

**Arkansas State University System
Capital Projects Report
December 12, 2025**

Arkansas State University System campuses have several capital projects underway in various stages of programming, design, and construction.

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY (A-STATE)

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Collegiate Park HVAC	\$1,251,801	Substantially Complete
Education and Communication Roof Replacement	860,751	Substantially Complete
Lakeport Plantation House Humidity	594,000	Construction Phase
Chilled Water Loop-Windgate	2,151,742	Construction Phase
Arkansas Hall Fan Coils	286,000	Construction Phase
Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation	24,219,886	Construction Phase
Chilled Water Loop-Power Plant Electrical Upgrades	298,850	Construction Phase
College of Veterinary Medicine	30,720,890	Construction Phase
Student Union Roof Replacement Phase 2	2,039,249	Construction Phase
Loop Trail E-Phones	487,339	Construction Phase
Collegiate Park Exterior Renovation	662,672	Construction Phase
Union 2 nd Floor Atrium Painting	751,076	Construction Phase
A-State Meat Lab Snack Stick Line	750,000	Construction Phase
Roof Repairs – 2025 Storms	1,103,209	Construction Phase
Village Apartment Cameras	499,820	Construction Phase
Administration Building Water Intrusion Remediation	354,292	Construction Phase
Ed Leadership Renovation for NYIT	450,000	Design Phase
Kays Hall Renovation	310,000	Design Phase
CREST Center	7,500,000	Design Phase
Grain Bin Restoration Phase II	1,272,000	Design Phase
Bovine Teaching Barn	806,250	Bidding Phase
Equine Teaching Barn	789,500	Bidding Phase

**In an effort to streamline the Capital Projects Report and focus on higher-impact initiatives, all projects with budgets under \$250,000 have been removed from this section. These smaller-scale projects will continue to be tracked separately.*

1. Collegiate Park HVAC

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The final phase is complete and awaiting closeout.

2. Education and Communication Roof Replacement

Architect/Engineer: Morris and Associates
Contractor: Mid-Ark Roofing
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Revolving Loan Fund

Status: This project is a complete roof replacement for the Education and Communication Building and is substantially complete.

3. Lakeport Plantation House Humidity

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: Kinco Constructors
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: ANCRC Grant

Status: This is a grant-funded project to upgrade the HVAC systems for the house. Construction has begun and additional work has been added to the scope to address additional problems from humidity and water intrusion.

4. Chilled Water Loop-Windgate

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: Upgrades to the chilled water loop and Central Plant are necessary to provide chilled water for the new Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation. A new chiller and cooling tower will be installed. This project is in the construction phase.

5. Arkansas Hall Fan Coils

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The scope is to replace the existing fan coil units with new units. This will be a multi-year phased project. Work is set to begin in Summer 2026.

6. Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation

Architect/Engineer: WER
Contractor: Clark Contractors
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Windgate Grant/University Reserves

Status: This project creates an Art and Innovation building, which will be used to house functions for both Art and Engineering. Construction is underway and is scheduled to be completed in March of 2026.

7. Chilled Water Loop-Power Plant Electrical Upgrades

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: Upgrades to the Central Plant are necessary to provide chilled water for the new Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation. Electrical upgrades have begun, and work is moving along on schedule.

8. College of Veterinary Medicine

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon Architect
Contractor: Nabholz
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Bond Proceeds

Status: A new building for the College of Veterinary Medicine is to be located at the intersection of University Loop East and University Loop West. The 56,000 square-foot facility will house administration, academic, and technical spaces to support the new Vet School. This project is in the construction phase.

9. Student Union Roof Replacement Phase 2

Architect/Engineer: Morris and Associates
Contractor: Roberts McNutt
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Revolving Loan Fund

Status: This project is the second phase of the roof replacement for the Student Union and will complete the roof replacement. This project is nearing completion.

10. Loop Trail E-Phones

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Access and Security Fee

Status: This project will install additional e-phones along our existing Loop Trail. Construction has begun.

11. Collegiate Park Exterior Renovation

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Nabholz
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will repair and replace damaged exterior siding and trim on Buildings 2 and 6, and on the community building for Collegiate Park. This will be a phased project until all buildings have been completed.

12. Student Union 2nd Floor Painting

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Nabholz and Vincent Painting
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will paint all the common areas and stairwells. This will be a phased project until all floors have been completed.

13. A-State Meat Lab Snack Stick Line

Architect/Engineer: Insight Engineering
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Grant Funded

Status: This project is a modification of the existing Agri Meat Lab for the production of meat sticks and includes equipment and building modifications to the HVAC and roof, as well.

14. Roof Repairs – 2025 Storms

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Jonesboro Roofing Co.
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Insurance Settlement/University Reserves

Status: After considerable wind damage to many of our shingled roofs, this project will replace the roofs at Red Wolf Den, North Park Quads, LLC, Sorority Row, and a few at the Village Apartments.

15. Village Apartment Cameras

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: Access and Security Fee

Status: This project will provide the necessary cameras and mounting poles at various locations in the Village Apartments community. This project was recommended by the Safety and Security Committee.

16. Administration Building Water Intrusion Remediation

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Jonesboro Roofing/Tom's Tuckpointing
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will address water infiltration problems by waterproofing the exterior brick and glazing. A new roof membrane will also be installed. This project is under construction.

17. Ed Leadership Renovation for NYIT

Architect/Engineer: Archimania
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Fall 2027
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will renovate the Education and Leadership Studies building to house additional square footage for NYITCOM. This project is in the design phase.

18. Kays Hall Renovation

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects
Contractor: Not selected
Expected Completion: Fall 2027
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This will be an extensive renovation to repair structural damage to the aging building. If plans are fully approved, the building is set to be offline from May 2026-July 2027.

19. CREST Center

Architect/Engineer: Fennell Purifoy + Dake wells
Contractor: Clark Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: HIRED Grant/University Reserves

Status: This project creates a Career Research Education and Skills Training center facility, which is a collaboration with ASU-Newport and ANC in Blytheville. Design has begun and construction is scheduled to be completed in December of 2026.

20. Grain Bin Restoration Phase II

Architect/Engineer: Revival Architecture
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: ANCRC Grant

Status: This project is phase 2 and will address site safety and security around the newly renovation grain bin building. This project is currently in the design phase.

21. Bovine Teaching Barn

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon Architect
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: Bond Proceeds

Status: A new building for the College of Veterinary Medicine is to be located on the farm. The new facility will house bovine lab space to support the new Vet School. This project is in the bidding phase.

22. Equine Teaching Barn

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon Architect
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: Bond Proceeds

Status: A new building for the College of Veterinary Medicine is to be located on the farm. The new facility will house equine lab space to support the new Vet School. This project is in the bidding phase.

ASU-BEEBE

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Precision Ag Building	\$767,819	Design Phase
Heber Springs HVAC Boiler Replacement	321,693	Substantially Complete

1. Precision Ag Building

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: HIRE Grant; Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is for construction of a Precision Ag building. This will be a basic metal building that will provide training and storage space for the Precision Ag equipment, and will include one classroom space and one office space. Funding, in the amount of \$650,000, was awarded through the Arkansas HIRE grant, with the balance to be funded from institutional reserves.

2. Heber Springs HVAC Boiler Replacement

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project replaces two boilers on the Heber Springs campus. One boiler is inoperable, and the other boiler has high maintenance needs, along with controls issues. The new boilers will be stainless steel, have a longer projected useful life with minimal maintenance requirements, and will provide cost and operational efficiencies. This project is substantially complete.

ASU-MOUNTAIN HOME

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Trail Lighting and Landscaping	\$420,000	Construction Phase
Gotaas Hall Renovation/Remodel	6,000,000	Planning Phase
Roof Replacement	975,000	Planning Phase

1. Trail Lighting and Landscaping

Architect/Engineer: Halff Associates
Contractor: Mitchell Brothers Construction
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: ARDOT TAP Grant, Institutional Reserves

Status: This project encompasses a walking/biking trail on the Mountain Home campus to add solar lights and trees. The project is funded by a Transportation Alternatives Program grant from the Arkansas Department of Transportation, along with 20% matching institutional funds.

2. Gotaas Hall Renovation/Remodel

Architect/Engineer: Polk Stanley Wilcox
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Fall 2027
Funding: Federal HRSA grant

Status: ASUMH received a federal earmark, funded through an HRSA grant, in the amount of \$6,000,000, to renovate and remodel the Gotaas Hall Nursing Building. This project will allow the institution to better serve the training needs of our local healthcare industry.

3. **Campus Roof Repairs**

Architect/Engineer: TBD
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Plant Fund Reserves – Insurance Reimbursement

Status: On March 20, 2025, a severe hail storm impacted the Mountain Home campuses, resulting in significant roof damage to nine buildings.

ASU-NEWPORT

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Memorial Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I	\$106,000	Design Phase
Center for Health Sciences	6,000,000	Design Phase
Memorial Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II	117,000	Pre-construction

1. **Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I**

Architect/Engineer: Brackett-Krennerich Architects
Contractor: Tri-Lake Hauling
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: ARDOT Trails Grant, Institutional Reserves

Status: This project encompasses a walking/biking trail on the Marked Tree campus. The project is funded by a Recreational Trails grant from ARDOT and 20% matching institutional funds. The project design has been approved and the bid process is complete. Construction will commence in December 2025.

2. **Center for Health Sciences Phase I**

Architect/Engineer: Taggart Architects
Contractor: Clark Contractors, LLC
Expected Completion: Fall 2027
Funding: EDA Grant, DRA Grant, Private Funds

Status: This project is to construct a new Health Sciences building on the Newport campus. Health Sciences programs are the highest producing programs on campus, comprising more than 50% of the overall Newport campus enrollment. Both the architect and general contractor are selected, and the design of Phase I is complete.

3. **Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II**

Architect/Engineer: Cromwell Architects
Contractor: Hawkeye
Expected Completion: On hold
Funding: ARDOT Trails Grant, Institutional Reserves

Status: This project encompasses Phase II of the Memorial Walking/Biking Trail on the Newport campus. The project is funded by a Recreational Trails grant from ARDOT and 20% matching institutional funds. This project has been placed on hold until the completion of the Center for Health Sciences construction.

ASU MID-SOUTH

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Adult Education Foundation Repair	\$300,000	Substantially Complete
Athletic Weight & Training Room	604,000	Substantially Complete

1. Adult Education Foundation

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects
Contractor: Wagner General Contractors, Inc.
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project is to repair the foundation in the Adult Education department in the Workforce Center Building. The project is substantially complete, and the punch list items should be resolved this month.

2. Athletic Weight & Training Room

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects
Contractor: Baldwin & Shell
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project will create a weight room and training space for the baseball and softball programs in the Workforce Technology Center Building. The project is substantially complete, and the punch list items should be resolved this month.

ASU THREE RIVERS

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
New Nursing Building	\$8,000,000	Complete
Ritz Theatre Renovation–Phase V	1,355,611	Substantially Complete
New Workforce Center Renovation & Expansion	2,819,250	Construction Phase

1. New Nursing Building

Architect/Engineer: Lewis Architects Engineers
Contractor: Clark Contractors, LLC
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Federal Department of Health and Human Services Grant

Status: The Federal Department of Health and Human Services grant funded this construction project. All furniture and equipment have been installed and the building will be open for classes in January. A ribbon cutting for the building was held November 12, 2025.

2. Ritz Theatre Renovation – Phase V

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Nabholz Construction
Expected Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Heritage, is funding Phase V renovations, which include incorporation of the former TV repair shop building. Flooring, painting, and plumbing are nearing completion. Installation of all audio and video equipment is complete. Construction is substantially complete and is anticipated to be finalized by late Fall 2025. A ribbon cutting for the building is planned for December 8, 2025.

3. New Workforce Center Renovation & Expansion

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Shields & Associates Inc
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: HIRED Grant Funds

Status: The HIRED grant, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Commerce, is funding the renovation and expansion, which include incorporation and renovation of the former El Parion restaurant. The architects, SCM Architects, have finalized the design plans and the building construction contract has been awarded to Shields & Associates Inc. Construction has started and is anticipated for completion Winter 2026.

HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Smith Hall	\$400,000	Substantially Complete
Russell Fine Arts Hall	800,000	Substantially Complete
Mooney Hall	700,000	Construction Phase
Duke Wells Renovations	1,300,000	Design Phase
Baseball Player Dev. Center	502,000	Design Phase

1. Smith Hall

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Kinco
Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of Smith Hall. The grant will include a new cooling tower, painting, and structural repairs. The project is substantially completed and awaiting closeout which is expected by March 2026.

2. Russell Fine Arts Hall

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Nabholz Contractors
Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of Russell Fine Arts Hall. The grant includes renovating the music, band, and auditorium areas, and repairing all historic wood, lockers, painting, and flooring. The project is substantially completed and awaiting closeout which is expected by March 2026.

3. Mooney Hall

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: Nabholz Contractors
Completion: Spring 2026
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of HSU's Mooney Hall. The grant will include new roofing and will repair all historic wood on the exterior of the building, entry repairs to the brick area, painting, and structural repairs. Construction has been substantially completed for this portion of the repairs. With remaining funding from ANCRC, repairs will be made to the sewer beneath Mooney Hall, repairs have begun, and the project is scheduled to be completed by March 2026.

4. Duke Wells Renovations

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects, Pettit & Pettit
Contractor: TBD
Completion: TBD
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding adaptive preservation of Duke Wells HPR Center. The grant includes resurfacing the main and auxiliary gym floors and repairing critical plumbing and mechanical issues, bringing new life to the building. The project is currently in its design phase.

