



**Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees
October 16, 2026**

**President's Report
Arkansas State University System Foundation Inc.**

For the Period Ending (unaudited) June 30, 2026, the Arkansas State University System Foundation recorded gifts and other support of \$7,266,476.

Contributions were designated as follows:

ASU-Jonesboro	\$5,795,185
ASU-Mountain Home	\$525,406
ASU-Beebe	\$249,502
ASU-Newport	\$467,408
ASU-Three Rivers	\$112,875
ASU System & Foundation	\$116,100

The Foundation reported net assets of \$182,779,822, representing an increase of 3% for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2026. The market value of the ASU System Foundation Endowment Pool for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2026, was \$174,413,112.

The net rate of return for the fiscal period ending June 30, 2026, was 16%.

Endowment balances designated per campus are as follows:

Jonesboro	\$151,753,432
Mountain Home	7,458,803
Beebe	2,909,229
Newport	3,844,965
Three Rivers	1,170,450
Red Wolves Foundation	2,475,374
System & Foundation	<u>4,800,859</u>
Total	<u>\$174,413,112</u>

Arkansas State University System
Capital Projects Report
October 16, 2026

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	Closeout Phase
LSW Elevator Modernization	527,388	Closeout Phase
Clock Tower Upgrades-Library	283,448	Closeout Phase
University Hall Fifth Floor Piping	394,212	Closeout Phase
Collegiate Park Club House HVAC	206,668	Substantially Complete
Student Union Roof Replacement Phase II	2,039,249	Substantially Complete
Admin. Cooling Tower Replacement	269,711	Substantially Complete
Baseball Stadium Improvements	319,400	Substantially Complete
Library Chiller Renewal	836,253	Substantially Complete
Chilled Water Loop-Windgate	2,151,742	Substantially Complete
Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation	24,219,886	Substantially Complete
College of Veterinary Medicine	30,700,464	Substantially Complete
Village Apartment Cameras	508,175	Substantially Complete
FNB Arena Court Lighting	744,208	Substantially Complete
Arkansas Hall Painting	587,493	Construction Phase
Village Renovations	419,440	Construction Phase
Arkansas Hall Fan Coils	1,036,000	Construction Phase
Student Union Third Floor Finishes	849,977	Construction Phase
CREST Center	17,994,200	Construction Phase
Bovine Teaching Barn	881,314	Construction Phase
Equine Teaching Barn	1,082,431	Construction Phase
FNB Arena Site Lighting	619,445	Construction Phase
University Hall Fan Coils	1,023,000	Construction Phase
Campus Fiber Loop Phase II	445,346	Construction Phase
Baseball Player Development Facility	8,500,000	Construction Phase
Kays Hall Renovation	1,174,500	Construction Phase
Grain Bin Restoration Phase II	1,272,000	Construction Phase
Ed. Leadership Renovation for NYIT	2,143,516	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: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: The final phase is complete and awaiting closeout.

2. LSW Elevator Modernization

Architect/Engineer: Brackett-Krennerich Architects
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will complete a full modernization of the mechanisms and cab of the elevator in Lab Sciences West. This project is Substantially Complete.

3. Clock Tower Upgrades

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Verdin Company
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will refurbish the carillon and associated amplification and software. This project is awaiting closeout.

4. University Hall Fifth Floor Piping

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project replaces the domestic water piping and the HVAC piping for the fifth floor of University Hall. The project is in the closeout phase.

5. Collegiate Park Clubhouse HVAC

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project replaces the HVAC units for the Clubhouse at Collegiate Park.

6. Student Union Roof Replacement Phase II

Architect/Engineer: Morris and Associates
Contractor: Roberts McNutt
Expected Completion: Fall 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 complete and awaiting closeout.

7. Admin Cooling Tower Replacement

Architect/Engineer: Pettit and Pettit
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will remove the cooling tower of the administration building and connect the building to the district chilled-water loop.

