

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION
COORDINATING BOARD
REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING**

**Southern Arkansas University
Reynolds Center Grand Hall Salon C
Magnolia, AR 71753**

SCHEDULE

Friday, November 4, 2005

**Finance Committee
8:30 a.m.**

**Academic Committee
9:30 a.m.**

**Convene Coordinating Board Meeting
*10:00 a.m.**

*Time approximate. Meeting will begin at end of Academic Committee meeting

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

**Friday, November 4, 2005
10:00 a.m.**

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Magnolia, AR 71753**

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- 2. Report of the Director (Dr. Beene)
- *3. Report of 2004-05 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures (Mr. Davidson)
- *4. Higher Education Bond Program Plan of Implementation (Dr. Williams)
- *5. Distribution of Mineral Lease Fund Balance (Dr. Williams)
- *6. Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for Arkansas State University--Beebe (Dr. Williams)
- *7. Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for Arkansas Tech University (Mr. Davidson)
- *8. Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for University of Arkansas at Monticello (Mr. Davidson)
- *9. Economic Feasibility of College Savings Bond Revolving Loan for Southern Arkansas University (Mr. Davidson)
- *10. New Program: Master of Science in Emergency Management and Homeland Security by Arkansas Tech University (Ms. Griffin)
- *11. New Program: Master of Science in Psychology by Arkansas Tech University (Ms. Griffin)

- *12. New Program: Bachelor of Science in Nursing by University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (Ms. Griffin)
- *13. New Program: Technical Certificate in Cosmetology Instruction by Pulaski Technical College (Ms. Moten)
- *14. New Program: Technical Certificate in Computer-Aided Design by North Arkansas College (Ms. Moten)
- *15. New Program: Master of Fine Arts in Digital Filmmaking by University of Central Arkansas (Ms. Moten)
- *16. Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Report and Resolutions (Ms. Jones)
- *17. Public Hearing: Teacher Opportunity Program Proposed Rules and Regulations (Ms. Lawrence)
- *18. Approval of 2006 Coordinating Board Meeting Schedule
- 19. Report on Program Deletions (Dr. Wheeler)
- 20. Report on Arkansas Educational Renewal Zones (Dr. Wheeler)
- 21. Letters of Notification (Ms. Moten)
- 22. Letters of Intent (Ms. Moten)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Southern Arkansas University
Reynolds Center Grand Hall Salon C
Magnolia, AR 71753**

**Friday, November 4, 2005
8:30 a.m.**

Finance Committee

David Damron, Chair
Jimmy Creech
Bill Johnson
David Leech
Dick Trammel
Dr. Anne Trussell
Kaneaster Hodges, Ex officio

AGENDA

- *3. Report of 2004-05 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures (Mr. Davidson)
- *4. Higher Education Bond Program Plan of Implementation (Dr. Williams)
- *5. Distribution of Mineral Lease Fund Balance (Dr. Williams)
- *6. Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for Arkansas State University--Beebe (Dr. Williams)
- *7. Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for Arkansas Tech University (Mr. Davidson)
- *8. Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue for University of Arkansas at Monticello (Mr. Davidson)
- *9. Economic Feasibility of College Savings Bond Revolving Loan for Southern Arkansas University (Mr. Davidson)

*Numbers refer to main agenda.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE
Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Southern Arkansas University
Reynolds Center Grand Hall Salon C
Magnolia, AR 71753

Friday, November 4, 2005
9:30 a.m.

Academic Committee:

Dr. Dan Grant, Chair
Jodie Carter
Phil Ford
Dr. Lynda Johnson
Betsy Thompson
Kaneaster Hodges, Ex officio

REGULAR AGENDA

20. Report on Arkansas Educational Renewal Zones (Dr. Wheeler)

CONSENT AGENDA

- *10. New Program: Master of Science in Emergency Management and Homeland Security by Arkansas Tech University (Ms. Griffin)
- *11. New Program: Master of Science in Psychology by Arkansas Tech University (Ms. Griffin)
- *12. New Program: Bachelor of Science in Nursing by University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (Ms. Griffin)
- *13. New Program: Technical Certificate in Cosmetology Instruction by Pulaski Technical College (Ms. Moten)
- *14. New Program: Technical Certificate in Computer Aided Design by North Arkansas College (Ms. Moten)
- *15. New Program: Master of Fine Arts in Digital Filmmaking by University of Central Arkansas (Ms. Moten)
- *16. Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Report and Resolutions (Ms. Jones)

19. Report on Program Deletions (Dr. Wheeler)

21. Letters of Notification (Ms. Moten)

22. Letters of Intent (Ms. Moten)

*Numbers refer to main agenda.

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
July 29, 2005

Minutes of Meeting

The July 29, 2005 regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board was held in Magruder Hall on the campus of Mid-South Community College in West Memphis, Arkansas. Chairman Phil Ford called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum of Board members present.

Coordinating Board present:

Phil Ford, Chair
Kaneaster Hodges, Vice Chair
Jodie Carter
Col. Jim Creech
Bill Johnson
Dr. Lynda Phillips Johnson
David Leech
Dr. Anne Trussell

Coordinating Board absent:

Betsy Thompson, Secretary
David Damron
Dr. Dan Grant

Department staff present:

Dr. Linda Beene, Director
Dr. Steve Floyd, Deputy Director
Dr. Karen Wheeler, Associate Director of Academic Affairs
Dr. Stanley Williams, Senior Associate Director for Finance
Ron Harrell, Associate Director for Planning and Accountability
Melissa Goff, Coordinator for Financial Aid
Cynthia Moten, Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Jeanne Jones, Coordinator of Institutional Certification
Claudia Griffin, Assistant Coordinator of Academic Affairs
Monieca West, Coordinator of Federal Programs
John Davidson, Financial Manager
Robin Henson, Communications Officer
Vikki Moore, Agency Fiscal Manager
Christina Miller, Coordinator of General Administration
Nichole Abernathy, Administrative Assistant

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

Chairman Ford acknowledged Diane Ayers of Mid-South Community College for her work in preparation for the meeting. He then recognized Dr. Glen Fenter, President of Mid-South Community College, for a welcome. Dr. Fenter introduced the Mayor of West Memphis, Mr. William Johnson.

Mayor Johnson stated that he was elated when he learned that he would have the opportunity to make a presentation to a dear friend that he has known for 30 or more years, Mr. Phil Ford. Mayor Johnson commented that it was no secret that Phil Ford was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He joked that he knew Phil back when his only success was the fact that he talked Sandy Keller into marrying him. Adding that he couldn't think of anything Phil started that wasn't successful. "The true judge of a man's character is how he has handled his success." Mayor Johnson presented Phil and Sandy with a proclamation from the city of West Memphis proclaiming Friday, July 29, 2005, as Phil Ford day in West Memphis.

Dr. Beene introduced Lucretia Norris, the Governor's Policy Advisor for Higher Education. Ms. Norris conveyed the Governor's appreciation to Phil Ford for his dedication to the Higher Education Coordinating Board as she read a letter to him from the Governor.

Dr. Linda Beene expressed appreciation to Phil as Chairman of the board. She said that when she learned a year ago that state statutes would not allow Phil to be Chairman for three consecutive terms, the law was changed. She said this demonstrated to Phil just how much he meant to her and everyone else. Dr. Beene asked Mr. Lu Hardin, former director of the Department of Higher Education and the current President of the University of Central Arkansas, to join her in conveying appreciation to Phil. Mr. Hardin thanked Phil for his years of hard work and determination, commenting that Phil has a heart for students and higher education. Mr. Hardin ended by stating that he was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Phil Ford over the years and to develop a close friendship with him.

Dr. Beene then congratulated Phil for his perfect 1-0 winning record as the starting pitcher for the Memphis Redbirds baseball team. Admitting that she is limited in baseball knowledge, she asked Phil what people meant when they referred to him as "Rag Arm Phil?" Dr. Beene then presented Phil with his own baseball bat for hitting a homerun for higher education, signed by Governor Mike Huckabee.

Dr. Glen Fenter thanked Phil and Sandy Ford for the positive impact they've had on Crittenden County over the years. Next he thanked AHECB, ADHE staff, Presidents and Chancellors, and everyone else present for being his guest for the Board meeting. He also thanked his talented staff for all of their hard work in preparation for the meeting. Mid-South Community College was one of the original fourteen vocational technical institutes to make the transition to viability by Act 1244 of the 1991 General Assembly. They were labeled the institution with the unlikeliest chance for success. However, In February of 1993, voters approved a four mill property tax increase (an increase of more than 10 percent). Since that time, Mid-South has experienced rapid growth in all areas. Never the less, space and facilities still remain one of the most constricting factors in Mid-South's ability to continue meeting the needs of their region. Dr. Fenter discussed the impact and needs of higher education and focused the Board's attention to an article about a manufacturing plant locating in Canada due to a lack of well-trained workforce. Dr. Fenter concluded by stating that higher education has never been more important to

our individual and collective economic futures than it is today. Again, he thanked everyone for coming to Mid-South Community College.

Kaneaster Hodges asked Dr. Fenter if he would consider using the Higher Education Bond funds allocated to Mid-South Community College to remedy their space and facilities problems.

Dr. Fenter responded by noting that it is still one of many factors to consider and MSCC would have to determine the most suitable equation for moving their region forward.

Dick Trammel complimented Dr. Fenter and Mid-South Community College on their community support, adding that he likes to see people willing to invest in their future.

Chairman Ford thanked Dr. Fenter for his remarks and then introduced new AHECB member, Dick Trammel; Mr. Luke Gordy, the new Director of the Arkansans for Education Reform Foundation; Dr. Steve Franks, the new Chancellor of Southern Arkansas University Tech; Dr. Sally Carder, the new President of National Park Community College; Dr. Alan Rasco, the new President of South Arkansas Community College; and Mr. Gayle Cooper, the interim President for Ozarka College. He then announced that there would be a Public Hearing later in the Board meeting for the consideration of changes to financial aid rules and regulations. Chairman Ford congratulated AHECB member Bill Johnson for his appointment into the UCA Sports Hall of Fame and on his retirement as President of Simmons First National Bank in Conway.

Agenda Item No. 1 Approval of Minutes

David Leech moved to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2005 regular meeting and the June 20, 2005 special meeting. Dr. Anne Trussell seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2 Report of the Director

Chairman Ford recognized Dr. Beene for her Director's Report and she began by stating that the next step for the Bond Program would be to set a date for an election. She said Governor Huckabee is very eager to get the proceeds to the institutions and is considering calling a special election. Dr. Beene asked the Presidents and Chancellors to have their planned projects delivered to the Department by August 15 so the election process deadlines could be met.

Dr. Beene announced that the Academic Challenge and STAR application deadlines were extended to July 1 this year and that the income eligibility limits and amount of the Academic Challenge Scholarship were also increased. An information campaign ran during June to make the public aware of these changes. As a result, Dr. Beene said the financial aid division received about 75 applications, 305 calls to the front desk, and 500 calls to the "800" hotline per day, as well as over 254,000 hits to the website in the last two weeks of June. The Star applications also doubled the previous year's count as a result of the campaign.

Dr. Beene mentioned Act 1973 of 2005 sponsored by Senator Gilbert Baker which gives taxpayers the opportunity to deduct up to \$5,000 per year when making contributions to the GIFT Plan. She also discussed the "Redesigning America's High Schools" Initiative sponsored by the National Governor's Association. She explained that the Arkansas Department of Education was awarded a grant of up to \$2 million to build on the momentum created by the 2005 National Education Summit in February. Arkansas held its follow-up meeting in March. The agenda calls on Governors to implement the following five inter-connected strategies: restoring value to the high school diploma; redesigning high schools; giving students the excellent teachers and principals they need; setting goals, measuring progress and holding high schools and colleges accountable; as well as streamlining and improving education governance.

Dr. Beene said the Arkansas proposal demonstrated a commitment to all high school students through focused efforts that included developing college and workplace readiness standards; expanding consistent end-of-course tests; implementing a longitudinal data tracking system; and initiating a communications system that will link partnerships and assure "buy-in". She said the Governor's Office would also promote a mandatory college-prep curriculum and governance to ensure alignment with the state's P-16 commission. She reminded the Board of the Commission for the Coordination of Education Efforts and that it will serve as the basis for the P-16 council in the proposal.

Dr. Beene also discussed the American Diploma Project, funded by Achieve, Inc., The Education Trust, and the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation. She said high school graduation rates have dropped over the last 20 years and only 34% of 9th grade students' graduate "college ready". The goal of the American Diploma Project is to determine the English and mathematics skills that high school graduates need in order to be successful in college and the workplace. Some of the state requirements are to administer a college- and work-ready assessment, require all students to take a college- and work-ready curriculum to earn a high school diploma, and hold high schools and colleges accountable for their success once enrolled.

Dr. Beene concluded her report by announcing that the Department of Finance and Administration has revised the April 25, 2005 forecast for Workforce 2000 funding for 2005-06. The revised forecast represents a significant increase and will give an additional \$2,597,507 to the eighteen two-year colleges that receive

WF 2000 funding. She said it also means an additional \$342,240 to the four technical institutes that merged with universities.

Dr. Beene informed the Board that a summary explanation of the nonformula higher education entities is in their folders as requested at the last meeting.

Dr. Lynda Johnson thanked Dr. Beene, Dr. Wheeler, Melissa Goff, and ADHE staff for their work on aligning graduation requirements for the state of Arkansas with the Academic Challenge Scholarship curriculum.

Report of Committees

David Leech presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 3-7. Jim Creech seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Kaneaster Hodges, in Dr. Dan Grant's absence, presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved to adopt Agenda Items 8-13 and 20-22. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3 Allocation of College Savings Bond Funds

The Arkansas Higher Education Technology and Facility Improvement Act (Act 1282 of 2005) from Governor Huckabee's legislative initiative authorized the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in consultation with the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, to refer to the voters a request for the authority to issue up to \$250 million in college savings bonds for the improvement of technology and facilities in higher education. Approximately \$100 million of the issue is to be used to refund/recall existing bonds. The remaining \$150 million is to be allocated to the public institutions of higher education in Arkansas.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the proposed allocation of anticipated college savings bond funds in accordance with Act 1282, the Governor's legislative initiative, and the Governor's request to distribute \$50 million among the two-year colleges, \$10 million for access to the e-Corridor for the universities and medical sciences campus, with the remaining balance distributed to the universities and their entities.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board approves the recommended methodology for the distribution of anticipated college savings bond proceeds as described in this agenda item.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board has not authorized and shall not authorize the issuance of bonds requiring more than \$24 million in debt service per fiscal year as provided for in the Act.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director and ADHE staff to transmit to the Governor and the General Assembly a written plan for technology and facility improvement projects to be funded with the proceeds derived from the sale of the bonds, as described in this agenda item, the need for the projects, the estimated benefits of the projects and the anticipated debt service requirements for the bonds.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director shall and is directed to act as the duly authorized designee of the Chair of the Coordinating Board in requisitioning the proceeds of the bond sales held in the State Treasury and certifying that the funds disbursed thereby are for the payment of project costs of a higher education project duly approved by the Coordinating Board, as reflected in this agenda item.

David Leech thanked Dr. Stanley Williams and staff for their efficient work in providing a formula that everyone accepted. Kaneaster Hodges also thanked Dr. Sugg and Dr. Franklin for their involvement.

Jim Creech moved to recommend Agenda Item 3 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Anne Trussell seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
 Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic
 Revenues and Expenditures for 2005-06

A.C.A. §6-62-805 (Act 366 of 1991) requires each state-supported institution of higher education to annually certify by June 15 to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board that its intercollegiate athletic program will generate sufficient revenues to meet expenditures or that any athletic deficit will be met by separate institutional board-sanctioned student athletic fees.

Relevant data follows:

<u>Inst.</u>	<u>2004-05 Athletic Fee</u>	<u>2005-06 Athletic Fee</u>
UAFS	\$5.00	\$6.00
UALR	\$11.00	\$11.75
UAM	\$6.00	\$7.00
UAPB	\$12.70	\$13.70

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures Budgeted for 2005-06 as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

Dick Trammel moved to recommend Agenda Item 4 to the Full Board for consideration. Bill Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$14.5 million with a maximum term of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5.5% for auxiliary purposes. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used to acquire a 300-bed apartment complex for \$14.5 million. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on July 21, 2005.

Relevant data follows:

Projected 2005-06 Net Auxiliary Revenues.....	\$1,907,998
Maximum Annual Debt Service (\$1,907,998/120%).....	1,589,998
Existing Debt Service.....	0
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Bond Issues.....	997,678
Net Auxiliary Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$ 592,320

The above data demonstrates that University of Arkansas at Fort Smith has sufficient revenue to support a bond issue of approximately \$14.5 million with a term of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5.5%.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS) to issue bonds not to exceed \$14.5 million for a period of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5.5% for auxiliary purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of the University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Dr. Anne Trussell moved to recommend Agenda Item 5 to the Full Board for consideration. Jim Creech seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 6
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$21 million with a maximum term of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5.5%.

Relevant data follows:

Educational and General Portion	
Budgeted 2005-06 Tuition and Fee Revenue.....	\$12,170,735
Maximum Allowable Debt Service (\$12,170,735 x 25%).....	3,042,684
Existing Debt Service.....	1,086,000
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Issue.....	619,249
Tuition and Fee Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$1,337,435
Auxiliary Portion	
Projected 2005-06 Net Auxiliary Revenues.....	\$3,889,844
Maximum Annual Debt Service (\$3,889,844/120%).....	3,241,537
Existing Debt Service.....	455,900
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Bond Issues.....	825,665
Net Auxiliary Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$1,959,972

The above data demonstrates that University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff has sufficient revenue to support a bond issue of approximately \$21 million with a term of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5.5%.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) to issue bonds not to exceed \$21 million for a period of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5.5% for both E&G and auxiliary purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of the University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Coordinating Board's resolution.

Bill Johnson moved to recommend Agenda Item 6 to the Full Board for consideration. Dick Trammel seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 7
Economic Feasibility of Bond Issue
University of Central Arkansas

University of Central Arkansas (UCA) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$11 million with a maximum term of up to 20 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5%.

Relevant data follows:

Educational and General Portion	
Budgeted 2005-06 Tuition and Fee Revenue.....	\$47,866,769
Maximum Allowable Debt Service (\$47,866,769 x 25%).....	11,966,692
Existing Debt Service.....	2,001,616
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Issue.....	303,317
Tuition and Fee Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$9,661,759
Auxiliary Portion	
Projected 2005-06 Net Auxiliary Revenues.....	\$2,452,626
Maximum Annual Debt Service (\$2,452,626/120%).....	2,043,855
Existing Debt Service.....	1,298,132
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Bond Issues.....	579,351
Net Auxiliary Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$ 166,372

The above data demonstrates that University of Central Arkansas has sufficient revenue to support a bond issue of approximately \$11 million with a term of up to 20 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5%.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) to issue bonds not to exceed \$11 million for a period of up to 20 years at an estimated annual interest rate of up to 5% for both E&G and auxiliary purposes.

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

Dr. Anne Trussell moved to recommend Agenda Item 7 to the Full Board for consideration. Jim Creech seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 8
Associate of General Studies
NorthWest Arkansas Community College

The administration and Board of Trustees of NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) request approval to offer an Associate of General Studies degree. NWACC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The NWACC Board approved the proposed degree on June 6, 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Associate of General Studies degree (CIP 24.0102) at NorthWest Arkansas Community College, effective August 2005.

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 NorthWest Arkansas Community College of this approval.

Jodie Carter moved to recommend Agenda Item 8 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9
Technical Certificate and Certificate
of Proficiency in Geographic Information Systems
East Arkansas Community College

The administration and Board of Trustees of East Arkansas Community College (EACC) request approval to offer a Technical Certificate and a Certificate of Proficiency in geographic information systems (GIS). EACC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The EACC Board approved the programs on May 19, 2005. The following resolution is presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate and Certificate of Proficiency in geographic information systems (CIP 45.0702) at East Arkansas Community College, effective August 2005.

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 East Arkansas Community College of the approvals.

Kaneaster Hodges questioned the number of students that the institution is anticipating. Claudia Griffin responded that it is an emerging field.

Jodie Carter moved to recommend Agenda Item 9 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10
Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science
Arkansas State University – Jonesboro

The administration and Board of Trustees of the Arkansas State University System (ASU) request approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in forensic science at Arkansas State University--Jonesboro (ASUJ). ASUJ is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The ASU Board approved the proposal on June 9, 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in forensic science (CIP 43.0106) at Arkansas State University--Jonesboro, effective January 2006.

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 Arkansas State University of the approval.

Kaneaster Hodges questioned if there is already an existing Masters program in Forensic Science in the state of Arkansas. Cynthia Moten answered no, there is not.

Jodie Carter moved to recommend Agenda Item 10 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 11
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System

(UA) request approval to offer the Bachelor of Science and the Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice at the University of Arkansas--Fort Smith (UAFS). UAFS is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The UA Board approved the proposal on June 3, 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science and the Associate of Applied Science degrees in Criminal Justice (CIP 43.0103) at the University of Arkansas--Fort Smith, effective Fall 2006.

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--Fort Smith of the approvals.

Kaneaster Hodges questioned why the program's class time was changed. Ms. Moten replied that the new time is designed to be more convenient for working students.

Dr. Johnson moved to recommend Agenda Item 11 to the Full Board for consideration. Jodie Carter seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 12
Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in graphic design at the University of Arkansas--Fort Smith (UAFS). UAFS is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The UA Board approved the proposal on June 3, 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in graphic design (CIP 50.0402) at the University of Arkansas--Fort Smith, effective Fall 2006.

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--Fort Smith of the approval.

Jodie Carter moved to recommend Agenda Item 12 to the Full Board for consideration. Dr. Johnson seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 13
Institutional Certification Advisory
Committee Resolutions

Ms. Jeanne Jones presented the institutional Certification Advisory Committee resolutions.

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) met on June 28, 2005.

**BAPTIST MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
EXTENSION CAMPUS, CONWAY, AR**

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board decertifies Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Extension Campus to discontinue the offering of the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religion in Conway, Arkansas. This decertification is effective July 29, 2005.

RIO SALADO COLLEGE, TEMPE, AZ

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board decertifies Rio Salado College to discontinue the offering of the online Associate of General Studies to Arkansas residents. This decertification is effective July 29, 2005.

CAPELLA UNIVERSITY, MINNEAPOLIS, MN

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Capella University to offer the following online degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Business, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Master of Science in Organization and Management, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Information Technology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Organization and Management. The certification is for a period of four years and expires July 29, 2009.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Capella University that the recertification of these programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Capella University 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:

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY, INDEPENDENCE, MO

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Graceland University offer the following online degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Master of Nursing with tracks in Clinical Nursing Specialist, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Health Care Administration. The recertification is for a period of two years and expires July 29, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Graceland University to offer the following programs: RN-Master of Science in Nursing with tracks in Clinical Nursing Specialist-Family Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner, and Health Care Administration; and the Post-Graduate Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner and Health Care Administration. The certification is for a period of two years and expires July 29, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Graceland University that the recertification and certification of these programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Graceland University 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:

ITT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, LITTLE ROCK, AR

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to ITT Technical Institute to offer the following programs: Bachelor of Science

in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Business Accounting Technology, and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. The certification is for a period of two years and expires July 29, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of ITT Technical Institute that the certification of these programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of ITT Technical Institute 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:

UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to the University of Phoenix to offer the following programs: Bachelor of Science in Business, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Master of Management, and Master of Business Administration on the new campus in Rogers, Arkansas. The certification is for a period of two years and expires July 29, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of the University of Phoenix that the certification of these programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of the University of Phoenix 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:

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY – FORT SMITH

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Webster

University-Fort Smith to offer the following degree programs: Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in Human Resources Management. The recertification is for a period of two years and expires July 29, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Webster University-Fort Smith to offer the Master of Arts in Computer Resources and Information Management. The certification is for a period of two years and expires July 29, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Webster University-Fort Smith that the recertification and certification of these programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Webster University-Fort Smith 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 Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

Dr. Johnson moved to recommend Agenda Item 13 to the Full Board for consideration. Jodie Carter seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Public Hearing

Phil Ford declared the meeting a public hearing for the review of rules and regulation changes to five financial aid programs. He called on Melissa Goff to present the information.

Agenda Item No. 14
Revised Rules and Regulations
Military Dependent's Scholarship

This agenda item presents revisions to the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Missing in Action/Killed in Action Dependents' Scholarship Program that are necessary to comply with Act 2127 of 2005. The enhancements to the program from this legislation have prompted ADHE staff to recommend renaming the program, "The Military Dependents' Scholarship."

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Military Dependents' Scholarship Program, to be administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, by the adoption of these rules and regulations presented in this agenda item, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them for the 2005-06 academic year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Military Dependents' Scholarship Program.

No public comments were received on this item.

Kaneaster Hodges moved to approve the amendments to the Rules and Regulations for the Missing in Action/Killed in Action Dependent's scholarship. Jodie Carter seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 15
Revised Rules and Regulations
Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program

This agenda item presents the revised rules and regulations for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program reflecting recent changes in state law under Acts 1014, 2197, 2011 and 2214 of 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, by the adoption of these rules and regulations presented in this agenda item, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them for the 2005-06 academic year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program.

No public comments were received on this item.

Jodie Carter expressed concerns over Act 2197 not being attached to diploma requirements for students.

Dr. Lynda Johnson requested that consideration be given to the expectation for students to pass their end of course exams and the issue of unqualified teachers.

David Leech moved to approve the amendments to the Rules and Regulations for the Academic Challenge scholarship. Jodie Carter seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 16
Revised Rules and Regulations
Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program

This agenda item presents the revised rules and regulations for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program, which reflect recent changes in state law under Acts 1014, 1241 and 2197 of 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, by the adoption of these rules and regulations presented in this agenda item, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them for the 2005-06 academic year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to

make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Governor's Scholars Program.

No public comments were received on this item.

Dr. Lynda Johnson asked if there were any criteria for designating Hispanic finalist for the Governor's Scholarship? Melissa Goff commented that while that isn't included in the legislation, they do work hard to directly contact national Hispanic scholars.

Dick Trammel moved to approve the amendments to the Rules and Regulations for the Governor's Scholars program. Kaneaster Hodges seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 17
Repeal of the Rules and Regulations
Arkansas Student Assistant Grant Program

This agenda item proposes the repeal of the rules and regulations for the Arkansas Student Assistance Grant Program, which is necessary to comply with state law under Act 2142 of 2005. In addition, the 2005 Arkansas General Assembly moved the entire appropriation for the Student Assistance Grant Program into the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant Program, which leaves no statutory funding for the program.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board repeals the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Student Assistance Grant Program.

No public comments were received on this item.

Kaneaster Hodges moved to approve the amendments to the Rules and Regulations for the Student Assistance grant. Jodie Carter seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 18
Revised Rules and Regulations
Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant

This agenda item presents revisions to the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant that are necessary to comply with Act 2129 of 2005. Most of these revisions to the prior statute are merely technical in nature. The key revision is the increase in the award amount, which has been raised from \$1,800 per year to \$2,000 per year, primarily to keep pace with rising tuition costs.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant Program, to be administered jointly by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and approved Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, by the adoption of these rules and regulations presented in this agenda item, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them for the 2005-06 academic year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant Program.

Ms. Goff yielded the floor to Dr. Ed Franklin for public comments. Dr. Franklin commended Dr. Beene, Melissa Goff, Senator Broadway, and ADHE staff, for all they've accomplished with the Arkansas Workforce Improvement grant. He added that if Arkansas is going to change our economy, it has to be done by educating our adults.

Kaneaster Hodges moved to approve the amendments to the Rules and Regulations for the Workforce Improvement grant program. Dr. Lynda Johnson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 19
Report on 2004 College-Going Rate

Mr. Ron Harrell reported on the 2004 College-Going Rate. The college-going rate measures the proportion of college students enrolling in postsecondary education in the fall semester immediately after finishing high school. Current data are based on the fall 2004 student cohort that enrolled first-time, full-time, and on-campus at an Arkansas public or independent institution after graduating from one of the state's public high schools in spring 2004. Since most college students enroll in college directly after completing high school, the percentage of high school graduates making an immediate transition from high school to college is an indicator of the total proportion that will ever enroll in post-secondary education. The percentage, therefore, reflects the accessibility of higher education as well as students' assessment of the value of attending college when compared to working, entering the military, traveling, or following other pursuits.

Agenda Item No. 20 and 21
Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

Ms. Cynthia Moten presented the Letters of Notification and the Letters of Intent to the Board. Between April 15, 2005 and July 13, 2005 the Arkansas Department of Higher Education received notice from institutions on programs that do not require Board approval for seven new certificate programs, seven new program options, four new program minors, six name changes, one new location of an existing program, two existing programs offered by distance technology, one reconfiguration of an existing degree, two consolidations of existing programs, one administrative transfer of an existing program, three collaborative programs, one academic reorganization, one new organizational unit, three deleted programs, ten deleted organizational units, and two exemptions from institutional certification, none of which require Board approval. Notification of items requiring Board approval included six certificate programs, one associate degree program, four bachelor's degree programs, and five master's degree programs. During this period the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests for recertification of 33 degree programs and initial certification for 18 degrees. The complete list of these notices appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 20-1 through 20-5 and in the Letters of Intent on pages 21-1 through 21-4 of the agenda book.

Agenda Item No. 22
Report on Annual Review of
Faculty Performance

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-63-104 and Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Board) policy require that each college and university conduct an annual performance review of faculty members. Pursuant to this Act, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) staff is required to monitor the faculty evaluation processes employed at the various institutions and report to the Coordinating Board and to the Legislative Council each year. Each institution must have on file with ADHE a plan detailing the procedures for faculty evaluation at each institution. Significant amendments to these plans are to be submitted for Board approval. Ms. Moneica West presented the Board with information on this agenda item.