5. James Reginald Wage Player Development Center

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: TBD
Completion: TBD
Funding: HSU Foundation, Donor Funds

Status: HSU Foundation is funding the construction of the James Reginald Wage Player Development Center. The project is currently in its design phase.

**Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees
December 12, 2025**

ASU SYSTEM FOUNDATION, INC.

Contact: Nicole Frey (870) 972-2576

PRELIMINARY NUMBERS

For the fiscal period ending (unaudited) September 30, 2025, the Arkansas State University System Foundation recorded gifts and other support of \$1,810,181.

Contributions were designated as follows:

ASU-Jonesboro	\$1,547,829
ASU-Mountain Home	\$154,219
ASU-Beebe	\$61,916
ASU-Newport	\$23,310
ASU Three Rivers	\$14,920
ASU System Foundation	\$7,987

The Foundation reported net assets of \$176,487,516, representing a decrease of 1.02% for the fiscal period ending September 30, 2025.

The market value of the ASU System Foundation Endowment Pool for the fiscal period ending September 30, 2025, was \$161,652,328.

The net rate of return for the fiscal period ending September 30, 2025, was 5.29%.



1. Chancellor Summary

- A. CVM Advances toward Accreditation, First Class:** The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) continues to advance toward its Fall 2026 inaugural class.
- a. The final beam for the building was set into place on October 13, during a topping-off ceremony with Nabholz and Cooper-Mixon Architects.
 - b. CVM leadership continues preparation for the AVMA Council on Education comprehensive site visit, scheduled for January 4-8, 2026.
 - c. The college is finalizing faculty and staff hires, including eight additional faculty positions and one veterinary technician, and will open its large animal ambulatory service by January 1, 2026.
 - d. Partnerships remain strong, with more than 400 veterinary practices—including over 100 in Arkansas and southern Missouri—committed to serving as clinical training sites for students.
- B. A-State Catalyst Convenes Leaders:** An audience of 600 leaders from business, education, and government gathered on November 6, for the Catalyst: NEA Economic Development & Leadership Forum at the Embassy Suites Red Wolf Convention Center in Jonesboro.
- a. The daylong forum focused on agriculture, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure, with a lunch discussion on regional collaboration that tied the day together.
- C. Campus Process Improvement Task Force Launched:** A-State has established a campuswide Process Improvement Task Force to evaluate internal operations, with an emphasis on automation, efficiency, and cross-training.
- a. The group will begin its work in Financial Aid & Scholarships before expanding its review to every department, ensuring more consistent workflows, streamlined services, and improved support for students and employees.
- D. NYITCOM @ A-State Program Expansion:** NYITCOM @ A-State is expanding its medical education footprint with plans to increase its Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine cohort by 40 additional students and launch a new physician assistant program enrolling two cohorts of 60 students each.
- a. To accommodate this growth, NYITCOM plans to renovate the Higher Education Leadership Building.

- b. Once complete, this expansion will add more than 300 additional medical and health-profession students to campus, strengthening A-State's role as a regional hub for healthcare education and workforce development.
- E. **Athletics Revenue-Share Partnerships:** The University continues to explore potential revenue-share partnerships with industry to strengthen Athletics' long-term financial sustainability.
 - a. Discussions remain focused on opportunities that expand resources without compromising regulatory, NCAA or institutional compliance.
 - b. Evaluation of partnership models is ongoing to ensure any future agreements align with university policies, protect student-athletes and support the strategic goals of A-State Athletics.

2. Student, Faculty, & Staff Success Stories

A. Student success stories:

- a. **Savannah Sandage**, a Spring 2025 graduate with dual bachelor's degrees in economics and world languages and cultures, has earned a Fulbright U.S. Student Fellowship, one of the nation's most prestigious international exchange awards. She will pursue a master's degree in archaeology and the ancient Near East at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her honors research examined the ways in which ancient Mesopotamian mythology influenced economic and political systems. She plans to continue her studies in international service and policy.
- b. **Olivia Sloan**, a senior biological sciences honors student in the pre-professional track, was selected to present at the St. Jude National Predoctoral Research Symposium for her work on long noncoding RNAs in age-related cardiovascular disease. She conducts her research under the supervision of Dr. Vishwa Rajagopalan at the Arkansas Biosciences Institute and the NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is completing an honors thesis on cardio-neuronal regulation and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences after graduation.

B. Faculty success stories:

- a. **Dr. Mohammad Reza Daroonparvar**, Assistant Professor of Materials Engineering and ARA Innovation Scholar, has been ranked among the top 2% of scientists worldwide, according to a citation-impact list compiled by Stanford University and Elsevier. His inclusion highlights A-State's growing research strength in materials engineering and innovation, and it positions the university as an emerging contributor to global scientific discourse.
- b. **Dr. Kyle Gustafson**, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, and five graduate students from the environmental sciences and molecular biosciences programs, represented A-State at the International Wildlife Congress in Lillehammer, Norway. All are part of the National Science Foundation Research Traineeship Program, which expands students' global

perspectives and supports innovative research. Gustafson presented on puma genetics and ecology, while the graduate students shared research on wildlife health, conservation, and biodiversity, including work on red wolf genetics, wildlife biomonitoring and vertebrate parasites.

C. Staff success stories:

- a. **Amber McElhaney**, Director of Budget and Position Control, has been selected to participate in the 2025-26 Emerging Leaders Program conducted by the National Association of College and University Business Officers. The program is designed for business officers who want to advance in higher education, and it focuses on leadership development, the evolving higher education business landscape, and communication and interpersonal effectiveness.

3. Academic Affairs

A. Total credentials awarded:

- a. More than 2,000 students have filed an intent to graduate this fall, marking our largest December class to date. To ensure a meaningful experience for all graduates and their guests, A-State will host two ceremonies, mirroring the format used for May commencement.

B. New academic programs:

- a. N/A

C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum:

- a. **Name or CIP change of existing certificate, degree, major, option, or organizational unit:**
 - Departmental Name Change: Department of Health, Physical Education, & Sport Sciences, to be renamed Department of Kinesiology**
 - G.C., Pre-Kindergarten Academy, to be renamed, G.C., Pre-Kindergarten**
- b. **Program curriculum revisions:**
 - D.V.M, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**
 - B.F.A., Art, Emphasis in Art Education**
 - Ed.S., Psychology and Counseling, School Psychology Track**

D. Discontinued academic programs:

- a. **Program deletion/inactivation or reactivation:**
 - Deletion, C.P., Sales Leadership*
 - Inactivation, M.S., Psychological Science**

E. Accreditation visits and news:

- a. The university's next Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Assurance Review is scheduled for July 17, 2028. All curricular and cocurricular programs

currently in compliance are undergoing institutional peer review through the Program Assessment and Cocurricular Assessment Committees, while the General Education Committee reviews quadrennial reports for general education courses.

** Approved by AHECB for A-State at the October 24, 2025, meeting*

*** Will be submitted to the AHECB for A-State at the January 23, 2026, meeting*

4. Institution Awards & Honors

- A. NIH Grant Advances Cancer Research and Student Training:** Dr. Tameka A. Bailey received a \$408,259 NIH award to study breast cancer brain metastasis, supporting student research and interdisciplinary collaboration across three departments. She also earned a NIH-INBRE Pilot Award to investigate dietary fats and the blood-brain barrier, with two A-State undergraduates serving as project leads.
- B. NSF Instrumentation Grant Expands Research Capacity:** A \$719,800 NSF award to the Beck College of Sciences and Mathematics will fund a high-precision UHPLC-TQ with DESI system. Housed in the Ecotoxicology Research Facility, the instrument will support faculty and student research, while enhancing regional partnerships and outreach.

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. Hytrol Partnership to Improve Workplace Safety:** A-State partnered with Hytrol Conveyor Co. on a use-inspired research project to better understand and reduce workplace noise exposure, in order to protect employee hearing. The interdisciplinary team collected and modeled sound data from two production facilities and presented mitigation strategies to Hytrol leadership. The project highlights a successful university-industry collaboration and serves as a model for expanding community-engaged applied research.
- B. One Pill Can Kill Partnership with Attorney General Tim Griffin:** Student Affairs partnered with Attorney General Tim Griffin to host a One Pill Can Kill event that educated students about the dangers of fentanyl, how to recognize and respond to an overdose, and where to access support resources. The program emphasized the importance of taking action and reinforced the university's commitment to promoting safety, awareness, and well-being across the campus community.
- C. Health Sciences & Risk Management Enhances Regional Preparedness through Emergency Response Collaboration:** The Department of Health Sciences and Risk Management is partnering with the Northeast Arkansas Hospital Coalition to design and host a tabletop emergency-response exercise simulating a 6.0 New Madrid earthquake. The initiative will expand in the spring to include live field drills based

on an escalated 7.0-plus magnitude scenario, strengthening regional coordination and disaster readiness across healthcare and emergency management agencies.

- D. **College of Education and Behavioral Science Cultivates Future Educators through Regional Educators Rising Conference:** The College of Education and Behavioral Science and the Educational Renewal Zone hosted the Regional Educators Rising Conference, welcoming approximately 100 high school juniors and seniors from nine participating districts. The event, part of a national initiative by PDK International to inspire and prepare the next generation of teachers, featured Arkansas Teacher of the Year Jeanie Wilcoxon and offered sessions promoting leadership, professional growth, and pathways into teacher preparation programs.
- E. **Heritage Studies Initiative Preserves A-State's Legacy through Digital Oral History and Community Storytelling:** Faculty and students are partnering with Heritage Sites to collect oral histories from faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the ASU System, a project initiated by System President Dr. Brendan Kelly. Under the direction of Drs. Ed Salo and Adam Long, a Spring 2026 special topics seminar will gather and curate these stories for inclusion in a new digital heritage platform. The platform will highlight the histories, architecture, and cultural resources of Jonesboro, serving as an interactive educational and community engagement tool for residents, visitors, and researchers.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

A. Amount of total gifts and private funds raised for the quarter:

- a. For the first quarter of the fiscal year, July 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, the university recorded 6,505 gifts and commitments from 2,890 unique donors totaling \$1,870,045.83. The overall giving amount includes outright donations of cash, gifts-in-kind, planned gifts, and new pledges.
- b. The development team secured 131 visits, which generated 126 solicitations totaling \$1,787,135.25. These solicitations included academic and athletic priorities.
- c. Proposals totaling more than \$5.4 million for the baseball player development facility have been submitted to regional businesses.

B. Alumni and fund-raising events:

- a. The first-quarter membership report showed a 3.69% increase in paid alumni members.
- b. As of September 30, we have sold 5,454 license plates. Applications for 2026 License to HOWL scholarships for entering freshmen are now being accepted. We currently have 32 students receiving this annual scholarship.
- c. More than 2,000 alumni and friends attended the tailgate at the Little Rock Zoo before the A-State vs. UA game on September 6.

- d. The Alumni Association is partnering with Coursera to offer alumni access to courses, specializations, and professional certificates that support continued learning and career advancement.
- e. The alumni association is purchasing new Howl and Scarlet mascot heads in support of the A-State Spirit Squads.
- f. **Upcoming alumni events for 2026:**
 - 1/9: Alumni night with the Grizzlies – Memphis, TN
 - 1/24: Bubbles & Bingo rugby fundraiser – Jonesboro @CAC
 - February: A-State vs. U of A Baseball pre-game events – Fayetteville
 - March: Sun Belt Conference activities – Pensacola, FL
 - 4/21: Bark at the Park – Jonesboro @Tomlinson Stadium
 - 5/7: Red Wolves on the Rooftop – ASU System Office, Little Rock
 - 6/25: St. Louis Cardinals vs. Arizona Diamondbacks game and alumni events in St. Louis
- g. **Recent and upcoming fundraising events:**
 - 12/2/2025: Giving Tuesday fundraiser for Student Emergency Fund
 - 1/30/2025: A-State Baseball's Grand Slam Banquet
 - March 2026: Annual Day of Giving

C. New scholarships created:

- Anheuser-Busch Foundation Endowed Scholarship (\$30,000)
- Nick Meurrier Endowment Scholarship for Veterinary Advancement (\$30,000)
- Dr. Bill W. Benson Memorial Scholarship (\$100,000)

7. Intercollegiate Athletics

A. Athletics department news and success stories:

- a. Athletics partnered with Cuento, a nationally renowned consulting service, to enhance gameday fan engagement.
- b. A-State and head volleyball coach Brian Gerwig reached a new agreement that extends his contract to July 1, 2029.
- c. Dr. Cliff Harrell and Nick Carroll were named the Red Wolves' Deputy Athletics Director and Senior Associate Athletics Director for Compliance, respectively.
- d. Neil Griffin College of Business Professor Dr. Mark Lewis was named as Faculty Athletics Representative.

B. Team news and success stories:

- a. Athletics announced that plans are proceeding with the construction of a proposed 40,000 square-foot Baseball Player Development and Training Center overlooking right field at Tomlinson Stadium and Slayton Family Field.
- b. The Red Wolves unveiled their newly resurfaced tennis courts during a 'Pack the Courts' event. A-State's home courts have been rebranded with an

updated red-and-gray color scheme and Red Wolves logos, enhancing the overall facility.

- c. The football team's six nationally-televised games tie the school's record, including four home contests that are the most in program history. Ahead of the Red Wolves' primetime game on ESPN against Louisiana, SportsCenter on campus aired live from the heart of campus on November 20.
- d. The volleyball team won the Sun Belt Conference West Division for the second consecutive season. Earlier this season, A-State defeated 16th-ranked Missouri for the program's first-ever victory over a Top 25 opponent. The Red Wolves also defeated Arkansas, marking A-State's first victory in Fayetteville against Arkansas in any sport.
- e. The women's bowling team was ranked No. 6 in the nation in the National TenPin Coaches Association (NTCA) Preseason Poll.
- f. The men's golf team completed the fall portion of its schedule ranked first in the Sun Belt and No. 36 in the country by the National Collegiate Golf Rankings, as published by Scoreboard.