8. Baseball Stadium Improvements

Architect/Engineer: Ecological Design Group
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will provide needed waterproofing and painting for the buildings at the baseball complex. Landscaping and paving will also be installed. Seating replacement will take place in the fall.

9. Library Chiller Renewal

Architect/Engineer: Pettit and Pettit
Contractor: RGB Mechanical Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: ADFA/AHECB Loan

Status: This project will make needed repairs to the piping to the Library and replace one of the chillers. This project is substantially complete.

10. Chilled Water Loop-Windgate

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

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

11. Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation

Architect/Engineer: WER
Contractor: Clark Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 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. This project is substantially complete.

12. College of Veterinary Medicine

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon Architect
Contractor: Nabholz
Expected Completion: Fall 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 substantially complete.

13. Village Apartment Cameras

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Fall 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 and is substantially complete.

14. FNB Arena Court Lighting

Architect/Engineer: Pettit and Pettit
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will upgrade the existing concourse and court lighting for the First National Bank Arena. This project is substantially complete.

15. Arkansas Hall Painting

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Spring 2027
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will replace ACM panels; waterproof windows, concrete structure, and brick and paint existing porcelain panels.

16. Village Renovations

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Vincent Construction
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will make necessary repairs to housing units for the growing on-campus population of students.

17. Arkansas Hall Fan Coils

Architect/Engineer: Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Fall 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 began in Summer 2026 and will continue in the Summer 2027.

18. Student Union Third Floor Finishes

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Arkansas Flooring and Vincent Construction
Expected Completion: Spring 2027
Funding: University Reserves

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

19. CREST Center

Architect/Engineer: Fennell Purifoy and Dake Wells
Contractor: Clark Contractors
Expected Completion: Spring 2027
Funding: HIRED Grant/County Funds/Private Gifts/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. Construction has begun and is scheduled to be completed in April 2027.

20. Bovine Teaching Barn

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon Architects
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: ADFA/AHECB Loan

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 construction phase.

21. Equine Teaching Barn

Architect/Engineer: Cooper Mixon Architects
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: Private Gift

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 construction phase.

22. FNB Arena Site Lighting

Architect/Engineer: Pettit and Pettit
Contractor: East Arkansas Electrical Contractors
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: University Reserves

Status: This project will replace the existing, dimly lit parking lot and other site lighting at the Arena. There will also be additional site lighting installed to improve the illumination levels.

23. University Hall Fan Coils

Architect/Engineer: Pettit and Pettit
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Summer 2027
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.

24. Campus Fiber Loop Phase II

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: Cline Environmental
Expected Completion: Spring 2027
Funding: University Funds

Status: The project adds to the existing fiber loop on campus. We recently received an agreement with the railroad for a right-of-way request to bore beneath the railroad tracks.

25. Baseball Player Development Facility

Architect/Engineer: MNB Architecture
Contractor: CNI, Inc.
Expected Completion: Spring 2027
Funding: Red Wolves Foundation

Status: This project is a new construction for baseball-player development. It will be a steel frame structure and will include parking. This project is in the construction phase.

26. Kays Hall Renovation

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

Status: This project is on hold, and safety measures are in place for an indefinite period.

27. Grain Bin Restoration Phase II

Architect/Engineer: Revival Architecture
Contractor: Bailey Contractors
Expected Completion: Summer 2027
Funding: ANCRC Grant

Status: This project is Phase II and will address site safety and security around the newly renovated grain bin. This project is in the construction phase.

28. Ed. Leadership Renovation for NYIT

Architect/Engineer: Archimania
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: Spring 2028
Funding: University Reserves

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

ASU-BEEBE

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Heber Springs HVAC Boiler Replacement	\$ 321,693	Substantially Complete
Precision Ag Building	767,819	Construction Phase
England Center–Roof Repair and Overlay	205,380	Bidding Phase
State Hall–Roof and Portico Replacement	467,127	Bidding Phase

1. Heber Springs HVAC Boiler Replacement

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
Contractor: RGB Mechanical
Expected Completion: Fall 2025
Funding: Institutional Reserves

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

2. Precision Ag Building

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

Status: This project is for construction of a Precision Ag building. It 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. **Update: Because the original bids were too high, the scope of the building has been reduced, and a JOC (Job Order Contracting) contractor has been engaged to complete the project. Construction began in August 2026.**

3. England Center–Roof Repair and Overlay

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
 Contractor: TBD
 Expected Completion: Fall 2026
 Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project repairs and overlays the roof on the England Center, which has a flat roof with multiple leaks and failures. This is in the bidding stage and will be funded with institutional reserves.