Agenda Item No. 23
Report of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Chair- Phil Ford, Dr. Dan Grant, Dr. Lynda Johnson, and David Leech) presented a recommendation on the slate of Board officers for 2005-06.

The Nominating Committee nominated David Damron as the Finance Committee Chair, Dr. Dan Grant as the Academic Committee Chair, Dr. Lynda Johnson as Secretary, David Leech as Vice Chair, and Kaneaster Hodges as Chair.

Chairman Ford moved to accept the 2005-2006 nominations. Dick Trammel seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Phil Ford thanked everyone for the accolades and kind words and introduced his grandchildren. As he turned over his gavel to Kaneaster Hodges, Phil remarked that it was a privilege and an honor to do so. Chairman Hodges thanked Phil for the outstanding work he has accomplished as Chair.

Announcements

President Rankin and Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia will host the next AHECB meeting on November 4, 2005.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for public comments, which were none.

Dr. Linda Beene commended ADHE staff for their admirable work.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Betsy Thompson, Secretary

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Governor Huckabee Announces Special Election

Gov. Mike Huckabee announced Dec. 13 as the statewide special election date for Arkansas voters to decide if they wish to authorize higher education bonds and continued interstate highway rehabilitation.



"We've made a great deal of progress in Arkansas during the past decade," Huckabee said during a news conference Sept. 19 at the Governor's Mansion. "This will allow us to continue that progress with no additional taxes. Education and infrastructure improvements are keys to the economic advancement of Arkansas."

Arkansas institutions of higher education have documented more than \$110 million in critical maintenance needs. "Enrollment in state colleges and universities has increased by 34 percent since the most recent college savings bond issue in the 1990s," the Governor said.

"That's good news since we need more Arkansans to attend college and obtain degrees. But it means we must have additional classroom and library space. This will allow us to meet those needs without a tax increase." Huckabee was joined at the announcement by transportation and higher education officials from across the state.

Over 400 STAR Applicants Awarded: 40 Percent Increase in 2005-'06

The State Teacher Assistance Resource (STAR) Commission approved 408 education major applicants for 2005-2006 STAR awards, nearly 40 percent more awards than last year. For 2005, 48 teachers' student loans totaling \$168,000 are being forgiven, indicating success of the program.



STAR (www.starark.com) provides forgivable loans to qualified recipients who agree to teach in a public school located in a geographic area of the state designated as having a critical shortage of teachers or in a subject area (math, science, special education, foreign language, middle school and art) designated as having a critical shortage. Eligible Arkansas college students majoring in teacher education and others interested in teaching may receive up to \$6,000 per year.

Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller chairs the STAR Commission. Other commissioners include: Deborah Caspall, Powhatan; Ray Watley, Pine Bluff; Wesley White, Russellville; Judy Anderson, Hope; Dr. Frank Anthony, Pine Bluff; Dr. Jeanna Westmoreland, Arkadelphia; Sandra Beck, Magazine; Dr. Olin Cook, Russellville; Carolyn Brooks, Fort Smith; and Constance McDaniel, Forrest City.

ADHE and Institutions Support Operation KARE

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education supported Operation KARE (Katrina Assistance and Relief Effort), a coordinated effort involving all state agencies in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. As a part of the effort, all public universities, most public two-year colleges and some independent or private colleges offered tuition waivers for students from affected areas for the fall 2005 semester under certain conditions. Any Arkansas resident who was enrolled in any New Orleans public or private institution of higher education and returned home could enroll at participating Arkansas institutions without tuition or mandatory fee charges. Out-of-state tuition and fees were waived for students from the impacted areas of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. The institutions also organized community service projects and raised funds for hurricane victims. By late September, 287 displaced students were enrolled in Arkansas colleges or universities.

**Colleges and Universities Joined Sloan Consortium**

Seventeen Arkansas public institutions of higher learning joined the Sloan Consortium, an international association of colleges and universities committed to quality online education, offering students displaced by Hurricane Katrina the opportunity to continue their education at no cost.

In collaboration with the Southern Regional Education Board and a \$1.1 million grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the eight-week accelerated Sloan Semester program began Oct. 10. and provides a wide range of courses to serve the learning needs of students at the community college, university and graduate level, regardless of academic discipline.

Arkansas colleges and universities participating in the Sloan Semester include: Arkansas State University-Beebe; Arkansas State University-Newport; Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas; Henderson State University; North Arkansas College; Northwest Arkansas Community College; Ozarka College; Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas; Pulaski Technical College; Ouachita Technical College; Southeast Arkansas College; Southern Arkansas University-Tech; University of Arkansas Community College at Hope; University of Arkansas at Little Rock; University of Arkansas at Monticello; University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; and Arkansas State University-Mountain Home.

Career Pathways Partners Attend Workshop

More than 100 college and other adult education representatives attended the Arkansas Career Pathways Planning Workshop Sept. 20-21 in Little Rock. One of the speakers was David F. Miller, Ph.D., a social psychologist, who conducted focus groups in Little Rock and Helena to explore reactions to a program designed to provide training and educational opportunities at no cost to qualifying individuals. Miller presented the results that included:



Dr. David Miller

- In both cities, participants are excited about the program. They exhibit a strong desire to improve their lot in life, and they realize that better education and training is the key to a brighter future.
- The biggest challenge in their lives is the financial burden. Even those who have jobs outside the home find it difficult to pay their ordinary expenses, and they are vulnerable if confronted with extraordinary expenses such as medical bills or car repairs.
- The proposed program sounds too good to be true. Some who have tried to further their education have quit in despair because of the additional financial pressure from tuition and books. The idea of a tuition-free education is intriguing to all.
- Free childcare and transportation are effective in canceling out two barriers to participation.
- Residents are excited about the prospect of a personal counselor. They need all the help they can get in assessing their skills, selecting coursework and preparing for new career opportunities. They would welcome assistance in identifying and contacting prospective employers.
- The name Career Pathway resonates with participants in both cities. People clearly distinguish between a job—something you have to do—and a career—something you enjoy doing. The word “path” conjures up a mental picture of a process, a journey to a desired goal.
- Without exception, residents believe Career Pathways will add substantially to the quality of their lives and, equally important, to the future well-being of their children.

Other speakers at the conference included: Davis Jenkins, senior research associate, Community College Research Center, Chicago; Shauna King-Simms, director of Adult Education Partnerships, Kentucky Community and Technical Colleges; Beth Jefferson, director of Grants and Special Projects, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College, Ky.; Julian Alssid, executive director, Workforce Strategy Center; Elaine Baker, director of Workforce Initiatives, Community College of Denver; and Bill Ivoska, vice president for Student Services, Owens Community College, Toledo, Ohio;

Pathways staff members are Doug Miller, director; Amy Blackburn, curriculum coordinator; Lisa Fuller, management project analyst II; Mark Lane, data coordinator; Connie Nelson, finance internal auditor; and Kyla Pirani, employability certification coordinator.

Currently 646 adults are enrolled in the first semester of the Career Pathways program at Arkansas Northeastern College, Ouachita Technical College, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, Southeast Arkansas College, Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas and Arkansas State University-Newport.

New Leadership Staff Appointed

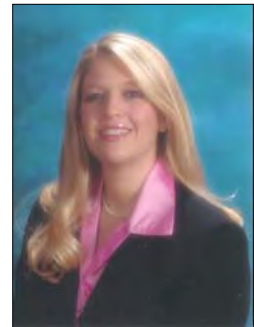
The Arkansas Department of Higher Education has appointed Doug Miller, of Hot Springs, to direct the Career Pathways Initiative for Arkansas and Janet Lawrence, of Conway, to manage the agency's financial aid department.

Miller had a previous career in the U.S. Air Force. His experience in higher education includes course development, textbook selection and curriculum design. He received the top teaching award while serving as chair and professor at the Air Force Academy. Miller has also supervised and managed multi-million dollar programs including commanding a wing of almost 7,000 people and a budget of \$486 million. His communication and leadership skills include an introduction of President George W. Bush on national television, presenting a technical paper to an international symposium in Japan, convincing national leadership to fund multi-million dollar facilities, as well as working with Arkansas employers to triple annual revenue as business development director for a local hospital. Miller holds three masters degrees in business administration, aeronautical engineering and strategic studies.



Doug Miller

Lawrence holds a juris doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville and has obtained her Arkansas law license. She has a B.A. in English education from Arkansas Tech University, where she was a magna cum laude graduate. Lawrence has also taken courses at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, as well as the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton (formerly Petit Jean Technical College). She was previously a practicing attorney at The Harper Law Office, PLLC in Monticello. Prior to working at the firm, Lawrence was an English teacher at Hector High School. She is a member of the Arkansas Bar Association and Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association.



Janet Lawrence

Arkansas will Receive Additional No Child Left Behind funds for P-16 Education Partnerships

Arkansas will receive more than \$700,000 in additional funds as part of the federal No Child Left Behind program to improve P-16 education partnerships. The U.S. Department of Education awarded the funds to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE), which will establish policies for dispersing the funds, oversee the grant and serve as an advocate for professional development and training of teachers.

The goal of this state grant program is to raise student achievement in core academic subjects through improved teaching. The federal No Child Left Behind program focuses on methods to improve teacher quality to increase school accountability and improve the course knowledge of teachers.

Requests for proposals were issued to presidents and chancellors of all public and independent colleges and universities that have approved teacher preparation programs on Sept. 8 to fund sub-grant projects in the area of teacher professional development.

Application materials for the 2005-06 No Child Left Behind Program can be accessed at <http://www.arkansashighered.com/nclb.htm>. Grant applications should be electronically submitted to Dr. Suzanne Mitchell by Friday, Nov. 18. ADHE will mail award notifications after March 1, 2006.

Concurrent Enrollment – Act 102 Panel

Interest related to concurrent enrollment courses for high school students remains at a high level. Some of the interest is centered on Act 102 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003 and the work of the Concurrent Enrollment Course Approval Panel required by statute. The panel, comprised of six members, is charged with making recommendations to ADHE and ADE regarding rules for the offering of Advanced Placement (AP) or concurrent enrollment courses, or both. Act 102 also mandates that by 2008-09, all school districts will offer one AP course in each of the four core areas of math, English, social studies and science. This requirement will be implemented over a four-year period beginning this year, 2005-06.

In addition to the panel, interest continues to focus on improving high schools and the rigor of the high school curriculum as well as college retention and graduation rates. Arkansas has been designated as one of the National Governors Association Honor States Grant recipients. This award will result in a two-year grant of \$2 million. ADHE and higher education institutions will be involved with ADE in improving Arkansas high schools in order to assist graduates in preparation for college or the workplace. Higher education has an important role to play, one of which is offering concurrent enrollment courses.

Record Enrollment Increases Reported for Fall 2005 Semester

The preliminary headcount enrollment for Arkansas colleges and universities for the fall 2005 semester was released with the largest all-time enrollment of more than 140,000 students. The report also indicates that 287 students dislocated by hurricane Katrina enrolled in Arkansas' public and independent colleges and universities.

Statewide Fall Preliminary Enrollment of On-Schedule, For-Credit Students: Total preliminary headcount enrollment is an all-time high at 141,609. This is a one-year increase of 4,267 students or 3.1 percent. This is the first time that fall semester enrollment has been above 140,000 students. Since 2001, enrollment has increased by 19,971 students or 16.4 percent. Since 1990, total enrollment public and independent colleges and universities increased by more than 55,000 students, an increase of 65 percent.

Public Colleges and Universities: Total preliminary headcount enrollment at the public institutions is an all-time high at 128,048. This is a one-year increase of 4,037 students or 3.3 percent. Since 2001 enrollment has increased by 18,957 students or 17.4 percent. Since 1990, total enrollment has increased by or 52,194 students or 69 percent.

Thirteen of the 22 public two-year colleges experienced enrollment increases. Headcount enrollment was reported at an all-time high of 47,698, a one-year increase of 1,532 students or 3.3 percent. Since 2001, enrollment in this sector has increased by 9,984 or 26.5 percent.

- Five colleges experienced one-year enrollment increases of greater than 10 percent including:
 - Arkansas State University – Newport, 18.3 percent
 - Southern Arkansas University – Tech, 16.5 percent
 - Ouachita Technical College, 15.3 percent
 - University of Arkansas Community College – Morrilton, 15.0 percent
 - Mid-South Community College, 12.7 percent
- Four other colleges experiencing one-year enrollment increases of 5 percent or more are:
 - Arkansas State University – Beebe, 9.6 percent
 - Ozarka College, 7.9 percent
 - Pulaski Technical College, 6.4 percent
 - National Park Community College, 5.0 percent

Nine of the 11 public universities experienced enrollment increases. Headcount enrollment is reported at an all-time high of 80,350, a one-year increase of 2,505 students or 3.2 percent. Since 2001, enrollment in this sector has increased by 8,973 or 12.6 percent.

- Two universities experienced one-year enrollment increases of greater than 5 percent. The leaders in this category are:
 - University of Central Arkansas, 12.9 percent
 - Arkansas Tech University, 5.5 percent
- Two other universities experienced one-year enrollment increases of 3 percent or more:
 - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 4.6 percent
 - University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 3.2 percent

Independent Colleges and Universities: Total preliminary headcount enrollment at the independent institutions is an all-time high at 13,561. This is a one-year increase of 230 students or 1.7 percent. Since 2001, enrollment has increased by 1,014 students or 8.1 percent.

Adult Education Resource Guide is Now Available

“Go Back. Move Forward,” the Arkansas education resource guide for adults, was created to help adults get the resources they need to go back to school so they can move forward with their job skills and their education. It includes information on basic adult education programs, English as a Second Language classes, GED tests, colleges and universities, financial aid, day care, rehabilitation services and workforce services.

It also includes success stories of Arkansans who went back to school. “Go Back. Move Forward” is the result of a state multi-agency effort that is part of the Pathways to Advancement project of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices.

The resource guide is being made available at colleges, adult education centers, workforce centers, various state offices and other venues throughout the state. It will be online soon, as well as translated into Spanish.

ADHE Accomplishments

Following the Director’s Report is a summary of activities and programs achieved by the Department of Higher Education from fall 2002 through summer 2005 under the direction of Dr. Linda Beene.

Activities of the Director

July 29	AHECB Meeting, MSCC
August 1	Speaker, Community Development Institute, UCA
August 9	STAR Commission Meeting Speaker, Commission for Coordination of Educational Efforts
August 10	Fay W. Boozman Naming Ceremony, UAMS
August 16	Department of Workforce Education Director Interviews
August 17	Speaker, SAUT Commencement Ceremony
August 18	Meeting with new AHECB Chair Kaneaster Hodges Honor States Grant Meeting
August 23	Meeting with new President Alan Rasco, SACC
August 25	Host Meeting with SREB Staff and Dr. ken James FOX 16 Television Interview for "Campus Connection"
September 7	AETN Board Meeting
September 11-13	State Policy Dimensions for K-12 Reform Workshop, Wisconsin
September 15	State Board of Nursing Meeting, UAFS Proposal
September 16	Speaker, Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) Meeting
September 19	Presidents and Chancellors Meeting, Governor's Mansion Speaker, Executive Council Meeting
September 20-21	Speaker, Career Pathways Workshop, Little Rock
September 22	Speaker, Joint Performance Review Committee, Heber Springs
September 27	Meeting with Faith Fields, State Board of Nursing Director Concurrent Enrollment Panel Meeting
September 28	Transitional Employment Board Meeting Speaker, ALC Higher Education Subcommittee Meeting
September 30	Speaker, Arkansas Association of County Judges, Fort Smith
October 3	Speaker, Arkansas Dean's Association, PTC
October 6	Speaker, Arkansas Association of College Registrars and Academic Officers, Wyndham Hotel
October 7	Speaker, Association of College Teachers of Economics and Business, ATU
October 10	Agriculture Center Greenhouse Dedication Ceremony, Lonoke
October 11	Workforce Investment Board Meeting Executive Council Meeting e-Corridor Meeting with Presidents and Chancellors
October 12	Meeting with WIB Local Administrators regarding Y.O.U. Program Meeting with new Department of Workforce Education Director John Wyvill
October 13	Meeting with Governor's new Press Secretary Alice Stewart
October 16-18	Speaker, AATYC Fall Conference, Hot Springs
October 22-24	Pathways to Success Conference, San Antonio
October 25	Speaker, Governor's Press Conference with Editorial Board Members
October 26	Annual Institutional Trustee Conference
October 27	ALC Higher Education Subcommittee Meeting
November 3	Speaker, Association of General Contractors
November 4	AHECB Meeting, SAU

Accomplishments
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
Fall 2002 - Summer 2005
Dr. Linda Beene, Director

PROGRAMSSTAR Commission

ADHE launched a new forgivable loan program in August 2004 — State Teacher Assistance Resource (STAR) program — to recruit teachers. A new commission chaired by Lt. Governor Rockefeller oversees this program and helps recruit future Arkansas teachers. STAR provides loans to Arkansas college students or adults wishing to change careers or those interested in becoming teachers who will commit to teaching in designated subject areas and/or in areas of the state with critical teacher shortages. The STAR program required major ADHE computer re-programming and regulation changes to a forgivable loan with collection authority if provisions are not fulfilled.

Providing a quality education for every Arkansas child is a number one priority. There must be an adequate supply of qualified teachers to work with students across Arkansas. This program addresses an ongoing problem that every state faces – a critical shortage of teachers in specific subject areas or geographic regions.

The STAR program provides a \$3,000 per year loan for students pursuing teacher licensure in math, science, special education or foreign languages. It also provides a \$3,000 per year loan for those students who agree to teach in geographic areas determined to have a shortage of teachers. For students who agree to do both, the loan will be \$6,000 per year. The STAR Commission awarded 264 loans for the 2004-05 school year and 408 for the 2005-06 school year. For 2005, 48 student loans totaling \$168,000 are being forgiven indicating success of the program. A public information project to promote the STAR program has also been implemented by ADHE staff.

Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education

Governor Mike Huckabee appointed 15 Arkansans to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education in late 2003 to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for improving colleges and universities in Arkansas. ADHE staff provided research and data. Phil Ford chaired the committee and represented the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board while Dr. Linda Beene served as an ex-officio member of the committee. The panel examined higher education systems of other states as well as the Arkansas system, and topics of focus included college participation, retention and graduation, research, funding, diversity and economic development.

The Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education met seven times between December 2003 and June 2004 and presented recommendations to Governor Huckabee to include: empowering the AHECB with authority over all state funding for higher education; more clearly defining institutional mission and scope; requiring consistency in course work transfer among institutions; changing the funding system from one based strictly on enrollment to one that also includes incentive funding for credit hours completed and institutional performance relative to stated role and scope; expanding scholarship programs, loan forgiveness programs and matching programs for research grants from non-state funds.

The Governor used several of the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations in his January 2005 State of the State Address as well as including some in his higher education initiatives for the 85th General Assembly.

Pathways to Advancement Grant

In early 2000, Pathways to Advancement was a new initiative of the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices and FutureWorks Inc. to help states expand postsecondary access and attainment for working adults. The project changes higher education policies and practices to support greater numbers of low-income or low-skilled working adults in gaining postsecondary credentials. Pathways to Advancement was supported by the Lumina Foundation for Education.

Arkansas was one of the six states selected to participate in a two-year "Action Learning Academy." NGA Center, FutureWorks and Academy faculty worked with teams of state officials to:

- Assess current workforce, welfare, education and economic development policies in light of project goals; and
- Develop and implement comprehensive strategies for overcoming individual, institutional, and public policy barriers to increase adult postsecondary access and success.

To encourage the effective engagement of states, the project provided \$50,000 over two years to each participating state to pay for their team's travel to two cross-state Academy meetings and support state-specific research, evaluation and consensus-building activities. In addition, extensive in-state technical assistance and analytical support from the NGA Center, FutureWorks and a team of consultants was available to participating states.

As part of this project, ADHE, together with the Arkansas Departments of Workforce Education, Economic Development and Human Services, the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, the Southern Good Faith Fund, sought funding from the Arkansas Transitional Employment Board for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds to develop a comprehensive program that promotes increased educational attainment for adults across Arkansas that will be known as the Career Pathways Program. Through collaboration with existing educational providers and economic development initiatives, a program will be developed that affords adults with the opportunity to be served according to their educational needs. The major objective for participants is to attain a marketable, educational credential.

The program will assist adults who need additional basic skills or are already academically prepared for college level work but lack the resources to attend college. To ensure that participants are prepared for entry/re-entry into the workforce, participants will also receive job readiness education, career counseling and employer contacts. One strategy of the NGA grant for Arkansas is to expand access to Career Pathways by replicating the pilot project offered at Southeast Arkansas College (SEARK) in Pine Bluff and adding best practices of Career Pathways programs as structured in other states. The end result will be the provision of sequential career training and job placement for low-income, TANF-eligible adults.

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) Program

The high academic standard set by the YOU curriculum produced positive results. 2003 *Stanford 9* post-test scores noted an average eight-month gain in basic skill competency for Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) participants. Participants at the University of Arkansas Monticello (UAM) boasted the greatest single gain with more than a one-year increase in Language Arts. This

marked the second year in a row that University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) retained all 14- and 15-year-old teens in the highly structured program. The YOU Follow-up Program was operational at four universities. Intervention for all YOU participants continued monthly, and data collected showed 98 percent of completers were still in school or have graduated. Three institutions hosted YOU Camps last year. Academic progress boasted average gains of 14.5 months in tested areas of math, science, English and reading. Participants at the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville posted an unprecedented average gain in reading of 4.65 years after only six weeks of instruction. Credit for student achievement is given to dedicated faculty, focused curriculum, small classes and individual instruction. In 2005, Y.O.U. camps were held at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and Southern Arkansas University. Y.O.U. participants were recognized at the annual Governor's Day Assembly at Pulaski Technical College.

Carl D. Perkins Monitoring Visit

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education conducted a Carl D. Perkins monitoring/technical assistance visit in summer 2003 focused on all phases of secondary and postsecondary Carl D. Perkins and Tech Prep programs. In addition to ADHE and Department of Workforce Education staff members who provided the monitoring team with programmatic and fiscal information about Carl D. Perkins and Tech Prep, representatives from secondary and postsecondary institutions gave presentations and participated in discussions on "What is working in Arkansas' Perkins Program." In April, 2005, official notification was received from the U.S. Department of Education that the 2003 Perkins monitoring team that visited Arkansas had no findings and required no corrective action. As of March 29, 2005, the U.S. Department of Education closed the site visit file.

"Ways In Mentor" Program

Governor Huckabee, chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), announced a new SREB online initiative in February 2004 for adults needing help to obtain more education to get a job, keep a job or earn a degree. The "Ways In Mentor" website, www.waysinmentor.org, provides specific services for adults seeking further education, including help in finding courses, applying to colleges and obtaining financial aid.

The site is the product of a partnership between the SREB and Xap Corporation and is especially designed for adults and electronic learners, providing one-stop help and resources for people who need a GED, a college course or a degree program. Similar Mentor sites have been developed in 11 SREB states and 35 states nationally. The site ties in with SREB's *Electronic Campus*, which in six years has grown to more than 8,000 courses and 380 degree programs delivered electronically from colleges and universities in all 16 SREB states.

Arkansas' active members in SREB's *Electronic Campus* at the time of announcement include: UALR, ASU, Southern Arkansas University Tech and Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas; colleges previously offering *Electronic Campus* courses are Arkansas Tech University, Ouachita Technical College, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, University of Arkansas Community College at Hope and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

I Can Learn

Governor Huckabee invited representatives of two-year colleges, local Workforce Investment Boards and public schools to a meeting in April 2004 for a presentation on *I Can Learn*, www.icanlearn.com, which offers mastery-level algebra curriculum that tracks daily progress of all students. It was designated as one of the “Promising Mathematics Programs” by the U. S. Department of Education. Many colleges around the country have found this program successful in meeting remedial math needs of students, particularly adults, entering college. Future steps include identifying possible additional locations for *I Can Learn* classrooms and funding resources. Two-year colleges including Mid-South Community College, Ouachita Technical College, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, East Arkansas Community College, Rich Mountain Community College, Arkansas State University-Mountain Home, North Arkansas Community College, and South Arkansas Community College have all been using this technology-based intermediate algebra program or will be including it into their 2005 curriculum.

Smart Core

Presentations were made in September 2003 regarding “Smart Core”, a revised core curriculum for grades 9-12 to enhance student learning outcomes and reduce the need for remediation in colleges and universities. (“Smart Core” is the same as the core curriculum required for unconditional admission to Arkansas universities and colleges.) Higher Education is working to ensure educational adequacy in high-quality teachers, curriculum and assessment systems, concurrent credit, and access to quality technology and delivery systems. The State Board of Education approved “Smart Core” in December 2003.

Grant for Prospective Teachers

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted \$733,336 to higher education institutions and partnering local education agencies in the first quarter of 2004 to improve subject matter competence and instructional skills of prospective and current Arkansas elementary and secondary school teachers. Designed to increase the number of highly qualified teachers, especially in math and science, several of the projects included activities to strengthen content and instructional skills. Other programs integrate the use of technology to increase the number of teachers served, especially those in rural areas. The programs focused on districts and schools with a high percentage of students from low-income families, or that have many non-licensed teachers. Funding was provided under Title II of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Southern Growth Policies Board Globalization Forum

Dr. Linda Beene and Dr. Ed Franklin, Director of the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, led a community forum on Globalization at Black River Technical College in Pocahontas on April 29, 2004. The results of the forum were shared with Southern leaders through the Southern Growth Policies Board, a public-private partnership of 14 states, including Arkansas. It brings balanced, innovative, and well-grounded policy advice to its member states. Its board consists of the Governors of each member state, two citizen appointees from each state, and two legislative appointees from each state. Southern Growth Policies Board prepared a report on this and other similar forum results that were presented to the governors and other Southern leaders at the June 13-15, 2004 Conference on the Future of the South.

Individuals in the group represented local business, education and government entities including the Mayor of Pocahontas, the local public school superintendent and representatives of the Chamber of

Commerce, the Industrial Training Center and the electric and banking industries. The group discussed holding a similar regional meeting which would include representatives from surrounding counties. They also discussed having presentations and dialogue about globalization at upcoming economic development and industry alliance meetings.

Hosting Annual Joint Board Meeting and Institutional Trustee Conference, 2003

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education hosted the annual joint meeting of the Higher Education Coordinating Board, the State Board of Education, and the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities, and the Trustee Conference on September 8, 2003. Beginning in the morning, Senator Jim Argue and Representative Calvin Johnson, co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Educational Adequacy and also chairs of their respective educational committees of the legislature, kicked off the joint board meeting with an analysis of the adequacy report released by the Joint Committee on September 1. The three department directors followed with proposals recommending ways to improve public education. Ray Simon of the Department of Education unveiled "Smart Core," a revised core curriculum 9-12, which he believes will reduce the need for remediation in colleges and universities. ("Smart Core" is the same as the core curriculum required for unconditional admission to Arkansas universities and colleges.) Dr. Linda Beene, Department of Higher Education, focused on the role of higher education in ensuring educational adequacy in three areas: high-quality teachers, curriculum and assessment systems, concurrent credit, and access to quality technology and delivery systems. Dr. Steve Franks of the Department of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities reinforced the Smart Core proposal by detailing successes in his department's career and technical education programs. The program for the annual Trustee Conference in the afternoon featured discussion from a panel of legislators, a panel of business and industry leaders, and a panel of presidents and chancellors on their reactions to the adequacy report.

Hosting Annual Institutional Trustee Conference, 2004

Governor Huckabee reiterated his Executive Recommendation, which was very favorable for higher education, to an audience of over 150 trustee members and presidents/chancellors of institutions as well the Higher Education Coordinating Board members on December 14, 2004 during the Annual Trustee Conference. He urged the state's colleges and university leaders to lobby the Arkansas Legislature on behalf of his proposal to increase funding for higher education by more than \$100 million over the next two fiscal years. While addressing the group, Governor Huckabee tied education with economic development, saying that the state's future rests with its ability to provide Arkansans with a proper education. Better-educated workers earn more, he said, giving the state a larger revenue base for existing taxes.

Phil Ford, Chairman of the Higher Education Coordinating Board, welcomed the audience at the Trustee Conference and introduced panel members who commented in the afternoon on the group's role in addressing higher education issues for the 2005 Session. The first panel consisted of Legislators, the second panel consisted of university and college trustee members, and the final panel consisted of college presidents/chancellors.

Annual Retention Conferences

The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and ADHE hosted the second statewide retention conference in October, 2003. This was a follow-up to the first Arkansas Higher Education Retention Conference held in Fayetteville in October 2000. Almost 40 Arkansas public and independent colleges and universities were represented at the conference by almost 300 attendees. Keynote speakers were Dr. Betsy Barefoot and Mr. John Gardner from the Policy Center on the

First Year of College. Funded in part by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the conference was to improve Arkansas retention and graduation rates by encouraging appropriate personnel on the campuses to become more familiar with current theory and best practices and implement these practices on their campuses.

AGENCY ACTIVITIES

Staff Reorganization

An agency reorganization process was conducted in July, 2003. The outcome was more efficient operation by getting similar programs together in an effort to stretch resources even further. Staff members were organized into five separate divisions including Academic Affairs led by Karen Wheeler, Institutional Finance including Financial Aid Programs led by Stanley Williams, Research and Planning led by Ron Harrell, Agency Finance led by Vikki Moore, and Research and Policy Development led by Rebekah Lee. Steve Floyd assumed the Deputy Director role of the entire agency. The Communications Coordinator as well as the Agency Fiscal Manager now report to the Director.