C. Student-athlete news & success stories:

- a. **Carlo Martinez-Jaramillo** was the individual champion at the Sun Belt Conference Championships, leading the men's team to a runner-up finish. Five Red Wolves from the combined men's and women's teams were named all-conference.

8. Major Initiatives Update

- A. **Coursedog Implementation Enhances Campus-wide Scheduling Efficiency and Data-driven Planning:** The implementation of Coursedog is improving the efficiency of centralized course scheduling across campus. The platform is designed to maximize utilization of academic spaces and accommodate the needs of Arkansas State's growing enrollment. In addition to streamlining scheduling processes, Coursedog provides data and reporting tools that support analysis of time and day distribution, course demand bottlenecks, and room availability, strengthening institutional decision-making and resource management.
- B. **Website Launch Strengthens Arkansas State's Digital Presence:** The new AState.edu launched on November 20, 2025, marking a major advancement in the university's digital strategy. The redesigned platform delivers improved accessibility, navigation and responsiveness for all audiences, while integrating AI-supported tools to enhance service and engagement. The focus now shifts to ongoing optimization and analytics-based refinement to ensure that the site continues to meet institutional goals for recruitment, communication, and brand visibility.

- C. A-State Prioritizes Growth and Coordination of the Research Enterprise:** Under the leadership of the Dr. Travis Marsico, the university is advancing a more coordinated and data-informed research enterprise. The Office of Research and Technology Transfer has implemented new processes to improve the accuracy and consistency of research budgeting and expenditure reporting. Concurrently, the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI) launched the CrossTalk Weekly Research Series, bringing together faculty, researchers, and students to share projects, exchange ideas, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. Together, these efforts strengthen research accountability, innovation, and institutional capacity.

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Facilities or Program Grants:

- a. N/A

B. Research Grants:

- a. During the last quarter, A-State submitted 26 proposals totaling \$12 million and received 14 new awards valued at \$7.5 million.

10. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

- A. HPESS Collaborates with Big River Steel on Workforce Readiness Research:** The Department of Health, Physical Education and Sport Sciences is partnering with the Big River Steel safety team on a research project assessing employee work readiness. During an October 24 visit, graduate students demonstrated the functional testing protocols that will be used in the study. Led by Dr. Eric Scudamore, the collaboration strengthens A-State's ties with regional industry and gives students hands-on experience in applied workforce research.
- B. Government, Law, and Policy Establishes a Graduate Pathway Partnership with Texas A&M:** The Department of Government, Law, and Policy has established a "Pathways to Doctorate" partnership with the Bush School of Government at Texas A&M University, creating an advanced academic route for students pursuing graduate study and research careers in public policy and administration. The collaboration strengthens student preparation for doctoral-level work and expands inter-institutional opportunities for academic and professional development.
- C. Partnership with Bayer Crop Science Expands Graduate Mentorship Opportunities:** Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, Professor of Biological Sciences and Director of the Environmental Sciences and Molecular Biosciences Graduate Programs, and Dr. Jianfeng Xu, Professor of Agriculture, will serve as co-liaisons for Bayer4University, a professional development partnership between Arkansas State University and Bayer Crop Science. The initiative connects graduate students with Bayer scientists for a year-long mentorship, emphasizing career preparation, networking, and professional skill development that complements their academic training.



1. Chancellor Summary

A. Phi Theta Kappa Members Receive National Recognition

Two Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International College Honor Society students from Arkansas State University-Beebe (ASU-Beebe) recently received prestigious scholarships. [Read more below.](#)

B. Institutional Advancement Team Brings Home Multiple Awards from Marketing and PR Conference

ASU-Beebe's Institutional Advancement marketing and public-relations team earned multiple top honors at the 2025 National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (District 4) conference in Las Vegas.

C. Ed Covington Appointed to ASU-Beebe Board of Visitors

On September 4, ASU System President Dr. Brendan Kelly approved Chancellor Methvin's request to appoint Searcy businessman and Foothill Technical Institute (now ASU-Beebe Searcy campus) graduate Ed Covington to the ASU-Beebe Board of Visitors. [Read more below.](#)

D. ASU-Beebe Career Fair Is a Major Success

ASU-Beebe's Career Services hosted a Career Fair on October 7 in the Centennial Bank Gymnasium at the Owen Center, bringing together more than 40 area employers and ASU-Beebe departments.

E. ASU-Beebe Earns Gold with John Deere Recognition

ASU-Beebe's John Deere Program recently received the John Deere College of Tomorrow Gold Award, recognizing the program's exceptional commitment to training the next generation of John Deere technicians. Program Director Jake Selvidge also earned Level 3 Certified John Deere Instructor status with Engine Capstone and John Deere Tech specializations.

2. Student, Faculty, & Staff Success Stories

A. Student Receives 2025 Chime Workforce Scholarship

ASU-Beebe student, Hope Branch of Batesville, has been named an inaugural 2025 Chime Scholars Foundation Workforce Scholar and will receive a \$1,000



scholarship in recognition of her academic excellence, leadership potential, and career readiness. Branch, a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and majoring in veterinary technology, said she intends to work with shelter and rescue animals and pursue advanced degrees in veterinary medicine. The Chime Workforce Scholarship awards \$200,000 across 200 community-college students enrolled in workforce-ready programs, thus supporting educational expenses and job-related costs, such as certification fees, uniforms, and tools.

B. Student Named 2025 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar

John Cameron Shaver, a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at ASU-Beebe, has been named a 2025 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship recipient and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Shaver, from Harrisburg, is majoring in health sciences and plans to transfer to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro to pursue a bachelor's degree in pre-veterinary medicine on the path to a career as a wildlife veterinarian. The program, administered by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, supports new Phi Theta Kappa members enrolled in associate-degree programs and rewards academic excellence and leadership potential.

C. Instructor Earns Elite National HVACR Credential

Brad J. Cooper, advanced instructor of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) at ASU-Beebe's Searcy campus, earned the prestigious Certified Master HVACR Educator (CMHE) credential from HVAC Excellence—a distinction held by only 159 professionals nationwide and only three in Arkansas. The certification recognizes mastery in both HVACR technical knowledge and instructional excellence, bolstering ASU-Beebe's reputation as a statewide leader in "trades education".

D. Several Receive Awards at Arkansas Community Colleges Conference

ASU-Beebe students, faculty, staff and alumni were honored at the annual gathering of the Arkansas Community Colleges Conference (ACC), held October 12-14 in Hot Springs. The awardees included:

- Augustus "Gus" Harris, Academic All-Star Award recipient, is a first-generation college student, majoring in education. He serves as Student Government President, resident assistant, admissions ambassador, and is active in TRIO and the Future Educators Club.



- Leroy Goff, Outstanding Alumni Award recipient, who began at ASU-Beebe in 1961, earned bachelor's and master's degrees, worked in education and real estate, and has attributed his success to providing fair, high-quality service.
- Chuck Wisdom Jr. (posthumous), Outstanding Faculty Award recipient, was honored as a 30-year faculty member and mentor in the agriculture program, known for his hands-on teaching and community involvement.
- Zackery Tucker, Outstanding Staff Award recipient and eight-year Dean of Students, was recognized for leadership, resilience, humility, mentorship, and managing institutional responses during the pandemic.

Chancellor Jennifer Methvin stated that each awardee “exemplifies the Vanguard spirit through their unique and extremely impactful service and leadership.”

3. Academic Affairs

A. ASU-Beebe Fall Enrollment Rises 9.5% for Fourth Consecutive Year of Growth

ASU-Beebe's fall 2025 enrollment rose by 9.5 percent to a total of 3,588 students—an increase of 311 over the previous year's 3,277—marking the institution's fourth consecutive year of growth. First-time college student enrollment also rose by 15 percent; transfer-student enrollment was up 8.8 percent; and concurrent high-school enrollment increased by 7.4 percent. Semester credit hours climbed by 10.7 percent, and the nursing programs saw a 70 percent boost to 219 enrolled students. The residence-hall capacity reached 90 percent, reflecting a 22 percent increase in on-campus residents, compared with fall 2022. Chancellor Dr. Jennifer Methvin credited the overall gains to the ongoing commitment of faculty and staff in recruiting, advising, teaching, and supporting students.

4. Institution Awards & Honors

A. Institutional Advancement Team Wins Awards from Marketing and PR Conference

ASU-Beebe's Institutional Advancement marketing and public-relations team earned multiple top honors at the 2025 National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (District 4) conference in Las Vegas, securing a gold medal in the novelty category for a branded microfiber cloth, a silver medal in radio advertisements, and a bronze medal for a social-media and online campaign promoting Ag Day.



B. Jake Selvidge & ASU-Beebe Earns Gold with John Deere Recognition

Jake Selvidge of ASU-Beebe earned Level 3 Certified John Deere Instructor status with Engine Capstone and John Deere Tech specializations, highlighting his expertise and dedication to student success. ASU-Beebe's John Deere Program also received the John Deere College of Tomorrow Gold Award, recognizing the program's exceptional commitment to training the next generation of John Deere technicians. The accomplishments underscore the program's ongoing excellence and the university's dedication to workforce development.

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

A. ASU-Beebe Students, Faculty, and Community Unite for Holiday Giving

ASU-Beebe is ushering in the season of giving with a campuswide commitment to supporting students and strengthening community. On November 11, ASU-Beebe launched its annual Campus Food & Supply Drive to combat food insecurity and provide essential resources for students experiencing unexpected financial challenges. Leading up to Giving Tuesday, which is on December 2, students, faculty, staff, and community members are encouraged to donate nonperishable food, toiletries, hygiene products, and other necessities at campus drop-off sites or contribute online at asub.edu/givingtuesday, with all proceeds directly supporting the Student Emergency Hope Fund. As part of the holiday festivities, ASU-Beebe will also host its Holiday Pottery Sale, leading into the Community Tree Lighting event on December 2. This will give attendees an opportunity to support the same student-focused fund, while enjoying a cherished campus tradition. Together, these efforts reflect ASU-Beebe's commitment to compassion, community, and ensuring that every student feels supported during this season of generosity.

B. 60 Years of Educational Partnership with LRAFB

ASU-Beebe celebrated six decades of educational partnership with Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB) on September 18, with a free community event at its LRAFB campus. Since 1965, ASU-Beebe's LRAFB University Center had provided flexible degree and workforce-training programs to active-duty personnel, their families, civilians, and the surrounding region. The anniversary festivities included allied-health screenings, emergency medical demonstrations with an on-site ambulance, a Teddy Bear Clinic in collaboration with Cabot Emergency Hospital and ASU-Beebe EMT students, a stroke-awareness brain exhibit from Unity Health,



and safety demonstrations from the Jacksonville fire and police departments, along with program-enrollment advisers. Attendees received commemorative coins and enjoyed a celebratory cookout, featuring hamburgers, hotdogs, and birthday cake, generously provided by First Arkansas Bank & Trust. Chancellor Methvin described the partnership as “one of the most meaningful and enduring in ASU-Beebe’s history,” emphasizing its decades-long role in providing access to higher education, career training, and personal growth.

C. ASU-Beebe Celebrated Dr. Ruth Couch Day

ASU-Beebe celebrated Dr. Ruth L. Couch Day on September 23, beginning with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly established Outstanding Alumni Wall, followed by a drop-in reception at the Ruth L. Couch Center, 210 Palm Street, on the Beebe campus. The event honored Dr. Couch’s distinguished career, which began at ASU-Beebe in 1971 as an assistant professor of English, progressed to the first faculty doctorate in college history, led to her vice-chancellorship in academic affairs, and continued into her community service through leadership roles in the Beebe Chamber of Commerce and the ASU-Beebe Development Council. Her legacy includes the Ruth Couch Endowment Scholarship, the campus Science Building chimes, and decades of mentorship and academic leadership.

D. ASU-Beebe Dedicates Memorial Bench to Honor Michael Kelly

ASU-Beebe held a memorial bench dedication earlier in the fall to honor beloved English professor Michael Kelly—who taught at ASU-Beebe for 25 years and passed away in 2018 after a battle with ALS. The event, organized by colleague Suzanne Lindsey, brought together former students, faculty, and friends to share stories of Kelly’s wit, kindness, and deep commitment to his students. The bench, inscribed “In memory of our dear friend, Professor Michael Kelly ‘And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.’ — Shakespeare,” was placed outside his former classroom in the Owen Center as a lasting tribute to his legacy.

E. ASU-Beebe Honors Buck Layne for Dedicated Service on Board of Visitors

ASU-Beebe honored Buck Layne, retiring president and chief executive officer of the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce, for his dedicated service as a founding member of its Board of Visitors from 2017 to 2025. During his eight years of service, Layne served as a steadfast advisor, offering valuable insight at the intersection of education and workforce development. Chancellor Jennifer Methvin praised his



leadership and contributions, noting his efforts helped “strengthen our mission of transforming lives through quality learning experiences.”