4. State Hall–Roof Replacement, Front Porch Replacement

Architect/Engineer: WER Architects & Engineers
 Contractor: TBD
 Expected Completion: Winter 2026
 Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project replaces the roof of State Hall. It also replaces the portico on the front of the building, which has deteriorated beyond repair. This is in the bidding stage and will be funded with institutional reserves.

ASU-MOUNTAIN HOME

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Roof Replacement	\$ 975,000	Construction Phase
HVAC Broiler Replacement and Upgrade Controls	779,702	Construction Phase
Gotaas Hall Renovation/Remodel	6,300,000	Construction Phase

1. Campus Roof Repairs

Architect/Engineer: Polk Stanley Wilcox
 Contractor: Arkansas River Valley
 Expected Completion: Fall 2026
 Funding: Plant Fund Reserves–Insurance Reimbursement

Status: On March 20, 2025, a severe hailstorm impacted the Mountain Home campuses, resulting in significant roof damage to nine buildings, which will now be repaired.

2. HVAC Boiler Replacement and Updating Controls

Architect/Engineer: Polk Stanley Wilcox

Contractor: River City Mechanical
Expected Completion: October 2026
Funding: Plant Fund Reserves–Endowment

Status: This project will replace the 26-year-old boilers in our Central Plant and upgrade the outdated HVAC control systems to improve overall their efficiency and performance. A contract has been signed and construction is set to begin in Summer 2026.

3. Gotaas Hall Renovation/Remodel

Architect/Engineer: Polk Stanley Wilcox
Contractor: Davis Construction
Expected Completion: Fall 2027
Funding: Federal HRSA Grant–Plant Fund Reserves–Endowment

Status: ASUMH received a \$6,000,000 federal grant, funded through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to renovate and remodel the Gotaas Hall Nursing Building. An additional \$150,000, from institutional reserves, and \$150,000, from endowed funds, will also be used to support the project. The renovation will enhance the facility and expand the institution's ability to meet the education and training needs of the local healthcare industry.

ASU-NEWPORT

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Memorial Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I	\$ 106,000	Construction Phase
Center for Health Sciences	18,000,000	Design Phase
Memorial Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II	117,000	On Hold

1. Walking/Biking Trails MT Phase I

Architect/Engineer: Brackett-Krennerich Architects
Contractor: Tri-Lake Hauling
Expected Completion: Spring 2027
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 is under construction and is expected to be completed by the Spring 2027 semester.

2. Center for Health Sciences Phase I

Architect/Engineer: Taggart Architects
Contractor: Clark Contractors, LLC
Expected Completion: TBD
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 have been selected, and the design of Phase I is complete.

3. Walking/Biking Trails NP Phase II

Architect/Engineer: Cromwell Architects
Contractor: Hawkeye
Expected Completion: TBD
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. It 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>
RC (Library & LSC) Renovations	\$2,000,000	Substantially Complete
Marion Berry HVAC Replacement	300,000	Construction

1. Reynolds Center (Library & LSC) Renovations

Architect/Engineer: Polk Stanley Wilcox
Contractor: Baldwin & Shell
Expected Completion: Fall 2026
Funding: Institutional Reserves & Predominately Black Institutions (PBIs) Grant

Status: This project includes the update and modernization of the two largest student spaces within the Reynolds Center. Renovations to the Learning Success Center and Library include new flooring, painting, lighting, and furniture, with minimal construction. The general contractors have substantially completed with their work, except for hanging the new doors. The furniture installation is currently ongoing, with an anticipated reopening at the end of September.