Arkansas Electronic Legislative Digest

The Arkansas Electronic Legislative Digest was purchased and implemented systemically by the Department of Higher Education to provide up-to-the-minute information on legislation for all Presidents and Chancellors. The Digest was provided during the Sessions both electronically and on paper each morning to those attending committee meetings and also via the Department's website. The information was very valuable and helped the higher education community stay current on legislative activities as well as convenient tracking of higher education legislation.

Mergers of Technical Institutes

In February, 2003, five mergers between technical institutes and institutions of higher education that were approved by their respective boards were brought before the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board for consideration. The technical institutes were under the administration of the Department of Workforce Education and then transferred to coordination by the Higher Education Coordinating Board upon approval to merge with existing higher education institutions. The five mergers include:

- Quapaw Technical Institute with Garland County Community College to become National Park Community College.
- Foothills Technical Institute with Arkansas State University-Beebe.
- Cotton Boll Technical Institute with Mississippi County Community College to become Arkansas Northeastern College.
- Great Rivers Technical Institute with the University of Arkansas at Monticello.
- Forrest Echoes Technical Institute with the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Building Renovations

In June, 2004, the Department's building lease was due for renewal. Staff reviewed several options for relocating and funding was offered from the building owner for renovations if the lease was renewed. The decision was made to renew the existing lease and use the funds to make improvements to the building. Bids were requested from companies for many different services. The building was professionally cleaned, new carpet was installed and the walls were painted on the third floor, all tile and wood floors were stripped and waxed, new mini blinds were installed in windows and old drapes were removed, water-damaged ceilings and walls were repaired and painted,

the conference rooms were painted and cleaned, the kitchen was sanitized and painted, and a new security system was installed on the front doors.

FINANCIAL AID

- The Academic Challenge Scholarship program for 2002 graduates was reinstated, and the application deadline for 2003 graduates was extended to July of 2003. ADHE awarded 1,722 Academic Challenge awards to the 2002 high school graduates as sophomores who were unable to receive the scholarship in their freshmen year due to state budget cuts, as well as 2,378 awards to 2003 high school graduates. A new on-line application process for the Academic Challenge Scholarship has allowed students to apply quicker than before. Funding is available for every eligible student. In December of 2003, a state legislative audit was conducted on the Academic Challenge Scholarship program. There were no audit exceptions and ADHE was commended for doing an “excellent job” in promoting and administering the program. In studies of other states, it was noteworthy that ADHE administers the program with significantly less staff than that of other states with similar programs. The 2005 General Assembly enhanced the Academic Challenge Scholarship by raising the income limits from \$50,000 to \$60,000, beginning with 2006 freshmen and raised the scholarship amount by \$500 a year for all recipients, including those currently in the pipeline. ADHE extended the application deadline to July 2005 in order to let students and families know of the enhancements. In addition, the statute was changed to reward those Academic Challenge seniors who graduate on time, by exempting them from the full-time enrollment requirement if they are on target to graduate following their eighth semester on the scholarship.
- Funding was restored for the Governor's Distinguished Scholarship program for the class of 2002. This scholarship provides \$10,000 annually in funding to students who remain in Arkansas for college and score at least a 32 on the ACT. In 2002, there were 168 high school graduates who applied for the Governor's Distinguished Scholarship. Of those, 139 stayed in Arkansas for their college education and were eligible for the restored program as sophomores. There may have been students who qualified for the scholarships but who didn't apply by the 2002 deadline, believing funds wouldn't be available. ADHE notified eligible students that \$25,000 in scholarship money was available for the remaining five semesters of their college careers. The figure is based on \$5,000 for the second semester of the sophomore year and \$10,000 per year for the junior and senior years. Governor's Distinguished Scholarships were awarded to 208 eligible 2003 high school graduates. This program was created in 1997 to encourage the state's top students to remain in Arkansas. Prior to the establishment of the program, less than 40 percent of the top students stayed in Arkansas to attend college. That number increased to 86 percent after its implementation. Legislation passed during the 2005 session increased the number of Governor's Scholarships from 25 each year to 75, which will ensure that one recipient in each Arkansas county will receive the Governor's Scholar award.
- During the 2003-05 biennium, over 500 students received the Workforce Improvement Grant designed to serve "working poor" non-traditional students. This grant was created by Act 1796 of 2003, sponsored by Sen. Shane Broadway. Previously, grant programs for adult students working in low-paying, low-skilled jobs with a desire to improve their standard of

living were minimal. To be eligible to receive the Arkansas Workforce Improvement Grant Program funds, a person must be age 24 or older, an Arkansas resident and U.S. Citizen, and he/she must exhibit financial need. The maximum award is \$1,800 per year; however, students may receive a lesser amount according to their demonstrated need. The grant is not automatically renewable; students must meet the financial need guidelines each year, as well as continue to make satisfactory progress toward a postsecondary degree. The program is open to full-and part-time students. Act 2129 of 2005 from a bill sponsored by Sen. Broadway amends the award amount from \$1,800 to \$2,000. Act 2142 of 2005 from a bill sponsored by Sen. Broadway repealed the Arkansas Student Assistance Grant program and appropriated \$3.2 million to the Workforce Improvement Grant program.

■ In April of 2004, staff published a Study of State Financial Aid Programs. The study noted that students receiving financial aid graduate at significantly higher rates than those students without state aid, and the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program has significantly changed student behavior since more students than ever are taking college preparatory courses while in high school. Several recommendations were made to enhance the programs and most recommendations came to realization in the 2005 legislative session.

Recommendations included:

- Using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to evaluate family income eligibility for the Academic Challenge Scholarship (this will help automate the application process and should provide an increase in the number of freshmen Pell Grant recipients);
- Requiring the use of electronic high school and college transcripts in evaluating scholarship eligibility (will further automate the process and improve efficiency of the programs); and
- Repealing the Student Assistance Grant Program and placing the allocated funds into the Workforce Improvement Grant Program.

■ During the 2005 legislative session, the Teacher Administrator Grant was amended and enhanced to allow for an additional means to recruit teachers into subject shortage areas. The program will now be called the Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP) and will continue to serve as a program to help teachers gain licensure and remove academic deficiencies. In addition, this program will serve as a collaborative effort with school districts to provide an incentive for existing teachers in Arkansas schools to gain licensure in a subject area. Under this program, ADHE would provide two-thirds of the cost of the education, with the school district to provide the remaining one-third of the cost, up to \$3,000 per year.

- The Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators sponsored a call-in television program on AETN in the first quarter of both 2004 and 2005 to answer questions and explain how education after high school can be financed. The program included testimonies from college freshmen and a panel of financial aid administrators from Arkansas' colleges and universities, as well as Melissa Goff representing ADHE.
- In January of 2005, a document imaging system was installed in the financial aid division. This state-of-the-art filing technology will allow staff to image over 100,000 documents that are currently processed each year. Instead of maintaining almost 60 filing cabinets full of paper, the staff will be able to access student files through their desktop computers, which

will substantially improve ADHE service to students, parents, high schools, and higher education institutions.

- In May of 2005, the Arkansas Legislative Council approved a contract with Combs & Co. that will allow ADHE to conduct a public information project that will inform students in grades 7-12 and their families of the need to take college preparatory course work in high school and the availability of scholarships if they meet all the requirements.

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCE

Need-Based Funding Model

September 2003 to June of 2004 was devoted to the development of a need-based funding model for public universities. This included a distribution methodology (based upon a need determined by the funding formula) which addressed the most serious equity issues, particularly at universities. For the first time, the funding formula includes an Academic Space Needs Model to determine the funding needs for facilities which will be critical in making capital funding recommendations. The Legislature demonstrated its strong belief that the funding model will accurately determine the needs of the universities well into the future by enacting it into law. For the first time in Arkansas history, funding for public universities will be determined by a need-based formula agreed to by the presidents and chancellors, supported by the Legislature and codified in the Arkansas Code.

Retention and Graduation Incentive

Also, for the first time, an incentive funding method has been enacted for public higher education institutions that improve or exceed their statistically determined “anticipated graduation rates.” Institutions that improve their retention rates could receive incentive funding as well.

University Growth Pool

While the two-year colleges have had a growth pool of positions for some time, the Legislature acknowledged the need during the 2005 session for a growth pool of positions for public universities by passing Act 2172. Universities will have 150 non-classified positions and 150 classified positions to meet the demands of unanticipated growth.

Higher Education Bond Program

With the assistance of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) and Senator Kaneaster Hodges, a proposal for a higher education bond issue was developed. The proposal, which must be approved by the electorate, was enacted into law. If approved, it could provide up to \$150 million in new funding for technology upgrades and facilities improvements during the next three years.

Cost Accounting

A new “Arkansas Academic Cost Accounting Executive Summary for 2003-04,” providing the relative costs of degree programs within an institution and among institutions, has been completed. The underlying program has been updated and an explanation of how the cost allocations are made within the program is now available. The Summary is required for the House and Senate Interim Subcommittee on Education.

Fact Book

Institutional Finance prepared the “Fact Book: Arkansas Public Higher Education” in the fall of 2003 and the 2003-04 version was published in September, 2005. The fact book provides historical financial and enrollment data for every institution and is valuable for determining trends over time. The fact book provides five years of data on Auxiliary and Athletic Expenditures and Income. It provides five years of Educational and General Income and Expenditure data so each institution can compare its expenditures by expenditure function to other institutions in the state. The data allows an institution to analyze and evaluate how its expenditures have varied over time. Overall, the fact book is invaluable to the institutions for self-assessment.

Facilities Audit Program

The Facilities Audit Program (FAP) was completed in the spring of 2004. It is used to conduct a biennial survey of building conditions of each institution. The results are used to develop critical maintenance funding requests and recommendations for the upcoming biennium. The survey is conducted in March/April of each even-numbered year.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRSArkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium (ARNEC)

The Associate of Applied Science in Nursing, offered via distance technology by a consortium of six two-year colleges, was approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board in October 2004. The program is designed for licensed practical nurses and licensed psychiatric technical nurses to complete a registered nursing program. Nursing theory courses are offered via interactive video and clinical instruction occurs at local healthcare facilities. Supplemental clinical instruction is provided using high-tech software for virtual clinical experiences. The six colleges enrolled 52 students in spring 2005.

Interdisciplinary/Collaborative Graduate Programs**Approved April 29, 2005**

- Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular Biosciences at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro

Approved October 22, 2004

- Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Bioinformatics jointly conferred at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)

Approved April 30, 2004

- Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Sciences and Disorders jointly conferred at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the University of Central Arkansas

Approved August 6, 2004

- Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- Master of Science in Operations Management at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Approved February 6, 2004

- Master in Public Service and Graduate Certificate of Public Service at the Clinton School of Public Service jointly conferred by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Statewide Transfer System—Act 672 of 2005

Due to the need for seamless transfer, a Statewide Transfer System Committee was formed in the fall of 2004 to begin addressing anticipated 2005 legislative initiatives. The Committee began working in November 2004 and continues to meet on a regular basis to develop a transfer system based on the State Minimum Core Curriculum. Membership is comprised of Chief Academic Officers from six universities and eight colleges. The project will be completed in three phases.

Phase 1: Identify the common courses listed by all institutions as part of the State Minimum Core Curriculum. These courses will be grouped according to discipline, and when possible, given a common ADHE identifier, and cross-referenced with equivalent courses at each institution.

Phase 2: Identify other courses listed by institutions as part of their State Minimum Core Curriculum. Faculty committees that represent various two- and four-year institutions will determine course equivalencies by identifying common student learning outcomes for the courses under consideration. Equivalent courses will be grouped by discipline, and when possible, assigned a common ADHE identifier, and cross-referenced for equivalent courses at each institution.

Phase 3: Identify other freshman and sophomore level courses that have not yet been addressed. Faculty committees that represent various two- and four-year institutions will determine course equivalencies by identifying common student learning outcomes for the courses. Equivalent courses will be grouped by discipline, and when possible, assigned a common ADHE identifier, and cross-referenced with equivalent courses at each institution.

The Committee is in Phase 2 of the three-phase project and is examining courses in the State Minimum Core for maximum transferability between all public institutions in Arkansas. ADHE staff are drafting course descriptions that will be distributed to college and university faculty for comment. After receiving general faculty comments from across the state and making needed revisions, it is anticipated that small faculty groups will convene in spring 2006 to finalize a listing of courses that will be accepted for transfer across all Arkansas public institutions.

Academic Affairs Policy Revisions

On October 22, 2004 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the updated Criteria and Procedures for Establishing New Certificate and Degree Programs and Organizational Units. Academic Affairs staff and the CAOs of both two- and four-year schools revised the Criteria and Procedures. Changes included updating definitions with much attention given to clarifying and explaining the program approval process. Distance technology instruction has been included in the policy, and guidelines were streamlined to make the process more efficient for institutions. Arkansas' policies are now comparable to those of other SREB states.

Distance Learning Consortium

Access to College Courses for Every Student Statewide (ACCESS) is a state consortium of 15 two-year colleges organized for effective development and delivery of online classes. It facilitates the utilization of web-based technologies to overcome the barriers of time and place for postsecondary

education and workforce training faced by many Arkansans. All classes are transferable between member institutions. The AATYC Distance Education webpage provides a listing of distance education courses offered by the two-year colleges. Perspective students can now search for classes by course title or by the college they would like to attend.

Distance Education Report

The “Status of Distance Education in Arkansas” was published in August 2004, and is available on the ADHE web site. The report presents updated information on the status of distance education activity at two-year and four-year public institutions excluding UAMS. Since distance education data became a part of the state-tracking database in 1999, the percent of total enrollment at two-year colleges enrolled in distance education courses has increased from 3.6 percent in 1999 to 18.2 percent in 2004. The same percent has increased from 2.5 percent in 1999 to 12.8 percent in 2004 at universities. The report contains numerous other relevant data regarding distance education at the state’s public institutions.

Graduate Education Report

The “Status of Doctoral Education in Arkansas” report was released in April 2004 and is available on the ADHE web site. Special topics included are the (a) correlation between educational attainment and earnings potential, (b) knowledge-based economic development cycle, (c) correlation between graduate education and economic development, and (d) status of doctoral education in Arkansas. Arkansas’ rank on the Progressive Policy Institute New Economy Index is also presented.

Annual Review of Faculty Performance

Results of the “Annual Review of Faculty Performance” indicated that reviews have been conducted by all institutions for the 2004-05 academic year as required by law. Reviews indicated that faculty are meeting or exceeding performance expectations and that the review process is ongoing in keeping with accreditation and AHECB policy.

Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) Rules Revision and Automation

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee rules and procedures were formally adopted by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board in February 2005, and are posted on the ADHE web site. All ICAC forms and applications can now be filed electronically. The new format features separate sections for on-site programs and distance delivery programs, the introduction of fees for ICAC-related duties, the requirement of a surety bond for certified institutions, and extensive appendices and academic definitions with detailed explanations of the various application processes.

COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS

ACT High School Feedback Report

ADHE has worked with American College Testing (ACT) to determine data elements needed for an expanded statewide ACT student success report that will contain information on high school graduates’ academic performance during their first year of college. The report will enable secondary faculty, administrators, and curriculum designers to pinpoint and address weaknesses and strengths in their curriculum and pedagogy in order to improve college preparation. Data elements will include high school GPA, first fall semester and first year college GPA for entering freshmen, class grades, and student major. Other pertinent data, such as student persistence from the first to the second

year and state scholarship information, are currently being gathered by ADHE and will be included in subsequent reports. Postsecondary institutions will begin reporting these data beginning in Summer II of the 2005-2006 academic year.

ACT Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) Content Analysis Report

In 2003, ADHE requested that ACT include more Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) data detail in annual reports issued to ADHE and public institutions. The first CAAP content analysis report was sent to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education in fall 2004. The report focuses on particular content modules for each subject tested, e.g., math is divided into pre-algebra, elementary algebra, intermediate algebra, coordinate geometry, college algebra, and trigonometry. Further, it indicates where students are scoring well (in the top 25% of their national and local cohort groups), where they are average (in the middle 50% of their national and local cohorts), and where they are falling below average (in the bottom 25% of both the national and local groups). With this information, institutions can identify general education areas in which students are performing well and those where improvement is needed. Analysis of these data enables faculty to make informed decisions with regard to curriculum adjustments and enhancement.

Education Renewal Zones (ERZ)

At the Department of Education, the Division of Education Renewal Zones (ERZ) was created by Act 106 of the 2nd Extraordinary Session of 2003 to assist schools and colleges to develop guidelines for school improvement strategic plans as well as evaluate and report ERZ activities. An ERZ consists of any public school, education service cooperative, and institution of higher education that establishes inter-local agreements in order to collaborate to improve public school performance and academic achievement. Special focus is on the state's most academically distressed public schools and smaller schools and districts. The function of the ERZ is to concentrate and coordinate resources, expertise, technical assistance, and distance technology to enhance the curriculum and professional development. The Arkansas Department of Education is charged with ERZ oversight with assistance from the ADHE staff. ERZ strategic plans are being reviewed and finalized for Year One of the grant cycle.

Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT)

The AAT degree for middle school education in the areas of math/science and language arts/social studies is now offered at all 22 two-year institutions and one university. In spring 2005, approximately 700 students were enrolled. A committee comprised of ADHE staff, chief academic officers, and other institutional staff finalized the curriculum for the AAT P-4 option, which was approved by Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board at its July 2005 meeting.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

Since October 2002 the Arkansas Higher Education Information System (AHEIS), with extensive data concerning students, courses, faculty, awards and other facets of higher education, has been heavily used for data and policy analysis supporting the decision-making process. The AHEIS system has continued to grow and evolve to address the changing landscape of higher education policy issues with pertinent and timely data providing a basis for public and independent policy analysis. (Note: Arkansas was recently recognized by the National Center for Education Statistics as one of only eight states with a data system including data on independent institutions of higher education.) The AHEIS data system is composed of more than 600 data files submitted each year

by Arkansas' 44 public and independent universities and colleges. AHEIS is also used to support the federally-mandated Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and the Southern Regional Data Exchange from which national and regional higher education studies are derived.

AHEIS is the basis for several annual statewide publications and studies and numerous ad hoc studies and reports. Statewide publications include the *Annual Fall Enrollment Book* consisting of over 50 graphs and tables pertaining to enrollment at the 44 public and independent universities, the *Annual Degrees and Certificates Awarded Book* consisting of more than 85 tables and graphs pertaining to the 44 public and independent universities and colleges, the *Annual Student Semester Credit Hour and Full-time Equivalent Enrollment Book* consisting of more than 45 tables and graphs, and the *Annual Study of Retention and Graduation Rates*. Several annual reports presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board each year are derived from the AHEIS and are included in many Board agenda items. The AHEIS data system is taking on an even greater importance as Arkansas begins to link economic growth to specific degree program clusters and high-demand occupations.

LEGISLATION

84th General Assembly, 2003

- Senate Resolution 12 requested a subcommittee of the Arkansas Legislative Council to study distribution of funds among higher education institutions. The primary focus was to learn the process and key components of the Coordinating Board's funding recommendations with the goal of solving inequities. ADHE staff presented information related to the interest of the committee in equity (usually defined as dollars funded per full-time equivalent student).
- Institutions recovered some of the funding lost after 9/11/01.
- An amendment to ADHE's biennial appropriation added three positions and \$235,000 for salaries and benefits. A second amendment restored \$100,500 each year to ADHE operating expenses.
- **Act 1463 of 2003** directed the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) to work in consultation with Arkansas colleges and universities to develop a **performance reporting system** for higher education in Arkansas. In September 2003, ADHE staff and a committee of two- and four-year institutional representatives from academic affairs, student affairs, finance, institutional research, and other campus and system administrators began working to identify data elements to include in the Performance Reporting System in keeping with the legislative mandate. ADHE reviewed and analyzed higher education performance reporting systems used in other states and incorporated the best aspects of those plans. The Performance Reporting Committee completed its work in April 2004. ADHE staff presented suggested data elements to the Legislative Liaisons in May 2004 and the Executive Council in June 2004 for their review. Recommended changes were made and presented to the Performance Reporting Committee in late June 2004. More than 150 data elements were identified by the higher education community for possible inclusion in the Performance Reporting System. Some data elements were dropped from consideration because there is no standard objective means to report outcomes, while others were thought to be too limited in focus. As proposed, the higher education performance reporting system is designed to provide the General Assembly and the public with information about public institutions.

The information will assist policy makers and prospective students and their parents to judge the extent to which public institutions are effectively and efficiently accomplishing their missions. Objective data will be reported on an institutional, state, and national level to provide information about Arkansas' performance in the following areas:

- Participation
- Preparation
- Affordability
- Workforce Development and Customized Training
- Educational Outcomes

The Performance Reporting System was approved by the Legislative Council as well as the House and Senate Education Committees prior to the 2005 legislative session.

- A bill to establish a pre-paid tuition plan in Arkansas was referred for interim study. The plan would guarantee that contributors could lock-in future tuition at current levels through the plan's market performance. The tuition rate guarantee would be backed by the state, so that in the event that a gap occurs between the market performance of contributions and future tuition costs, the state would make up the difference.
- \$3.2 million was appropriated for UALR's Cyber College.
- The two-year college position growth pool was approved to consist of 100 classified positions up to Grade 26 that are to be used by two-year colleges, with the recommendation of ADHE and approval of the Personnel Committee and Legislative Council, if their personnel needs exceed their number of approved positions because of excessive and unanticipated growth.
- The Personnel Committee approved 721 new provisional positions for use by public institutions with grant funding.
- Act **1791 of 2003** created the Two-Year College and Technical Study Committee to make recommendations to the AHECB on the mission, role and scope of the technical institutes and two-year colleges. **Kaneaster Hodges represented the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Dr. Linda Beene represented ADHE, and Dr. Coy Grace and Dr. Janet Smith were also members.** The Committee's final report, "Moving Forward," included the history of the state's current system of colleges and universities; an overview of technical institutes and two-year colleges; an examination of the current system of institution funding; mission, role and scope of the institutions; and P-16 partnerships.
- Under **Act 109 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003**, ADHE is responsible for staff support for the Commission for Coordination of Education Efforts (ACCEE). Membership includes several higher education representatives, four of whom were appointed by the Presidents Council. They are: Dr. Charles Dunn, Dr. Milo Shult, Dr. Glen Fenter, John Barnes, and Florine Tousant-Milligan. Other membership positions must be appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore or other organizations. Three subcommittees (Alignment, Finance and Credit) were created to address the tasks listed in legislation. The Commission elected officers and reviewed several Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) resources. The ACCEE meets quarterly. In March 2005, Joan Lord, SREB policy director, made a presentation regarding college readiness and policies across SREB states. She highlighted P-16 efforts of Kentucky, Georgia and Louisiana. Ideas emphasized for Arkansas' consideration were: teacher preparation; clear definitions of college and work success; dual credit/concurrent enrollment; student information systems/tracking; and student

nurturing programs. Some states are using assessment tools as instruments to aid students in college readiness. Thus far, each individual state has developed its own tool, which is an expensive endeavor. Lord recommended that the ACCEE members identify issues where a significant difference could be made quickly, such as teacher support and alignment of curriculum across the state. She also stressed the importance of making as many changes as possible through policy rather than statute, because the process will be one of trial and error.

- **Act 102 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003** created the Concurrent Enrollment Course Approval Panel to “ensure that each student has an adequate education . . . and access to a rigorous and substantially equal curriculum.” Each school district is required to provide high school students with the opportunity to enroll in at least one advanced placement course in the four core areas of English, math, science and social studies. The legislation requires the appointment of three persons by the director of the Department of Education and three persons appointed by the director of the Department of Higher Education. Appointments include Dr. Joel Anderson, chancellor, University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Dr. Barry Ballard, president, Ouachita Technical College; James Brown, Central High School; Dr. Glen Fenter, president, Mid-South Community College; Barbara Prichard, director of Gifted & Talented Education, Fayetteville Public Schools; and Jaime Rollans, Mills High School.

The Concurrent Enrollment Approval Panel met in October 2004 and named Dr. Fenter as chairman. Scott Smith, general counsel for the Department of Education, highlighted provisions of Act 102. Concurrent courses do not count toward the 38 units districts must offer, but they do count toward the 21 units required for graduation. A Department of Education representative stated that 3,759 Arkansas students received college course credit while in high school and 739 received credit from out-of-state colleges or universities. It was cited that the state paid for the training of 700 AP teachers in 2003, 500 in 2004, and also pays for most of the exams. Dr. James said that in some schools the numbers of courses and students will determine whether a school can sustain AP and concurrent classes and will become a major issue. Dr. Fenter discussed options for a model that would open up all courses for students. Discussion included the value of AP vs. college-credit courses. Dr. Fenter suggested research of other states facing this same issue would be helpful as well as trends in AP and concurrent enrollment statewide and nationally. Dr. Steve Floyd presented six agreed-upon issues from a meeting of state officials, school superintendents, and college and university representatives about AP and concurrent enrollment. Neither the State Board of Education nor the AHECB have adopted the issues, nor was the committee asked to consider this list as part of any recommendation that the group might adopt.

85th General Assembly, 2005

Executive Recommendation for 2005 Legislative Session

The Executive Recommendation was presented to the Legislature regarding higher education and the institutional budget requests in November, 2004. The Executive Recommendation for 2006-07 was \$6,946,558 less than the AHECB's recommendation. However, the forecasted increases in the Education Excellence Trust Fund (EETF) and Workforce 2000 (WF2000) fund meant that the total biennial funding for higher education, if fully realized, will slightly exceed the Board's recommendation. Some institutions could receive less than the Board recommendation if they are not participants in one or both of the EETF and WF2000 funds.

The recommendations were a major step in addressing equity issues for the institutions on a four-year schedule. This is the first time in recent memory that the Executive Recommendation has been so close to the AHECB's recommendation. The Governor urged the state's college and university leaders to influence the Arkansas Legislature on behalf of his proposal to increase funding for higher education by more than \$100 million over the next two fiscal years.

Governor Huckabee's proposal would increase funding for state colleges and universities by \$53.9 million in fiscal 2006 and another \$49.2 million in fiscal 2007, part of the institutions' proposed \$1.3 billion Education and General Budget for the biennium. That request would increase funding for higher education by eight percent annually, but it comes at a time of tough competition for state dollars. Governor Huckabee said there are funds available in the state's budget for higher education, and he pointed to forecasts of an improving state economy that will enhance public coffers.

He also pointed to a new funding formula agreed upon by the AHECB to fund institutions the same amount for teaching the same class. Such an agreement has never been reached before among leaders of the state's colleges and universities. He tied education with economic development. The state's future rests with its ability to provide Arkansans with a proper education. Better-educated workers earn more, giving the state a large revenue base for existing taxes.

Arkansas Higher Education institutions received the largest increase in state funding in almost a decade. They received an estimated \$41.25 million in total new funding for fiscal year 2006 and an additional \$39.7 million for fiscal year 2007 based upon the Department of Finance and Administration's April forecast. This amounts to almost \$81 million in new funding for the biennium. Additionally, institutions are expected to receive some funding from the General Improvement Fund, which can be used for one-time purposes rather than base operating fund.

Higher Education has not received significant funding for capital improvements since 1997. However, for the new biennium, the legislature approved taking a new higher education bond issue to the electorate for a vote. If approved by the electorate, these bonds could provide up to \$150 million for technology upgrades, facilities maintenance and renovations, and new construction relating to need. Depending on when the election to approve the sale of the bonds is held, these funds could be available in fiscal year 2007.

Governor Huckabee included higher education as one of his three major initiatives for the 2005 Regular Session. The following are acts pertaining to ADHE passed in the 85th General Assembly. The Governor's Legislative Package bills are denoted with asterisks.

- Act 265* filed by Sen. Higginbotham requires establishment of "Centers of Excellence," defined as partnerships of two or more institutions of higher education working with regional economic developers to address the workforce education and training needs of the regions.
- Act 502* filed by Sen. Capps requires the Department of Economic Development to provide a yearly evaluation of the state's overall economic goals for use by the Higher Education Dept. in conducting a review process relating to economic needs of the state.
- Act 672* filed by Sen. Trusty creates a statewide policy related to transfer agreements among colleges and universities.
- Act 971 filed by Rep. Abernathy authorizes two-year colleges to compensate employees for unused sick leave at retirement.

- Act 1014 filed by Rep. Mack requires college advisors to provide students with a signed, written eight-semester course of study recommending a sequence of course requirements for completion of a bachelor's degree.
- Act 1045 filed by Sen. Hill appropriates \$11,650,000 to institutions of higher education from the General Improvement Fund for critical maintenance, equipment and library resources.
- Act 1241 filed by Rep. Dickinson to increase the maximum number of Governor's Scholarships and requires one \$4,000 scholarship be awarded to a student from each county.
- Act 1256 filed by Rep. Goss allows higher education institutions to give additional consideration in admission to the nursing or health career program to applicants from rural, medically underserved areas of the state who are interested in serving that community.
- Act 1282* filed by Sen. Baker and Rep. Maloch authorizes the Development Finance Authority to issue higher education general obligation bonds for technology and facility improvements at state institutions of higher education.
- Act 1358* filed by Sen. Higginbotham and Rep. Kenney appropriates \$20 million to the Higher Education Department from the General Improvement Fund for the creation of regional Centers of Excellence at Arkansas Colleges and Universities.
- Act 1429* filed by Sen. Bisbee creates a funding formula for allocation of funds to universities.
- Act 1430 filed by Sen. Womack prohibits credit card solicitations in an academic building or within 100 feet of an academic building on a university or college campus.
- Act 1468 filed by Sen. Horn expands the eligibility for graduate nurse study loans to include applicants who desire to practice "advanced practice nursing" in an Arkansas community.
- Act 1497* filed by Sen. Capps and Rep. Saunders appropriates \$85,000 to ADHE from the General Improvement Fund for conducting a statewide role and scope study.
- Act 1531 filed by Rep. Abernathy requires the Higher Education Department to establish a growth pool of 200 nonclassified positions, and requires the Finance and Administration Department to establish a growth pool of 100 classified positions, for use by colleges.
- Act 1760* filed by Sen. Bisbee creates a funding formula for distributing state funds to the two-year colleges.
- Act 1795* filed by Sen. Bookout limits college and university spending for academic, merit and performance scholarships to 30 percent of the institution's unrestricted educational, general tuition and fee income.
- Act 1869 filed by Rep. J. Hutchinson increases the number of authorized motor vehicles for various institutions of higher education.
- Act 1973 filed by Sen. Baker makes contributions to the Arkansas Tax-Deferred Tuition Savings Program deductible from state income tax.
- Act 1974* filed by Sen. Bryles creates a funding incentive program for institutions of higher education based on graduation and retention rates.
- Act 2011 filed by Sen. Jeffress sets income limits for families of students qualifying for Academic Challenge scholarships and increases the amount of the award.
- Act 2127 filed by Sen. Broadway expands the current Missing in Action/Killed in Action Survivor Scholarship Program to include spouse or child.
- Act 2129 filed by Sen. Broadway amends the Workforce Improvement Grant program which is targeted to the working poor and non-traditional students. The award amount limit is raised from \$1,800 to \$2,000.
- Act 2142 filed by Sen. Broadway repeals the Arkansas Student Assistance Grant program and appropriates \$3.2 million to the Workforce Improvement Grant program.

- Act 2172* filed by Rep. Lamoureux requires the Higher Education Department to establish a growth pool of 150 nonclassified positions, and requires the Finance and Administration Department to establish a growth pool of 150 classified positions, for use by universities.
- Act 2195 filed by Rep. Stovall provides funding for the AATYC Workforce Training Consortium and AATYC Career Assessment Consortium via ADHE.
- Act 2196 filed by Rep. Mahony creates the Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP) and revamps the current Teacher Administration Grant Program to provide forgivable loans to current teachers who want to pursue licensure in a critical subject shortage area.
- Act 2197 filed by Rep. Mahony to collect special reports on students who pass courses with a “B” or above, but fail the end-of-course proficiency tests.
- Act 2200 filed by Rep. Thyer amends the number of provisional positions for institutions of higher education.
- Act 2203 filed by Rep. Petrus requires Arkansas high schools and colleges to provide electronic transcripts to ADHE for use in determining scholarship eligibility by May 1, 2007.
- Act 2214 filed by Rep. Burris sets income limits for families of students qualifying for Academic Challenge scholarships and increases the amount of the award.
- Act 2288 filed by Sen. Broadway requires an adjustment of athletic transfer from unrestricted Education and General budget based upon the consumer price index.

***Denotes Governor’s Package Bills**

REPORT OF 2004-2005 INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

Act 245 of 1989 (A.C.A. §6-62-106) directed the Coordinating Board to develop and establish uniform accounting standards and procedures for reporting revenues and expenditures. Based on these standard definitions and formats, the Coordinating Board is to collect the financial data and provide a uniform report of each institution's athletic revenues and expenditures for the previous fiscal year to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee and the public by November of each year.

Athletic revenues and expenditures for 2004-05 for each institution have been collected according to uniform standards and compiled in a summary report that follows this agenda item. An explanation of the reporting format follows:

1. The athletic report details revenues and expenditures for each institution.
2. Athletic revenues will match athletic expenditures unless there is an ending fund balance.
3. Act 366 of 1991 (A.C.A. § 6-62-804) prohibits athletic deficits. A designated athletic fee must be charged to the students by the institution if athletic-generated revenues (i.e., ticket sales, media/tournament/bowl, concessions/program sales, and game guarantees), foundations/clubs and other private gifts, other athletic income, auxiliary profits, and the allowable educational and general transfer do not cover the total expenditures for athletics.
4. In accordance with the uniform reporting and auditing of intercollegiate athletic expenditures of state-supported institutions of higher education, maintenance of facilities expenditures related to all intercollegiate teams and spirit groups, excluding bands, shall be reported as actual costs of operating such athletic facilities or a proration of actual costs based on athletic usage (A.C.A. § 6-62-807).

The 2004-05 total amount of athletic expenditures reported by state-supported four-year institutions is \$77,559,342 and two-year institutions is \$215,636. The statewide total is \$77,774,978, an increase of \$5,241,446 (7.2%) from \$72,533,532 in 2003-04.

A comparison of 2004-05 actual expenditures to 2004-05 budgeted revenues certified to the Coordinating Board in July 2004 is also illustrated at the bottom of the summary chart. Certified budgeted revenues for 2004-05 totaled \$69,917,284 for all institutions. Total actual expenditures for 2004-05 for all institutions exceeded this certified amount by 11 percent. Actual expenditures varied from the Board of Trustees-certified budgeted revenue by a range of 22 percent over the budgeted amount at Henderson State University to 6 percent under the budgeted amount at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and North Arkansas College. Differences between actual expenditures and budgets were financed using other athletic income, other auxiliary profits, and the E&G transfer.

The following resolution is presented for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Report of 2004-05 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board authorizes the Director to transmit the Report of 2004-05 Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures to the Legislative Joint Auditing Committee according to the provisions of Act 245 of 1989.

Summary of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures, 2004-05

INSTITUTIONS		UAF	ASUJ	UALR	UAPB	UCA	ATU	HSU	SAUM	UAFS	UAM	4-yr TOTAL	NAC
R E V E N U E S	Ticket Sales	20,723,262	798,150	444,922	494,448	63,867	88,885	27,238	28,945	82,107	25,401	22,777,224	7,003
	Media/Tournament/Bowl	11,280,291	74,932	531,605	0	41,421	27,682	0	0	2,000	0	11,957,931	0
	Concessions/Program Sales	2,933,629	106,411	2,026	0	11,147	0	28,913	28,315	33,577	0	3,144,018	0
	Game Guarantees	840,024	1,365,850	165,800	352,000	0	28,571	52,760	6,800	810	78,750	2,891,365	0
	Foundations/Clubs & Other Private Gifts	2,750,000	601,495	163,591	426,250	75,000	79,393	26,995	0	2,250	0	4,124,974	7,825
	Student Athletic Fees	0	2,489,032	2,543,656	1,164,315	2,937,652	1,643,245	1,022,249	771,670	737,104	414,210	13,723,133	0
	Other Income	5,271,263	1,028,170	171,477	265,327	15,528	11,522	22,254	7,102	2,375	8,535	6,803,554	35,471
O T H E R F I N A N C I N G S O U R C E S	CWSP Federally Funded Portion	8,164	0	0	0	60,410	20,668	8,709	0	0	29,602	127,553	0
	CWSP Fed. Portion as % Total CWSP	80%	0%	0%	0%	100%	75%	56%	0%	0%	100%	89%	0%
	Other Auxiliary Profits	500,000	2,227,390	4,150	0	0	52,380	575,035	175,597	327,407	878,762	4,740,721	64,219
	Transfers from Unrestricted E&G	0	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	736,092	750,000	750,000	0	508,000	5,744,092	75,000
	Prior Year Fund Balance	1,079,886	0	0	558,361	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,638,247	26,118
Transfers from Other Funds/Balance Forward (Inclusive of Interfund Borrowing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	368	0	0	0	368	0	
Total Revenues for Athletics		45,386,519	9,441,430	4,777,227	4,010,701	3,955,025	2,688,438	2,514,521	1,768,429	1,187,630	1,943,260	77,673,180	215,636
E X P E N D I T U R E S	Salaries	8,874,470	2,602,649	1,422,691	980,635	892,996	618,319	545,749	339,037	278,694	387,415	16,942,655	44,126
	Budgeted FTE Positions	197.00	72.00	33.00	29.50	22.65	16.92	12.90	6.00	6.88	9.75	406.60	0.95
	Fringe Benefits	2,209,878	693,779	365,540	290,427	255,166	176,753	201,437	101,290	87,636	101,246	4,483,152	7,999
	Fringe Benefits as a % of Salaries	24.9%	26.7%	25.7%	29.6%	28.6%	28.6%	36.9%	29.9%	31.4%	26.1%	26.5%	18.1%
	Extra Help	1,037,924	82,468	114,183	60,914	66,558	105,222	0	47,051	27,464	32,993	1,574,777	11,725
	CWSP	10,205	0	0	0	60,410	27,558	15,516	0	0	29,602	143,291	0
	Game Guarantees	2,011,086	574,454	83,500	0	29,921	6,700	0	0	2,025	11,750	2,719,436	0
	Athletic Scholarships	4,052,409	2,444,751	1,207,712	912,222	1,009,185	757,166	1,025,342	611,938	430,112	586,480	13,037,318	47,659
	Medical Insurance/Injury Claims	507,974	135,467	31,647	57,470	185,804	57,062	142,866	119,844	47,008	156,841	1,441,983	11,515
	Travel	4,356,456	1,308,829	591,899	535,085	426,983	327,585	162,149	253,225	95,511	105,121	8,162,843	35,317
	Equipment	187,973	10,239	97,247	0	0	5,361	15,118	28,103	0	0	344,041	0
	Concessions/Programs	868,534	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,617	33,577	0	916,728	0
	M & O	6,075,628	1,382,705	671,089	612,902	267,250	202,444	222,436	189,882	51,504	315,593	9,991,433	36,481
	Facilities	4,429,741	206,089	191,718	0	312,822	184,159	183,908	63,442	52,614	187,038	5,811,531	19,603
	Debt Service	5,531,382	0	0	561,046	439,473	98,963	0	0	0	0	6,630,864	0
Other Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	15,765	0	0	81,485	29,181	126,431	1,211	
OTHER FINANCING	Transfers to Other Funds/Accounts	5,232,859	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,232,859	0
Total Expenditures for Athletics		45,386,519	9,441,430	4,777,227	4,010,701	3,946,568	2,583,057	2,514,521	1,768,429	1,187,630	1,943,260	77,559,342	215,636
Fund Balance		0	0	0	0	8,457	105,381	0	0	0	0	113,838	0
2004-05 Budgeted Revenue Certified July 2004		38,263,211	9,527,508	4,755,203	4,286,983	3,924,000	2,432,200	2,062,980	1,640,359	1,100,320	1,695,005	69,687,769	229,515
% Dif. Between Bud. Revenue & Expenditures		-19%	1%	0%	6%	-1%	-6%	-22%	-8%	-8%	-15%	-11%	6%

HIGHER EDUCATION BOND PROGRAM PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Higher Education Bond program will offer the availability of approximately \$150 million to be expended for capital projects. The actual amount available cannot be determined until the pricing of the bonds takes place because of the uncertainty of several factors, including interest rates on the bonds. The amount available will be impacted by the cost of the bonds required to defease the existing issue that could cost more than the \$100 million allocated for that purpose.

All projects are educational and general projects. No funds will be used on projects relating to the auxiliary enterprises of the institutions (residence halls, intercollegiate athletics, etc).

Institutions of higher education will recognize both monetary and intangible benefits from the implementation of this bond issue. The monetary benefit derives from the present value of the bond proceeds relative to the same dollars at some future bond maturity date, or a comparable amount received over a period of years which is often the scenario for receiving funds for a project from the General Improvement Fund. Although a less tangible benefit, the immediate availability of funds for a project, as opposed to delaying the project completion because of uncertainty concerning the availability of funds, can offset rapidly increasing construction costs. The less tangible benefits develop from the immediate availability of resources to construct or renovate facilities and to upgrade technology and equipment for immediate use. These benefits allow the institutions to serve additional students and to strengthen the academic programs by providing appropriate facilities and technology. These factors also contribute to the protection of academic program accreditation, the enhancement of institutions' ability to attract grants and research funding and the enhancement of the public perception of successful institutions of higher education.

Following the December 13, 2005 bond election, institutions will be surveyed to determine each institution's schedule of needs for funds. This schedule will determine the timing for the sale of bonds. Since institutions have only three (3) years in which to spend the proceeds of the bond issue, bonds must be sold on a schedule that will provide the funds to institutions as needed.

The sale of bonds for defeasing the existing bond issue could occur as early as January 2006. The sale of the first bonds, which would provide part or all of the \$150 million for the proposed projects, could occur as early as March of 2006. The amount of the first issue of bonds is contingent upon the institutions' timeline for need of funds.

The proposed projects submitted for the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approval involve new construction, major renovations, critical maintenance, technology infrastructure improvements, instructional technology upgrades, and large integrated software systems necessary to meet information requirements mandated by the legislature, as well as, critical campus information needs. The projects submitted represent each institution's funding priorities for the funding allocated by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board at the July 29, 2005 meeting.

EXPENDITURE PROCEDURES FOR INSTITUTIONS USING PROCEEDS FROM BONDS ISSUED UNDER ACT 1282 OF 2005

To ensure compliance with state accounting and purchasing procedures, and to meet the records requirements that will ensure the tax-free status of bond earnings for investors in Higher Education Bonds (HEB), institutions must follow the procedures outlined below for all expenditures of HEB proceeds.

In general, the following rules apply to **all** HEB expenditures:

1. HEB funds may be expended only for projects that relate to the educational and general mission of the institution. Funds may **not** be spent for equipment or facilities relating to auxiliary enterprises such as dormitories, bookstores, or intercollegiate athletics.
2. The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board encourages each institution to establish a maintenance reserve fund for new construction completed with HEB funds. Each institution should set aside from institutional funds an annual amount equal to 1% of the buildings' current replacement value to provide for future maintenance needs of the buildings.
3. The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommends that institutions demonstrate an effort to include minority contractors and subcontractors in maintenance, renovation, and construction projects.
4. Institutions may **not** reimburse themselves for expenditures made prior to the issuance of the series of bonds from which the funds are provided. Invoices to be paid from the proceeds of a particular series must be dated after the date of delivery of that series' proceeds to the State Treasury.
5. HEB funds are **not** disbursed directly to the institution; they are held in an appropriation established in a Fund (Previous issues were in Fund TBH), which will be available for payment of vouchers after the procedural requirements have been satisfied. Interest earnings on unspent amounts

do not accrue to the institution, but to the Fund (TBH) for distribution among institutions for additional projects.

6. Federal guidelines require that bond proceeds from each series of bond sales be spent within three (3) years of the delivery of the series' proceeds to the State Treasury.
7. Computer software, when bid, pre-loaded, invoiced and inventoried as an integral part of a new computer system, will be an allowable purchase, along with the computer hardware, using HEB funds. This assumes the purchase meets all other requirements for capitalization.
8. Large integrated software information systems representing a long-term investment (integrated student information systems-financial records systems, physicians' orders systems, pharmacy records systems, etc.) will be eligible expenditures from the HEB issues provided the life expectancy exceeds five (5) years. All hardware and software costs associated with the connection of institutions to the e-Corridor are eligible expenditures for HEB funds.
9. Typical PC software packages are not eligible for the expenditure of HEB funds.

HEB TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES

HEB requisitions and vouchers for expenditures in this category must be submitted together to ADHE. **Each requisition must have the original signature of the institution's Chief Fiscal Officer. Copies are unacceptable.** Upon approval of the purchases made in these categories, the ADHE staff will sign the requisition forms and forward the documents to DF&A.

The Requisition Form represents a certification by the institution's Chief Fiscal Officer that equipment and technology purchases meet all guidelines and conform to the Projects approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

1. Requisition Forms must be submitted with all vouchers. When several vouchers are submitted for an expenditure category at one time (for example technology or equipment) **one requisition form may be submitted for the total of the attached vouchers in that expenditure category.** Please include a summary sheet listing all vouchers with a total of the vouchers. **The amount on the Requisition Form must equal the total of all vouchers.**

If some of the items on an invoice are being paid for from HEB funds, and other items are to be paid for from other funds, be sure to include a DF&A-Accounting Office cross reference form with the HEB Voucher.

2. Vouchers are to be payable to vendors and submitted only after receiving the items. Invoices must be dated after the date that the specific bond series proceeds were deposited in the State Treasury.
3. Submit original signed vouchers with supporting documentation, including purchase orders and invoices. For payment of use tax from HEB funds, a Requisition Form for the amount of the use tax voucher will require a copy of the invoice(s) on which the use tax is to be paid as supporting documentation that the item(s) was originally purchased with HEB funds.
4. Eligible purchases include “capitalizable” equipment for **instruction, clinical, or research purposes only**. Capitalizable equipment has a minimum cost of \$2,500, including the costs necessary to get it installed and operational, and has a minimum life expectancy of two (2) years. Some items costing less than the minimum cost per unit, such as desks, classroom chairs, microscopes, etc., may be capitalized as a group if the total cost is in excess of the minimum.

NOTE: All capital equipment purchased with HEB funds must be inventoried by the institution in accordance with the laws and procedural requirements of the State of Arkansas

5. Computer software other than that specifically identified in the Implementation Plan is, by DF&A definition, coded as a consumable supply, an M&O expenditure, and as such is not eligible for the expenditure of HEB funds.

EXCEPTION: When a computer system is bid and purchased with the operating system software and any additional required software pre-loaded as an integral part of the computer system and the entire amount is invoiced as the cost of the computer system, without the software being broken out as a separate and identifiable cost, and the entire cost of the computer system is added to the institution’s inventory, then it will be an eligible expenditure from HEB funds.

Computers and their components are required to meet the minimum cost and life expectancy criteria for “capitalizable” items.

NEW CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATIONS AND CRITICAL MAINTENANCE

Some earlier HEB issues required a Requisition Form in addition to the Method of Finance (MOF). Such Requisition Forms are no longer required for new

construction, renovation, or critical maintenance expenditures (character code "05" and "32").

1. A Method of Finance (MOF) must be approved by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) and the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A), in accordance with all the requirements established by state laws and procedures for similar projects paid from other fund sources.

After each bond sale institutions will be notified of the amount of proceeds deposited in the State Treasury for their projects. Institutions may receive money for projects in these categories in multiple stages. Therefore, it will be necessary to submit an MOF for the amount of the HEB funding available with the understanding that the MOF will be revised, as funding is made available from future bond sales.

MOF's for renovation and new construction projects which use HEB funds will be approved only for those projects specifically approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and only for the amount of the currently available funds.

2. MOF's for critical maintenance projects may be submitted for any bona fide maintenance need of an educational and general facility on the campus. Institutions are not restricted to specific buildings included in the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board's recommendation.
3. A voucher may be issued only after an MOF has been approved for the project and must be made payable to the vendor except in those cases where "in-house" labor is used to complete a project. In that case, the institution may make a voucher payable to itself for labor costs only. Such vouchers are to be submitted in accordance with the normal procedures.
4. Upon the completion of a renovation or new construction project, an institution should submit copies of project closing documents to ADHE. These include, but may not be limited to, Certification of Project Completion, Release of Liens, and, if applicable, the Consent of Surety.
5. If, at the completion of the project, funds remain unencumbered in the institution's HEB fund balance, the institution may submit the above documents and request the ADHE staff to transfer the balance to the institution's equipment, technology, critical maintenance or construction accounts.

Proposed Higher Education Bond Projects

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$1,398,710 is provided for expenses related to providing for the connection of Arkansas State University-Jonesboro to the e-Corridor.

Wilson Hall Replacement - New Construction. An amount up to \$7,601,290 is provided to build a replacement for Wilson Hall for classroom and teaching laboratories essential to meeting current and future needs of enrollments at Arkansas State University. The facility will house the departments of English, Philosophy, History, Political Science, Languages, Criminology, Sociology, Social Work and Geography. The proposed facility will provide for the construction of 120,000 square feet of high technology classrooms, teaching laboratories and instructional spaces. Each of these spaces will utilize 'state of the art' equipment and furnishings in optimal room sizes and configurations to enhance the methodology faculty and students use to communicate information, solve problems, and interact in time and space.

Arkansas Tech University

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$926,108 is provided for expenses related to providing for the connection of Arkansas Tech University to the e-Corridor.

Academic Classroom Building - New Construction. An amount up to \$6.0 million is provided for the construction of an Academic Classroom Facility, which will include classrooms and faculty offices. The square-footage of the building is estimated at approximately 99,000 square feet. This classroom will be utilized for lecture classes and will need to be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and instructional communications systems.

Arkansas Valley Technical Institute - Critical Maintenance. An amount up to \$61,200 is provided for critical maintenance projects. The project is to restructure the Collegiate Center roof that has leaked since its original construction in 1994. All efforts have failed to correct the problem. An architect will be employed to redesign the roof structure.

Arkansas Valley Technical Institute Instructional Technology - Technology. An amount up to \$105,000 is provided for Instructional technology improvements. The project involves updating equipment in three technology program areas: Collision Repair, Auto Service Technology, and Automated Maintenance Technology.

Arkansas Valley Technical Institute Maintenance Building - New Construction.

An amount up to \$407,692 is provided for the construction of a 6,000 square-foot maintenance building at AVTI. The facility would include handicapped accessible restrooms, equipment storage, tool room, supply storage, a small office space, paint and solvent storage and an equipment repair work area. The project would serve all program areas and permit the purchase of supplies in larger quantities resulting in savings on supply costs.

Henderson State University

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$1,067,020 is provided for expenses related to providing for the connection of Henderson State University to the e-Corridor.

Technology Infrastructure Upgrades - Technology and New construction.

An amount up to \$2,932,980 is provided for technology upgrades at Henderson State University. The project will upgrade the technological infrastructure in multiple areas and to construct a new 18,000 square-foot campus technology center to bring together the current patchwork of technological services. No facility is available for renovation, so new construction offers the best solution to meet this critical need. The university's data network will be upgraded from 100MBs to 1,000MBs to support the increasing demands on the network. The project will include a wireless network for the entire campus that will be accessible in all buildings and on campus grounds. All servers and the campus communications systems will be upgraded. The number of multimedia stations campus wide will be increased, and stations will be outfitted with remote monitoring and management via the campus network from a centralized console to improve the integrity of the system.

Southern Arkansas University

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$1,067,020 is provided for expenses related to providing for the connection of Southern Arkansas University to the e-Corridor.

University Science Center – New Construction.

An amount up to \$2,432,980 is provided for the construction of a 60,000 square-foot University Science Center. This project will consolidate and house all of the science programs and laboratories (except nursing and agriculture). Renovation of existing facilities, in this case, is not appropriate because the current science classes are actually housed in three different buildings in order to accommodate the growth of these programs. There are no back-up laboratory facilities available that can simultaneously support instructional needs to permit renovation. The main laboratories are located in Overstreet Hall (the main administration building) built in 1945, which makes them even more difficult to modernize.

University of Arkansas – Fayetteville

NanoScience and Technology Building – New Construction. An amount up to \$16.0 million is provided for the construction of a 100,000 square-foot NanoScience and Technology facility. The proposed project is to build a new state of the art nanoscience and engineering facility to serve Arkansas and the World. This project is a revision of the original 2005-07 Capital Request whose three highest priorities were for renovation of Chemistry, new construction for Physics, and renovation of the Engineering Research Center. Research faculty from each of these three areas doing work in nanoscale science and engineering in addition to similar research faculty from the Department of Biological Sciences and the College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences will be housed in this new facility. The campus has funded its 2005-07 highest priority with funds entirely from other sources in the current renovation project on the Chemistry Building. Even with this renovation and the completed construction of the Chemistry Research Building and Daniel E. Ferritor Hall for Biological Sciences from earlier College Savings Funds, there is a serious lack of sufficient laboratory space including that in the Engineering Research Center that will be addressed by this proposed project. By focusing on nanoscale research in all these disciplines within a new facility, the campus not only creates synergism in this nanoscale work to be housed in this proposed building but relieves the shortage of space in all these other facilities as nanoscale research faculty move from those discipline facilities to the proposed interdisciplinary facility. This facility will support a research program that will provide a first-class education on the frontiers of science to the very best students by outstanding faculty. The building will be designed for interactive teaching methods that build cooperation between students and faculty and discussion across scientific disciplines...a building where faculty and students can collaborate on “hands on” research projects.

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$804,698 is provided for expenses related to providing for the connection of the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith to the e-Corridor.

Instructional Technology and Network Enhancements – Technology. An amount up to \$1.6 million will support four of the university’s most needed upgrades in instructional classroom technology. These systems will facilitate the effective delivery of instructional content over the World Wide Web and in the classroom. Requests from the public K-12 schools in the university’s service area to provide courses to enrich their curricula are dramatically increasing. Students, faculty, and accreditation standards demand more effective instructional methods enhanced by the use of technology in the classroom. This institution's change to a four-year university with associated enrollment increases and academic program development make these needs even more pressing.

Funding will also support three of the university's most needed upgrades to its networking infrastructure. First, this funding will allow us to renew our aging network switches and network application servers. This will allow students greater and more reliable access to electronic databases through our library and instructional content provided by faculty over the network. Secondly, an increasing number of students are arriving on campus with their personal notebook computers necessitating the expansion of the wireless component of the network so that students in all classes and study areas have access to our network.

Vines Building - Renovation. An amount up to \$1.0 million is provided for the planning, design, and renovation of the existing facility. Renovation of this facility will provide for additional instructional classroom space and bring the building into ADA compliance with the replacement of the elevator on the East end of the building. It will also provide ADA access to the second floor of the adjacent Gardner classroom building.

Fullerton Building – Renovation. An amount up to \$1.4 million is provided for the planning, design, expansion and renovation of the existing facility. Renovation of this facility will provide for administrative and instructional space which will, in turn, free existing office space in the Vines Building for use as instructional classrooms.

University of Arkansas – Arkansas School for Mathematics, Science and the Arts

Instructional Technology – Technology. An amount up to \$300,000 is provided for up to ten (10) SMART Boards for classrooms (5 currently installed are used on average 6 hrs/day per Board) and the upgrading of 80 computers including memory, monitors, and hard drives. To support increased demand for distance education, ASMSA needs to expand the technology to include satellite and other emerging technologies.

University of Arkansas Archeological Survey

Equipment and Technology – Technology. An amount up to \$200,000 is provided for equipment and technology improvements. Since Kodak recently announced that it will quit producing and selling digital projectors, the Survey will purchase 12 laptop computers and 12 digital projectors for use by the archeologists at the remote research stations and the main office. A dual sensor gradiometer, which measures minute differences in the magnetic properties of soils, is needed to assist in the location of prehistoric sites. A Utility Scan for Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) will be purchase to be used to locate modern graves. Surveying equipment is needed to develop detailed topographic maps of an archeological site prior to excavation. The Survey's equipment must be upgraded to the new optical transits.

University of Arkansas - Division of Agriculture

Rice Research and Extension Center – **New Construction/Renovation.** An amount up to \$6.0 million is allocated to the Division of Agriculture for the construction of a 41,840 square-foot rice research and extension center. The research and extension complex will provide breeder, molecular genomics, plant tissue culture, entomology, pathology research laboratories, laboratories for soil analyses, research greenhouses, and cold storage, all in a secured facility. It will provide adequate meeting space to meet public outreach demands and be flexible enough to handle all types of educational opportunities. The existing center will be renovated to allow for necessary administrative office space and will conform to the construction standards and appearance of the new construction.

University of Arkansas - Criminal Justice Institute

Criminal Justice Institute Building – **New Construction.** An amount up to \$1.0 million is allocated toward the construction of a 75,000 square-foot building. The new facility would house offices, an enhanced forensic education training lab, fingerprint recovery area, mock crime scene area, a computer server room and a computer-training laboratory. It would also provide additional laboratory space for training law enforcement personnel in the science of evidence gathering and analysis. “Hands-on” laboratory training is as important as the classroom training received. Enhancements in these areas are necessary to fulfill the Institute’s mandate to provide management, forensic and computer education and training to law enforcement.

University of Arkansas - Clinton School of Public Service

Information Technology – **Technology.** An amount up to \$90,000 is provided to acquire distance-learning technology. Distance learning is an integral part of the School. Additional computers will be needed to accommodate enrollment growth.

Library Acquisitions – **Other.** An amount up to \$10,000 is allocated for library acquisitions. The school is seeking to expand their limited library in the areas of public administration, public policy, health policy, political science, rural development, and international relations.

University of Arkansas System

Technology Upgrade – **Technology.** An amount up to \$55,100 is allocated for upgrading technology at the University’s System Office. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) conducted a study of the existing technology structure for the System Office. UALR has recommended a technology upgrade

package that is needed for the System Office including the purchase of an additional server and replacement of items that are no longer being supported.

University of Arkansas – Little Rock

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$804,698 is provided for expenses related to the connection of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to the e-Corridor.

Cyber College – New Construction. An amount up to \$6.0 million is allocated for the construction of a 10,000 square-foot building to house the College of Information Sciences and Systems Engineering. The building will feature up to eight computer-training lab modules, as well as faculty offices, research labs, a student lounge/café and a Virtual Reality Center for three-dimensional computer data modeling and cutting-edge research. It will also feature a “Cybertorium” multimedia auditorium with a covered drop-off area and entry lobby/museum component. The auditorium will have diverse campus and community event usage based on its large, dual-screen media display and high-speed linkage to the Internet.

Technology Infrastructure Improvements – Technology. An amount up to \$2.0 million is provided for technology infrastructure improvements. UALR’s technical infrastructure supports the campus network, campus information systems, e-mail, on-line course delivery, technology in the classrooms, streaming video for web-enhanced and web delivered courses, Voice Over Internet Protocol, and a variety of technical needs on campus. The proliferation of computer viruses and hacking incidents has increased the need for improved security. Increases in web-based course demand have increased bandwidth needs. Funds will be used to purchase the required technology to improve network hardware, security, wiring, wireless technology, business continuity planning, video server, classroom technology, participation in the National Lambda Rail project and administrative system hardware.

Various Campus Buildings – Critical Maintenance. An amount equal to \$1.0 million is allocated to UALR for various critical maintenance projects. The mechanical, plumbing, and structural systems of many facilities have reached the end of their useful life. The systems can no longer provide consistent control of interior environmental condition and are inefficient and costly to operate due to excessive energy and repair costs.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$804,698 is provided for expenses related to the connection of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to the e-Corridor.

New Classroom Building – New Construction. An amount up to \$6.5 million is allocated to UAMS for the construction of a 30,000 square-foot classroom building. The Education II building completed in 1977 is no longer adequate to meet the needs of growing programs in the College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing and the College of Health Related Professions and Public Health. Enrollment growth and changes in teaching methodologies/technologies have reduced the effectiveness of the 28-year old facility. As a result, UAMS faces a critical shortage of classrooms. UAMS has no facilities to relocate classes to allow the renovation of the existing facility. The new facility will include large lecture hall spaces, classrooms with seating capacities of 55 to 85 students and small group meeting spaces which incorporate the provision of all the necessary resources for instructors to teach in ways that ensure functionality and adaptability for the varied methodologies utilized by the different colleges. All spaces will provide electrical power and wireless networking at all student stations.

Technology Improvements – Technology. An amount up to \$4.1 million is provided for technology improvements. The current Student Information System (SIS), developed in 1989 has exceeded its reasonable life expectancy and must be replaced. The manufacturer has announced that the computing system which hosts the SIS and OASIS will become obsolete in the next year. A new system will allow access to information via the Web, improve services to distance learning students via Web-based access to information, support online registration and fee payment, maintain comprehensive student academic information; and improve financial and security auditing capabilities.

Eclipsys has informed UAMS that the current Clinical Physician Order Entry system (CPOE) will not be supported after 2008. McKesson has informed the College of Pharmacy that the current pharmacy system, STAR, will not be supported after 2008. Funds will be used to upgrade Eclipsys to the e700 product, Sunrise XA, has been thoroughly evaluated and has been determined to be able to meet UAMS' needs, including: CPOE with an integrated Pharmacy system, Nursing documentation, and ED Patient Record and Data Repository.

A Student Wireless Network will also be acquired that will significantly enhance educational opportunities for all students.

Critical Maintenance and Renovation – Maintenance/Renovation. An amount up to \$4.4 million is provided for the renovation of the recently acquired Arkansas State Hospital (90,859 square feet) for educational uses. The clinical spaces will be redeveloped into office space and the mechanical systems will be upgraded. The Education II Building and Library will be renovated after the completion of the new classroom facility to improve lighting, replace HVAC systems, upgrade finishes and improve ventilation and temperature control. The current Hospital Building two-pipe HVAC system will be replaced with a new four-pipe system.

University of Arkansas – Monticello

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$926,108 is provided for expenses related to the connection of the University of Arkansas at Monticello to the e-Corridor.

Technology Upgrades – Technology. An amount up to \$2.0 million is available to upgrade UAM's Wide Area Network to support the educational mission of the Forestry and Education Departments as well as the Colleges of Technology at Crossett and McGehee. The current administrative software system, POISE, is to be discontinued by Jenzabar. It is an outdated system which will no longer support new standards for information delivery and must be replaced. Classrooms will be equipped for current technologies for a variety of teaching methodologies. Distance education software will be enhanced.

Math and Science Center – Renovation. An amount up to \$900,000 is provided for the renovation of the Math and Science Center on the Monticello Campus. The renovation will include the addition of insulation, floor coverings, and HVAC upgrades.

UAM College of Technology - Crossett - Renovation. An amount up to \$141,000 is provided for the renovation of the Main Classroom building which will include the construction of a west entrance, the repair and painting of the exterior, and improvements to drainage and landscaping.

UAM College of Technology - McGehee – Renovation. An amount not to exceed \$159,000 is provided for renovating the Main Classroom building which will include the construction of classroom space, upgrading the front entrance, and lighting improvements for the parking area.

University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$804,698 is provided for expenses related to the connection of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff to the e-Corridor.

Critical Maintenance and Renovations – Maintenance/Renovations. An amount up to \$4 million is provided for critical maintenance and renovation projects at UAPB. In 1999 the UAPB Campus was cited for non-compliance with ADA regulations. The UAPB ADA implementation plan was completed in March of 2000. The plan detailed a seven-year schedule (2000-2006) and an investment of \$2,170,000 to accomplish the work. To date only the first year and one half of the second year's work has been accomplished.

The roofing systems on the following buildings have failed and are beyond repair and must be replaced to avoid further damage to the structures and contents: HYPER Center, Hathaway Fine Arts, Kountz-Kyle Hall, Watson Library, and Caldwell Hall.

The environmental control systems in the buildings listed below are either non- or marginally functional. The campus is not able to control the interior building environment for the occupants and are experiencing excess energy costs due to the inability of the mechanical systems. The heating and cooling systems (boilers, air handlers, etc.) in the buildings listed below have either failed or are being held together day to day. Without immediate intervention, the following buildings will not be suitable for occupancy by students or faculty: Hathaway Fine Arts, Hyper Center, Caldwell Hall, Administration, Home Economics, Kountz Kyle Hall, and Corbin Hall.

University of Central Arkansas

e-Corridor - An amount up to \$804,698 is provided for expenses related to providing for the connection of the University of Central Arkansas to the e-Corridor.

Education Building – New Construction. An amount up to \$12,195,302 is allocated to UCA for the construction of a 245,100 square-foot Education building. The education programs are currently housed in Mashburn Hall, which with only 80,000 square feet has been insufficient to support the needs of the college for several years. The proposed complex will house the Departments of Early Childhood and Special Education, Middle/Secondary Education and Instructional Technologies, Candidate Services and Field Experience, Technology Learning Center, and the Department of Psychology and Counseling. In addition, the Psychology Clinic, Child Study Center, and Professional Development Center will be housed in this complex.

Arkansas Northeastern College

Health Fitness and Wellness Building - New Construction. An amount up to \$350,000 is provided to build a 33,500 square-foot combination facility for the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Program as well as to offer other certificate and degree programs in the health and recreation occupations fields. Presently, these programs are offered in leased spaces away from the main campus in downtown Blytheville and across the region, some distance from the main campus.

Burdette Center - Renovation. An amount up to \$267,000 is provided to renovate 75,469 square feet of instructional classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices due to the growth of the Allied Health programs. The college has outgrown the availability of Nursing specialty and general-purpose support classrooms during the day and evening on the sites in Blytheville. In addition, offices for faculty are presently housed in makeshift spaces. The Allied Health programs have been moved to the Burdette Center and the other technical and occupational programs presently in Burdette are all in need of renovation.

Main Campus - Renovation. An amount up to \$657,000 is provided to renovate 78,185 square feet of instructional classrooms and offices. The general-purpose classroom sections, offices, rest rooms, and corridors of the main campus have not been renovated since original construction in 1980, nor since the 1986 annex to the "B" building. The college has grown dramatically since that time and students' needs have changed. Instructional techniques have changed along with the advancement of technology, which requires modification to the teaching and office spaces.

Technology Upgrades - Technology. An amount up to \$926,000 is provided for technology upgrades of four instructional classrooms/labs to accommodate new technologies and methods of instruction. Those four classrooms/labs and two other classrooms will also receive complete instructor systems including projectors, cameras, computers, and SMART boards. In addition, the POISE software/hardware campus wide administrative computer system will be replaced. The system will provide an integrated database for student records, financial aid, business office records, personnel, and payroll. The new system will produce required reporting to ADHE and to other state and federal agencies.

Arkansas State University – Beebe

Classroom Building - New Construction. An amount up to \$2,285,000 is provided to build a 60,000 square-foot facility to provide space for new technologically advanced science laboratories, classrooms, faculty offices, storage and work areas for both students and academic staff. New science laboratories will replace the current thirty-year-old space that is deteriorated and in need of technology upgrades, as well as addressing the current shortage in laboratory space. The new large classrooms will accommodate as many as seventy-five students and small classrooms will provide space for traditionally lower enrollment programs.

Searcy Campus Bloodworth Nursing Building - New Construction. An amount up to \$400,000 is provided for an additional 10,626 square-foot building. The addition will house new classrooms and laboratories for the existing Nursing and EMT/Paramedics programs and also allow the university to consider new programs such as Respiratory Therapy and Radiology Technology, which are in high demand from local area hospitals.

Heber Springs Campus Phase I Development of ASU – Heber Springs Center - New Construction. An amount up to \$315,000 is provided for Phase I of the initial construction of the Heber Springs Campus. The initial construction will provide space for 500 FTE and will include two buildings, a central utility plant, and the early site and infrastructure work needed for the beginning of a campus. One building will be approximately 36,000 square feet and will house all of the classrooms and faculty offices. The second building, to be used for

administration and student services, will be approximately 24,000 square feet. A library and physical plant will be planned for construction in future years.

Arkansas State University – Mountain Home

Community Development Center - **New Construction.** An amount up to \$2.2 million is provided for construction of a 65,871 square-foot facility. The project consists of Business/Industry and Workforce/Continuing Education faculty offices and classrooms, Center for Advanced Studies faculty offices and classrooms, Art and Performing Arts faculty offices and classrooms, Performing Arts auditorium, concourse and art gallery, outdoor amphitheater, and a center for general community education. The facility will create a center for the entire college campus and communities of Mountain Home and Baxter County.

Arkansas State University – Newport

Transportation Safety Management Center - **Renovation.** An amount up to \$1.6 million is provided for renovation of a 20,000 square-foot facility. The university plans to renovate an existing storage facility into a Transportation Safety Management Center. ASU – Newport has operated a successful commercial driving training program since 1988, training several hundred drivers annually. This center will include spacious classrooms, faculty offices, and a drive-through laboratory. Students will receive a “hands-on” orientation to the equipment in an environment more conducive to the educational process without being hampered by poor weather. The institution will also utilize this facility for developing other transportation related instructional programs. A portion of the funds will be expended for technology improvements.

Black River Technical College

Science Lab - **Renovation.** An amount up to \$220,000 is provided for renovation of a 4,000 square-foot facility. The college currently has two science labs in which biology, chemistry, anatomy and other science classes are taught. In 2000 the college constructed a health building and attached it to the existing science building to bring the health and science programs together in an area more conducive to teaching and student learning. Two classrooms were built at that time with the intention of converting them into science labs in the future. Enrollment numbers have grown in the science area and the need for the additional labs now exists.

Academic Complex - Paragould - **New Construction.** An amount up to \$2.0 million is provided for construction of a 15,500 square-foot facility. The college currently has one permanent structure on the Paragould site, which is used for business and industry training and one portable building used for education classes. The college will construct a permanent facility housing three

classrooms, three computer labs, one distance education classroom, two science labs, one multi-purpose room, five faculty offices, and one student service area.

Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas

Technology Equipment - Technology. An amount up to \$55,000 is provided for various technology upgrades and equipment. The college will purchase technology upgrades and equipment for the Welding, Residential Construction, and Collision Repair programs, including plasma cutters, welders, lift systems, compressors, voltage testers, and HVAC classroom equipment.

Ashdown Site - Renovation. An amount up to \$325,000 is provided for renovation of 53,600 square feet of space to include adding a technology lab and meeting room, painting the exterior, and replacing the exterior façade.

“A” Building - Renovation. An amount up to \$112,500 is provided to add a sprinkler system, paint the exterior, paint classrooms, replace tile in the nursing lab, renovate restrooms and for an art laboratory.

“B” Building - Renovation. An amount up to \$143,500 is provided to add a sprinkler system, paint the exterior, paint classrooms, replace carpet, renovate restrooms, and for a drainage overhaul.

“C” Building - Renovation. An amount up to \$356,000 is provided to add a sprinkler system, paint the exterior, paint classrooms, replace entry doors, remodel the central hallway, and renovate restrooms.

Technology Building - Renovation. An amount up to \$100,500 is provided to add a sprinkler system, paint the exterior, paint classrooms, paint and tile the stairwells, renovate restrooms and the life science laboratory.

“D” Building Roof Replacement - Renovation. An amount up to \$7,500 is provided for replacing the flat built-up roof. The college has made numerous repairs to the roof and roof jacks, with temporary success at best. The college will add a pitched, standing seam metal roof over the entire building.

East Arkansas Community College

Fine Arts Center - New Construction. An amount up to \$2.2 million is provided for construction of a Fine Arts Center. The Community Fine Arts Center will be a 33,730 square-foot theatrically oriented auditorium designed to house the EACC Humanities Department to include Music, Speech and Drama. This auditorium will also be accessible to the community’s cultural, civic, and social organizations. Presently, there is inadequate space for performance, rehearsal, faculty offices, storage for drama and art supplies, sets, dressing rooms, practice studios and lecture areas. The Community Fine Arts Center has been planned to

serve the College and the area educational, cultural, historical and archeological events.

Mid-South Community College

Instructional Technology - New Construction. An amount up to \$1.35 million is provided for construction of a 28,000 square-foot structure containing 13 classroom/computer labs, 10 faculty offices, an open computer lab for student use, and an improved communications center to support technology infrastructure. The college provides many students with sole access to computer technology, particularly the high-end technology that supports networking, web-master, and GIS courses.

National Park Community College

General Purpose Classroom Building - New Construction. An amount up to \$3.0 million is provided for the construction of a 29,200 square-foot structure containing multi-purpose classrooms. The recent merger with the neighboring technical institute combined with expanded enrollment has created limited classroom space.

North Arkansas College

Allied Health Center - New Construction. An amount up to \$2.0 million is provided for construction of a 44,000 square-foot structure containing classrooms, laboratories, offices for instructors, support staff of all allied health programs, and classrooms for community health care education. The center will provide specialized training in Nursing, Radiology Technology, Emergency Medical Science, Surgical Technology, and Medical Technology.

Information Technology Infrastructure - Technology. An amount up to \$800,000 is provided for a major upgrade of the local area network and associated software systems. System upgrades will include new and expanded academic computer laboratories, additional data servers, additional cabling, system management software, and administrative management software.

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Technology Infrastructure Improvements - Technology. An amount up to \$1,706,000 is provided for technology upgrades to include communications cabling, a network system to include telephone, computer, fax, and wireless communication, increased bandwidth, replace switches and routers, data recovery equipment, new server, and to convert twenty existing classrooms to "smart classrooms."

Burns Hall - Renovation. An amount up to \$2,294,000 is provided for the renovation of Burns Hall. Burns Hall currently houses the student services functions for the college. These functions will soon be moved to the new student center plaza and Burns Hall will need to be renovated for future use. After renovation, Burns Hall will house the library, a faculty professional development center, and four classrooms.

Ouachita Technical College

Smart Classrooms - Technology. An amount up to \$190,000 is provided to equip 11 SMART classrooms to enable faculty to deliver instruction using various technology-enhanced methods for student learning. Computers, LCD projectors, wired and wireless telecommunications, presentation equipment, audio/visual equipment and other technology are expected to improve student learning, and retention and graduation rates.

Industrial Technology Space - Renovation. An amount up to \$75,000 is provided for a four-bay construction project to add two additional 500 square-foot classroom labs and a 200 square-foot equipment storage room in the remodeling of a 1,200 square-foot portion of a metal building. Included in this project is the addition of an attached 48-foot by 20-foot metal shed for maintenance storage. The remodeling will allay concerns about safety and functionality of current classrooms and labs in the Applied Science Technology Department.

Instructional Technology Center - New Construction. An amount up to \$1,335,000 is provided for a 15,000 square-foot building composed of eight SMART classrooms, four laboratories to support science and technology, a conference room, seminar rooms, faculty offices and storage. The new space is expected to improve student learning, retention and graduation rates.

Ozarka College

Business Technology Center - New Construction. An amount up to \$1.1 million is provided for a 10,000 square-foot building that will house up-to-date Interactive video classrooms, business technology classrooms, computer labs, general-purpose classrooms, network equipment, office space and restroom facilities.

Phillips County Community College of the University of Arkansas

Compressed Video Classrooms (7) - Technology. An amount up to \$590,000 is provided to replace outdated equipment. New, updated equipment with current technology will make the transmission of learning better for the students and instructors.

Roof Replacements - Renovation. An amount up to \$475,000 is provided to replace the shingled roofs and insulation below the sloped roofs on five buildings.

This will prevent problems in the near future as these roofs were last replaced 15-20 years ago.

War Memorial Training Center-Stuttgart - **Renovation.** An amount up to \$500,000 is provided to renovate the college-leased 30,000 square-foot Grand Prairie War Memorial Auditorium for use as a business and industry training center. Renovations will address concerns related to heating, air conditioning, roofing, restrooms and safety.

Ohio Street Properties-Helena - **Renovation/Remodeling.** An amount up to \$335,000 is provided to improve the 32,736 square-foot building for use as training space by removing any chemical spills remaining from when the building was used for storing chemicals for farming.

Pulaski Technical College

Transportation Technology Center – **Renovation and Equipment.** An amount up to \$6.25 million is provided for modifying and equipping a 160,128 square-foot building for use as classroom and office space for programs in automotive, diesel, collision and ATV/motorcycle repair. The Center, located on I-30 west, will also house the support services for the programs.

Rich Mountain Community College

Campus Learning/Resource Center - **New Construction.** An amount up to \$1.25 million is provided toward the construction of a 25,000 square-foot developmental instruction facility with three classrooms offering computerized instruction in English, mathematics and reading, three assessment centers for career placement testing (and at least three individual testing rooms), a distance-learning lab and a library/resource center, as well as space for offices and storage. The Center will address the needs of first-generation college students in the service area, importance of distance-learning methods, and shift of developmental coursework to the two-year level.

South Arkansas Community College

Allied Health and Human Services - **New Construction.** An amount up to \$1.5 million is provided for a 30,000 square-foot building for classrooms, labs and faculty offices to support programs in Practical Nursing, Emergency Medical Technology-Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technology-Ambulance, Medical Laboratory Technology, Radiological Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant and Occupational Therapy Assistant. Demand exists locally for programs in Health Information Technology and Surgical Technology and statewide for Registered Nursing. Allied health programs account for 24% of the total student semester credit hours currently generated by the College.

Southeast Arkansas College

Technical Center - New Construction. An amount up to \$750,000 is provided for a 24,000 square-foot building containing classrooms, labs, and related support areas for technical career programs in welding, HVAC, electrical, drafting, business and science technologies. It will house programs currently in the oldest building on campus, which will be demolished once the Technical Center is built. The new building also will contain a Center of Excellence, which will serve high school students from area school districts. The Technical Center building will provide a better learning experience for the students in the technical career programs and in the Center, as well as contribute to the revitalization of the campus.

Library and Classrooms - New Construction. An amount up to \$2.0 million is provided for a 48,000 square-foot building containing classrooms for general studies on the first floor and a library on the second floor. Classrooms for general studies are badly needed due to the elimination of classrooms in the remodeling of College Hall North and the demolition of Technology Center North and South. There will be more room for library services in the new building than the 4,000 square feet currently available in Founders Hall. The vacant space in Founders Hall may be allocated to the Allied Health Division where there also is a desperate need for classroom space. Such a move would combine Nursing, which already shares the other part of Founders Hall, with Respiratory Care and Radiological Technology.

Southern Arkansas University Tech

Heat Building-Camden - Renovation. An amount up to \$375,000 is provided to replace the exterior and interior block and windows and doors of a more than 25-year-old burn building in order to keep the structure in safe condition for training firefighters.

Exterior Fire Suppression Simulator - New Construction. An amount up to \$355,000 is provided to build a modernized hot drill area so that firefighters will have greater access to live-fire training involving the extinguishment of exterior fires. The hot drill area will include a simulated automobile fire, industrial pipe fire, propane tank fire, running fuel fire, and a railroad tank fire simulator, all housed on two concrete pads.

University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville

Integrated Administrative Software - Technology Infrastructure. An amount up to \$775,000 is provided to expand and update the integrated administrative software that supports the campus as it continues to experience enrollment growth. These funds will allow the College to discontinue People Oriented

Information System for Education (POISE), an old DOS-application, in favor of a web-based, integrated software package.


Nursing/EMT Programs - Renovation/Remodeling. An amount up to \$1,125,000 is provided for the remodeling of approximately 25 percent (25%) of the current building, which has 5,928 square feet of classroom, lab, staff and faculty office space. This project will maximize the use of the current building's space and add approximately 9,000 square feet of new instructional space on the north end of the current building. The existing restrooms will be remodeled and the faculty offices redesigned to better meet faculty/staff needs. The addition of these classrooms and labs will support our growing allied health career programs.

University of Arkansas Community College at Hope

Science/Technology Center - New Construction. An amount up to \$2.2 million is provided to construct and equip a 22,000 square-foot building to house four science labs, a lecture hall, a nursing bed lab, four classrooms and ten faculty offices. The classrooms will be equipped with the latest technology for both on-campus instruction and distance education. The building will accommodate the growth of allied health and science-related programs on campus.

University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton

Library - New Construction. An amount up to \$3.15 million is provided for a new 28,000 square-foot library building. The building will house classrooms (English, literature, foreign languages, writing, etc.), faculty offices, and specialty support areas such as a Writing Center (tutoring). It addresses the issues of appropriate library services for students, needed general-use classrooms, and continued regional accreditation.



**HIGHER EDUCATION BOND PROGRAM
REQUISITION FORM**

This is a requisition to the State Treasurer for moneys on deposit in the Higher Education Projects Development Fund, Series ____ Account, established and maintained in the State Treasury pursuant to the Arkansas Higher Education Facilities and Technology Improvement Act 1282 of 2005, as amended.

This requisition is presented by the undersigned as the duly authorized designee of the Chairman of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board ("Coordinating Board"), and

It has been approved, as noted hereon, by the duly authorized designee of the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of Arkansas ("State").

The undersigned hereby certify that the funds to be disbursed pursuant to this requisition are for the payment of project costs of a higher education project duly approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The Institutional Chief Fiscal Officer undersigned confirms the funds will be applied in accordance with the written "Plan of Implementation" submitted by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and approved by the Governor, and that any equipment which may be purchased with these requisitioned funds is **CAPITALIZABLE (over \$2,500)** and will be included in the institution's inventory in accordance with the laws and procedural requirements of the State.

The Chief Fiscal Officer of the State undersigned assures that payment of the funds, when added to any previous disbursements, will not render the funds remaining insufficient to allow the effectuation of the "Plan of Implementation" in accordance with its terms.

The disbursement requested for instructional equipment or library holdings/technology is as follows:

REQUISITION INFORMATION	
Amount	_____
Institution Name	_____
Project Description (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One)	
Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Critical Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instructional Equip.	<input type="checkbox"/>

AASIS INFORMATION	
Business Area	0
Fund	TBH _____
Fund Center (App)	_____
Commitment Item	____:____:____
Contact	_____
Fax #	() _____
Email	_____

Submitted by the Institution:

Signed _____ Date _____
 Institutional Chief Fiscal Officer

Submitted by Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB)

Signed _____ Date _____
 For the Chair of the Coordinating Board

Approved:

Signed _____ Date _____
 For the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves and endorses the Plan of Implementation and that the Director is instructed to transmit to the Governor that plan for capital projects for public institutions of higher education to be funded from the proceeds derived from the sale of Higher Education Bonds pending approval of the electorate on December 13, 2005 as called for by Act 1282 of 2005. These projects are described herein and are incorporated in the Plan of Implementation. This resolution is adopted in recognition of the benefits to be derived by institutions of higher education including monetary and less tangible benefits which develop from the immediate availability of resources to construct or renovate facilities, perform critical maintenance facilities, and to upgrade technology, thereby enabling institutions to serve additional students, strengthen academic programs, improve both instructional and information technology, maintain accreditation, and to increase research and grant activities.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director is instructed to seek from the Governor one or more proclamations authorizing the issuance by the Arkansas Development Finance Authority of one or more series of Higher Education Bonds to fund the capital projects described in the Plan of Implementation, subject to the limitations set forth herein, in the Implementation Plan, and in the Act, without further action by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That these projects shall be educational and general in nature, and will not include projects relating to auxiliary services or programs such as residence halls, or intercollegiate athletics.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Higher Education Coordinating Board has not and shall not authorize the issuance of bonds requiring more than \$24 million in debt service per annum as provided for in the Act.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director shall and is directed to act as the duly authorized designee of the Chairman of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board in requisitioning the proceeds of the bond sales held by the Trustee and certifying that the funds disbursed thereby are for the payment of Project costs of a higher education project duly approved by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, as reflected in the Implementation Plan.

DISTRIBUTION OF MINERAL LEASE FUND BALANCE

According to the provisions of A.C.A. §19-5-1018, state institutions of higher education, through the establishment of the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund, share in the distribution of monies received by the state from the United States government from the sale or lease of minerals, oil, and gas on federal property located in the state. The statute requires that the funds be disbursed by the Director of the Department of Higher Education in accordance with the recommendation of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board after review by Legislative Council.

Distribution History:

The following table details the distributions approved by the AHECB and reviewed by the Arkansas Legislative Council to date and the methodology for the distribution:

Fiscal Year	Total Funds Distributed	Distributed To	Methodology for Distribution
1989	\$4,000,000	4-yr institutions, 2-yr branches and non-formula entities	Prorata distribution based on critical maintenance needs
1995	\$3,293,666	All higher education institutions and entities	Prorata distribution based on critical maintenance needs
1999	\$350,000	UAMS	Distribution for distance learning network
1999	\$1,062,341	Technical and former technical colleges	Prorata distribution based on WF2000 shortfalls
2001	\$841,601	Technical and former technical colleges	Prorata distribution based on WF2000 shortfalls
2002	\$100,000	SEAC, UACCM, PTC, ASUMH	Technical colleges most affected by \$ per FTE equity
2003	\$1,585,626	All higher education institutions and entities	\$861,259 for a prorated distribution based upon the 2003-05 critical maintenance needs and \$724,367 for addressing equity funding per FTE

Recommendation: The current balance of the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund is \$1,430,393.93. Staff recommends that \$1,223,660 be disbursed on a proration of the capital recommendations for critical maintenance 2003-05 as approved by the Coordinating Board on August 8, 2004, and that \$76,340 be disbursed to address an oversight in the general revenue funding recommendation for Rich Mountain Community College for the 2005-07 biennium. (The recommendation for Rich Mountain failed to bring them to a minimum \$3 million general revenue base consistent with the two-year college distribution agreement approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board on August 8, 2004.)

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That after review by the Legislative Council, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to distribute \$1,300,000 from the Higher Education Building Maintenance Fund to the institutions and entities for the purpose of critical maintenance of educational and general facilities in accordance with the attached distribution.

Proposed Distribution of Mineral Lease Fund Balance

Institution	2005-07 AHECB Critical Maintenance Recommendations	Correction in Operating Recommendation	Total
ASUJ	\$80,504		\$80,504
ATU	\$53,669		\$53,669
HSU	\$53,669		\$53,669
SAUM	\$53,669		\$53,669
UAF	\$107,339		\$107,339
UAFS	\$53,669		\$53,669
UALR	\$80,504		\$80,504
UAM	\$53,669		\$53,669
UAPB	\$53,669		\$53,669
UCA	\$80,504		\$80,504
UA-Div. Of Agriculture	\$64,403		\$64,403
UA-AAS	\$5,367		\$5,367
UA-SYS	\$2,683		\$2,683
UAMS	\$107,339		\$107,339
Subtotal	\$850,658		\$850,658
ANC	\$13,417		\$13,417
ASUB	\$32,202		\$32,202
ASU-MH	\$13,417		\$13,417
ASU-N	\$13,417		\$13,417
BRTC	\$13,417		\$13,417
CCCUA	\$13,417		\$13,417
EACC	\$13,417		\$13,417
MSCC	\$13,417		\$13,417
NAC	\$13,417		\$13,417
NPCC	\$13,417		\$13,417
NWACC	\$26,835		\$26,835
OTC	\$13,417		\$13,417
OZC	\$13,417		\$13,417
PCCUA	\$18,784		\$18,784
PTC	\$53,669		\$53,669
RMCC	\$13,417	\$76,340	\$89,757
SACC	\$13,417		\$13,417
SAUT	\$13,417		\$13,417
SEAC	\$13,417		\$13,417
UACCB	\$13,417		\$13,417
UACCH	\$13,417		\$13,417
UACCM	\$13,417		\$13,417
Subtotal	\$373,002	\$76,340	\$449,342
Total	\$1,223,660	\$76,340	\$1,300,000

Note: The Mineral Lease Fund is appropriated for maintenance of facilities;
 UA-CJI does not own facilities and is not recommended for a distribution.

**ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF BOND ISSUE
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY – BEEBE**

Arkansas State University - Beebe requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$15.9 million with a term of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.52 percent. Proceeds of the bonds will be combined with state General Improvement Funds and institutional plant funds to construct Phase I of ASU-Heber Springs, a Center of ASU-Beebe. The proposed development of Phase I includes an approximately 29,400 square-foot building for administration, academic support, and student services areas and an approximately 43,450 square-foot building for classrooms, faculty offices, and academic work space. The initial site work for the long-term development of the campus will be provided in this first phase. The Arkansas State University Board of Trustees approved this action on October 18, 2005.

The debt service for the bond issue will be paid from tuition and fees, which will be reimbursed directly from a half-cent sales tax issue approved by the voters of Cleburne County. According to Coordinating Board policy, sales tax proceeds must be a minimum of 120 percent of the estimated annual debt service.

Relevant data follows:

Estimated Sales Tax	\$ 1,300,000
Maximum Debt Service (1,300,000/120%)	1,083,333
Existing Debt Service	0
Proposed Debt Service.....	978,424
Amount Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$ 104,909

The above data demonstrates that Arkansas State University – Beebe, Heber Springs campus has sufficient revenue generated by the county sales tax to support a \$15.9 million bond issue for 30 years at an estimated 4.52 percent interest.

The following resolution is presented for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas State University - Beebe to issue bonds not to exceed \$15.9 million for a term of 30 years at an annual interest rate of approximately 4.52 percent.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of the Arkansas State University System, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, and the Chancellor of Arkansas State University - Beebe of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

**ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF BOND ISSUE
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

Arkansas Tech University (ATU), requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds totaling \$5,000,000 with a maximum term of 5 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 4%. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for educational & general (E&G) purposes. The Arkansas Tech University Board of Trustees approved this action at its meeting held on June 2, 2005.

The E&G issue will be approximately \$5,000,000 with annual debt service of \$1,108,423. Proceeds from the issue will be used for the purchase and implementation of the SCT Banner administrative computer system. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service provides that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to educational and general debt service.

Relevant data follows:

<u>Educational and General Portion</u>	
Budgeted 2005-06 Tuition and Fee Revenue.....	\$24,748,516
Maximum Allowable Debt Service ($\$24,748,516 \times 25\%$).....	\$ 6,187,129
Existing Debt Service.....	\$ 703,831
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Issue (maximum).....	\$ 1,108,423
Tuition and Fee Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$ 4,374,875

The above data demonstrates that Arkansas Tech University has sufficient revenue to support a bond issue of approximately \$5,000,000 with a term of 5 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 4%.

The following resolution is presented for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for Arkansas Tech University to issue bonds not to exceed \$5,000,000 for a period of 5 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 4% for E&G purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of Arkansas Tech University of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

**ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF BOND ISSUE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO**

The University of Arkansas at Monticello requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$9 million with a maximum term of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5%.

Proceeds from the bond issue will be used for approximately \$9 million in various renovation and construction projects for educational & general (E&G) and auxiliary purposes. Approximately \$600,000 will be used to retire an ADFA loan acquired in 2000. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees will consider this item at its meeting on November 18, 2005.

The E&G issue will be approximately \$7 million with an annual debt service of \$483,300. Proceeds from the issue will be used for various renovation and construction projects, ADA compliance renovations, renovations to existing environmental control systems and other renovation projects. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service provides that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to educational and general debt service.

The Auxiliary issue will be approximately \$2 million with an annual debt service of \$138,700. Proceeds from the issue will be used for construction of an indoor practice facility for Band and Athletics and renovation of Steelman Fieldhouse. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for auxiliary projects provides that annual net auxiliary revenues should be no less than 120 percent of the total annual auxiliary debt service.

Relevant data follows:

Educational and General Portion

Budgeted 2005-06 Tuition and Fee Revenue.....	\$9,699,352
Maximum Allowable Debt Service (9,699,352 x 25%).....	2,424,838
Existing Debt Service	75,528
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Issue.....	483,300
Tuition and Fee Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	1,866,010

Auxiliary Portion

Projected 2005-06 Auxiliary Revenues	\$4,691,534
Maximum Annual Debt Service (\$4,691,534/120%).....	3,909,612
Existing Debt Service	441,707
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Bond Issues.....	138,700
Net Auxiliary Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	3,329,205

The above data demonstrates that the University of Arkansas at Monticello has sufficient revenue to support a bond issue of approximately \$9 million with a term of up to 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5%.

The following resolution is presented for the Board’s consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board considers economically feasible plans for the University of Arkansas at Monticello to issue bonds not to exceed \$9 million for a period of 30 years at an estimated annual interest rate not to exceed 5% for both E&G and auxiliary purposes, contingent upon the approval of this action by the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees at its meeting on November 18, 2005.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President of the University of Arkansas System and the Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Monticello of the Coordinating Board’s resolution.

**ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF LOAN
SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY**

Southern Arkansas University requests approval of a loan of \$800,000 with a term of 10 years at an annual interest rate of 4.24 percent to construct a band/recital hall. The Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees approved the university's loan application on September 28, 2005.

The debt service on the loan will be supported by tuition and fee revenue. Coordinating Board policy regarding debt service for educational and general (E&G) projects provides that a maximum of 25 percent of tuition and fee revenue may be pledged to debt service.

Relevant data follows:

Budgeted 2005-06 Tuition and Fee Revenue.....	\$12,393,759
Maximum Allowable Debt Service (\$12,393,759 x 25%).....	3,098,440
Existing Debt Service.....	560,251
Estimated Debt Service for Proposed Issue (maximum).....	111,376
Tuition and Fee Revenue Remaining for Additional Debt Service.....	\$2,426,813

The above data demonstrates that Southern Arkansas University has sufficient tuition and fee revenue to support a loan of \$800,000 with a term of ten years at an annual interest rate of 4.24 percent.

The following resolution is presented for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the loan from the College Savings Bond Revolving Loan Fund to Southern Arkansas University for \$800,000 with a term of 10 years at an annual interest rate of 4.24 percent to construct a band/recital hall.

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 Southern Arkansas University.

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AND HOMELAND SECURITY
ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

The administration and Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University (ATU) request approval to offer the Master of Science in emergency management and homeland security, effective January 2006. The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution to offer master's degree programs in selected fields of study. ATU is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The ATU Board approved the proposal on July 21, 2005.

Description of Program

The proposed program is designed to offer students a specialized program of study to serve the educational needs of professionals actively engaged or planning to enter a profession related to the protection of lives, property, and the physical environment of our society. The curriculum focuses on a multidisciplinary approach and targets the principles of preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery in an integrated program of study.

The proposed degree requires thirty-six semester credit hours. Twenty-one credit hours must be completed in emergency management and homeland security coursework, three credit hours in research methods, six credit hours in either a thesis or a practicum, and six credit hours in electives tailored to the student's interests. For the practicum, the student will research, design, and defend an action research project that will utilize a real-world problem and the methods employed for a solution. Initially, two of the emergency management and homeland security courses will be offered online and two will be offered on Saturday. These courses will be made available to non-majors and non-degree-seeking students as space is available. Two additional faculty will be hired for the Fall 2006 semester to assist in the further development of the master's degree and provide instruction for the majority of the graduate courses.

Need for the Program

The proposed program builds on the existing bachelor's degree in emergency administration and management that has 152 majors currently enrolled. There have been 177 bachelor's degrees awarded since the program began in 1997. The proposed master's program also is expected to attract students who hold bachelor's degrees in social and environmental science, geography,

management, psychology, sociology, fire science, criminal justice, and public administration.

National crises and natural disasters, especially those stemming from the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and more recently with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as other global events have intensified the demand for more highly skilled and trained emergency managers. ATU surveyed 567 potential applicants including current emergency management students and graduates, advisory committee members, and statewide emergency personnel to determine interest in the proposed master's program. One hundred twenty-eight (128) responses were received, 81 (66 percent) of which stated that they would enroll in the program. Forty-nine (39 percent) respondents indicated that a master's degree was required or preferred for advancement in their occupational field, and 37 (29 percent) reported that educational assistance was available through their employment. Forty students are expected to enroll in the first year with 10 each year thereafter.

Program Costs

The program will be supported, in part, by a \$500,000 Congressional Award for the development of the Emergency Operations Center at ATU as well as by student tuition and fees, and professional development contracts for training and technical assistance for municipal, county, and state emergency personnel. Program funding also has been sought through other grant sources. The costs for initial program implementation are \$55,870 increasing to \$126,825 in Year 3. Costs for new faculty salaries have been allocated from existing funds in the institutional salary budget. The total projected revenues for program start-up will be \$108,780.

Program Duplication

Master's programs in emergency management are offered at Oklahoma State University, Louisiana State University, Georgia State University, Florida State University, and Jacksonville State University in Alabama.

Desegregation

ATU African American graduate student enrollment is 2.9 percent and other minority graduate student enrollment is 6.9 percent. Two African American students are enrolled in the bachelor's program in emergency administration and management.

Program Productivity

In 2003-2004, 11 of the 17 (65 percent) master's degree programs at ATU met Coordinating Board degree productivity guidelines.

The following resolution is presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in emergency management and homeland security (CIP 43.9999) at Arkansas Tech University effective January 2006.

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 Arkansas Tech University of the approval.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

The administration and Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University (ATU) request approval to offer the Master of Science in psychology. The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution to offer master's degree programs in selected fields. The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accredits ATU. The ATU Board approved the proposal on July 21, 2005.

Description of Program

The proposed 36-credit hour program is designed to provide students with a broad base of knowledge and skills in psychology emphasizing research and testing methods as well as teaching, practice, and preparation for further graduate work. A thesis will be required. Students must complete an additional nine credit hours of courses specified by the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Psychology to be eligible to take the examination to become a Licensed Psychological Examiner. All courses required for licensure are offered at ATU.

Need for the Program

A survey of state human services and mental health agencies indicated that there will be 60 or more new positions for licensed clinicians with an advanced degree to work with children and families in home, school, and work environments. All agency representatives agreed that they could provide internships for graduate students.

Results from surveys of 85 upper-division student majors in psychology, sociology, and rehabilitation science on the ATU campus revealed that 51 students were likely to enroll in the proposed program. Eleven students are expected to enroll for the spring 2006 semester with a subsequent annual enrollment rate of 18 students. Over the past five years, ATU has awarded an annual average of 32 bachelor's degrees in psychology.

Program Costs

Four new faculty members will be hired over the course of the next year to meet the increasing demand in the undergraduate program, and for the proposed master's degree. Two graduate assistants (stipend of \$6,934/student), and part-time clerical and administrative support also are planned for the proposed program. Each full-time psychology faculty member will teach in the graduate program, including the three faculty members currently employed.

Program costs will be \$80,131 for the first year, excluding new faculty salaries that have been allocated from existing funds in the institutional salary budget. Funds will come from new student tuition and fees (\$18,888), state general revenues (\$25,084), and the redistribution of the existing budget for library acquisitions and administrative salaries (\$36,160).

Program Duplication

The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UAF), offers the Master of Arts in psychology as a component of the Ph.D. degree. UAF awarded an average of seven master's degrees over the past five years. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) offers a Master of Applied Psychology and the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) offers master's degrees in counseling psychology and school psychology. Over the past five years, UALR awarded an average of 9 degrees. During this period, UCA awarded an average of 12 degrees in counseling psychology and 9 degrees in school psychology.

Desegregation

ATU African American graduate student enrollment is 2.9 percent and other minority graduate student enrollment is 6.9 percent.

Program Productivity

In 2003-2004, 11 of the 17 (65 percent) master's degree programs at ATU met Coordinating Board degree productivity guidelines.

The following resolution is presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Science in psychology (CIP 42.0101) at Arkansas Tech University effective Spring 2006.

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 Arkansas Tech University of the approval.

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT FORT SMITH**

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas System (UA) request approval to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith (UAFS), effective August 2006. The program is consistent with the role and scope of the institution to offer bachelor's degrees designed to meet the demonstrated need and demand of the region. UAFS is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The UA Board approved the proposal on September 9, 2005.

Description of Program

The proposed program is a traditional four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree that is designed to lead to licensure as a registered nurse (RN) while providing a liberal arts and sciences foundation to prepare the graduate for preferred employment as registered nurses. Graduates also would be prepared for management roles in health maintenance organizations, community health centers, public schools, nursing homes, and hospitals. The 128-semester credit hour program requires the completion of 59 credit hours of general education and 69 credit hours of nursing courses.

Need for the Program

UAFS currently offers the RN to BSN degree completion program that builds upon the associate degree in nursing. Through the existing 124-semester credit hour bachelor's degree program, licensed registered nurses with an associate degree can complete the BSN by taking 28 credit hours of general education courses and 32 credit hours of upper-level nursing coursework. Five nursing courses have a clinical component. Clinical sites utilized by associate degree nursing students are available to BSN students, and students may use health facilities in their local communities as clinical sites. While the RN to BSN program allows RNs to prepare for additional duties, it does not increase the number of registered nurses in Arkansas.

According to the 2004 Arkansas Legislative Commission on Nursing, the present educational pipeline is not adequate to meet the state's demand for registered nurses. In addition, it is the position of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) that all RNs should hold bachelor's degrees in order to provide improved patient care. AACN studies show that hospitals which have a 10 percent increase in the proportion of nurses with the BSN degree, the risk of

patient death and failure to rescue decreases by five percent. AACN research also has shown that only 16 percent of RNs with an associate degree continue their education through the RN to BSN degree completion program once they begin work. Therefore, there is a need for the traditional BSN program.

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (formerly the Arkansas Employment Security Department) predicts that in the six-county area around Fort Smith, 110 new RNs will be needed each year through the year 2012. UAFS produces approximately 60 RNs per year with its Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) program.

Statewide, only 71 percent (592) of all qualified applicants are admitted to BSN programs because of the lack of available student positions. Surveys of UAFS students and area high school students indicate that there is sufficient interest in the BSN program to admit the expected 20 students each year. Of 205 students responding to the survey, 86 percent (176) said that they would be interested in a campus-based, bachelor-level nursing program. Forty-two percent (86) said they would enroll as soon as possible, and 27 percent (55) said they would enroll within the next two years.

Program Costs

The first two years of the program will involve no additional costs because students will take general education courses already being taught. By the third year, the \$520,000 annual cost of the program (for four additional faculty members, equipment, and supplies) will be funded by student tuition and fees (\$200,000) and state general revenues (\$230,000) generated by new student enrollments and by revenue from the school's endowment funds (\$90,000).

Program Duplication

The traditional BSN program is offered at all Arkansas four-year public institutions, except Southern Arkansas University-Magnolia (SAUM) and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). SAUM offers the RN-BSN completion program and UALR offers the associate degree in nursing. In 2003, 243 (85 percent) BSN graduates passed the RN licensure exam.

Desegregation

African American student enrollment at UAFS is 4 percent and other minority student enrollment is 11 percent.

Program Productivity

In 2003-04, 4 of the 5 (80 percent) bachelor's degree programs at UAFS met Coordinating Board productivity guidelines.

The following resolution is presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (CIP 51.1601) at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith effective August 2006, contingent on the Arkansas State Board of Nursing granting initial approval of the program by February 1, 2006.

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 at Fort Smith, of the approval.

**TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN COSMETOLOGY INSTRUCTION
PULASKI TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

The administration and Board of Trustees of Pulaski Technical College (PTC) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in cosmetology instruction. PTC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The PTC Board approved the proposal on June 13, 2005.

Description of Program

The Technical Certificate (TC) in cosmetology instruction is designed to provide the competencies and 600 clock hours required by the Arkansas State Board of Cosmetology for instructor licensure. Six hours of general education in communications and mathematics and 24 hours of cosmetology courses are required to complete the 30-semester credit hour program. Nineteen of the credit hours are earned in theory courses and 11 credit hours are earned through the teaching practicum. PTC offers a Technical Certificate in cosmetology, and all of the courses in cosmetology instruction are being offered currently. The cosmetology program has four full-time faculty, one part-time faculty, and a full-time director. The program is housed at the Saline County Career Center in Benton and has been approved by the Arkansas State Board of Cosmetology.

Need for the Program

For admission to the program a prospective student must be a licensed cosmetologist. This past year eight students completed the cosmetology instructor courses and are now licensed instructors. Approval of this program will allow students who complete the cosmetology instructor coursework to receive a formal award. The Career Center receives 5-10 calls per week from cosmetology school owners who need instructors. The maximum enrollment for the program will be 36 students annually in accordance with the Cosmetology Board instructor/trainee guidelines. Four students are expected to enroll in the program in Spring 2006.

Program Costs

There will be no new costs because all courses, faculty, facilities, and equipment required for program operation are in place.

Program Duplication

Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas offers the cosmetology instructor training courses, but does not award a certificate.

Desegregation

African American enrollment at PTC is 43.5 percent. Fifteen (29 percent) of the students enrolled in the cosmetology program are African American.

Program Productivity

In 2003-2004, 16 of the 24 (67 percent) technical certificate programs at PTC met Coordinating Board degree productivity guidelines.

The following resolution is presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in cosmetology instruction (CIP 12.0413) at Pulaski Technical College effective Spring 2006.

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 Pulaski Technical College of the approval.

TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN COMPUTER-AIDED DESIGN NORTH ARKANSAS COLLEGE

The administration and Board of Trustees of North Arkansas College (NAC) request approval to offer the Technical Certificate in computer-aided design. NAC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The NAC Board approved the proposed program on April 14, 2005.

Description of Program

The proposed 31-semester credit hour Technical Certificate in computer-aided design (CAD) will build upon the existing Certificate of Proficiency in CAD. Additional courses in computer applications and advanced CAD will be added to the curriculum. The proposed program will be structured for incorporation into the existing associate degree in general technology.

Students currently enrolled in the 15-credit hour Certificate of Proficiency in CAD must complete the program over two semesters because of the sequential nature of the courses. The proposed program also will be completed over a two-semester period, but program graduates will have broader skills in mathematics, computer applications, and design for greater employment opportunities in manufacturing, construction, engineering, and architecture firms or for further study. Students enrolled in the proposed technical certificate program will qualify for student financial aid.

Need for the Program

Local manufacturing and construction firms have indicated that there is a need for more personnel trained in the use of modern CAD tools. The ten students currently enrolled in the existing certificate of proficiency program and seven students enrolled in the engineering graphics course plan to enroll in the proposed technical certificate program. Eleven high school students enrolled in the CAD program as non-degree seeking students also have expressed an interest in the program. Eight students are expected to enroll in the technical certificate program.

Program Costs

There are no new program costs because all of the courses, faculty, equipment, facilities, and library resources required for program implementation are in place.

Program Duplication

Seven Arkansas institutions offer the Technical Certificate in computer-aided drafting and design.

Desegregation

Minority student enrollment at NAC is 4.4 percent. This percent is increasing as the northern area of Arkansas attracts more minority residents for employment opportunities with regional and national companies.

Program Productivity

Of the 16 technical certificate programs offered at NAC in 2003-2004, 10 (63 percent) met Coordinating Board productivity guidelines.

The following resolution is presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Technical Certificate in computer-aided design (CIP 15.1302) at North Arkansas College, effective immediately.

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 North Arkansas College of this approval.

**MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN DIGITAL FILMMAKING
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

The administration and Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) request approval to offer the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in digital filmmaking, effective in the Spring 2006. The institution is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and the proposed program falls within the role and scope established for the institution. The UCA Board of Trustees approved the proposal on August 5, 2005.

Description of the Program

The proposed 60-semester credit hour program builds upon the existing undergraduate option in digital filmmaking. The proposed curriculum includes coursework in history, theory, effects, audio, cinematography, screenwriting, producing, and directing; all of which commonly are offered in a production-oriented program. Students must pass a written comprehensive examination on history, theory and production practices before completing the thesis short-film production project. In addition to tuition and fees, students should budget \$1500-\$2500 for the thesis project. Once the thesis is completed, the student must complete an oral examination that is principally a defense of the thesis. The program will focus on community-based video production and film protocol for Hollywood-style movie production. The MFA generally is recognized as the terminal degree in the film and television production field.

The program will be housed in the Stanley Russ Hall which includes a television studio, a special effects studio, a sound recording studio, editing rooms, computer labs, and three "smart" classrooms. Stanley Russ Hall adjoins the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) facilities which will allow students opportunities for collaborative projects and internships in the television studio. The equipment available to the digital filmmaking emphasis includes digital cameras, digital sound recorders, microphones, lighting equipment and digital editing systems. Additional digital camera packages, lighting kits and audio equipment will be purchased. One new full-time faculty will be employed to teach in the master's program and adjunct faculty will be employed to teach selected undergraduate production courses.

Need for the Program

Job opportunities for graduates of the program exist in the entertainment, network broadcasting and cable television fields. Some industry positions require freelance professionals who are hired for specific tasks and for a specified period of time. Six film companies in Arkansas were surveyed about the need for professionals. All stated that there is a need for persons with expertise, creativity, experience and education, and that MFA graduates could have average annual earnings of up to \$47,000 depending on the job and skill-level. The proposed MFA program will prepare graduates to become independent filmmakers, cinematographers, lighting technicians, production managers, editors, sound mixers, assistant directors, script supervisors, special effects technicians, and faculty at colleges and universities.

Fifty students are enrolled in upper-level filmmaking courses and have expressed an interest in pursuing graduate study in the field. Graduate student enrollment will be limited to 10 new students annually.

Consultant Comments

Dr. Kay Beck, Associate Professor and Director of the Digital Arts Entertainment Lab at Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, reviewed the program proposal and made the following comments:

- The employment picture for program graduates working in higher education is positive. Having a degree and skills in production is a plus.
- There are limited opportunities for graduates to work in the industry even when located in production centers such as Atlanta. Production jobs are dependent upon Hollywood-financed films being shot in a region based on “local color”, the existence of a qualified crew, and state financial incentives that reduce the cost of making a moving picture.
- The Arkansas film companies are small businesses that rely heavily on freelance labor.
- Funds should be budgeted annually for equipment maintenance and upgrades.
- Production courses require an enormous amount of faculty time and one-on-one, individualized instruction. Adjunct faculty may be used to ease full-time faculty teaching loads, but should be used sparingly.

- Assistant professors should not teach several graduate courses because some of their time should be devoted to publications and presentations to prepare for tenure and promotion opportunities.
- The cross-listing of undergraduate and graduate courses should be limited, but may be used on a short term basis until new graduate faculty are employed. Consideration may need to be given to limiting the number of undergraduate filmmaking students to the current level.
- Graduate students desire production-intensive programs. It is expected that film school graduates will move to California for a period of time as a “rite of passage”.
- The focus of the program – digital or traditional filmmaking – should be stated clearly in all published materials to differentiate the program and inform students.
- The proposed program is a timely response to a market demand.

Program Costs

New program costs will be minimal because existing faculty, facilities and equipment will be utilized. Initial costs for additional equipment will be \$50,000. A portion of the existing equipment budget will be for maintenance and upgrades. One new full-time faculty member will be hired in the second year of program operation at a projected cost of \$52,000. Program funds will come from new student tuition and fees (\$34,200), state general revenues (\$71,235) and existing funds for equipment and faculty salaries.

Program Duplication

The master’s in filmmaking is not offered in Arkansas. Similar programs in the region are at the University of Texas at Austin, University of North Texas, University of New Orleans, Georgia State University and Florida State University,

Desegregation

UCA African American graduate student enrollment is 8.6 percent, and other minority student enrollment is 6.9 percent.

Program Productivity

UCA offered 27 master’s degrees in 2003-04 of which 25 (93 percent) met Coordinating Board degree productivity guidelines.

The following resolution is presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Master of Fine Arts in digital filmmaking (CIP 50.0602) at the University of Central Arkansas effective in the Spring 2006.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas of this approval.

**INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RESOLUTIONS**

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) met on September 27, 2005. The following resolutions are presented for Coordinating Board consideration.

Recognition of Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Members

Ms. Connie Nelson

Ms. Connie Nelson submitted her resignation from the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee effective September 30, 2005. Ms. Nelson had served as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee since 2004 in the position designated for a legal resident of the state of Arkansas not officially affiliated with any postsecondary institution in any state as an employee, board member or another capacity.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Ms. Connie Nelson for her service as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Ms. Nelson.

Dr. Larry Williams

Dr. Larry Williams, Chancellor of ASU-Newport, has served since 2002 as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee in the position designated for a chief administrator of a two-year institution. His term expires December 31, 2005.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Dr. Larry Williams for his service as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Dr. Williams.

Recommendations for Appointment of New Committee Members

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301 empowers the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to appoint individuals to the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC). The law designates several institutional categories, which must have representation on the committee. Each member is appointed to a term of nine years with the term of one member expiring annually.

Dr. Freddie Jolley

Dr. Freddie Jolley has been nominated to fill one of the two positions designated for a legal resident of the state of Arkansas not officially affiliated with any postsecondary institution in any state as an employee, board member, or another capacity. This term will expire November 4, 2007, and completes an unexpired term.

The following resolution is presented for Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to ACA §6-61-302, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Dr. Freddie Jolley, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory. This term expires February November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Dr. Jolley for her willingness to serve as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Dr. Jolley.

Dr. Jeffery Olson

Dr. Jeffery Olson has been nominated to fill one of the two positions for public-institution chief administrators. Dr. Olson is the President of North Arkansas College in Harrison, Arkansas. This term will expire November 4, 2014.

The following resolution is presented for Board consideration.

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to ACA §6-61-302, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board appoints Dr. Jeffery Olson, as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee to represent Arkansas public two-year institutions. This term expires November 4, 2014.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board expresses appreciation to Dr. Olson for his willingness to serve as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to communicate this appreciation to Dr. Olson.

Recommendations for Program Certification

EXCELSIOR COLLEGE, ALBANY, NEW YORK

Initial Certification

Associate of Applied Science in Administrative/Management Studies
Associate of Science
Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts
Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Bachelor of Science in General Business
Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management
Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Management
Bachelor of Science in Marketing
Master of Business Administration

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Excelsior College to offer the following online degree programs: Associate of Applied Science in Administrative/Management Studies; Associate of Science; Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts; Bachelor of Science in Accounting; Bachelor of Science in General Business; Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management; Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Management; Bachelor of Science in Marketing; Master of Business Administration. The certification is for a period of two years and expires November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Excelsior College that the certification of these degree programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Excelsior College 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 Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, OHIO

Recertification

- Bachelor of Science in Applied Management
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication
- Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Management
- Bachelor of Science Management Information Systems
- Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management

Initial Certification

- Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management
- Bachelor of Science in Marketing

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Franklin University to offer the following online degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Applied Management; Bachelor of Science in Accounting; Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication; Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management; Bachelor of Science in Information Technology; Bachelor of Science in Management; Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems, and Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management. The recertification is for a period of three years and expires November 4, 2008.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial certification to Franklin University to offer the following online degree programs: Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management and Bachelor of Science in Marketing. The certification is for a period of three years and expires November 4, 2008.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of

Franklin University that the recertification and certification of these degree programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Franklin University 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 Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Initial Certification

RN to BSN degree program for employees of the Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Pine Bluff, AR

RESOLVED, That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Nebraska Wesleyan University to offer the RN to BSN degree program via distance delivery to employees of Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff, AR. The certification is for a period of two years and expires November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Nebraska Wesleyan University that the certification of this degree program 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Nebraska Wesleyan University 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 Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY, INDIANA

Recertification

Associate of Science

Initial Certification

Associate of Applied Science in Business

RESOLVED: That pursuant to ACA §6-61-301 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants program recertification to Vincennes University to offer the Associate of Science degree at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. The recertification is for a period of two years and expires November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, The Coordinating Board grants initial program certification to Vincennes University to offer the online Associate of Applied Science in Business at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. The certification is for a period of two years and expires November 4, 2007.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the administration of Vincennes University that the recertification and certification of these degree programs require 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 program in Arkansas.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director to notify the administration of Vincennes University 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 Arkansas Code §6-61-301.

INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC) met on September 27, 2005, for the regularly quarterly meeting.

ICAC members present were: Dr. Shirlene Harris, Ms. Deborah Germany, Mr. Dan Jordan, Ms. Connie Nelson, Mr. Ken Hoppe, and Dr. Larry Williams. Dr. Jack Lassiter and Mr. Ron Kelton participated in the meeting by phone. Members absent were: Dr. Walter Roettger and Ms. Brenda Germann.

Others attending were: Dr. Brenda Sullivan and Ms. Tressa Bankhead-Shavers, University of Phoenix-Little Rock; Ms. Janet Lawrence, Ms. Betty Boyd, Ms. Cynthia Moten, and Ms. Jeanne Jones, Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

The following actions were taken during the meeting:

Appreciation of Institutional Certification Advisory Committee Members

Ms. Connie Nelson

Ms. Connie Nelson submitted her resignation from the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee effective September 30, 2005. Ms. Nelson served as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee since 2004 in the position designated for a legal resident of the state of Arkansas not officially affiliated with any postsecondary institution in any state as an employee, board member or in any other capacity. Dr. Harris made the motion to accept Ms. Nelson's resignation and recognize her service as an ICAC member. The second was by Dr. Lassiter.

Dr. Larry Williams, Chancellor of ASU-Newport, has served since 2002 as a member of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee in the position designated for a chief administrator of a public two-year institution. His term expires on December 31, 2005. Dr. Lassiter made the motion to recognize Dr. Williams for his service as an ICAC member. The second was by Mr. Kelton.

Recommendations for Appointment of New Committee Members

Arkansas Code Annotated §6-61-301 empowers the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to appoint individuals to the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee (ICAC). The law designates several institutional categories which must have representation on the committee. Each member is appointed to a term of nine years with the term of one member expiring annually.

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education staff recommended the appointment of Dr. Freddie Jolley to fill the position designated for a legal resident of the state of Arkansas not officially affiliated with any postsecondary institution in any state as an employee, board member or another capacity. This term will expire November 4, 2007, and was formerly held by Ms. Connie Nelson. Dr. Williams made the motion to recommend Dr. Jolley to fill the unexpired term. The second was by Dr. Lassiter. Motion carried.

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education staff recommended the appointment of Dr. Jeffery Olson to fill the ICAC position designated for a public two-year institution chief administrator. Dr. Olson is the President of North Arkansas College in Harrison, Arkansas. His term will expire November 4, 2014. He will replace Dr. Larry Williams, of ASU-Newport, whose term expires in December 2005. Mr. Hoppe made the motion to recommend the appointment of Dr. Olson to fill the open position. The second was by Ms. Nelson. Motion carried.

Program Reviews

Excelsior College

Excelsior College of Albany, New York submitted an application for the initial certification of the following online degree programs to be offered to the employees of Tyson Foods and to Arkansas citizens:

Associate of Science
Associate of Applied Science in Administrative/Management Studies
Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts
Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Bachelor of Science in General Business
Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management
Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Management
Bachelor of Science in Marketing
Master of Business Administration

Founded in 1971 as an external degree program of the New York State Board of Regents, Excelsior College (formerly Regents College) was granted a charter by the State Board of Regents in 1998 to operate as a private, independent college. The institution provides educational opportunities to working adults via distance delivery. Excelsior College students earn degrees by:

- a. Transferring credits from regionally accredited colleges and universities, and courses offered in industry, government, and the military into an Excelsior degree plan;
- b. Successfully completing college-level proficiency examinations such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Defense Activity for Non-

Traditional Education Support (DANTES), and credits earned through courses offered in industry, government, and the military;

- c. Successfully completing online courses offered by Excelsior; and/or
- d. Combining one or more of the options listed above.