F. Ed Covington Appointed to ASU-Beebe Board of Visitors

ASU-Beebe has appointed Ed Covington to its Board of Visitors, an advisory council that supports the institution’s chancellor with guidance on academic programs, institutional strategy, and community engagement. A 1988 Searcy High School graduate, Covington completed the auto-body program at the ASU-Beebe Searcy campus and now owns multiple businesses in central Arkansas, including collision-repair centers and an RV glass service operation. Chancellor Methvin praised his entrepreneurial experience and community dedication, while noting his past leadership roles with the Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and the Arkansas Collision Repair Association.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

A. Gifts & Private Funds

Between August 4 and November 8, ASU-Beebe raised \$25,928 in private donations and other gifts, including employee payroll deductions, private contributions, Development Council support, and community partnerships. Notable gifts included \$5,000 from Butch Rice for the Performing Arts Series, supplementing an earlier \$15,000 donation supporting SkillsUSA; \$3,000 from Hugh Burge, with \$1,000 directed to the emergency Hope Fund and \$2,000 to general scholarships; and \$2,500 from Entergy Arkansas for the Summer Vanguard STEAM Camp. The Chuck Wisdom Jr. Agricultural Heritage Scholarship reached \$12,250, with many donations from first-time contributors, though these are expected to be recurring gifts from alumni, students, and current and retired faculty and staff.

B. ASU-Beebe Honors Students with Foundation Scholarships

ASU-Beebe honored students from all campuses during the Celebration of Scholars events held on November 12 at the Heber Springs Campus and November 13 at the Beebe Campus, recognizing scholarship recipients and the donors whose generosity made more than \$95,000 in scholarships possible. The gatherings brought students and supporters together to share stories of impact, express gratitude, and highlight the valuable networking opportunities created when recipients meet the donors who invest in their futures. These connections



strengthened relationships across campuses in Beebe, Heber Springs, Searcy, the Little Rock Air Force Base, and online, underscoring the importance of community partnership in helping students move closer to their academic and career goals. Marketing and Public Relations produced videos with messages from some of the honored scholars: [Beebe Banquet Video](#), [Heber Springs Brunch Video](#).

C. Alumni Relations and Special Events Coordinator Report (Reporting Period: June–October 2025)

Since May 2025, the Office of Alumni Relations and Special Events at ASU-Beebe has worked to rebuild and re-establish the ASU-Beebe Alumni Association to strengthen connections between the college and its graduates. An Alumni Board of nine members was formed in June to guide the process, reviewing and updating by-laws, officer terms, and membership structures, selecting the official association name, and evaluating a proposed logo for submission to the ASU-Beebe Executive Team and ASU System Foundation, Inc. for final approval. Board members participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Outstanding Alumni Wall in September, recognizing distinguished graduates and reinforcing alumni engagement. Planning continued for the Theater Alumni Reception on November 8, which connected theater students with alumni for a meet-and-greet following a Saturday musical performance and was deemed a success. Additional outreach efforts included mailings, alumni outings, and communication with recent graduates, supported by an alumni information card and digital form to capture contact details. The official re-launch of the ASU-Beebe Alumni Association is scheduled for January 1, 2026.

7. Major Initiatives Update

A. [Heather Stogner Named Director of Workforce and Community Development](#)

ASU-Beebe announced that Heather Stogner has been appointed director of Workforce and Community Development. Stogner, a 22-year employee of the institution, has held roles in admissions, student services, career coaching, non-credit workforce training coordination, and most recently as assistant director of the Regional Career Center. Chancellor Dr. Blake Perkins described her as bringing “a wealth of experience” to her new role. Stogner holds two associate degrees from ASU-Beebe, a bachelor’s degree in business management from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, and is a graduate of the



U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Talent Pipeline Management Academy, the Searcy Chamber of Commerce Leadership program, and the Arkansas Community Colleges Leadership Institute.

8. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Metallica Scholars Initiative Grant Awarded to Automotive Technology

ASU-Beebe was selected as one of just 15 institutions nationwide to receive a grant from the Metallica Scholars Initiative, awarding \$75,000 in support of its Automotive Technology program. The funding will provide 25 scholarships of \$500 each and enable the purchase of a Lucas Nuelle CarTrain ASE L3 Light Duty Hybrid/Electric Vehicle Specialist Trainer. This will empower students to develop hands-on skills in electric and hybrid vehicle diagnostics, repair, and safety procedures. Chancellor Methvin described the grant as transformative, saying the combination of scholarships and advanced EV training will position ASU-Beebe as a central Arkansas hub for electric-vehicle technician education.

B. CNC Program Receives Gene Haas Grant for Scholarships

ASU-Beebe’s Computerized Machining Technology program on the Searcy campus was awarded a \$21,500 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation. The funding will underwrite student scholarships, cover competition fees at the upcoming SkillsUSA event, and allocate \$3,000 for instructor participation in the 2025 Haas Technical Education Community (HTEC) Annual Conference. Advanced Instructor Derrick Holobaugh noted that the grant will “open the door to higher education for students who might not otherwise afford to attend college” and will enhance the program, which is accredited by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills. The program offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in computerized machining, preparing students in manual machining, CNC programming, CAD, CAM, and 3D modelling—skills that are transferable to multiple bachelor’s degree options at Arkansas State University.

9. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

A. ASU-Beebe Career Fair with 40+ Employers and College Departments Onsite



ASU-Beebe’s Career Services hosted a Career Fair on October 7 in the Centennial Bank Gymnasium at the Owen Center, bringing together more than 40 area employers and ASU-Beebe departments, including Admissions, the Regional Career Center, Adult Education, Allied Health, and A-State, to meet students and share career opportunities. Jesse Blue, Career Placement Coordinator, reported that 193 students and community members attended, and called the event “a great success,” while noting that follow-up surveys will be sent to employers and attendees who RSVP’d. Participants were encouraged to bring resumes for potential on-the-spot interviews, supported by the Arkansas Workforce mobile unit. Complimentary snacks and refreshments were provided by First Security Bank and Great Western Dining Service, and door prizes were donated by area businesses. Blue extended thanks to all who contributed to the event. He added, “Collaboration will always be a winning strategy for us, our students, and the community.”



1. Chancellor Summary

A. Inclusive Postsecondary Education Program Grant with Arkansas State University (A-State)

- a. A-State has been awarded a five-year, \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a statewide coordinating center for Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) programs and to expand IPSE opportunities across Arkansas. As a full partner in this consortium (along with A-State and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) Arkansas State University-Mountain Home (ASUMH) will launch its own IPSE program on campus.

Participation in this initiative will allow ASUMH to offer enhanced academic, social, and workforce-development services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through the consortium's shared resources, ASUMH will gain access to technical assistance, data-driven evaluation, professional development, and a statewide support network designed to ensure program quality and long-term sustainability.

ASUMH's role centers on expanding inclusive educational access in rural Arkansas by leveraging our campus's strengths: small class sizes, strong community partnerships, and workforce-aligned programs. The new IPSE program at ASUMH is expected to create pathways for students to gain life skills, pursue certificates or degrees, earn industry-recognized credentials, and transition into competitive employment.

This collaboration positions ASUMH as one of the three anchor sites in a statewide model for inclusive higher education — one designed to serve students across urban, rural, and underserved communities.

B. Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaffirmation of Accreditation—Preparatory Work Underway

- a. ASUMH's ten-year reaffirmation of accreditation visit with the HLC is officially scheduled for February 7-8, 2028, with a lock date of January 10, 2028, for all Assurance Argument materials. Preparatory work began in late Summer 2025 and will continue throughout the next two academic years. Early efforts have focused on organizing working groups, conducting preliminary evidence reviews, and mapping timelines to ensure that all criteria, documentation, and compliance components are addressed well ahead of the formal submission deadline.



C. Faculty and Staff Climate Survey

- a. ASUMH launched a comprehensive, anonymous Employee Climate Survey in Fall 2025 as part of the college's ongoing commitment to transparency, continuous improvement, and a workplace culture where employees feel valued and heard. The survey gathers confidential feedback related to morale, communication, leadership, collaboration, and overall workplace well-being. The survey results will be reviewed in aggregate only, with campuswide themes shared after analysis. Findings will help guide decision-making, strengthen shared governance, and inform future initiatives that support a positive and productive campus environment.

D. New Provost Selected

- a. Dr. Robert Shurley has been selected to serve as ASUMH's Provost, effective January 1, 2026. This newly configured role combines leadership of both Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, aligning institutional priorities to better support student success, retention, and overall educational quality. Dr. Shurley has served ASUMH for more than 15 years in a wide range of academic and administrative capacities, including Dean of the School of Business, Arts & Sciences; Director of Perkins V; Director of Banner Institutional Services; Faculty Senate President; and longstanding faculty member in mathematics. He brings deep experience in shared governance, program development, and data-informed decision-making. He holds an Education Specialist degree in Higher Education Leadership and a Master of Science in Mathematics—both from Arkansas State University—as well as a Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. Shurley's proven commitment to student-centered leadership and institutional improvement positions him well to guide ASUMH's academic and student-support functions in this expanded role.

E. Emergency Preparedness Activities 2025–2026

- a. ASUMH continues to prioritize campus safety through a comprehensive series of emergency-preparedness activities. During the 2025–2026 academic year, the college is conducting active shooter training, Secure Your Space sessions, earthquake, fire, and tornado drills, and AED/CPR



certification opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. These initiatives are supported by the recently updated Emergency Operations and Business Continuity Plan and are designed to strengthen emergency response capabilities, promote safety awareness, and ensure that the campus community is prepared for a range of potential incidents.

2. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

A. Student success story descriptions

- a. ASUMH student Jediah L. Dillon was selected to participate in the inaugural Arkansas Liberal Arts and Humanities Day at the State Capitol Rotunda in Little Rock on November 13. This statewide event showcases the work of undergraduate and graduate students in the liberal arts and humanities, giving them a chance to present research, creative projects, and performances to policymakers, educators, and community leaders. Jediah's presentation, "The Life and Legacy of Sir Isaac Newton Told Through an Animated Short," was included in the event's official abstract book. This recognition highlights ASUMH's commitment to fostering student creativity, scholarship, and engagement beyond the classroom.

B. Faculty success story descriptions

- a. Annie Noblin, a valued member of ASUMH's English faculty, recently achieved a major professional milestone by selling two novels to Lake Union Publishing, one of Amazon's traditional publishing imprints. This accomplishment reflects both her creative talent and dedication to literary excellence. In addition to her success as an author, Annie brings her experience in writing, storytelling, and publishing into the classroom, enriching the educational experience for her students and inspiring the next generation of writers. Her achievements highlight the broader impact that ASUMH faculty have both on campus and in their professional fields.

C. Staff success story descriptions

- a. ASUMH's maintenance department continues to be a vital part of campus success. Their expertise and dedication make it possible to take on major construction and renovation projects that enhance the student experience and campus environment. A recent example is the renovation of the former bookstore space into the new Student Success Center, a project completed



through the skill and commitment to excellence of our maintenance department. The college would have had to hire outside contractors at a considerable cost if not for the department's dedicated efforts. The department also played a key role in getting the Coulter Celebration of Lights installed and operational, ensuring that the campus remains safe, functional, and welcoming for community members, students, faculty, and staff alike.

3. Academic Affairs

- A. Total credentials most recently awarded
 - a. N/A
- B. New academic programs
 - a. N/A
- C. New locations
 - a. ASUMH is seeking approval to offer credit and non-credit technical training courses at the North Arkansas Unit in Calico Rock, responding to a request from the Arkansas Department of Corrections. This initiative supports rehabilitation through education, expands workforce readiness opportunities for justice-involved individuals, and reflects the College's ongoing commitment to serving diverse learners and addressing regional workforce needs.
 - b. Searcy County School District (Marshall, AR)- concurrent education
 - c. Gainesville High School (Gainesville, MO) - concurrent education
 - d. Bakersfield High School (Bakersfield, MO) - concurrent education
- D. Revamped academic programs or curriculum
 - a. **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Pathway Consortium**

ASUMH has joined a STEM Pathway consortium that allows future engineering- and computer-science majors to begin their studies on our campus before transferring to a four-year institution. Students can complete two to three semesters of foundational coursework without falling behind in their intended four-year degree plans. Because of the consortium structure, students experience a seamless transition when they transfer, and some of the courses are taught online by partner-institution faculty while students continue to pay ASUMH tuition rates.



Faculty member Jessica Clanton serves as the advisor for the pathway and is collaborating with transfer recruiters to promote the opportunity at local high schools, particularly in STEM-focused classes and programs. This is the first full year of implementation, and early participation is encouraging. Greater demand is anticipated next year as more students and families become aware of the pathway. Importantly, students are not limited to any specific university after completing their coursework at ASUMH—any student interested in STEM fields can benefit from the expanded access to advanced mathematics and introductory engineering courses this partnership makes possible.

b. Open Educational Resources (OER) Expansion

ASUMH has reached an important milestone in its Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative. Thanks to the collaborative work of the Title III and Academic Affairs teams, students can now complete both of the college's primary transfer degrees, the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences (ASLAS), using entirely no-cost course materials. While not every individual course is OER-based, students now have full pathways that allow them to earn these degrees without paying for textbooks or other instructional materials.

Although ASUMH has been building OER capacity for the past five years, the recent surge in no-cost offerings was driven by the need to reduce material costs for concurrent students and their K–12 schools. State requirements prohibit charging families for course materials, and transitioning more classes to OER allowed the college to support its partners without passing along substantial expenses. Had ASUMH continued with traditional materials in Fall 2024, K–12 districts would have faced costs exceeding \$40,000—and likely far more given increased enrollment. The move to OER protects families from unexpected costs, strengthens concurrent partnerships, and expands affordable access for all ASUMH students.

E. Discontinued academic programs

- a. TC – Web Development
- b. CP – Web Development
- c. AAS- Workforce Technology

F. Accreditation visits and news



- a. The Funeral Science program successfully received a three-year accreditation, reaffirming program quality and compliance with national standards.

4. Institution Awards & Honors

- A. Jediah Dillon and Breanna Ward represented the Fran Coulter Honors Program (FCHP) at the Honors Arkansas Health and Wellness Symposium at the University of Central Arkansas. They presented preliminary findings from the ASUMH Student Health and Wellness Survey and highlighted Spring 2025 health and wellness activities. Following their presentation, they participated in professional development sessions on self-advocacy and networking—skills that will support their growth as future leaders.

The Fran Coulter Honors Program is an active member of Honors Arkansas, a statewide consortium of honors programs across two- and four-year institutions.

- B. For the 2024-2025 program year, ASUMH exceeded federal and state benchmarks for adult education and literacy programs. Under the U.S. Department of Education's National Reporting System (NRS), states receiving Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act funds negotiate minimum performance measures, and providers are evaluated using the Effective and Efficient (E&E) calculation. This formula measures performance based on Measurable Skill Gains (MSG) and other primary indicators of success.

ASUMH achieved an E&E performance rate of 160.01%, well above the state minimum requirement of 101.4%. This outstanding result demonstrates the college's effectiveness in supporting adult learners, providing high-quality instruction, and meeting or exceeding all federally negotiated benchmarks for the program year. It reflects both the dedication of faculty and staff and the college's commitment to workforce readiness and lifelong learning in the communities we serve.

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. Coulter Celebration of Lights
 - a. The Coulter Celebration of Lights is entering its fifth year in Mountain Home with a lighting ceremony held on November 23 and displays remaining lit each evening from 5:30–9:00 p.m. through the end of December. This partnership between the City of Mountain Home and Arkansas State University-Mountain Home is truly a gift to our community. The celebration



features 87 total displays, with the welcome arch the largest at 65-feet wide and 30-feet tall. Setup began in October, and this herculean effort (by both city and college staff) is something that most communities can only dream about having. A grant of \$15,000 from the Mountain Home Advertising and Promotions Board was recently received to support publicity for this event that generates income for student scholarships at ASUMH through gifts at the exit gate and from sponsorships.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. Total gifts and private funds raised for the quarter ending September 2025 was \$156,884.05.
- B. ASUMH recently received a lead gift for Giving Tuesday, a nation-wide celebration of giving on December 2. The \$3,500 gift was unrestricted and kicked off this campaign.
- C. A recent gift of \$10,000, from a private donor to support our Ed Coulter Student Emergency Fund, came at a fortuitous time with the closure of the Career Pathways program during the government shutdown. The student emergency fund at ASUMH provides one-time, financial-assistance grants to students who find themselves in situations of economic need that would interfere with the completion of the semester.
- D. The Arvest Foundation recently announced a \$3,500 grant to the ASUMH Alumni Association. The grant will provide funding for student scholarships.

7. Intercollegiate Athletics

- A. Athletics Department news & success stories
 - a. We have hired a head softball coach, Jacob Clary, who is already signing recruits for the 2026-2027 season. Coach Clary has spent many hours on the road, scouting and recruiting, and we currently have three very excited future TrailBlazer softball student-athletes with more on the way!
 - b. TrailBlazer Baseball announced an initial signing class of 16 future TrailBlazers, who will join our campus in Fall 2026, with expectations to add up to 30 in the class of 2026.



- c. The Baseball team has also served a total of 20 community-service hours this fall with events consisting of a community Trunk-or-Treat and haunted house, a youth clinic through the city, and ringing bells for the Salvation Army!
 - d. Our new athletics website, www.asumhathletics.com, is in the final stages of development, and alongside our fantastic marketing team, we are working hard to add content that will dress up the site. We are nearing a release date and hope to have it available to the public in the coming days!
- B. Team news and success stories
- a. The Natural State Showcase, held at Dickey-Stephens Park in Little Rock, was a huge success back in October. Though scorekeeping was unofficial, TrailBlazer Baseball had a close game with SAU-Tech, losing 5-3, in our second game of the day; ASUMH was able to beat NorthArk 4-2.
- C. Student-athlete news and success stories
- a. Sophomore baseball student-athlete, Christian Loera, becomes the first “TrailBlazer off the board” of 2025-2026, as he has made his decision as to where he will continue his academic and baseball careers after this school year. Christian will head to Missouri Southern State University to play baseball and finish his degree, after earning his associate’s degree in the spring.

8. Major Initiatives Update

- A. 30th Anniversary Celebration at ASUMH
- a. On July 1, 1995, ASUMH was created and was announced as a member of the ASU System. The campus will celebrate this special event throughout this academic year with a community-wide celebration planned for the spring, including the launch of a comprehensive fundraising campaign.

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

- A. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant for Gotaas Hall, Health Sciences building expansion.
- a. ASUMH has officially selected Polk, Stanley, Wilcox as the architect for the Gotaas Hall expansion and renovation project. The contract has been reviewed, and the initial project kick-off meeting occurred on campus on November 3, marking the formal start of planning-and-design activities. This milestone moves the college one step closer to modernizing Gotaas Hall to



better support nursing and allied health education, aligning learning spaces with clinical-practice environments and workforce needs.

B. Installation of solar lighting through ARDOT grant

- a. Installation of new solar lighting recently began along the James and Sally Moore Recreational Trail on the ASUMH campus. The lights will enhance one of the community's favorite outdoor recreation areas and reflects ASUMH's commitment to overall community partnership and well-being by improving safety and accessibility for walkers, runners, and families who use the trail during early morning and evening hours.

The project is being completed in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), whose funding support made the solar installation possible. Construction is underway, with completion expected later this fall. Minimal disruption to trail access is anticipated during the installation process.

10. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement, & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

A. Six workforce development training classes were recently conducted for 287 students.

- a. Training included Basic Life Saving (BLS), Behavioral Health, Leadership, Propane Handling, CPR, Crime Scene Investigation, Kick the Fear out of Feedback, Computer and Cell Phone Basic Operation, and Plumbing Apprenticeship.

B. Launch of Workforce Pell Grants

- a. ASUMH is actively studying and preparing for the upcoming launch of Workforce Pell, a federal initiative designed to expand access to short-term, workforce-focused postsecondary education. The college is evaluating program alignment, student eligibility, and administrative processes to ensure readiness when the program becomes available. By leaning into this opportunity, ASUMH aims to provide greater access to high-quality, skills-focused training that meets regional workforce needs, supports credential attainment, and strengthens pathways to employment for adult learners and working students.





1. Chancellor Summary

A. ASU Mid-South Invited to Compete for the 2027 Aspen Prize

Arkansas State University Mid-South is proud to be among the 200 institutions nationwide invited to compete for the 2027 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

The \$1 million prize, awarded every two years, is the nation's premier recognition of America's community colleges. The Aspen Prize honors colleges, which achieve excellent and improving student outcomes, and then shares effective practices across the higher education field through professional development programs.

The rigorous two-year application process begins with a data submission due November 13. Dr. Michael Lejman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Technology and Research, is coordinating this submission.

The next phase, a narrative submission due December 9, will highlight the student success outcomes, which ASU Mid-South aims to improve; the strategies developed to achieve those goals; and evidence of their effectiveness. Dr. Emilee Sides, Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, is leading this submission with input from a committee.

A national selection committee of experts, from K-12 education, higher education, and workforce development, will review and score all applications. Semifinalists will be announced in Spring 2026; finalists in June 2026; and the winner in Spring 2027, following campus site visits.

B. ASU Mid-South Expands Efforts to Combat Student Food Insecurity

ASU Mid-South has expanded its efforts to combat student food insecurity through a new partnership with the Mid-South Food Bank, marking a major step forward in the reach and sustainability of the Greyhound Pantry. This collaboration allows the college to purchase nutritious food and personal-care items at significantly reduced costs, enabling more consistent support for a greater number of students.



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The college also continues its partnership with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and participation in the Nutritional Pantry Program, which emphasizes nutrition education and the dignity of choice for students.

Research shows that food-insecure students are significantly more likely to experience negative mental-health outcomes (including anxiety and depression), than their food-secure peers. These initiatives collectively strengthen ASU Mid-South's ability to address barriers that affect academic success and student well-being, positioning the institution as a statewide leader in combating food insecurity among community college students.

C. Enrollment Update

Arkansas State University Mid-South's final Fall 2025 enrollment reflects a 13 percent increase in headcount and an 11 percent increase in student semester credit hours (SSCH), compared with final Fall 2024 figures.

Adult enrollment rose 5.6 percent, while concurrent enrollment increased 23.5 percent. The growth in adult enrollment was driven by increases in allied health and related science courses, growth among first-time, degree-seeking students, and the return of previously enrolled students who had been away for more than a year, and the addition of new softball players.

On-campus concurrent enrollment grew 2 percent; thus, most of the overall increase in concurrent enrollment is attributed to the college's decision to begin offering courses on the campus of West Memphis High School.

2. Student, Faculty, and Staff Success Stories

A. League for Innovation Excellence Award

The League for Innovation in the Community College Excellence Awards are national honors presented by the League for Innovation in the Community College, a consortium of leading two-year institutions dedicated to fostering innovation, excellence, and equity in community college education. The Excellence Awards specifically recognize outstanding community college faculty, staff, and administrators who have made significant contributions to teaching, leadership, and student success. Karen Holland, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Assessment and General Education, was recently selected to represent ASU Mid-South as a recipient of the 2026 League for Innovation Excellence Award. Ms.



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Holland's deep institutional knowledge, collaborative spirit, and tireless dedication to the College and its students have been instrumental in advancing academic quality, supporting faculty development, and strengthening program alignment with workforce needs. Under her guidance, numerous programs and initiatives have moved forward efficiently and effectively, reflecting her exceptional organizational skills and her ability to bring teams together around shared goals.

3. Academic Affairs

A. Total credentials most recently awarded (nothing to report this quarter)

B. New academic programs

ASU Mid-South submitted its letter of intent to the Arkansas Board of Nursing on October 24, marking the first step toward launching a Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing. Start-up funding for the program is being provided through the federal Bridge-AR Grant (DOL) and Perkins V, supporting the college's continued expansion of high-demand healthcare programs to meet regional workforce needs.

C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum

ASU Mid-South continues to advance its institutional focus on artificial intelligence by embedding at least one AI-based assignment or activity in every course to promote digital literacy and real-world application. The college is also exploring the development of certificate and degree options in AI, in order to meet emerging workforce demands. In addition, efforts are underway to identify professional development opportunities for faculty, and to leverage AI tools in support of Open Educational Resources (OER) development and expansion. The TRiO Student Support Services program recently partnered with English faculty member, Ming Cheng, to host an interactive workshop demonstrating how ChatGPT can serve as a valuable academic support tool for students. The College's AI Task Force is currently finalizing institutional policy recommendations, which will be submitted to the Chancellor by December 1.

D. Discontinued academic programs (nothing to report this quarter)

E. Accreditation visits & news

ASU Mid-South has received official notification from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), confirming the dates for its Standard Pathway Mid-Cycle Review



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during the 2027–2028 academic year, scheduled for February 7–8, 2028. January 10, 2028, four weeks prior to the visit, marks the deadline for submission of all review materials, after which HLC will make the materials available to the review team.

4. Institution awards & honors

ASU Mid-South is invited to compete for the 2027 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence (please see 1A).



5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

ASU Mid-South's Community Education program will continue its popular wine-tasting series this spring, offering monthly classes designed to educate participants on wine selection, pairing, and appreciation.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

A. Total gifts and private funds amount raised for the quarter

1. For the quarter, donations totaled \$23,978, largely from employee payroll deductions, monthly givers, and annual scholarship donors.
2. The Foundation's investment portfolio grew 4.3 percent in this quarter, increasing from \$9.3 million to \$9.7 million.

B. Alumni & fundraising events

1. Planning for the 10th Annual Tommy Goldsby Wild Game Dinner and Silent Auction is currently underway, with the event scheduled for March 7, 2026. This year's event will be a salute to area farmers, who have been instrumental in the success of this event for the past 10 years.
2. The Foundation officially launched its 2025-26 Dog Pack Booster Club campaign to coincide with NJCAA Day on October 16. Individual memberships are \$60, two-packs are \$120, and family memberships are \$150. Membership includes a long-sleeve tee, a beanie, a sticker set, a Greyhound magnet, and a season pass to all games. All proceeds go to support athletic scholarships and equipment upgrades.



C. New scholarships created

The Tom L. Cook Information Technology Award of Excellence was established through the ASU Mid-South Foundation to honor the life and legacy of Tom L. Cook, who recently retired after 41 years of service in the Information Technology Department on the Mid-South campus. Mr. Cook's professional career, which began when the institution was known as Mid-South Vo-Tech, and his personal passion, were rooted in the transformative power of technology. He believed that



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access to education and innovation could open doors for students across our region. This annual \$500 cash award continues Mr. Cook's vision by recognizing and supporting outstanding students who are pursuing studies in information technology and related fields.

D. Notable contributions & major gifts that are public

West Memphis resident and adjunct history professor Dr. Marjorie Hunter has donated her curated collection of Farm Security Administration (FSA) Great Depression-era, tenant-farmer photographs to ASU Mid-South. The collection consists of documentary photographs taken across Arkansas and the Mississippi River Delta during the 1930s, originally pulled from the Library of Congress archives as part of Dr. Hunter's graduate research in heritage studies at Arkansas State University.

Hunter first developed the project as a doctoral student under Dr. Clyde Milner II. Her exhibit, *"Hope and Despair: The Farm Security Administration Photographs in Eastern Arkansas during the Great Depression,"* was previously displayed in the lobby of Mullins Library at the University of Arkansas during Arkansas Heritage Month and draws from her dissertation of the same title. The collection includes compelling images by renowned FSA photographers Dorothea Lange, Ben Shahn, Russell Lee, Carl Mydans, Edwin Locke, and Marion Post Wolcott. The photographs depict cotton pickers, sharecropper families, rural homesteads, flood refugees, and everyday life in eastern Arkansas during the Depression. Portions of the exhibit have been shown at both the University of Arkansas and ASU Mid-South.

In recognition of the collection's historical significance and its deep connection to the region, the college will create a permanent exhibit space on campus to house and display Dr. Hunter's important gift.

7. Intercollegiate Athletics

A. Team news & success stories

ASU Mid-South's men's and women's basketball teams kicked off their seasons on November 1. The Greyhound men will face their Inter-System rivals, the ASU Newport Aviators, at 3:00 PM on Saturday, January 24. Both men's and women's basketball season will run through February 21.



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B. Student-athlete news & success stories

ASU Mid-South men's basketball standout Phillip Tillman has been named the NJCAA Division II Men's Basketball Player of the Week for his outstanding performance during the opening stretch of the season. Tillman, a 6-foot-1 inch point guard from Jonesboro, Arkansas, averaged 22 points, 5.4 rebounds, 5.6 assists, and 4.8 steals per game over a five-game span, leading the Greyhounds to an impressive start.

A former Jonesboro Golden Hurricane, Tillman helped guide his high school team to three state championships and earned All-Conference honors before joining ASU Mid-South. He recently announced his verbal commitment to Florida International University, where he will continue his basketball career next season as a junior. His recognition as National Player of the Week highlights both his individual excellence and the growing recognition of the ASU Mid-South men's basketball program.



8. Major Initiatives Update

ASU Mid-South Is Invited to Compete for the 2027 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence (please see 1A).

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown last month and its impact on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding, Arkansas's Secretary of Education ordered Career Pathways Initiative (CPI) and Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG) Career Coach offices throughout the state to be closed, effective November 1. The offices remained closed, and staff furloughed until federal funding was restored.

CPI funding supports essential wraparound services, including tuition assistance, transportation, childcare, and course-related supplies, that make college access and completion possible for low-income families, who would otherwise be unable to attend college. Affected students were contacted immediately, as many rely on these services to attend classes. Faculty were asked to accommodate, when reasonably possible,



students impacted by the funding interruption, and student inquiries were directed to other campus offices for updated information and support.

The JAG program also serves an at-risk student population, assisting with non-academic barriers (e.g., life skills, financial literacy, resource referral) for students who may be first-generation, homeless, have experienced foster care, or have other special needs.

At the time of this report, TANF funding had been restored at the federal level; however, the State had not yet given permission and guidance on re-starting these programs on our campuses.

10. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement, & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

A. Sediver – Marion

Sediver, a global manufacturer of high-line electrical insulators, has requested ASU Mid-South's assistance in developing a curriculum for its assembly line stations, along with training and certifications in forklift, scissor lift, and overhead crane operation. The company is preparing to add a third shift and is seeking the college's help in designing in-house training for new hires, with ASU Mid-South providing third-party testing and employee certifications. A contract and cost proposal are currently under development.

B. Coca-Cola Consolidated – West Memphis

ASU Mid-South is collaborating with Coca-Cola Consolidated to design an apprenticeship-style program for maintenance staff, including both current employees and new hires. The project remains in the planning and development phase.

C. Hino Motors – Marion

ASU Mid-South recently completed a six-week Commercial Driver License Training (CDLT) program for Hino employees, held on Saturdays and Sundays, as part of the company's employee re-skilling initiative in preparation for its upcoming plant closure.

D. West Memphis Utilities

The college is delivering a customized mechatronics program for West Memphis



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Utilities employees, who attend classes two days per week during work hours. Participants, who successfully complete the program, will earn industry-recognized certification.

E. East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center (ECACCC)

ASU Mid-South is currently providing two forklift training classes for ECACCC residents, offering them the opportunity to earn certifications upon completion. A Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW/MIG) course is also scheduled for next month, taught by Jim Moses and Mike Dailey. Students will train five days a week for three weeks and will have the opportunity to take and pass an American Welding Society (AWS) certification test before reentering the workforce.

F. NKC America – Memphis

NKC America, a global company specializing in conveyor systems for the automotive industry, is partnering with ASU Mid-South to create a talent pipeline from the college's welding and mechatronics programs. An ASU System-approved contract allows welding students to fabricate parts for NKC in the college's shop after hours under instructor supervision. However, the project is currently on hold due to reduced production related to tariffs.

G. Ensley Engineer Yard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Memphis District

ASU Mid-South is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Ensley Engineer Yard to develop training programs for various equipment used in their maintenance operations, as well as instruction in quality control for plumbing and carpentry employees.



1. Chancellor Summary

- A. AHECB reported record credentials for AY25
 - a. ASUN was recognized at the quarterly Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting on October 24 for being one of eight Arkansas colleges reporting record credentials awarded for AY25. See the full report here: <https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2025/oct/24/arkansas-colleges-see-credentials-climb-for/>
- B. Achieving the Dream (ATD) Updates
 - a. Over the past year, ASUN has embarked on a journey toward equitable outcomes for all students through the Achieving the Dream framework. ASUN has established a Data Dream Team and a Student Success Team to adopt a data-informed approach to enhancing student success. Additionally, the institution has initiated steps to improve onboarding for our students in the Associate of Arts in General Education, offering eight-week on-campus courses at the Newport campus. To continue advancing efforts to improve outcomes for all students, we are committed to understanding both our strengths and areas for improvement. Therefore, ASUN's full-time faculty and staff participated in Achieving the Dream's Institutional Capacity Framework and Assessment Tool (ICAT). This tool enabled ASUN to celebrate strengths, while identifying areas for capacity building. The ICAT, developed by Achieving the Dream (ATD), allows colleges to self-assess their strengths in seven key areas (leadership and vision, data and technology, equity, teaching and learning, engagement and communication, strategy and planning, and policies and practices). These capacities, which focus on students and the community, are essential to implementing the changes needed to improve student outcomes. ASUN achieved a 71% response rate for the ICAT survey, with 125 responses.
 - b. On September 25, Achieving the Dream Coaches visited the ASU-Newport campus, and the All-Employee Professional Development Capacity Cafés, hosted by ATD coaches, were held on September 26. The event was a resounding success and was heralded by ATD coaches as one of the most successful they had ever experienced.



C. Crest Center: first phase approved

- a. On September 12, Arkansas State University's Board of Trustees approved the first phase of the Career Readiness Education & Skills Training (CREST) Center. This initial phase will include a 20,000 square-foot facility, with plans to expand to 70,000 square feet in the future. The CREST Center aims to prepare students for careers in advanced automated manufacturing, steel manufacturing, and food processing in Northeast Arkansas. Arkansas State University leads this initiative, which includes collaborative partnerships with ASUN and ANC. The CREST Center represents a significant effort to transform workforce training in Northeast Arkansas, creating new opportunities for students, strengthening local industries, and fostering long-term economic growth.

D. CPI Program

- a. In response to the suspension of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), funding through support of the ASU System, ASUN was able to keep two full-time employees insured and serve 96 students with funds from our student-support endorsement. Meeting student needs, especially during challenging times, is a pivotal part of our mission.

E. ASUN Employee Professional Development

- a. ASUN remains committed to efficient and effective professional development for its employees, and the institution has expanded efforts to provide needed training. Full-time faculty and staff completed the following online Vector LMS training courses: Fall 2025
 - i. Active Shooter: Run, Hide, Fight
 - ii. Building Supportive Communities: Clery Act and Title IX
 - iii. Cybersecurity Awareness for Employees at Educational Institutions: Security Awareness Essentials
 - iv. Drug Free Workplace
 - v. FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
 - vi. Hazing Awareness and Prevention and Follow-up Survey
 - vii. Preventing Harassment and Discrimination: Gateway
 - viii. Protecting Youth: Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CPM 18-0137)

2. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories



A. Student Success

- a. The Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy (WAGE) class graduation was held October 29 at the McPherson Correctional Unit in Newport, AR. Present at the graduation were Major Johnnie Sift, ASUN Prison Education Director Tonya Gates, Warden Nurzuhal Faust, Deputy Warden John Moss, and Assistant Professor of Adult Education Daniel Lee. Seven students received degrees and credentials. This program continues to open doors for incarcerated students and reduces rates of recidivism.
- b. The High Voltage Lineman Technology (HVLТ) program hosted its annual Lineman Rodeo October 30. This event attracted a large audience of more than 250 spectators, including industry professionals. It showcased the impressive skills of HVLТ students and faculty, allowing attendees to observe and appreciate student skill and ability.
- c. ASUN Student Leadership participated in the ASU System Leadership Summit on October 20. Participants listened to State Representative Keith Brooks discuss advocacy and policy. This group has extended an active presence on campus culture throughout the fall semester. A special blue coat ceremony was held November 21 to formally recognize these student leaders.
- d. The Newport cohort of Practical Nursing students enjoyed a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX Exam. This is a remarkable accomplishment for the students and is a testament to the expertise of their educational leaders, Latisha Clark and Katy Warren.

B. Faculty Success

- a. John Judd, Instructor of Advanced Manufacturing, and Mark Hanan, Director of Instructional Design and Distance Education, traveled to Washington, D.C., to present information concerning the CAMPP Grant at the National Science Foundation Principal Investigators Conference, held October 29 to 31.
- b. The ASUN Nursing faculty recently participated in the National League for Nursing Summit held in Orlando, Florida, from September 17 to 19. Zac Altom, from the Newport campus, and Donna Patterson, from the Jonesboro campus, joined nursing professionals from across the country. They participated in breakout sessions and gleaned valuable information on the future of nursing and the role of artificial intelligence in healthcare.



- c. Assistant Director of Workforce Development Ken Beach attended FANUC Academy, in order to help ASUN become a certified educational provider for the corporation. The FANUC Corporation's Certified Education Robot Training (CERT) program certifies instructors from high schools, technical schools, community colleges, and universities to train students in programming FANUC robots through both online and hands-on courses.
- C. Staff Success
 - a. ASUN Congratulates Michael Moody, Assistant Professor of Criminology, for earning an Education Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Columbia Southern University.
 - b. Grover Welch, an instructor of Adult Education, was honored as the former President of the Impact Alumni Ambassadors during the UARK Impact Arkansas Fellowship in Educational Leadership. He was awarded the title of Ambassador Emeritus in recognition of his exemplary service and lasting contributions to the field.
 - c. Dr. Typhanie Myers participated in the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) meeting in Washington, D.C., where she is a commission member.

3. Enrollment & Recruitment

- A. Current traditional enrollment status
 - a. ASUN currently has 2,332 students enrolled in the full fall semester. Enrollment has increased since census day due to additional Flex 2 terms, which have enabled additional enrollments. The institution has more than 200 additional students this semester, compared to the previous fall. ASUN has begun spring enrollment and is currently in our two-week push to advise students to register before the Thanksgiving holiday.
- B. Current online enrollment status
 - a. ASUN has 903 students enrolled in primarily distance education, up slightly from 849 students Fall 2024. The online enrollment population constitutes a significant portion of the overall enrollment demographic.
- C. Recruitment & application trends
 - a. In the fall of this year, ASUN admitted 1,881 students and enrolled 1,195 of those students for a 63.5% conversion rate. Those students originated primarily from Craighead, Jackson, and Poinsett Counties, with the most



significant number residing in Craighead County. The largest contingent of applications received by ASUN came from Jonesboro High School.

4. Academic Affairs

- A. Total credentials most recently awarded
 - a. In the academic year 2025, ASUN awarded 1,691 credentials to more than 950 students. The institution increased both the number of credentials awarded and the number of completers. When disaggregated by award level, ASUN also saw a marginal increase in all award levels, including associate degrees. Of the 951 completers, over 200 students began their studies at ASUN while still attending high school.
- B. Accreditation visits & news
 - a. ASUN is in the final stage of completing and submitting documentation for the Prison Education Program (PEP) to ensure the federal Second Chance Pell Grants for our incarcerated students.
 - b. ASUN's Higher Learning Commission Core Team is meeting monthly to prepare for the upcoming HLC reaffirmation in February 2027. The criteria team leaders have been identified, and a preliminary SWOT analysis of each criterion has been completed.
 - c. ASUN's Assessment & Accreditation Committee meets monthly and coordinates its work to prepare for the upcoming HLC reaffirmation with the HLC Core Team. The committee has focused on finalizing a review of federal compliance and assumed practices. In the October *Assessment & Accreditation Newsletter*, the committee surveyed ASUN employees on how they would like to receive training and information regarding the HLC.

5. Institution Awards & Honors

- A. ASUN recognized graduates in the fall commencement ceremonies on December 5.
 - a. 350 graduates received a total of 625 awards.
 - b. ASUN was recognized at the quarterly Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board meeting on October 24 for being one of eight Arkansas colleges reporting record credentials awarded for AY25.



- c. ASUN worked diligently within the student success area to meet strategic goals that align with the funding formula metrics. As a result, we increased our points within this funding formula and will receive incentive funding of \$340,237 for the next fiscal year. This amount represents the second-highest funding awarded to a public community college in the state during this productivity funding cycle.

6. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. Community outreach events and partnership activities
 - a. ASU-Newport hosted the New Vision Newport Leadership Class on November 4. This distinguished leadership-development program aims to train and equip emerging leaders in Newport and Jackson County, Arkansas. The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors this initiative.
 - b. The Newport Advisory Board Meetings were held on November 20. These are valuable opportunities for employers to provide feedback to ensure program viability.
 - c. The Quarterly Board of Visitors meeting was held on the ASU-Newport campus November 12.
 - d. In October, students from Newport High School visited the culinary program. Lisa Godsey, the Director of Culinary Arts, along with Jan Criswell, an Advanced Instructor in Culinary Arts, demonstrated the swine fabrication process. They explained the principles of sustainability and discussed how every component of the animal can be utilized in the kitchen.
 - e. ASUN conducted a Coaches Clinic designed to prepare team leaders for the 2026 Science Olympiad. State directors from the Arkansas Science Olympiad provided guidance to coaches on various challenges, including constructing hoverboards, identifying geological specimens, and utilizing artificial intelligence to devise new challenges for the Olympiad. The event proved to be an enriching day of learning at ASUN. Furthermore, ASUN is scheduled to host the Northeast Arkansas Science Olympiad on February 7, 2026. The Institution has been involved in the Science Olympiad for over a decade.
 - f. The Newport High School HOSA Club hosted a Movie Night October 28 at the ASUN Center for the Arts, featuring the film *Hotel Transylvania*. ASUN is committed to partnering with high school cohorts to foster student success.



- g. Associate Professor of Early Childhood Development Stacy Mooneyhan collaborated with Coach Marcus Lewis and his Introduction to Education students from Newport High School to participate in the Chamber of Commerce's initiative to keep Newport clean. The event was a success and served as a great example of collaboration between the college and high school.
- h. William Tate, Instructor of Agriculture Technology, and Lindley Gilliam, Associate Dean for Applied Sciences, spoke to the Newport Rotary Club on October 10 concerning our collaboration with the Newport Community Garden Initiative (NCGI) and the new Farm to Table to Farm Initiative with Culinary Arts.
- i. Additionally, ASUN's Agricultural Technology program received recognition from the Newport Community Garden Initiative (NCGI) for its volunteer efforts to combat food insecurity in Jackson County.
- j. Arkansas State University-Newport offered a General Industry OSHA-10 class to Project SEARCH trainees at St. Bernards Medical Center. Project SEARCH® Arkansas: ACCESS® is dedicated to helping young adults with developmental disabilities obtain the skills and experience needed to succeed in both work and life. Through partnership with St. Bernards, these SEARCH adult learners are gaining confidence, acquiring new skills, and preparing to enter the workforce. ASUN is honored to support this mission of empowering individuals, strengthening our community, and creating pathways to employment.
- k. The Be Pro Be Proud mobile workshop was held at the ASUN-Jonesboro campus on October 7 and at the Newport campus on October 9. The goal of this initiative is to cultivate a new generation of pride, progress, and professionals in America's skilled workforce.
- l. The ASUN Fall Festival took place on October 9 on the Newport campus. This free, family-friendly event featured popular fall attractions, including bounce houses, food, pumpkin decorating, hayrides, carnival games, live music, and two cash prize drawings. The event was a huge success with more than 450 participants
- m. "Finish Sydney's Run 5K" race took place September 20 in Tuckerman, AR. This annual celebration of life honors former ASUN student, Sydney Claire Sutherland. All proceeds from the event go directly to the Sydney Claire



Sutherland Foundation, which helps support the Sutherland Scholarship at ASUN.

- n. Mark Hanan, Director of Instructional Design and Distance Education, and Christy Mann, Director of Career and Transfer Services, visited Harrisburg High School's 8th-grade Career Development class and introduced a new method of career exploration using Transfr Trek, a multi-modal career exploration platform developed by Transfr. It uses virtual reality (VR), a mobile-optimized web app, and curriculum resources to help learners—from K-12 students to adults—discover and plan their career paths. The solution is designed to introduce users to in-demand, well-paying careers, including skilled trades that do not require a four-year degree. The program guided students through a career-interest assessment, the creation of a career plan, and hands-on, virtual-reality tasks related to their career matches. ASUN hosted a tabletop RPG gaming event on September 19 at the ASUN-Jonesboro Campus. The event was free to attend.
- o. On September 18, our Adult Education Centers in Jonesboro, Trumann, Marked Tree, and Newport successfully held open houses. This occasion provided a valuable opportunity for community engagement and exploration of our educational offerings.
- p. ASUN hosted the ACC Leadership Institute (ACCLI) leadership class on November 12 for a three-day intensive workshop.
- q. ASUN also hosted Halloween at the Chancellor's residence (the Purdy House) on October 31. Approximately 100 children participated, dressed in their amazing costumes. It was a spooky and fun-filled adventure!
- r. ASU-Newport celebrated the holiday with gatherings on December 1, 2, and 4. These special occasions allow interaction with the institution and the community.
- s. On December 6, ASUN will host Cookies with Santa at the Purdy House, located at 9 Dogwood Drive, Newport, AR. This event will support the ASUN food pantry. This event is always enjoyed by everyone.
- t. Fall Commencement ceremonies took place at 11:00 AM and 2:00 on PM December 5 in the Center for the Arts, located on the Newport Campus.
- u. The Practical Nursing Capping, Pinning, and Commencement ceremonies took place at ASU-Newport on December 8. The Registered Nursing Pinning and Commencement occurred on December 9.



- v. The 2025 CRESC Migrant Program Career Exploration Event brought 71 students to learn about career opportunities in the nursing and health professions, culinary, welding, electrical and maintenance, CNC machining, and robotics. Everyone was engaged in discovering career options, internships, and shadowing opportunities, and the event garnered strong reviews.

7. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. Total gifts and private funds amount raised for the quarter
 - a. ASUN has received approximately \$119,000.00 in private gifts since the last report. (This does not include one major electric cooperative gift, which is pending, and also does not include our year-end annual requests and donations. These will be prorated into the next report). There have been several events throughout the fall, namely the second annual Aviator Classic Golf Tournament, which supported Aviator Athletic Scholarships. Our year-end initiative will support the ASUN Food Pantry, which has been bolstered by a number of smaller initiatives, and will be the major focus of our year-end giving appeal.

8. Intercollegiate Athletics

- A. Athletics Department news & success stories
 - a. ASUN Aviator athletes have “taken flight” with an active fall softball schedule, as well as the beginnings of basketball season. These athletes have added flair and flavor throughout the community. They have volunteered for trash pick-ups, read to elementary school children, greeted the community at Halloween and Fall Festivals, and generally been effective ambassadors for the college/community.

9. Major Initiatives Update

- A. Center for Health Sciences Funding
 - a. One of our major ongoing concerns is funding for our Center for Health Sciences. We are anxiously awaiting a congressionally directed spending



appropriation through Senator Boozman’s office. This information should be made public in mid-December. In addition to previous fundraising efforts, we have several major asks still in the pipeline. Namely, a million-dollar request has been made to the Brown Foundation, Inc., in Houston. George O’Connor and his son, Ryan, have both pledged resources to the endeavor, which is the first step in allocating support from their larger family foundation.

10. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

- A. Federal or state grant information for facilities or programs
 - a. Arkansas State University-Newport submitted several applications this year to support capacity building. One initiative that has been established in the past year is the “Farm to Table to Farm” collaboration between the Culinary Arts and Agricultural Technology Programs. Students in these programs are working together to provide fresh, seasonal produce and food to the culinary program, as well as putting extra essentials into ASUN food pantries on all campuses. The Culinary and Ag Tech programs have also agreed to do basic composting operations across ASUN. The plan is to demonstrate the capacity for collaboration and sustainability efforts and synergize their activities to address food insecurity and divert more organic solid wastes from landfills to a community garden. The King Foundation engaged in a site visit on October 3, 2025, and provided solid reviews.
 - b. State Opioid Recovery Grant IV-Student Services received a \$35,000 grant to conduct opioid awareness programming. Dean Debbie Hardy and her staff collaborated with student leaders across the campuses, including those from the Student Government and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, to increase engagement in substance abuse awareness during the Fall 2025 New Student Orientations on each campus. The grant was used to fund a Lunch and Learn across all three campuses, the Adult Education Site in Jonesboro, and three high schools (Trumann, Jackson County, and Harrisburg).
- B. Federal or state grants information for research
 - a. The Creating Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Program (CAMPP) has completed its second year and submitted an [annual report](#) to the National Science Foundation. The Arkansas State University Office of Behavioral Research and Evaluation provided independent evaluation. The principal



investigators attended the National PI conference in October and also presented CAMPP at the Arkansas Association of Community Colleges Conference.

- b. ASUN submitted a request to the Office for Human Research Protections to become a federally recognized IRB. ASUN was awarded recognition through November 2028. Our official IRB number is IRB00014943 and can be verified through <https://ohrp.cit.nih.gov/search/search.aspx>.

11. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement, & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

- A. Workforce Development engagement and activities
 - a. ASUN Department of Workforce Development has acquired the Automation Lab, an open-source collaborative robot that can be programmed using Blockly or Python. Plans are to enhance the robot's functionality by adding a gaming controller to gamify its movements in the near future. This unit is portable and can be easily set up for use at recruiting events, summer camps, and other STEM-related activities. For more information about the Automation Lab, visit the following link:
<https://www.open-sourcesolutions.com/automation-lab>
 - b. Arkansas State University-Newport (ASUN) recently provided foundational robotics training to the team at Lakeside Metals, led by Assistant Director of Workforce Development Ken Beach. This marks a new milestone for ASUN as we venture into robotics training. The program was made possible through the CREST (Career Readiness Education and Skills Training) initiative, which funds both credit and non-credit industrial controls and automation training for current workers. ASUN remains grateful for the support of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education HIRED Grant, which enables similar programs to assist industry partners in enhancing their workforce and contributing to the economic growth in our region.
 - c. ASUN Video footage for the CREST project was recorded on September 3.



1. Chancellor Summary

A. ASUTR Adult Education

Congratulations to two ASUTR Adult Education employees for garnering awards at the 2025 Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education (AACAE) Conference in Hot Springs. Dorothy Hutcherson was named AACAE Outstanding Paraprofessional. Jan Robertson was selected as AACAE Outstanding Teacher. Dorothy and Jan are both invaluable members of our program and very deserving of their respective awards.

B. Nursing Building and Historic Ritz Theatre Ribbon Cuttings

ASUTR proudly marked two significant milestones with ribbon-cutting ceremonies for major construction projects in November and December. On November 12, the college celebrated the opening of its new Nursing Complex, a state-of-the-art facility featuring cutting-edge simulation labs, modern classrooms, and dedicated offices for the Division of Health Sciences. Offering more than twice the space of the previous facility, the complex will enhance the college's ability to prepare highly skilled healthcare professionals for the region. On December 8, ASUTR hosted a ribbon-cutting and open house for the beautifully restored Historic Ritz Theatre. The revitalized venue now features seating for 420 guests, an 18-foot LED video board, modern sound technology, and elegantly restored finishes that honor the theater's original charm. Supported by funding from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council, the project also includes a new lobby, event space, and additional restrooms. A grand opening celebration, featuring performances and community events, is planned for late January, ushering in a new era for this cherished landmark.

C. ASUTR Trunk or Treat

- a. ASUTR hosted its annual Trunk or Treat event for the community on October 30, drawing a record number of participants and candy booths this year. The event continues to serve as a safe and welcoming Halloween celebration for families, reflecting ASUTR's ongoing commitment to community engagement and family-friendly fun.

D. Saline County Career Technical Campus Note-Burning

The Saline County Career Technical Campus (SCCTC) hosted a note-burning ceremony on October 1, marking the payoff of its note an impressive 17 years ahead of schedule. The celebration brought together faculty, students,



and instructors, along with ASUTR staff, local school district administrators, contractors, architects, and other distinguished guests. This milestone stands as a testament to the campus's strong partnerships, sound stewardship, and continued commitment to advancing educational opportunities in the region.

E. Natural State Baseball Showcase

The first annual Natural State Baseball Showcase was held at Dickey-Stephens Park on Friday and Saturday, October 10–11, bringing together nine, two-year institutions from across Arkansas to highlight the exceptional JUCO baseball talent within the state. In addition to the competitive matchups, participating colleges hosted recruiting and financial aid information tables, while pop-up shops offered event merchandise and school gear, creating an engaging and spirited atmosphere for players and fans alike. The event was proudly sponsored by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education, the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery, Arkansas Community Colleges, and the Eric and Delanie Atchison Family, with the cooperation of Arkansas Travelers Baseball and the Presidents and Chancellors of the participating institutions. The showcase was a resounding success, and planning is already underway to make next year's event even bigger and better.

2. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

A. Student Success Story

Ariel Cheramie, ASUTR Nursing student, has been nominated for the prestigious DAISY Award for 2025. The DAISY Award, a distinguished international program, celebrates the skillful and compassionate care that nurses deliver every day. This year's nominees were honored at the 2025 Arkansas Nurses Association Gala on November 7, 2025

B. Faculty Success Story

Dr. Casson Brock was honored at the Arkansas Community College Conference as an Outstanding Faculty Member. Casson joined the ASUTR team as Director of Adult Education in 2018. She became the Director of Assessment and Education Faculty in July 2024. Casson brought the same drive for excellence to student learning, assessment, and teaching as she demonstrated in leading Adult Education. In less than one year, she has worked with faculty to solidify program outcomes. She dedicated herself to



learning the new assessment software, HelioCampus, and had reader-friendly assessment reports of our own assessment date in only a few months. She is actively engaged in our program-review process and assists with curriculum development and reform.

C. Staff Success Story

Amy Carter, Assistant Registrar, has completed the Common Course Numbering project, first among the ASU System institutions. This is typical of her dedication to doing all registrar functions on time and accurately. Amy was the lead in implementing the Student Banner module and in continually refining processes. She learned how to roll the entire schedule over to a new term and to edit, rather than create an entirely new schedule for each term. Additionally, she discovered how to roll a roster from one course to the next course in the sequence. For instance, one welding course could be rolled to the next welding course. This works particularly well for high school concurrent and Career Center courses, and is a tremendous time-saver for staff with limited resources and multiple responsibilities.

3. Enrollment & Recruitment

A. Current traditional enrollment status

Fall 2025

Enrolled Status	Count	Credit Hours
FTIC	121	1510
Transfer	79	955
Continuing	239	2743
Readmitted	62	627
Unclassified	3	18
Undergraduate Total	504	5853
High School	1444	6760
Grand Total	1948	12613

B. Current online enrollment status

	Fall 2025
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Distance Delivery	Course Count	Total Registrations	Unduplicated Student Count
Not Distance Delivery	219	3,077	1,767
100% Online Course Content	64	639	323
Hybrid Course	3	67	67
Total	286	3,783	

C. Recruitment & application trends

The college's Director of Admissions/Recruiter resigned on August 26. Following an extensive, but unsuccessful, search for a replacement, we determined that a strategic restructuring of the admissions and recruiting functions within Student Affairs would better meet the needs of the college and our students. As a result, the following changes have been implemented:

- a. Caleb Rogers has transitioned from Testing Coordinator/Admissions Advisor to Recruiting Coordinator/Admissions Advisor;
- b. Parris Bryant will continue in the role of Admissions Advisor, with expanded responsibilities that include additional recruiting activities;
- c. Caitlin Crouse will be promoted from part-time Library Assistant to full-time Testing Coordinator/Admissions Advisor.

The combined 2025–26 budget for the Admissions Director, Testing Coordinator/Admissions Advisor, and Admissions Advisor positions was previously \$119,756. Under the new structure, the total cost will be \$107,000, resulting in an annual savings of \$12,756.

Our restructured team is already demonstrating strong performance. Between Caleb and Parris, they have participated in 20 recruiting events this term, in addition to providing customized campus tours for prospective students each week and collaborating with coaches to support student-athlete recruitment.



4. Academic Affairs

A. Total credentials most recently awarded:

None

B. New academic programs

The Malvern Career Center currently offers a Certificate of Proficiency in Automotive Service Technology, Construction Technology, HVACR, and Welding. The Director has proposed the creation of two Certificates of Proficiency within each of these programs. This expansion will allow high school students to participate during both their junior and senior years, enabling them to earn two industry-recognized credentials prior to graduation.

The proposed Certificates of Proficiency are as follows:

- Automotive Drivability and Brakes
- Automotive Electrical and Chassis
- Construction Fundamentals
- Construction Residential Systems
- HVACR Fundamentals
- HVACR Residential Systems
- Welding Fundamentals
- Welding Specialized Methods

C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum

a. None

D. Discontinued academic programs

a. None

E. Accreditation visits & news

a. HLC Student Success Outcomes are in good zones:

- i. Retention Rate: 53.04% - between the median and 25th percentile
- ii. Graduation Rate: 33.51% - between the median and 25th percentile
- iii. Completion & Transfer Rate: 61.2% - above the median

Below is the HLC Outcome Measures benchmark table



Two-Year Institutions

Outcome Measure	Median	25th Percentile	5th Percentile
Retention Rate	56.89%	51.88%	43.31%
Graduation Rate (150%)	33.88%	25.99%	16.69%
Completion and Transfer Rate	60.52%	53.19%	41.48%

<https://www.hlcommission.org/accreditation/cycles-and-processes/risk-indicators/#student-success>

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. The Saline County Career Technical Campus (SCCTC) Hosts Site Selectors Guild for the Metro Regional Alliance
- SCCTC hosted five members of the Site Selectors Guild for the Metro Regional Alliance on October 16. Matthew Cummings and Mason Robinson led a comprehensive tour of the campus, followed by a roundtable discussion and luncheon. More than 150 attendees participated in the event, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Guests expressed strong appreciation for our facility and programs, noting in particular the opportunity to observe students actively engaged in classroom and laboratory projects.

8. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. Total amount of gifts and private funds raised Year to Date:
\$104,563
- B. Notable contributions & major gifts (August 1 – November 17, 2025):
\$9,154

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

- A. During the third quarter of 2025, Arkansas State University Three Rivers collaborated with SCM Architects on the design and contractor-bidding process for the West Fraser Workforce Training Center. Four bids were submitted for the project, and Shields and Associates was selected as the General Contractor. ASUTR issued an Intent to Award to Shields and Associates in September, and construction is expected to begin before the end of the year.



10. Workforce Development, Employer Engagement, & Student Career Development Activity & Success Stories

A. Middleton Training Class

SCCTC Workforce launched the Middleton HVAC Training class on October 21, with 14 employees participating. This six-week training program is designed to enhance both the foundational employability skills and the technical competencies of new employees. Middleton has been approved for an OSD training grant, which will reimburse 75% of the training costs. An advanced training class will be offered in the near future.



1. Chancellor Summary

Henderson fundraising for the new Intramural/Band-Green Space is concluded, and Phase I of the construction is also completed. The campus has been without intramural fields and a dedicated band-practice space since 2015.

Students will be able to use the new Georgia-Pacific Reddie Recreation Complex by August 2026. The project total cost is \$203,000.

The major focus for this year continues to center on increased enrollment and innovative recruitment methods. The statistics “to date” are very encouraging and are included in the “Enrollment” section of this report.

The dedication of the Caver College of Aviation, Science and Nursing occurred on August 14. Dr. Caver’s devotion, and his \$9,000,000 commitment to Henderson State University, will be transformational. This represents the largest gift in the history of the institution. The events for the day of dedication included a lunch, an unveiling ceremony, and a celebratory dinner.

HSU purchased two additional planes for the aviation fleet in August 2025. An additional third plane will be acquired in December of this year. The Aviation program has also increased the number of flight instructors to fourteen. This is the largest number of instructors since 2017.

Two of our Aviation instructors have achieved DPE status. This allows our students to receive “check-off” flights to complete their certification from their own HSU instructors. We are the only aviation program in the region that has DPE instructors on site.

2. Finance & Administration

Overall Financial Health:



The institution ended the first quarter with an estimated surplus of \$6.28 million in net position, reflecting strong operating performance. Tuition and fee revenues were established in August, while corresponding expenses will continue to accrue over subsequent periods. Enrollment growth exceeded projections, driving revenues above expectations, and related expenses remain within budget. Overall, the university's financial position is strong and trending favorably for the fiscal year.

Key Financial Highlights:

Tuition and fee revenues are trending 3.6% above the first-quarter benchmark, supported by strong enrollment and continued growth in flight-related programs expected through quarter two.

Other revenues and overall expenses are tracked near budget, with only minor variances tied to enrollment-driven activity. Ongoing cost discipline continues to reinforce operational efficiency and prior cost-savings initiatives.

Spending for Athletics is on target, with roughly 33% of the annual budget expended, aligning with seasonal patterns and approved budget expectations.

Forecast for Next Quarter:

The next quarter is expected to reflect continued revenue growth, driven by ongoing Aviation flight activity and the start of the MBA program's second term. Expenses will progress in alignment with revenues recognized in Q1, maintaining a balanced expenditure trend. Overall, budgets are projected to remain on target for expenses, while revenues are predicted to stay ahead of projections, sustaining the positive financial momentum established in the first quarter.

Tuition and Fee Revenue

Gross tuition and fee revenues are performing ahead of budget, with 58.6% of the annual target achieved, compared to the expected 55% benchmark for this point in the year. The variance is driven by strong enrollment. Scholarship discounts remain near budget at 56%, resulting in higher-than-expected net tuition and fee yield. This stability reflects the impact of state scholarship stacking requirements and the university's transition of institutional awards to last-dollar funding, which together have moderated discount growth while supporting overall enrollment gains.



Operating Budget

A noticeable area of expense growth this quarter is Food Service, driven by broader economic cost increases in food and supply markets. While expenses have been carefully moderated to maintain affordability, preserving service quality for students has required higher spending. Food Service revenue trended approximately 7% above its fall benchmark in Q1, helping to offset the uncontrollable rise in operating costs. Except for this, all remaining items have either been discussed in previous sections or fall within expected budget parameters.

Cash on Hand

At the end of the quarter, the institution held approximately \$19,313,315.52 in unrestricted cash, reflecting a strong liquidity position. This equals more than 100 days cash on hand as of November 20, 2025. This elevated balance is primarily due to accelerated student billing and collections, as well as overall revenue growth during the first quarter. The current level represents the semester's peak cash position and is expected to decline in quarter two as major obligations—such as debt service, bookstore operations, and other large expense commitments—are realized.

3. Enrollment & Recruitment

Fall 2026

Recruitment for Fall 2026 continues at a strong pace, and we are seeing very positive results.

Compared to last year at this date, November 20, 2024,, our current recruitment statistics are:

- Freshman Admits: +504 (+46%)
- Housing applications: (+12%)
- Texas Admits: (+45%)
- Campus Tours: (+60%)

Spring 2026 (January)

Current enrollment data for Spring 2026.



- Freshman Admits: (+76%)
- Transfer Admits: (+79%)
- Readmits: (+9%)
- Housing applications: (+10%)

The admission team and the Office of the Chancellor have conducted visits and “T-shirt Days” in 27 high schools since September. Additional high school visits have occurred in 25 high schools.

4. Academic Affairs

The Henderson State University master program in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program has been recommended for continued accreditation by the visiting team of the **Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)**.

Several faculty searches are currently underway in Engineering, Mathematics, and for a Director of University Bands.

Upcoming Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Actions (AHECB):

The following will be submitted to the AHECB for Henderson State University at the January 2026 meeting.

- **Existing Programs to be Offered by Distance Education**
 - Sociology B.A., 65-100% online
 - Social Work B.S., 65-100% online
- **New Certificate** (undergraduate)
 - Field Biology and Collections Certificate (22hours)

The new certificate is created from B.S. Natural Sciences Wildlife and Field Biology concentration; the full degree will continue to be offered.

- **New Graduate Certificate**
 - Nursing Leadership Graduate Certificate (12 hours)



The new graduate certificate is created from MSN Nursing Leadership option; the full degree will continue to be offered.

During the December Commencement, HSU will award 189 combined undergraduate and graduate degrees.

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. The effort to attract our community and regional citizens to campus continues with Sunday meals in the cafeteria. To date, 7,407 members of the community have dined with us on campus since last September.
- B. The annual Halloween trick-or-treat event occurred on the south lawn on October 31. More than 1,500 community members brought their children to receive treats and to meet our students and staff.
- C. Henderson will bring back our holiday celebration, called Carol of Lights, on December 1. This is the first time that it has been held since 2018. The event includes band and choral music, lighting of the campus, traditional readings, and visits to Santa for children in the community.
- D. Henderson and ASU Three Rivers will begin giving automatic admissions to confirmed graduates of ASU Three Rivers at their December Commencement.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. The total amount of gifts and private funds raised for the quarter was \$1,300,400. (+102%).

- B. Alumni & fund-raising events

Henderson held fifteen alumni events on campus during the fall semester. This included ten reunions, three target alumni gatherings, and two alumni banquets.

The *Reddie Network* has launched its third phase. This third recruitment effort with alumni will concentrate on alumni in health professions. Previous phases have centered on education alumni and aviation alumni. The *Reddie Network* was launched to engage Henderson alumni to help the university in recruitment, job placement, internships, and fundraising.

- C. New scholarships created



A generous Reddie alumni has recently committed \$103,000 to new scholarships at Henderson to aid students in the College of Business and in the Caver College of Aviation, Science, and Nursing.

- D. The Caver College of Aviation, Science, and Nursing received a commitment of \$100,000 to help in recruitment of a new Engineering professor
- E. Henderson received a \$1,300,000 ANCRC grant in May 2025, and has begun a Phase I renovation of the Wells Center. Renovation parameters include the main gym floor, auxiliary gym floor, piping throughout the building, roof repair, and a new boiler. Renovation began on August 1, 2025, and are scheduled to be completed by August 2026.

7. Intercollegiate Athletics

A. Football

The Reddies finished the season at 8-3 and in a tie for second place in the GAC. Henderson won the 98th Battle of the Ravine 41-14.

B. Track and Field

Coach Brett Charlton has already begun his recruitment for 2026. Currently he has signed 32 track-and-field athletes, with a goal of 60 athletes by August of 2026. Our plan is to begin renovations to the existing track in Carpenter-Hagood Stadium by April 2026.

C. Volleyball

The Henderson volleyball team earned a berth to the GAC Tournament in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on November 20. Katilyn Steffes earned GAC Offensive Player of the Year honors, and Kaylor Partain earned GAC Defensive Player of the Year honors. This was a first in Henderson history!

D. Player Development Facility



The fundraising for the covered baseball and softball Player Development Facility is nearing completion. To date, we have raised over \$410,000! We hope to begin construction of this practice venue by the end of the spring semester.

8. Major Initiatives Update

- A. Major initiative description
 - a. Renovation of the Mooney Hall restoration (College of Business) is complete. This was made possible by an ANCRC grant.
 - b. Renovation of Russell Fine Arts Building is complete. This was made possible by an ANCRC grant.
 - c. Completion of the Smith Hall HVAC system replacement and first floor painting occurred on August 8. This was made possible through an ANCRC grant.
 - d. Restoration of two chemistry labs in Reynolds Science Center are now complete. This was made possible through an insurance settlement.

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

- A. Bids are currently being received for the renovation of the Wells Center at HSU. This is made possible by a 2025 ANCRC Grant in the amount of \$1,300,000. The grant will be used to replace all the piping in the building, add a new boiler, roof repairs, and restoration of the gym floor.