2. Marion Berry HVAC Replacement

Architect/Engineer: WER/Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Contractor: Bailey Contractors, Inc.
Expected Completion: Winter 2026
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: This project will replace two HVAC units in the Marion Berry building. This project requires an 18-week lead time for equipment and should be completed in January 2027.

ASU THREE RIVERS

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
New Workforce Center Renovation & Expansion	\$2,819,250	Construction Phase
Malvern Museum & Conference Center	480,000	Design/Planning Phase

1. New Workforce Center Renovation & Expansion

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

Status: The HIRED grant, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Commerce, is funding the renovation and expansion of the Workforce Building Center. The project includes the incorporation and renovation of the former El Parion restaurant, as well as an addition to the original building. SCM Architects is the architectural firm for the project, and Shields & Associates, Inc. is the building contractor. Construction is scheduled for completion in late 2026.

2. Malvern Museum & Conference Center

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects
Contractor: TBD
Expected Completion: June 2027
Funding: Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) Grant

Status: The ANCRC grant is funding the development of a museum and conference center adjacent to the Ritz Theatre. The project will include new roofing and stabilization, Green Room renovations to connect the conference center to the stage area of the Ritz, façade stabilization for the masonry, and general external repairs. The project is anticipated for completion in June 2027.

HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY

<u>PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Duke Wells Renovations	\$1,300,000	Substantially Complete
Track	813,740	Substantially Complete
Baseball Player Development Center	502,000	Construction Phase

1. Duke Wells Renovations

Architect/Engineer: SCM Architects, Pettit & Pettit
Contractor: A/C Services Mechanical
Completion: Fall 2026
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 underway.

2. Track

Architect/Engineer: N/A

Contractor: GeoSurfaces
Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: Institutional Reserves

Status: The university is replacing the existing track surface to address facility conditions and support anticipated growth in track participation beginning Fall 2026. The project is in progress.

3. James Reginald Wage Player Development Center

Architect/Engineer: N/A
Contractor: GeoSurfaces
Completion: Summer 2026
Funding: HSU Foundation, Donor Funds

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



**Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees
October 16, 2026**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University**

1. Chancellor Summary

- A. Arkansas State sets sixth consecutive enrollment record, approaching 19,000 students:** A-State set another fall enrollment record with 18,775 students, a 4.7% increase from Fall 2025 and the university's sixth consecutive record-breaking fall or spring semester. A record 1,851 Arkansans enrolled as freshmen this fall, undergraduate retention increased 7.8%, and graduate enrollment reached 5,743. Total credit hours also reached a record 170,003, up 5% from last fall.
- B. College of Veterinary Medicine welcomes historic inaugural class:** The College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed 120 students, including 46 Arkansans, into its inaugural class this fall. The college's new building is fully operational, with students learning in classrooms, anatomy labs and clinical skills labs supported by 19 faculty and 12 staff. Recruitment is underway for the Class of 2031 as the college continues its academic and research activity.
- C. CREST expands workforce training as permanent facility takes shape:** The Career Readiness, Education and Skills Training (CREST) initiative continues to expand workforce development across NEA. Partner institutions have enrolled more than 120 participants in ASU-Newport credit programs, provided professional skills training to 48 participants and trained 216 individuals through the Arkansas Steelmaking Bootcamp at Arkansas Northeastern College. CREST also awarded \$33,000 in scholarships to 46 A-State students. Construction of the permanent facility is underway, with structural steel installation in progress.
- D. Windgate Hall opens as new hub for interdisciplinary learning and innovation:** A-State celebrated the opening of the \$25 million Windgate Hall of Art and Innovation, bringing Art + Design together with Engineering and Computer Science to create new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and hands-on learning. The facility features collaborative spaces, advanced technology, specialized equipment and a new gallery. The Windgate Foundation is A-State's largest single benefactor in university history, with endowments exceeding \$40 million.
- E. Record enrollment drives strong student engagement and campus participation:** A-State's enrollment momentum is translating into strong



engagement across campus. University Housing welcomed 3,179 residents for the fall semester, representing 98% occupancy, with first-year students comprising half of the residential population. More than 2,000 incoming students participated in New Student Orientation, while fraternity and sorority membership increased 4% following fall recruitment. Strong participation in Welcome Week, Order of the Pack, intramurals, the Community and Organization Fair and other activities further reflect a vibrant campus environment focused on helping students build connections, develop leadership skills and become engaged members of the campus community.

2. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

A. Student success stories:

- a. **Rocco Hicks**, a May 2026 graduate in political science and communication studies, was one of only 48 students nationwide selected to receive a Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship. The \$8,500 fellowship supports Hicks as he begins his first year at the University of Arkansas School of Law this fall.
- b. Students in Arkansas State's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Counselor Examination, exceeding the national average pass rate of 89%.

B. Faculty success stories:

- a. **Drs. Argelia Lorence** and **Scott Mangan** are leading A-State's work on a four-year, \$6 million National Science Foundation project focused on improving drought tolerance in rice and wheat. A-State received \$2.2 million and is leading the collaboration with the University of Kansas, University of Nebraska and Kansas State University. The project will also support student training, workforce development and educational outreach.
- b. **Dr. Chiqian Zhang**, assistant professor of civil engineering, received a \$177,108 National Science Foundation award to advance cleaner and more efficient waste-to-energy technologies. The two-year project will investigate methods to increase renewable methane production while reducing environmental impacts and will provide hands-on research opportunities for A-State students.

C. Staff success stories:

- a. University Police received four-year reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) following a conference and hearing in July.



3. Academic Affairs

A. Total credentials awarded:

- a. A-State awarded a record 6,559 credentials during the 2025-26 academic year, an increase of 559, or 9%, from the previous year. Bachelor's degrees increased by 168, or 9%, master's degrees by 263, or 14%, and doctoral degrees by 53, or 9%.

B. New academic programs:

- a. New Certificate Programs
 - i. C.P., Horticulture*
 - ii. C.P., Regenerative Agriculture*
- b. New Program Created from Primarily Existing Coursework
 - i. M.S., Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
 - ii. B.S., Aerospace Systems Engineering (to be offered only at ASUCQ)*
 - iii. B.S.R.T., Radiologic Technology, Emphasis in Limited X-Ray to DMS (diagnostic medical sonography)*
 - iv. B.S.R.T., Radiologic Technology, Emphasis in Limited X-Ray to MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)*
 - v. B.S.R.T., Radiologic Technology, Emphasis in Limited X-Ray to Radiation Therapy *
- c. New Minor, Emphasis, Option, Track or Concentration
 - i. Emphasis in Cardiac Interventional Radiography under the B.S.R.S., Radiologic Sciences*
 - ii. Emphasis in Vascular Interventional Radiography under the B.S.R.S., Radiologic Sciences*
 - iii. Emphasis in Front-End and Mobile Application Development, under the B.S., Digital Technology and Design*
 - iv. Concentration in Data Governance and Law under the M.S., Applied Digital Technology (to be renamed, M.S., Business IT and Applied AI)*
 - v. Emphasis in Pre-Professional under the B.S., Exercise Science*

C. Revamped academic programs or curriculum:

- a. Program Curriculum Revision
 - i. Minor, Multimedia Journalism (to be renamed, Minor, News)*
 - ii. G.C., Gifted and Talented Creative Teacher*
 - iii. B.S.R.S., Radiologic Sciences, Emphasis in Magnetic Resonance Imaging*
 - iv. B.S.R.S., Radiologic Sciences, Emphasis in Mammography/Breast Sonography*
 - v. B.S.R.S., Radiologic Sciences, Emphasis in Radiation Therapy*



- vi. M.S., Applied Digital Technology (to be renamed, M.S., Business IT and Applied AI)*
- vii. M.S., Applied Digital Technology, Emphasis in Business Analytics (to be renamed, M.S., Business IT and Applied AI, Concentration in Analytics)*
- viii. B.S., