



HigherEd News

Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Quarterly Meeting

Important Dates

September 1
Presidents Council Meeting

October 6
Executive Council of The Presidents Council

October 30
AHECB Meeting



The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopted an amendment to the performance based funding policy that was initially adopted in 2011. The amendment includes the adoption of the performance funding model

score requirements for colleges and universities and the method of distributing performance funding. The guiding principles of the performance funding models include increasing credentials without compromising academic rigor; improving student progression; workforce training; and recognizing the varying missions, role and scope of colleges and universities. Ten percent of the state funds to colleges and universities is based on achievement of performance metrics aligned to these principles.

(Continued on pg.2)

Inside this issue:

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)	2
College Investment Plan for Arkansas	2
Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Quarterly Meeting (Cont'd from Pg. 1)	2
50 Most Affordable Competitive Colleges for Online RN-BSN Degrees	3

Smith named Communications/ Outreach Coordinator



Lisa Smith, who has served as Arkansas Department of Higher Education Outreach Coordinator since 2009, has been named the Communications/Outreach Coordinator.

Smith will manage press releases, media contact, and conduct financial aid workshops throughout Arkansas for students, parents, and high school Counselors.

Atkinson Joins Arkansas Department of Higher Education



Dr. Tim Atkinson joined ADHE team in 2015 as Senior Associate Director for Research & Technology.

Atkinson formerly was President of Arkansas Science & Technology Authority. His research interests are in Organizational Behavior, Semiotics, Leadership, Higher Education and Research Administrations.

“I am pleased that Arkansas will be part of this effort to coordinate the regulation of online programs for the benefit of both Arkansas institutions and Arkansas students. Our institutions will be relieved of a significant administrative burden and our students will have greater assurance of educational quality as a result of our relationship with SARA.”

*Dr. Brett Powell
Director of ADHE*



State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

Arkansas has been approved by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) as the 25th state to join the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA). SARA is a nationwide initiative of states that will make distance education courses more accessible to students across state lines, as well as making it easier for states to regulate and institutions to participate in interstate distance education. The SARA agreements are being overseen by the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) and are being implemented by the four regional higher education interstate compacts; the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), the New England Board of Higher Educa-

tion (NEBHE), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), and the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education (WICHE). The effort is funded by a \$3million grant from Lumina Foundation, \$200,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and fees paid by institutions.

Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) will serve as the state portal agency for SARA. Once a state joins SARA, accredited degree-granting institutions offering distance education courses can seek approval from their home states. When approved, these institutions will be able to operate in other participating SARA states without seek-

ing independent authorization. This process is entirely voluntary (as is the process for states). An institution that chooses not to use SARA can continue to work with individual states to obtain approval to offer distance education to individuals residing in those states.

July 1st was the effective operational date when the state began accepting institutional applications for participation in SARA.

College Investment Plan for Arkansas

Arkansas 529 College Investment Plans was established to assist parents and grandparents in saving money for their student to attend an eligible school in the United States or abroad. The 529 plans is the most popular avenue to save for college.

All U.S. citizens 18 or older with a physical address within the United States can open an account for anyone they would like

to help save for college. There are no state residency requirements or income limits on participation. Arkansas taxpayers can deduct up to \$5,000 (up to \$10,000 for married couples) of their GIFT Plan contributions from their Arkansas adjusted gross income. If you are a resident of Arkansas, your earnings are state-tax free if withdrawn to pay for qualified higher education expenses.

You can open your account quickly and easily online, then conveniently manage it online virtually 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information or to open an account, please visit www.arkansas529.org.

(Cont'd from pg. 1)

The board approved 2015-2016 certification of intercollegiate athletic revenues and expenditures for 2015-16. A.C.A. §6-62-805 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.

The board approved the economic feasibility of the following bond and loan issues – a bond issue for Arkansas Northeastern College not to exceed \$5.105 million for the construction and equipping of the College's Center for Allied Technologies; a loan and bond issue for Arkansas Tech University not to exceed \$2.25 million for the renovation of Wilson Residence Hall; a bond issue for Arkansas Tech University not to exceed \$2 million for upgrading computer hardware in

the University's computer center; and a bond issue for University of Arkansas, Fayetteville not to exceed \$8 million for utility infrastructure expansion and for the renovation and construction of fraternity housing.

The board approved certification for 18 institutions to offer degree programs to Arkansas residents through distance technology. These certifications require the review after a period of three (3) years. A complete list is available at www.adhe.edu.



423 Main Street, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Office: 501-371-2000
www.adhe.edu

 [facebook.com/ArkDeptHigherEd](https://www.facebook.com/ArkDeptHigherEd)

 twitter.com/ArkHigherEd

Our Mission

The mission of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is to advocate for higher education; to promote a coordinated system of higher education in the state; and to assist each of the publicly and locally supported institutions of higher education in the state in improving the delivery of higher education services to the citizens of Arkansas.



Dr. Brett Powell
Director

50 Most Affordable Competitive Colleges for Online RN-BSN Degrees



Three Arkansas Institutions are ranked in the 50 most affordable competitive colleges for online RN-BSN degrees; University of Arkansas at Fort Smith ranked # 28, University of Arkansas at Little Rock ranked #29 and University of Arkansas at Fayetteville ranked #30.

The criteria to select the 50 institutions was based on accreditation, maximum percent of applicants admitted, and the lowest tuition price for each program. Seventy-six schools within the United States were reviewed by the following: **Accreditation** – All schools examined offered Bachelor’s degrees.

Schools are accredited by either the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (CCNE). All schools are state-board approved.

Affordability – The most recent tuition rates listed on the school website or by NCES Navigator were reported.

Maximum Percent of Applicants Admitted – No more than 60%.

The three Arkansas Institutions also are ranked with U.S. News and Worlds Report’s 2015 edition of Best Colleges.

For a list of all 50 institutions, please visit

www.bestmasterofscienceinnursing.com/best/affordable-competitive-colleges-online-rn-bsn-degrees/