Excelsior students are typically working adults who already have credits from prior college experience or through training that has been evaluated for college credit. The student population at Excelsior College includes military personnel, mid-career professionals seeking a degree for job promotions, and entry-level professionals seeking a degree to improve job opportunities. Current enrollment for Excelsior College is approximately 27,000 students.

Excelsior College is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

Program Summaries

The **Associate of Science (AS)** (60-semester credit hours) is designed for transfer to upper-level colleges and universities. Arkansas students enrolled in the AS program must successfully complete the 35-semester credit hour Arkansas general education requirement. Students planning to pursue a career and/or advanced degree in business will be able to complete a minimum of 21 semester hours in accounting, management, marketing, and finance.

The **Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Administrative/Management Studies** (60-semester hours) allows students to combine the technical experience gained in the workplace with the academic knowledge and skills needed for management positions in fields related to their technical background.

The **Bachelor of Science degree (BS)** (120-semester credit hours) requires a minimum of 60-semester credit hours of arts and sciences courses (general education courses), and 60-semester credit hours of professional studies. Arkansas students are required to complete the 35-semester credit hour general education requirement for a baccalaureate degree.

Students seeking business degrees are required to complete the following coursework to satisfy Excelsior's business core requirements: financial accounting, managerial accounting, business law, computers, management, marketing, business policy, production/operations management, ethics, and organizational behavior. Once the business core has been satisfied, Arkansas students have the option of completing the following major areas:

- ◆ BS in Accounting prepares students for positions in accounting. Coursework includes statistics, accounting-related information systems, taxation, and auditing.

- ◆ BS in General Business helps students build a foundation of business knowledge and skills from which to gain entry-level employment in business and industry. This degree program is designed for students planning a career in business, and/or future graduate study in business or law
- ◆ BS in Human Resources Management emphasizes the management of individuals and groups in business and industry, government agencies and other organizations. Coursework will include labor relations, organizational behavior, and personnel administration.
- ◆ BS in Management Information Systems students complete coursework that will prepare them for a career as management-oriented technicians in such positions as systems consultants, programmer analysts, and computers specialists. Coursework includes systems design, programming, and design implementation.
- ◆ BS in Marketing prepares students for careers involving market research, directing the flow of goods and services, forecasting future trends, and advertising and promotion. Upon completion of the marketing program, students will be prepared for careers in product and brand management, industrial marketing, advertising, and market information systems analysis.
- ◆ BS in Liberal Arts offers students the opportunity to add a liberal arts and science component to previous work and academic experience. The degree program is designed for students who have not yet made a final decision regarding a career path and want to explore their options while developing the skills and background necessary for a personally, socially, and professionally fulfilling life. Coursework helps students strengthen critical thinking, writing, and communication skills. The 60 hours of professional studies for this degree program may be earned in applied professional courses, additional arts and science courses (humanities, social science/history, natural science/math), or a combination of both.

Students completing the **Master of Business Administration (MBA)** program must complete 48-semester credit hours with an overall GPA of 3.00. MBA students may transfer 42 hours of relevant graduate-level credits to the Excelsior program. Students must complete the Strategy and Policy capstone course at Excelsior.

Faculty Credentials

A review of faculty credentials indicates that program faculty have the appropriate credentials for the courses they are assigned to teach.

Library Services

Excelsior students and faculty have access to the Excelsior College Virtual Library. The library is a collaborative partnership between Excelsior College and the Sheridan Libraries of the Johns Hopkins University.

Student Services

All student services are conducted online. Enrolled students access their *MyEC* page to access personal information related to course registration, grades, transcripts, and other aspects of their enrollment at Excelsior College. Each student is assigned an academic advisor who provides guidance to the student related to College and program requirements. Students communicate with their advisor via e-mail, telephone, and mail correspondence.

Tyson Foods

In 2003, Excelsior College began a pilot program that would allow the employees of Tyson Foods in Springdale to complete their college degree by transferring previously earned college credits to Excelsior or taking advantage of the other enrollment options offered by Excelsior College. The employees involved in the program were mid-level management in human resources, accounting, food quality, and other operational areas. Employees involved in the pilot program completed general education requirements at NorthWest Arkansas Community College and transferred those hours to Excelsior toward a baccalaureate degree.

In 2005, Excelsior College was selected by an employee committee as the Preferred Education Provider for Tyson employees because of the flexibility it provides students, the curriculum, and level of student support offered by the institution. Under the current program, Tyson employees can transfer all general education and other lower-level courses completed at NorthWest Arkansas Community College to Excelsior College and then complete their baccalaureate degree online. Since 2003, approximately 25 Tyson employees have enrolled in Excelsior College, and two (2) employees have graduated from the institution.

State Certifications/Licensures

The New York State Board of Regents and the Office of Higher Education of the New York State Department of Education have approved the degree programs offered by Excelsior College.

ADHE Staff Recommendation

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education staff has determined that Excelsior College of Albany, New York, meets the criteria for program certification defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

ADHE staff recommends a two-year certification of the following online degree programs to be offered to Tyson employees and Arkansas citizens by Excelsior College:

- Associate of Science
- Associate of Applied Science in Administrative/Management Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Bachelor of Science in General Business
- Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management
- Bachelor of Science in Information Systems Management
- Bachelor of Science in Marketing
- Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts
- Master of Business Administration

Franklin University

Franklin University submitted an application for the recertification and initial certification of the following online degree programs:

Recertification:

- Bachelor of Science in Applied Management
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication
- Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Management
- Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems
- Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management

Initial Certification:

- Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management
- Bachelor of Science in Marketing

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted initial certification in 2001 to allow Franklin University to offer online bachelor degree programs in Arkansas through the Community College Alliance (CCA). Recertification was granted in 2003. The institution is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Initial certification for the Bachelor of Science programs in applied management, business administration, computer science, health care management, management information systems, and public safety management was granted by the Coordinating Board in 2001. The Coordinating Board certified the Bachelor of Science in accounting in 2003 and the Bachelor of Science programs in digital communication, information technology, and management in 2004.

The Community College Alliance

The CCA is a collaboration between Franklin University and more than 228 community and technical colleges in the United States. CCA members are located in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Arkansas CCA members are Arkansas Northeastern College, Cossatot Community College, Mid-South Community College, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Ouachita Technical College, and Southern Arkansas University-Tech.

Through the collaborative efforts of Franklin University and Arkansas CCA members, Arkansas students can complete the requirements for an associate degree from a partnering community college. All Arkansas students are required to complete the 35-semester hour general education core. Once the associate-level coursework is completed, students can complete 24 semester credit hours of pre-requisite coursework (bridge courses) at the community college. Once the bridge courses are completed, students then complete the online courses required for the bachelor degree they are pursuing. All of Franklin University's bachelor's degrees require 124 semester credit hours.

Since initial certification in 2001, 177 Arkansas students have enrolled in programs offered through the Community College Alliance and eight (8) have completed bachelor's degrees in accounting, business administration, health care management, and information technology.

Program Summaries - Recertification

The Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree program provides students with a foundation for entry-level positions in the accounting field. One (1) Arkansas student has graduated from this program. Currently three (3) Arkansas students are enrolled in the program.

The Bachelor of Science in Applied Management degree program prepares students for management positions in fields related to their technical background. Students enrolling in this program must have work experience in a technical area. Courses completed in the program will provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills to communicate effectively, solve problems, and understand a job from the perspective of both a manager and a technician. Currently five (5) Arkansas students are enrolled in the program.

The Bachelor of Science in Business degree program prepares students for management and other professional positions in business and industry. Five (5)

students have graduated from the program. Currently 25 Arkansas students are enrolled in the program.

Students in the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree program learn mathematical, scientific, and logical concepts necessary to design and build computer systems, develop and test software, and write software manuals. Currently three (3) Arkansas students are enrolled in the program.

The Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication degree program prepares students for jobs as Web designers and e-marketing specialists responsible for helping companies adapt to and implement current and future Internet technologies. Students enrolled in the program can select from two concentrations in order to meet their specific career goals: (1) Web Development which focuses on the technologies needed to implement and maintain business Web sites, and (2) E-marketing which focuses on promoting products and services via Internet, e-mail, etc. Currently one (1) Arkansas student is enrolled in the program.

The Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management degree program provides healthcare professionals with the additional skills and knowledge necessary for management positions such as practice manager, healthcare administrator, and healthcare systems manager. One (1) Arkansas student has completed the program. Currently two (2) Arkansas students are enrolled in the program.

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology degree program learn how to design, implement and manage complex computer systems, design small and medium networks, assess and apply the control and security measures necessary to protect information, and develop the communication skills needed to interact with technicians and management. One (1) Arkansas student has graduated from the program. Currently two (2) Arkansas students are enrolled in the program.

The Bachelor of Science in Management degree program helps students gain an understanding of organizational theories, performance improvement concepts, and systems thinking. Coursework helps students develop their personal management style, and learn how to maximize the effectiveness of work teams. Currently one (1) Arkansas student is enrolled in the program.

The Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems degree program combines computer science and management concepts to prepare students for occupations such as analyst and managers responsible for maintaining and overseeing the effective use of technology in national and international companies. Currently one (1) Arkansas student is enrolled in the program.

The Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management degree program prepares students for management roles in fire/police departments, emergency response

agencies, and other agencies responsible for public safety and homeland security. Currently two (2) Arkansas students are enrolled in the program.

Program Summaries - Initial Certification

The Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management (HRM) degree program prepares students for human resources (HR) careers in the corporate and private sectors. Coursework prepares students to perform key responsibilities within the HR department, apply team-building concepts, understand job analysis techniques and methods, and demonstrate an understanding of fundamental HRM principles. Students graduating from the program will have the academic credentials for positions as a HR Assistant, Employee Benefits Analyst, Recruitment Specialist, Training and Development Coordinator, and Dispute Resolutions Mediator. Projected Arkansas enrollment for the first year of the program is six (6) students.

The Bachelor of Science in Marketing degree program will prepare students for careers in effectively promoting the organizations they represent to potential clients and customers. Upon completion of required coursework, students will demonstrate an understanding of marketing principles, an ability to apply marketing research methods, the knowledge to manipulate marketing mix, and effective written analysis and communications skills. Four (4) Arkansas students are expected to enroll in the program.

Faculty

A review of faculty credentials indicates that program faculty have the appropriate credentials for the courses they are assigned to teach.

Online Support Services

The online course delivery system offers technical support for students and faculty. Online faculty are required to complete online training courses to familiarize themselves with the online system. A mentor monitors first-time faculty during their first teaching rotation to insure that the faculty member and their student progress successfully through the course.

Online student support services include answering initial inquiries about programs, application processing, advising, course registration, financial aid, books and material order processing, online library access, and ongoing day-to-day access to a student support counselor. A university e-mail account is set up for each student upon admission to the university. University library services are available online.

State Certifications/Licensure

Franklin University is certified by the Ohio Board of Regents through December 2008.

ADHE Staff Recommendation

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education staff has determined that Franklin University meets the program certification requirements of the Rules and Regulations of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

ADHE staff recommends a three-year certification, expiring November 4, 2008, for the following online degree programs:

Recertification

- Bachelor of Science in Applied Management
- Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Bachelor of Science in Business Management
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Digital Communication
- Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Management
- Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems
- Bachelor of Science in Public Safety Management

Initial Certification

- Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management
- Bachelor of Science in Marketing

Nebraska Wesleyan University

Nebraska Wesleyan University of Lincoln, Nebraska submitted an application for the initial certification of the distance delivery RN to BSN degree program to be offered to employees of the Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Pine Bluff.

Nebraska Wesleyan University is a private, independent university with an enrollment of approximately 2,000 full-time students. The university offers baccalaureate and master's degrees. Nebraska Wesleyan is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

Program Summary

The Nebraska Wesleyan RN to BSN degree program will prepare nursing practitioners for career advancement in the ever-changing healthcare environment. The program provides educational mobility for nursing employees who have completed diploma and/or associate degree programs, and gives them credit for previous nursing education and experience.

Courses for the proposed degree program will be offered in eight-week terms to licensed, practicing nurse-managers at the Jefferson Regional Medical Center in

Pine Bluff. Course instruction will be delivered through a combination of distance delivery via the Blackboard Learning System and videotapes of classes conducted as part of the RN to BSN degree program at the university's Omaha, Nebraska campus. In addition to the distance delivery component, an instructor from Omaha will travel to Pine Bluff to conduct at least one class session during the eight-week course. Projected enrollment for the first session is nine (9) students.

Entrance requirements for students include:

- ◆ Current Arkansas RN license
- ◆ Employee of Jefferson Regional Medical Center at Pine Bluff
- ◆ Completion of the Arkansas 35-hour general education core requirements for a baccalaureate degree
- ◆ Admission to Nebraska Wesleyan University

Students enrolled in the RN to BSN degree program will be required to complete a minimum of 32 credit hours through Nebraska Wesleyan University. Required coursework includes: computers in health care, nursing philosophy, ethics, health assessment; nursing research, leadership, management, and nursing issues.

Arkansas students will be required to complete Arkansas general education requirements and pre-nursing/support courses prior to admission to the program. These requirements can be completed at a local two-year institution or a college/university of the student's choice.

Faculty Credentials

A review of faculty credentials indicates that program faculty have the appropriate credentials for the courses they are assigned to teach.

Equipment and Facilities

Equipment and facilities for the program will be provided by the Jefferson Regional Medical Center. Students will have access to staff and equipment available in the hospital's Information Systems Department. Internet access will be provided to staff members in the program.

Student Support Services

Arkansas students will have access to the same student support services currently provided for on-campus students in Nebraska. A representative from the on-campus program will conduct the student orientation session in Pine Bluff. Communication with faculty will be available via e-mail, the Blackboard, and phone. Online and print library resources from the Nebraska Wesleyan library and the UAMS Area Health Education Center (AHEC) located at the Jefferson Regional Medical Center are available for Arkansas students.

The program is being offered at no cost to hospital employees. Jefferson Regional Medical Center will pay all tuition, book costs, and fees for the employees enrolled in the RN to BSN program.

State Certifications/Licensures

Nebraska Wesleyan University is authorized to offer degree programs by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education and its nursing program is accredited by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.

The Nebraska Board of Nursing (NBN) and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) have reviewed the RN to BSN degree program. Both NBN and ASBN have determined that Nursing Board approval is not required for the program because the program is not for initial licensure. The Arkansas State Board of Nursing has approved the community-based clinical requirements for the program.

ADHE Staff Recommendation

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education staff has determined that the RN to BSN degree program of Nebraska Wesleyan University of Lincoln, Nebraska, meets the criteria for program certification defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

ADHE staff recommends a two-year certification of the RN to BSN degree program to be offered to Jefferson Regional Medical Center employees in Pine Bluff. The certification expires November 4, 2007.

Vincennes University

Vincennes University of Vincennes, Indiana, submitted an application for the recertification of the Associate of Science degree program and the certification of the online Associate of Applied Science in Business Studies degree program offered for military personnel at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board granted initial certification to Vincennes University in 1987. The institution is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities with the next accreditation visit expected in 2006.

Enrollment in the programs offered by Vincennes University at Camp Robinson is limited to active duty, reserve, and retired National Guard and other military personnel. The University is recognized by the military as a Service Members Opportunity College (SOC), and is a test center for the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

Since recertification in 2003, approximately 600 students have enrolled in the programs offered at Camp Robinson and there have been 32 graduates.

Program Summary - Recertification

The Associate of Science (63 semester credit hours) is designed for transfer to upper-level colleges and universities. Arkansas students enrolled in the AS program must successfully complete the 35-semester credit hour Arkansas general education core requirement.

Program Summary - Initial Certification

The online Associate of Applied Science in Business Studies (62 semester credit hours) allows students to combine technical experience gained in the workplace with academic knowledge and skills needed for entry-level positions in business. General education requirements are completed at the Camp Robinson site, while the online courses are completed through the main Vincennes campus.

Review Visit

An on-site review was conducted in June 2005, by Dr. Karon Rosa and Ms. Jeanne Jones, both of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). Concerns identified during the application review and on-site visit are listed below:

1. Discrepancies between program names identified by ADHE as approved for Camp Robinson and programs listed in the institution's literature and recertification application. *Degree names have been corrected.*
2. General education requirements for the Associate of Science degree were not in line with Arkansas requirements. *Vincennes has added the science requirement (biology and chemistry lab courses), a computer course, and college algebra to meet the degree requirements.*
3. Sixty percent (60%) of the faculty did not meet credential requirements for the courses they were teaching. *Faculty have been reassigned to courses for which they have appropriate credentials or are no longer employed to teach at Camp Robinson. New faculty have been hired with appropriate credentials. The Camp Robinson Director will send a list of faculty assignments and faculty credentials to ADHE prior to each semester to insure credentials are appropriate.*

Student Support Services

Arkansas students have access to student support services on-site at Camp Robinson and online from the main campus. The local Site Director is responsible for student registration and advising.

State Certifications/Licensures

Vincennes is authorized to offer programs by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Vincennes is also authorized to offer programs in Tennessee and Florida.

ADHE Staff Recommendation

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education staff has determined Vincennes University meets the criteria for program certification defined in the Rules and Regulations of the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee.

ADHE staff recommends a two-year certification for the degree programs offered by Vincennes University at Camp Robinson. The certification expires November 4, 2007.

Recertification
Associate of Science

Initial Certification
Associate of Applied Science in Business

Notifications

New Program Option (*Information item only*)

Capella University

Accounting option added to existing Master of Business Administration degree (15 quarter credit hours/10 semester credit hours)

Certificate of Exemption Issued (*ADHE Director approval*)

Perfecting Saints Bible College and Seminary, Kensett, AR

Associate of Biblical Studies	Associate of Theological Studies
Associate of Christian Counseling	Bachelor of Biblical Studies
Bachelor of Christian Counseling	Bachelor of Religious Education
Bachelor of Theological Studies	Master of Religious Education
Master of Christian Counseling	Master of Theological Studies
Doctor of Religious Education	Doctor of Christian Counseling
Doctor of Theological Studies	Doctor of Christian Ministry

The School of the Scripture, Marianna, AR

Associate in Biblical Studies	Bachelor in Biblical Studies
Bachelor in Religious Education	Bachelor in Christian Counseling
Master in Religious Education	Master in Christian Counseling
Doctor in Religious Education	Doctor in Christian Counseling

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Extension Campus,
Conway, AR

Master of Divinity	Master of Religion
Master of Theological Studies	

PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS
TEACHER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

This agenda item presents proposed rules and regulations of the Teacher Opportunity Program that are necessary to comply with Act 2196 of 2005. The Teacher Opportunity Program will replace the Teacher/Administrator Grant.

The Teacher Opportunity Program was created in 2005 to allow employed teachers in Arkansas the opportunity to pursue additional college instruction related to their employment. Students may receive funds up to but not in excess of \$3,000 during one academic year for cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and books.

Act 2196 of 2005 creates a program that awards funds first to employed teachers seeking completion of the Dual Certification Incentive Program. If further funds are available, other employed teachers can seek funds to gain additional instruction related to their job assignment. The General Assembly appropriated two million (\$2,000,000) for the 2005-07 biennium. The local school district nominates the employed teachers for this forgivable loan and agrees to match ADHE funds in a 2 to 1 ratio. ADHE will match two dollars for each one dollar from the school district. In turn, the teacher agrees to complete the additional certification within three (3) years of first receiving funds under the program and teaches or serves as a classroom teacher in an Arkansas public school district for three (3) continuous years immediately following receipt of the additional certification.

In compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act of 1979, a public hearing was announced in a newspaper of general circulation to discuss the rules and regulations that will govern the Teacher Opportunity Program. The hearing will be in conjunction with this meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the rules and regulations presented in this agenda item for the Teacher Opportunity Program, to be administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That, by the adoption of these rules and regulations presented in this agenda item, the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to

promulgate these rules and regulations and to implement them for the 2006 spring semester of the academic year.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or her designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections when necessary in the program rules for the Teacher Opportunity Program.

TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR GRANT OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM RULES AND REGULATIONS

RULE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

- I. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) shall administer the Teacher/Administrator Grant Opportunity Program with the policies set by the ~~State Board of Arkansas~~ Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB). All formal communications shall be addressed to or signed by the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education or the Director's designee. The Teacher Opportunity Program Advisory Council shall provide advice to the Department of Higher Education regarding administration of the program.

- II. Teacher Opportunity Program Advisory Council
 - A. The Teacher Opportunity Program Advisory Council shall consist of eight members. The members will be appointed annually to serve a two-year staggered term by the Director of the Department of Higher Education. The members of this council will consist of representatives from public and private postsecondary institutions with Teacher Education programs, public and private elementary and secondary schools, and the teacher certification division of the Department of Education.

 - B. The Director of the Department of Higher Education or the Director's designee shall serve as the presiding officer of the Teacher Opportunity Program Advisory Council and shall ensure that staff services for the Council are provided.

- III. The final responsibility for selecting loan recipients shall rest with the Department of Higher Education.

- IV. When functioning under Act 109 of 1983, Act 331 of 1987, and any subsequent legislation, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall follow the Provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

RULE 2 - LOAN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- I. ~~Eligibility Criteria~~
 - IA. Recipients Applicants must be bona fide residents of the State of Arkansas, as defined by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, as having lived in Arkansas continually for at least six months prior the application deadline.

- B. ~~Recipients must be citizens of the United States or permanent resident aliens.~~

- II G. ~~Recipients~~ Applicants shall maintain current teacher or administrator certification with the Arkansas Department of Education. Only individuals with a provisional certification or who are in the alternative certification program are not considered certified for the purposes of the Dual Certification Incentive Program.

- III D. Recipients awarded under the Dual Certification Incentive Program must:
 - A. Be currently employed as a classroom teacher in a public school in Arkansas; and

 - B. Have been employed by the same school district as a classroom teacher for at least three (3) years immediately preceding application; and

 - C. Be accepted for enrollment in a teacher education program that will lead to certification in a subject area that is different than the teacher's current area of certification and the subject area has either:
 - 1. Been declared by the Arkansas Department of Education as a subject area with a shortage of teachers; or

 - 2. Is in the grade level and subject area for which the school district has requested a waiver under 6-17-309.

 - D. Be selected by the local school district's board of directors based on;
 - 1. The recommendation of the building level superintendent and principal; or

 - 2. The school district's request for waiver of teacher certification requirements under 6-17-309 because the district is unable to hire a qualified certified teacher to fill the position and has offered to fund the scholarship for the applicant.

 - E. Sign a promissory note agreeing to teach or serve as a classroom teacher in an Arkansas public school for three (3) consecutive years immediately following receipt of the additional certification or to repay the total amount plus interest of the loan received under the Dual Certification Incentive Program.

F. Earn a 2.5 cumulative grade point average in courses required toward dual certification and must complete a sufficient number of semester credit hours so as to be able to complete certification requirements within three (3) years of the initial award of funds under this program and be renewed for the following academic year.

IV. Non-Dual Certification Program requires that:

AD. ~~Recipients~~ Applicants must be currently employed as teachers or administrators in Arkansas and declare an intention to continue such employment in Arkansas.

BE. ~~Recipients~~ Applicants must be enrolled in an approved institution in Arkansas.

CF. ~~Recipients~~ Applicants must be enrolled in college level courses, excluding correspondence courses, directly related to their employment as certified by the Director of the Department of Education, General Education Division.

DG. Recipients must maintain at least a 2.50 grade point average in the courses funded by the Teacher Opportunity Program. Recipients funded for one course must obtain at least a "B" for that course. Recipients funded for two courses must obtain at least a "B" for one course and a "C" for the other.

RULE 3 - APPLICATION PROCESS

I. Applications

IA. Solicitation of Applicants

Applications will be available for download from the Arkansas Department of Higher Education's website. Applications will also be mailed to individuals upon request.

~~Program information and applications are mailed to all public and private elementary and secondary school principals, counselors, and superintendents in Arkansas by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.~~

IIB. Submission of Application

Applications include personal information, as well as education and employment information. The Department of Higher Education will review all applications to ensure that all pertinent data are included and will notify

the applicant of the status of the application. If the application is incomplete, ADHE will notify the applicant of this status, the information that is missing, and the deadline to submit the information. This deadline will be no less than two weeks from the date of the notification letter. A letter is mailed to each applicant confirming the receipt and completeness of the application.

III G. Application Deadline

The application deadline will be set each year by the Department of Higher Education. All applicants applications must be received by the Department postmarked by the established deadline date. Applications received after the deadline date in order to will not be considered for a participation in the Teacher/Administrator Grant Opportunity Program. The Department may establish alternate deadlines for applicants based on the start date of each term.

IV. School District Verification

The applicant must obtain verification from the president of the local board of directors of the school district where the applicant is employed, that:

- A. The applicant meets the employment and certification requirements of the statute and these rules and regulations are for the award of a loan; and
- B. The school district has nominated the applicant for the loan; and
- C. The school district will meet the matching requirements for funds for this loan.

V. Verification by Teacher Certification Official

The applicant must obtain verification from the teacher certifying official at the applicant's college or university verifying:

- A. That the applicant has been admitted to the teacher education program for certification in the subject area specified on the application; and
- B. The number of semester hours remaining to complete certification in the specified subject area; and
- C. That the applicant will be able to complete certification in that subject area within three (3) years of initial entry into the Dual Certification Incentive Program.

II. ~~Ranking of Applicants~~

~~Applications are ranked according to criteria developed in conjunction with the Department of Education focusing on state-wide needs. The Teacher/Administrator Grant Program Advisory Council reviews the selection criteria annually.~~

III. ~~Selection and Notification of Grant Recipients~~

~~A. The final responsibility for selecting grant recipients shall rest with the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.~~

~~B. Selected grant recipients will be mailed award notices stating their eligibility for the program. The award notice will include the student's name and social security number, award amount, the approved institution, and the term of courses approved. The award notice also explains the conditions for the grant, the disbursement procedures, and the students responsibilities. The award notice must be signed by the recipient and returned to the Department of Higher Education by the specified deadline, or the award will be revoked.~~

RULE 4 – AWARD PROCESS

I. Selection of Loan Recipients

A. The final responsibility for selecting loan recipients shall rest with the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

B. Applications for the Dual Certification Incentive Program will receive first priority for awards. If there are not sufficient funds to award all eligible applicants, then applications will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

1. Priority will be given to those who will complete certification in the least amount of semester credit hours.

2. When the amount of semester credit hours to complete certification is equal, applicants will be selected based on school district priority in order to balance the number of awardees among the districts.

3. Priority among applicants from the same district who will be starting during the same academic term will be based on the date the application is received. The application received first will receive first priority, unless otherwise notified by the local school board of a different priority.

- C. If funds remain after awarding all eligible applicants under the Dual Certification Incentive Program, applications will be ranked according to criteria developed in conjunction with the Department of Education, focusing on state-wide needs.

II. Notification of Loan Recipients

- A. Selected loan recipients will be mailed award notices stating their eligibility for the program. The award notice will include, where applicable, the student's name and social security number, award amount, the approved institution, the starting term of the loan, and the term by which certification must be completed. The award notice also explains the conditions for the loan, the disbursement procedures, and the responsibilities of the recipient. The award notice must be signed by the recipient and returned to the Department of Higher Education by the specified deadline, or the award will be revoked.
- B. Prior to the disbursement of funds, loan recipients will receive a promissory note for the purpose of entering into a loan agreement with ADHE. The terms of the loan agreement will include the general purpose, repayment and deferment procedures, interest calculations, and a schedule of advances. The promissory note shall be signed by the loan recipient, a co-maker of eligible age, and a notary public. Modifications to any award amounts will be confirmed through the issuance of a new promissory note.

RULE 45 – LOAN AMOUNT

I. Grant Award Limits

- IA. Loans for students in the Dual Certification Incentive Program include funding for the cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and books, though not to exceed \$3000 during any one academic year. The loan will consist of a match of ADHE funds with local school district funds in a 2-to-1 ratio. ADHE will match two dollars for each one dollar from the school district.
- IIA. All other recipients may receive funds up to, but not in excess of, the cost of student fees, books, and instructional supplies at the public institution of higher education in this State assessing the highest rate of student fees.
- B. The loan or loans made to one individual within one fiscal year may not exceed the aforementioned costs associated with six semester hours or the equivalent of six semester credit hours.

- III.G. Based on the availability of program funds, awards will be disbursed pursuant to the loan limitations above and ranking status. Recipients must maintain an eligible status to receive funds (~~See Rule 2~~).

RULE 56 - LOAN DISBURSEMENT

I Dual Certification Incentive Program Loans

Each term the institution will verify the enrollment of its students in the program to ADHE and will report this status, along with amount of the actual, eligible charges. ADHE will disburse its share of the matching funds to the institution, who will then disburse the funds to the student in accordance with the institution's disbursement procedures. ADHE will notify each school district of the amount due, the names of the recipients, and the institution to whom payment is to be made. Districts will disburse funds to the institutions within 10 working days of receipt of notification from ADHE.

III- Other Funding

- A. For funding to students not in the Dual Certification Incentive Program, ~~the~~ Teacher Opportunity Program is a reimbursement program. Grant recipients will receive the awarded funds after they have verified payment of tuition and fees and minimum of a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for the coursework taken.
- B. ~~—~~ A check made payable to the individual recipient is mailed to the student once he/she has successfully completed the funded course with a satisfactory grade and has provided the Arkansas Department of Higher Education with an original copy of the itemized paid receipt and grade report or transcript for the funded course.
- C. ~~—~~ Students may transfer grants from one approved institution to another; however, the recipient must notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education of this change in writing before the transfer deadline.
- D. ~~—~~ The Arkansas Department of Higher Education will verify the enrollment status of each recipient at the end of each term.

