of the public institutions. The private institution Fall 2015 cohort produced a 76.1% retention rate, which is the highest fall-to-fall retention rate on record. Private institutions also reported the highest Fall 2017 cohort retention rate of 74.2%, which is slightly higher than the 4-Year public institutions rate of 73.9%.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 5  
Annual Report on Retention and  
Graduation of Intercollegiate Athletes

This information is produced from data submissions through the Arkansas Higher Education Information System for first-time, credential-seeking student athletes participating in football, basketball (men's and women's), baseball, cross country/track programs and other sports programs.

Hazelwood reported that in Academic Year 2018, 3,048 students participated in athletics at 12 Arkansas institutions. In AY2015 there were 3,233 students participating in athletics. Hazelwood noted that ten sports were included in the athletics reporting. Football has the most participants, followed by track, baseball and other.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 6  
Annual Report First-Year  
Student Remediation for Fall 2018

Dr. Jessie Walker presented summary and detailed information about annual student remediation. In Fall 2018, Arkansas's public institutions enrolled 20,943 first-time degree-seeking students. Of those students, 7,388 were placed into one or more remedial courses. Of the remediated students, 3,413 (46 percent) were enrolled at four-year universities, and 3,975 (54 percent) were at two-year colleges.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 7  
Annual Report on Productivity of  
Recently Approved Programs

Information summarizing the total number of new certificate and degree programs approved in Academic Year 2013 and Academic Year 2015, and the number of those programs on-track to meet viability standards was presented to the Coordinating Board. Dr. Walker stated that of the 112 active degree programs at Arkansas's public institutions, 51 are on track to meet viability standards.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 8  
Distribution of Mineral Lease Funds

In accordance with A.C.A. §6-61-803 and A.C.A. §6-61-807, "There is created a program to be known as the Arkansas Research Development program which shall be administered by the Director of the Department of Higher Education. Funds may be made available for administration of the Arkansas Development Research Program, for purchasing state-of-the-art equipment, for minor renovations of laboratory space, for publication of findings, for employing scientists or research assistants, and for providing any other assistance to scientists in order to develop a continuing research capacity in this state which is recognized as exemplary."

The current balance in the Higher Education Research Development Fund is \$163.766. The fiscal 2018 appropriation of \$1,000,000 is adequate for the authorization of distribution of up to \$750,000 requested by the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON) board of directors.

David Merrifield, Interim Executive Director and Chief Technology Officer for ARE-ON provided additional information. Merrifield said that ARE-ON provides high-speed internet services and research network services for all of the colleges and universities in Arkansas. He then provided the mineral lease funds disbursement history going back to 2007-2008.

Keven Anderson asked if ADHE anticipated any additional funds this year. Nick Fuller stated that he does not anticipate the deposit of any additional funds before the end of the year.

Al Brodell moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 8 to the full Board for consideration. Chris Gilliam seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item No. 9  
Economic Feasibility of Bond  
University of Central Arkansas

The University of Central Arkansas requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$20 million with a maximum term of thirty (30) years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5.00 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for education and general (E&G) purposes. The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on February 15, 2019.

The E&G issue will be up to \$20 million with an annual debt service of \$1,294,136 and a term of thirty (30) years. Proceeds from this bond issue will be used to proceed with the planning, design, and construction of an approximately 114,000 sq. ft., \$45 million Fine & Performing Arts Building. Twenty-five (\$25) million in gifts will provide additional funding for the building. The debt service on the bond issue will be supported by tuition and fee revenue as well as an annual increase to the college fee for the College of Fine Arts and Communication beginning fall 2022 and an increase to the Fine & Performing Arts Fee beginning fall 2022, which will be sufficient to support the additional debt service. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for E&G projects provides that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to E&G debt service.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Central Arkansas to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$20 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an estimated interest rate not to exceed 5.00 percent for E&G purposes to proceed with the planning, design, and construction of an approximately 114,000 sq. ft., \$45 million Fine & Performing Arts Building. Twenty-five (\$25) million in gifts will provide additional funding for the building.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of University of Central Arkansas and the President of the University of Central Arkansas of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Dr. Houston Davis, UCA President, provided additional information.

Keven Anderson asked what the anticipated fees would be. Diane Newton, Vice President for Finance and Administration, explained that UCA has instituted a phased in approach to the fees. UCA will look at the facilities and performing arts fees. Gradually increasing them over the next five years.

Chair Carr asked if the final 5 million has been raised.

President Davis said UCA anticipates it taking 9 – 12 months to raise that much in donations.

Chris Gilliam moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Item No. 9 to the full Board for consideration. Al Brodell seconded and the Committee approved.

Agenda Item. No. 10  
Certificate of Proficiency, Technical Certificate, and  
Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology  
Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas

The proposed construction technology programs will prepare students to gain technical knowledge and skills to work with building, inspecting, and maintenance of structures, roads, metal frames, and various other aspects of the construction industry. PCCUA currently offers specialized tracks in general construction, HVAC, and welding that will complement the proposed programs. Students will also gain knowledge in the operation of construction tools and equipment. Students will have the opportunity to work with masonry, carpentry, electrical and power transmission installation, building/construction finishing, management, inspection and other construction-related applications, properties of concrete, differential leveling, handling and placing, and slab on-grade. Graduates of the proposed programs who can weld, work with sheet metal, and demonstrate carpentry skills generally make higher wages and are more likely to advance to supervisory and/or management positions within the construction industry. The long-term goal of the proposed programs is to align with apprenticeship programs, which match training and work placement offering students the opportunity to advance into construction journeyman and higher positions.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Technology (CIP 46.000; 20 credit hours); Technical Certificate in Construction Technology (CIP 46.000; 30 credit hours); and the Associate of Applied Science in Construction Technology (CIP 46.000; 60 credit hours) offered by Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, effective Summer 2019.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas of the approval.

Dr. Deborah King, CAO of Phillips, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 11  
Bachelor of Science in Cyber Criminology  
Southern Arkansas University

The proposed Bachelor of Science in Cyber Criminology is a 120 credit hour program designed for students who desire to pursue careers in cybercrimes. The proposed program emphasizes the use of computer science skills to investigate and study crime. The program further underscores theoretical human behaviors and victimization patterns that relate to cybercrimes. Cyber Criminology is a multidisciplinary field that includes research from social science areas including criminology, victimology, and computer science. Cyber Criminology utilizes computer science to study and understand cybercrime from the perspective of the social sciences. Graduates of the proposed program may obtain positions in government agencies, law enforcement agencies, private protection agencies, financial institutions, health corporations, and other businesses as investigators, information security analysts, digital forensic analysts, and security team members. SAU's existing Bachelors of Science in Computer Science and Criminal Justice will support the proposed program.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Cyber Criminology (CIP 45.0401; 120 credit hours) offered by Southern Arkansas University, effective Fall 2019.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southern Arkansas University of the approval.

Dr. David Lanoue, CAO of Southern Arkansas University, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 12  
Role and Scope Change – Doctoral Degree  
Doctor of Education in Rural and Diverse Educational Leadership  
Southern Arkansas University

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) Policy 5.20 outlines the process institutions must follow in order to request a change in the degree level approved by the AHECB, and the process to be followed during the review and consideration of that request. The Coordinating Board at its meeting on April 25, 2014 amended the process for AHECB consideration and action.



In May 2018, a review team visited Southern Arkansas University (SAU) campus to evaluate the institution's request for a change in role and scope from an institution offering degrees up to the specialist degree to one that also offers doctoral degrees. The reviewers' requested additional information from SAU related to institutional readiness and identified topics for further consideration by the SAU faculty and administrators. Over a 12-month period, SAU addressed the areas identified by the reviewers and the reviewers' final report was favorable to the SAU request.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the role and scope change for Southern Arkansas University to offer the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Rural and Diverse Educational Leadership (CIP 13.0401, 45 semester credit hours beyond the Educational Specialist), effective August 2019. Program continuation contingent on Higher Learning Commission accreditation/recognition of doctoral degrees at SAU.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Southern Arkansas University of the conditions of the role and scope approval for the offering of doctoral degree programs.

Dr. Lanoue provided additional information.

Agenda Item No. 13  
Role and Scope Change  
Doctorate of Instructional Leadership  
Henderson State University

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) Policy 5.20 outlines the process institutions must follow in order to request a change in the degree level approved by the AHECB, and the process to be followed during the review and consideration of that request. The Coordinating Board at its meeting on April 25, 2014 amended the process for AHECB consideration and action.

In August 2018, a review team visited the HSU campus to evaluate the institution's request for a change in role and scope from an institution offering degrees up to the specialist degree to one that also offers doctoral degrees. The reviewers' requested additional information from HSU related to institutional readiness and identified topics for further consideration by HSU's faculty and administrators. Over an 8-month period, HSU addressed the areas identified by the reviewers.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the role and scope change for Henderson State University to offer the Doctorate of Instructional Leadership (CIP 13.0401, 64 semester credit hours beyond the Educational Specialist) effective August 2019. Program continuation contingent on Higher Learning Commission accreditation/recognition of doctoral degrees at HSU.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Henderson State University of the conditions of the role and scope approval for the offering of doctoral degree programs.

Dr. Steve Adkison, CAO of Henderson State University, provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 14  
Post MSN Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Henderson State University

Henderson State University has proposed a Post MSN Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program, which is designed to focus on, prepare individuals with graduate nursing degrees in family nurse practitioner, nursing administration or APRNs (Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Nurse Practitioner, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, and Clinical Nurse Specialists) for leadership roles in the field of nursing. The program would be 36 credit hours and 100% online.

Upon recommendation of an external review team, HSU has agreed to delay the implementation of the proposed Post MSN Doctor of Nursing Practice for at least two year until Fall 2020 so that sufficient data can be assessed from the recently approved Master of Science in Nursing. Further, the Department of Nursing should double the size of its cohorts from 24 to 48 students at the undergraduate level. This increased enrollment would help address a significant nursing shortage in the community and provide a pipeline of future students for both the MSN and DNP programs.

The ADHE Executive Staff recommended the Post MSN DNP request for Henderson State University be presented for information and discussion purposes only.

Dr. Adkison provided additional information.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 15  
Master of Education in Educational Equity  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The proposed 33-hour Master of Education (MEd.) in Educational Equity targets early career educators who are committed to increasing effectiveness in their classrooms and meeting the educational needs of students in high-poverty districts. Participants will work full-time as lead teachers in high-needs districts while enrolled in the proposed program. The overall goal of the program is to increase the effectiveness and support of these early career teachers while they lead classrooms in struggling, high-poverty schools in Arkansas. Aligned to the U.S. Department of Education's directives that

allow states to create outcomes-based training programs, the proposed program's design leverages innovative best practices and is responsive to the needs identified by local school districts. Additionally, the proposed program will help address the severe teacher shortage, as well as the need for additional professional development, in Arkansas' highest-need districts by combining a strong set of coursework, coaching, content-area support, and practical pedagogical resources. The proposed two-year program design may attract educators from outside the state of Arkansas who face similar teacher shortages in high-poverty areas.

**RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Education in Educational Equity (CIP 13.1206; 33 credit hours) offered by the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, effective Summer 2019.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to inform the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville of the approval.

Dr. Terry Martin, Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs for the University of Arkansas provided additional information.

Dr. Michael Stanton asked if this program requires students to work in a specific area. Dr. Martin explained that this program supports teachers that are currently employed, to attain their Master's degree.

Dr. Walker asked if they would be recruit teachers in high poverty need areas. Dr. Martin said yes.

Keven Anderson asked if there were similar programs in the country or is this a new concept. Autumn Lewis, Associate Director of Placement and Academy Operations, explained that there are some programs across the country that are graduate programs focused on educational equity. However, none exists in Arkansas where there is a need for teachers in the high poverty districts, said Lewis.

Anderson asked how many years funding is there. Three years of funding for the initial grant, said Dr. Martin.

Agenda Item No. 16  
Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

**Initial Program Certification-Distance Technology**

**RESOLVED**, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2022.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the administration of said institutions that the certification of the degree programs requires the institution to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education whenever any of the following occurs: (1) major reorganization of the controlling body; (2) changes in the charter or incorporation documents of the institution; or (3) changes in the method of operation of the institution's programs in Arkansas.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of said institutions that any advertisement or published materials using the name of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Arkansas Department of Higher Education must contain the following statement:

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board certification does not constitute an endorsement of any institution or program. Such certification merely indicates that certain criteria have been met as required under the rules and regulations implementing institutional and program certification as defined in A.C.A. §6-61-301.

Adler University, Chicago, Illinois  
Remington College, Lake Mary, Florida

### **Initial Program Certification – Arkansas Locations**

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Remington College, Little Rock, Arkansas

There were no questions.

Dr. Michael Stanton moved to recommend the approval of Agenda Items No.13 – 24 to the full Board for consideration. Sherrel Johnson seconded and the Committee approved.

### Agenda Items No. 17 & 18 Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education approved institutional requests for new programs not requiring Board action unless further review is requested by the Board. During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests from out-of-state institutions to offer degree programs to Arkansas residents. The program notice lists appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 17-1 through 17-43 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 18-1 through 18-6 of the agenda book.

Al Brodell asked if the institutions received the program notifications in advance and if they are able to submit comments. Dr. Walker said yes. The institutions are notified and given 90 days to comment.

Report of the Committees

Keven Anderson presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 8 – 9. The board approved.

Chair Jim Carr presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 10 – 13 and 15 – 16. The board approved.

Remarks by Presidents and Chancellors

Dr. Markham announced that Coordinating Board Chair Jim Carr has called a special meeting of the board for May 24, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., via conference call. Additional information will be sent prior to the meeting.

Chair Carr announced the University of Central Arkansas would host the next Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting on their campus on July 26, 2019.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Chris Gilliam, Secretary