RULE 6 7- RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Recipient Responsibilities

It is the recipient's responsibility to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, in writing, of any change in status within 21 days. This will include, but is not limited to:

Change of name;

Change in address;

Change in institution; or

Change in coursework to be funded;

Change in enrollment status;

Change in employment; or

Change in certification status.

Failure to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education of a change in status may affect future eligibility or collection status.

RULE 7 8 – INSTITUTIONAL/SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

I. College/University Responsibilities

A. Administrative Agreement

~~An Administrative Agreement outlining all of the requirements of the institutions participating in the various state aid programs will be obtained from each institution and kept on file in the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. This document will be updated as necessary.~~

The institutions must comply with the following responsibilities in order to maintain continued eligibility status. The chief executive officer of the approved eligible institution is responsible for appointing one representative from the financial aid office and one representative from the registrar's office to receive all communications, forms, etc. These is representatives will be is responsible for program disbursement, completing all forms, enrollment data, and complying with all program rules and

regulations. The institution must comply with the following responsibilities in order to maintain continued eligibility status.

B. Institutional Information Sheet

~~The institution is required to complete annually the Institutional Information Sheet for all financial aid programs administered by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The institutional representatives are responsible for completing tuition/fee information as well as enrollment information.~~

BG. Institutional Verification

~~The institution shall provide certification to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education at the close of each term the enrollment status of each applicant receiving an award. The chosen representative from the registrar's office is responsible for completing the enrollment roster and returning it to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education by the specified deadline. The enrollment roster is an alphabetical listing by institution of all persons receiving program funds for a given academic term.~~

The institution shall provide information to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education each semester after registration, providing the names of the Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP) recipients who are officially enrolled as of the 11th class day of enrollment. This information is reported on a verification roster. The Financial Aid Administrator or designated official is responsible for completing the verification roster each semester. The completed and signed TOP verification roster shall be returned to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education by the dates specified on the roster. The verification roster is an alphabetical listing by institution of all persons receiving a TOP award for a given academic term. Students who are not enrolled in the current term or do not meet the eligibility requirements shall not receive TOP funds for that term.

C. Disbursement Records

The institution shall maintain information on the student indicating the disbursement of Teacher Opportunity Program funds.

D. Certifying Official

The administrator is responsible for designating a certifying official

responsible for verifying enrollment and a disbursing official responsible for the disbursement of Teacher Opportunity Program funds.

E. Deadlines for Disbursement of Funds

All funds must be disbursed within 10 days of receipt of funds. Any outstanding funds not disbursed by these dates must be returned within 10 days to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

F. Refund Policy

It is the institution's responsibility to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education with the name of the student who withdrew, the date of withdrawal, and the refund amount. This information shall be placed on the institution's verification roster before the roster is returned to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The institution shall be responsible for the refund amount and shall pay that amount to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

G. Continuing Eligibility

It is the responsibility of each institution to annually complete the Continuing Eligibility roster. This roster shall be mailed to all institutions that have TOP recipient(s) enrolled. The Continuing Eligibility roster shall be returned to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education by the date specified on the roster. The Financial Aid Administrator or designated official is responsible for completing the Continuing Eligibility roster. The Continuing Eligibility roster is an alphabetical listing by institution of all Teacher Opportunity Program award recipients attending that institution for the academic year immediately preceding receipt of the Continuing Eligibility roster. The certifying official must complete the roster by providing the number of hours completed for the previous academic year and the cumulative grade point average achieved for each student listed.

D. Due Diligence

The institution will exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education on any loan recipient. In addition, the institution will exercise due diligence in complying with all the rules and regulations of the Teacher/Administrator Opportunity Loan Program. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education

shall periodically review the institution's records concerning the Teacher Opportunity Program in an effort to exercise its due diligence requirements as a steward of State of Arkansas funds.

II. School District Responsibilities

The president of each local school board that nominates a teacher to participate in the Dual Certification Incentive Program is responsible for appointing one representative from the school district office to receive all communications, forms, etc. relating to the Dual Certification Incentive Program. The district will disburse funds each term for each of its teachers participating in the Dual Certification Incentive Program within 10 working days of receipt of notification by ADHE of the amount due and the institution.

RULE 89 - REPAYMENT OF LOAN

I. Terms of Repayment

- A. The ADHE will forgive the loan if the teacher receives the additional certification within three (3) years of first receiving funds under the program and teaches or serves as a classroom teacher in an Arkansas public school district for three (3) continuous years immediately following receipt of the additional certification.
- B. The forgivable loan may be terminated if the recipient fails to meet both of the requirements in paragraph IA above.
- C. Verification of the loan recipient's employment will be conducted once a year, in June, through the school superintendent's office in the recipient's employment district or through records on file with the Arkansas Department of Education.
- D. Loan recipients who do not complete both requirements of paragraph IA above will be entered into repayment. The loan(s) shall be repaid within a maximum of five (5) years, plus accrued interest according to an interest and repayment schedule. Repayment will begin nine (9) months after the point in time when the recipient is no longer meeting, or can no longer meet, the requirements for forgiveness.

II. Interest on Loan

- A. Interest will begin accruing after the completion of the program, or immediately after termination of the forgivable loan, whichever is earlier.

- B. Interest will not accrue and installments need not be paid when an official deferment has been approved by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Request for deferment must be submitted to ADHE for approval using a Request for Deferment form.

III. Deferment of Loan

- A. At the discretion of ADHE scheduled loan repayments may be deferred if it is determined by ADHE that extraordinary circumstances prevent the recipient from making such repayments. Deferments may be granted for the following conditions:
1. The recipient is temporarily totally disabled, for a period of time not to exceed three (3) years, as established by sworn affidavit from a licensed physician. ADHE reserves the right to require a second opinion by an ADHE approved physician.
 2. The recipient is engaged in active duty as a member of a uniformed service. The recipient must provide their Uniformed Service Serial Number, Branch of Service and a copy of their military orders.
 3. Other extraordinary circumstances that would prevent the recipient from repaying the debt within the contractual obligations of the note may be considered.
- B. To qualify for a deferment, a recipient must notify ADHE of their claim for the deferment and provide supporting documentation on a Request for Deferment form that will be supplied by ADHE upon request. The Request for Deferment form must be completed and returned to ADHE by the recipient. The recipient will be notified within 10 days of approval or disapproval of any application for a deferment.

IV. Cancellation of Loan

ADHE will cancel a recipient's repayment obligations if it determines:

- A. On the basis of a sworn affidavit of a licensed physician, that the recipient is unable to teach on a full-time basis because of an impairment that is expected to continue indefinitely or result in death. ADHE reserves the right to require a second opinion by an ADHE approved physician; or

B. On the basis of a death certificate or other evidence of death, that is conclusive under state law, the recipient has died.

V. Prepayment of Loan

There shall be no penalty for prepayment or repayment of all or any portion of the principal and all interest accrued thereon.

VI. Failure to Repay

Loan recipients required to repay their loan(s), and who fail to meet their repayment obligations, may have added to their total obligation any costs for collection of the debt and shall have their teaching license in Arkansas revoked by the State Board of Education. In addition, ADHE will notify the Arkansas Department of Education of the failure to repay. The Arkansas Department of Education may pursue appropriate action to suspend the loan recipients teaching license.

RULE 9 10 - COLLECTION OF LOAN

I. Collection of Loan

Accounts will be retained by ADHE in the Financial Aid Division until the individual is no longer eligible for forgiveness or deferment. The account will be turned over to a vendor for repayment. The student will be notified by mail that their account is being placed with a vendor for collections and they will be sent a loan amortization schedule along with the letter. The account will remain with the vendor until repaid or 120 days past due. Loan recipients who are determined by ADHE to be 120 days delinquent will be mailed their first letter of notification 10 days after the installment payment is due. The co-signer will be notified at the same time. If payment is not forthcoming within 60 days from the original payment due date, a second letter of notification will be sent to the loan recipient and the co-signer declaring their account is delinquent and requesting that the account be immediately brought up to date. If the loan recipient has not responded within 90 days from the original payment due date, the third and final letter of notification will be sent to the recipient and co-signer informing them that the account will officially be in default if outstanding payments are not made within 30 days. At this time the account will be turned over to a debt collection agency.

II. Skip Tracing Mechanisms

ADHE will use these steps to locate recipients and/or co-signers if communications are returned as undelivered:

- A. Contact the Motor Vehicle Division of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration;
- B. Contact references listed on the recipient's application;
- C. Utilize telephone directory or check with directory assistance in the area of the recipient and/or co-signer's last known address;
- D. Contact institutional offices (alumni office, admissions office, registrar's office, fraternity or sorority, and the department that the recipient majored in) at the campus where the recipient last attended;
- E. Contact creditors, such as credit card companies, credit bureaus, or GSL lender;
- F. Contact recipient's field of study--professional organization, union, or licensing board;
- G. Contact post office;
- H. Contact utility companies; and,
- I. Contact Chamber of Commerce.

III. Credit Reporting Agencies

Defaulted recipients and/or co-signers will be reported to the following Credit Reporting Agencies:

- A. CSC Credit Reporting Services, Inc.
- B. T R W Credit Data
- C. Trans Union Credit Reporting

Forms for reporting defaulted loan recipients and/or co-signers are located in the collections file. ADHE will also promptly respond to any inquiries it receives from credit reporting agencies concerning delinquent or defaulted loan recipients and/or co-signers.

IV. State Income Tax Set Off

By the authority of Act 345 of 1993, the Department of Higher Education has been included as a claimant agency for the setoff of debts against state tax refunds.

V. Litigation

No sooner than 30 days after sending the third letter of notification, ADHE shall institute a civil suit against the recipient and co-signer for repayment of the loan. Small Claims Courts will be used to satisfy debts of accounts up to \$3,000.00. If over \$3,000.01, ADHE must use Circuit Court. If the account is \$3,000.01 or above, ADHE may choose to use Small Claims Courts and waive the difference because of the expense involved in going to Circuit Court. If ADHE chooses to waive the difference, it cannot later try to collect the difference. Forms to take the recipient and/or co-signer to Small Claims Courts are requested from the recipient's and/or co-signer's county of residence.

VI. Write-Offs

Teacher Opportunity Program loans may be written off as uncollectible if ADHE shows due diligence to satisfy the collection of the debt, and documents in the recipient's file that:

- A. The cost of litigation would exceed the likely recovery if litigation were commenced; or
- B. The recipient and/or co-signer do not have the means to satisfy a judgment on the debt, or a substantial portion thereof.

Proof of due diligence collection activities must be submitted to the Administrator of the Department of Finance and Administration and approval from the Administrator must be received before TOP accounts may be written off.

VII. Nonpayment Penalties

- A. Loan recipients who fail to meet their repayment obligations may have added to their total obligation any costs for collection of the debt.
- B. Loan recipients who fail to meet their repayment obligations shall have their teaching license in Arkansas revoked by the State Board of Education.

RULE 10 11 - PROGRAM DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are used in the Teacher Opportunity Program (TOP):

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>A measure of the academic work to be accomplished by the recipient. The academic year is defined as fall, spring, and summer semesters, in that order.</u>
<u>Approved Institution</u>	<u>An Arkansas postsecondary public or private college, university, or school that is currently accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association that has a teacher licensure program where those courses are directly creditable toward teacher licensure in a baccalaureate institution. The institution must not discriminate against applicants, or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, consistent with the provisions of applicable state and federal laws.</u>
<u>Award Year</u>	<u>The award year begins on July 1 of one calendar year, and extends to June 30 of the next calendar year.</u>
<u>Cancellation</u>	<u>ADHE shall cancel a recipient's repayment obligation if it determines: on the basis of a sworn affidavit of a licensed physician, that the recipient is unable to teach on a full-time basis because of an impairment that is expected to continue indefinitely or result in death. ADHE reserves the right to require a second opinion by an ADHE approved physician; or on the basis of a death certificate or other evidence of death, that is conclusive under State law, that the scholar has died.</u>
<u>Default</u>	<u>Failure to repay the Teacher Opportunity Program in accordance with the terms of the Promissory Note provided that this failure persists for 180 days for monthly payments.</u>

<u>Deferment</u>	<u>This is a period of suspension of repayments, during which interest does not accrue. ADHE shall not consider that the recipient has violated the repayment schedule if he or she does not meet the payments during the time he or she is in deferment status.</u>
<u>Due Diligence</u>	<u>A process of steps that ADHE takes to collect TOP funds when a recipient enters repayment status. It includes: billing the scholar, sending overdue notices, conducting address searches if the recipient cannot be located, reporting the account to credit bureaus, collection, and litigation. Due diligence also includes keeping the recipient informed of all changes in the TOP Program that affect his or her rights and responsibilities and responding promptly to the recipient's inquiries.</u>
<u>Promissory Note</u>	<u>The Promissory Note is a legal document obligating the recipient to repay the loan if he or she does not teach in a public school located in a geographical area of the state designated as having a critical shortage of teachers and/or in a subject matter designated as having a critical shortage of teachers one year for each year the student receives the TOP. The recipient's rights and responsibilities will be stated on the promissory note.</u>
<u>Satisfactory Academic Progress</u>	<u>To be maintaining satisfactory academic progress the recipient must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Students must be on track to complete the certification program within three (3) academic years.</u>
<u>Skip Tracing</u>	<u>A process for locating a recipient who is in repayment status. ADHE's efforts may include contacting relatives, friends, references, and other individuals or entities in the recipient's file.</u>

Subject Matter Designated as Critical Needs in the State of Arkansas The Arkansas Department of Education annually certifies subject matter areas

Arkansas as critical need based on the results of surveys obtained from school districts in the state of Arkansas. This information is submitted to the U. S. Department of Education; and subject shortage areas are certified as such in the state of Arkansas for purposes of providing forgiveness of student loans, etc. The TOP Commission will accept these subject matter areas for the TOP Program.

Teach on a Full-time Basis Teach the same number of hours required of teachers who have full-time contracts, as determined by the institution or agency in which an individual is teaching, for a minimum of one (1) academic term, as defined by the institution or agency in which an individual is teaching.

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD 2006 MEETING SCHEDULE

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meets quarterly to act upon Board initiatives and to respond to campus proposals. The proposed 2006 schedule for these regular quarterly meetings follows:

February 3, 2006	University of Arkansas at Monticello Monticello, Arkansas
April 28, 2006	Arkansas State University at Newport Newport, Arkansas
August 4, 2006	Arkansas Northeastern College Blytheville, Arkansas
October 27, 2006	Arkansas Tech University Russellville, Arkansas

The following resolution is suggested:

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board agrees to the following dates for regular quarterly meetings during 2006: February 3, April 28, August 4, and October 27.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board expresses its appreciation and accepts the invitations to meet in February at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, in April at Arkansas State University at Newport, in August at Arkansas Northeastern College and in October at Arkansas Tech University.

**REPORT ON PROGRAM DELETIONS
ACADEMIC YEAR 2004-05**

This report provides summary and detailed information about program deletions during the 2004-05 academic year.

Table 19-1 summarizes the number of program deletions for the academic year by level of program and by level of institution. 40 programs were deleted in 2004-05 compared to 27 program deletions in 2000-01, 36 in 2001-02, 36 in 2002-03 and 29 in 2003-04. All of the program deletions were at the undergraduate level.

Table 19-2 shows the specific details of the programs that have been deleted for each institution. Ten institutions deleted programs during this academic year.

**Table 19-1 Summary of Program Deletions at Arkansas Institutions
2004-05 Academic Year**

Four-Year Institutions	Number of Programs Deleted AY 2004-05
Certificate of Proficiency	0
Technical Certificate	1
Associate Degree	2
Advanced Certificate	0
Baccalaureate Degree	1
Graduate Certificate	0
Master's Degree	0
Specialist Degree	0
Doctoral Degree	0
First Professional Degree	0
Total	4

Two-Year Institutions	Number of Programs Deleted AY 2004-05
Certificate of Proficiency	10
Technical Certificate	22
Associate Degree	4
Advanced Certificate	2
Total	38

Total for all Institutions	Number of Programs Deleted AY 2004-05
Certificate of Proficiency	10
Technical Certificate	23
Associate Degree	6
Advanced Certificate	0
Baccalaureate Degree	1
Graduate Certificate	0
Master's Degree	0
Specialist Degree	0
Doctoral Degree	0
First Professional Degree	0
Total	40

**Table 19-2 Details of Program Deletions at Arkansas Public Colleges and Universities
2004-05 Academic Year**

Award	CIP Code	Degree Code	Program Name
Univeristy of Arkansas, Fayetteville			
BSE	13 1099	4040	Special Education
University of Arkansas, Fort Smith			
TC	51 0904	4520	Paramedic Technology
AAS	51 0904	0470	Paramedic Technology
University of Central Arkansas			
AAS	51 0806	0750	Physical Therapist Assistant
Arkansas Northeastern College			
CP	43 0106	0384	Crime Scene Investigation
TC	01 0101	4300	Agriculture
TC	01 0601	0012	Horticulture, Landscape, & Nursery Operations
TC	15 0603	4646	Industrial Management Systems
TC	15 0611	4265	Steel Industry Technology
TC	43 0106	0386	Crime Scene Investigation
TC	43 0107	4440	Criminal Justice
TC	47 0303	4615	Industrial Mechanical Systems
TC	52 0101	4365	Business Technology
TC	52 0801	4335	Banking & Finance
TC	52 1299	4735	Computer Support Technology
AAS	15 0303	0460	Industrial Electronics Technology (co-op with Cotton Boll Tech Inst)
AAS	52 0801	0275	Banking & Finance
Black River Technical College			
CP	20 0401	4925	Dietary Management
TC	20 0201	4497	Early Childhood Education
TC	51 0908	4830	Respiratory Technician
North Arkansas College			
TC	15 0303	4510	Electronics
TC	47 0303	4615	Industrial Maintenance
TC	48 0501	4680	Machine Shop
Northwest Arkansas Community College			
CP	11 0201	0025	AS/400 Operator
CP	11 0201	0026	AS/400 Developer
Ouachita Technical College			
CP	11 9999	4325	Certified Internet Webmaster
CP	48 9999	4523	Machine Tool Technology
CP	50 0402	0313	Visual & Spatial Technology/Graphic Design
TC	48 0501	4685	Machine Tool Technology
TC	52 0408	4770	Automated Office Technology
TC	52 1299	4735	Computer Applications Technology
South Arkansas Community College			
CP	47 0303	4315	Basic Industrial Technology
CP	48 0501	4718	Pre-Engineering
CP	48 0503	4523	Basic Machine Tool Technology
TC	08 0708	4845	Sales & Marketing
TC	47 0302	4617	Heavy Equipment Operation
TC	48 0503	4685	Machine Tool Technology
AAS	41 0301	0325	Chemical Technology
University of Arkansas Community College - Morrilton			
TC	48 0501	4680	Machine Tool Technology
AAS	48 0501	0625	Machine Tool Technology

REPORT ON ARKANSAS EDUCATIONAL RENEWAL ZONES

Act 1065 of 2005 authorized the creation of Education Renewal Zones (ERZs) to address the issue of performance and academic achievement in public schools that are on the Arkansas Department of Education's improvement or alert list. Over the past year ERZs have been created by agreements between higher education institutions, school districts, and education service cooperatives to improve public school performance and academic achievement.

Arkansas higher education institutions involved in ERZ initiatives have facilitated the development of ERZ strategic plans, provided assistance to participating schools and education service cooperatives, and responded to requests for technical assistance and research.

A report on Arkansas Educational Renewal Zones will be presented to the AHECB. The report will include ERZ development in southwest Arkansas under the direction of Southern Arkansas University-Magnolia.

LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education received the following notifications from July 13, 2005, through October 19, 2005.

NEW PROGRAM

Black River Technical College (January 2006)

Certificate of Proficiency in Medical Transcription (CIP 51.0708)
Certificate of Proficiency in Patient Care Technician (CIP 51.2601)
Certificate of Proficiency in Phlebotomy (CIP 51.1009)

Mid-South Community College (January 2006)

Certificate of Proficiency in Crime Scene Investigation (CIP 43.0106)
Technical Certificate in Crime Scene Investigation (CIP 43.0106)
Associate of Applied Science in Crime Scene Investigation (CIP 43.0106)
Certificate of Proficiency in Law Enforcement Administration (CIP 43.0103)
Technical Certificate in Law Enforcement Administration (CIP 43.0103)

NorthWest Arkansas Community College (January 2006)

Certificate of Proficiency in Aviation Maintenance General (CIP 47.0608)
Technical Certificate in Aviation Maintenance Airframe (CIP 47.0608)
Technical Certificate in Aviation Maintenance Power Plant (CIP 47.0608)
Certificate of Proficiency in Homeland Security and Emergency Management
(CIP 43.9999) Fall 2006

Pulaski Technical College (Fall 2005)

Advanced Certificate in Computer Information Systems (CIP 52.1201)
Technical Certificate in Computer Information Systems (CIP 52.1201)
Technical Certificate in Nail Technology (CIP 12.0410)

Southern Arkansas University--Tech (Spring 2006)

Certificate of Proficiency in Wastewater (CIP 15.0506)
Certificate of Proficiency in Water Treatment (CIP 15.0506)
Certificate of Proficiency in Water Distribution (15.0506)
Certificate of Proficiency in Beginning Hair Design (12.0401)
Certificate of Proficiency in Welding Technology (CIP 48.0508) Fall 2005

Certificate of Proficiency in Fire and Emergency Response (CIP 43.0203) Fall 2005

University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Fall 2005)

Graduate Certificate in Orientation and Mobility of the Blind (CIP 51.2310)

NEW PROGRAM OPTION/Minor

Two-Year Institutions (Spring 2006)

P-4 Option in Associate of Arts in Teaching (CIP 13.1203, DC 1005) at
Black River Technical College, East Arkansas Community College, National Park
Community College, North Arkansas College, NorthWest Arkansas Community
College, Ozarka College, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas,
and Southern Arkansas University-Tech

University of Arkansas--Fort Smith (Fall 2005)

New emphasis in English Language Arts/Social Studies in the Bachelor of Science
in Middle Childhood Education (CIP 13.1203, DC 2910)

University of Arkansas at Monticello (Spring 2006)

New minor in Military Science/ROTC

NAME CHANGE

Arkansas State University--Jonesboro (August 2005)

Department of Journalism and Printing (DC 1620) changed to Department of
Journalism

Pulaski Technical College (Fall 2005)

Associate of Applied Science in Computer Electronics (CIP 15.1202, DC 0350)
changed to Associate of Applied Science in Applied Electronics

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (Fall 2005)

Rehabilitation Continuing Education Center (DC 3370) changed to Center for the
Utilization of Rehabilitation Resources for Education, Networking, Training and
Service (CURRENTS)

University of Arkansas at Monticello (December 2005)

Bachelor of Arts in Speech (CIP 23.1001, DC 1830) changed to Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication

EXISTING PROGRAM OFFERED OFF-CAMPUS

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (Fall 2005)

Bachelor of Science in Education in Vocational Education, Human Resource Development option (CIP 13.1320, DC 4110) offered at Black River Technical College and Rich Mountain Community College

RECONFIGURATION OF EXISTING DEGREES

Henderson State University (January 2006)

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (CIP 42.0101) reconfigured to create Bachelor of Science in Psychology

Reconfiguration of existing bachelor's degrees to create Bachelor of General Studies (CIP 24.0102)

NEW PROGRAM CODE

NorthWest Arkansas Community College (January 2006)

Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Technology (CIP 47.0609, DC 0242) changed to CIP 47.0608

PROGRAM REACTIVATION

Mid-South Community College (January 2006)

Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement Administration (CIP 43.0104, DC 0605)

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT

Arkansas State University--Beebe (Fall 2005)

Division of Distance Learning
University of Arkansas at Monticello (Spring 2006)

Department of Military Science

INACTIVE PROGRAMS

NorthWest Arkansas Community College (August 2005)

Certificate of Proficiency in Marketing Analysis (CIP 52.1803, DC 0775)

DELETED PROGRAMS

South Arkansas Community College (June 2005)

Technical Certificate in Heavy Equipment Operation (CIP 47.0302, DC 4617)

University of Arkansas--Fort Smith (Fall 2005)

Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Technology Management
(CIP 15.0613, DC 2855)

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (August 2007)

Master of Education in Adult Education (CIP 13.1201)

University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Fall 2006)

Master of Health Services Administration (CIP 51.0701)

University of Arkansas at Monticello (December 2005)

Associate of Science in Office Administration (CIP 52.0204, DC 1170)

Associate of Science in Data Processing (CIP 52.1201, DC 0990)

Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership (CIP 13.0401, DC 5773)

Graduate Certificate in Technology (CIP 13.0501, DC 5771)

Graduate Certificate in Special Education (CIP 13.1001, DC 5774)

Graduate Certificate in Middle School (CIP 13.1203, DC 5776)

Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood (CIP 13.1209, DC 5772)

Graduate Certificate in Physical Education (CIP 13.1314, DC 5775)

Graduate Certificate in Reading (CIP 13.1315, DC 5770)

DELETED ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS

University of Arkansas at Little Rock (July 2005)

Department of Health Services Administration (DC 1480)

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (August 2005)

Department of Elementary, Secondary and Special Education (DC 1250)

EXEMPTION FROM INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION

Perfecting Saints Bible College and Seminary, Kensett, AR

- Associate of Biblical Studies
- Associate of Christian Counseling
- Associate of Theological Studies
- Bachelor of Biblical Studies
- Bachelor of Religious Education
- Bachelor of Christian Counseling
- Bachelor of Theological Studies
- Master of Religious Education
- Master of Christian Counseling
- Master of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Religious Education
- Doctor of Theological Studies
- Doctor of Christian Ministry
- Doctor of Christian Counseling

The School of the Scripture, Marianna, AR

- Associate in Biblical Studies
- Bachelor in Biblical Studies
- Bachelor in Christian Counseling
- Bachelor in Religious Education
- Master in Religious Education
- Master in Christian Counseling
- Doctor in Religious Education
- Doctor in Christian Counseling

Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary Extension Campus, Conway, AR

- Master of Religion
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Theological Studies

LETTERS OF INTENT

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education received the following notifications from July 13, 2005, through October 19, 2005.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE BOARD CONSIDERATION

Arkansas State University--Beebe

Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice

Arkansas State University--Jonesboro

Master of Arts in Criminal Justice
Master of Social Work

Arkansas State University--Mountain Home

Associate of Applied Science in Radiologic Technology

Arkansas Tech University

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

Certificate of General Studies offered by Ouachita Technical College, Arkansas State University--Beebe, Arkansas State University--Jonesboro, Arkansas State University--Mountain Home, Arkansas State University--Newport, Black River Technical College, Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, East Arkansas Community College, Mid-South Community College, National Park Community College, North Arkansas College, NorthWest Arkansas Community College, Ozarka College, Pulaski Technical College, Southern Arkansas University--Tech, Southeast Arkansas College, South Arkansas Community College, University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, and University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton

NorthWest Arkansas Community College

Associate of Applied Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Ouachita Technical College

Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Transportation Management

Pulaski Technical College

Associate of Science in Medical Office Technology with options in medical transcription and medical billing and coding

Technical Certificate in Motorcycle/ATV Repair
Transportation Training Center, Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas
Technical Certificate in Automotive Technology
Technical Certificate in Collision Repair
Technical Certificate in Diesel Mechanics

South Arkansas Community College

Technical Certificate and Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Doctor of Philosophy in Health Promotion and Prevention Research
Doctor of Philosophy in Health Systems Research

Institutional Certification Advisory Committee

Arkansas Culinary School of Apprenticeship, Little Rock, AR

Initial Certification

Associate of Applied Science in Culinary Arts
Bachelor of Applied Science in Culinary Arts

Cappella University, Minneapolis, MN

Initial Certification

Bachelor of Science in Business with accounting specialization

Ecclesia College, Elm Springs, AR

Initial Certification

Associate of General Studies
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Religious Education

Graceland University, Independence, MO

Decertification

Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies

Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN - Distance Delivery

Initial Certification

Baccalaureate Track for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN-BSN)
Baccalaureate Track for Registered Nurses (RN-BSN)
Master of Science in Nursing

ITT Technical Institute, Little Rock, AR

Recertification

Bachelor of Science in Information Security
Bachelor of Science in Data Communications Systems Technology
Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering Technology
Bachelor of Science in Electronics & Communications Engineering Technology
Bachelor of Science in Digital Entertainment and Game Design
Bachelor of Science in Technical Project Management

Remington College, Little Rock, AR

Initial Certification

Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration

Saint Joseph's College, Standish, ME

Recertification

Associate of Science in Management
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration
Bachelor of Science in Professional Arts
Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Science
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Master of Science in Nursing
Master in Health Services Administration
Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies

University of Phoenix Online, Phoenix, AZ

Recertification

Associate of Arts
Bachelor of Science in Management
Bachelor of Science in Business
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration
Bachelor of Science in Health Administration
Bachelor of Science in Human Services
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Master of Science in Nursing
Master of Business Administration
Master of Management
Master of Information Systems with option in Management
Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership
Doctor of Business Administration

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership
Doctor of Health Administration

Initial Certification

Bachelor of Science in Business with options in: Global Business
Management, Finance, Integrated Supply Chain Operations
Management, and Hospitality Management
Bachelor of Science in Human Services/Management
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology with option in Visual
Communication
Master of Science in Nursing with options in Master of Business
Administration and Health Care Management
Master of Science in Nursing with option in Master of Health Administration
Master of Health Administration
Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction
Doctor of Management in Information Systems Technology

University of Phoenix, Little Rock, AR

Recertification

Bachelor of Science in Management
Bachelor of Science in Business
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Master of Management
Master of Business Administration
Master of Information Systems with option in Management

Initial Certification

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration
Bachelor of Science in Nursing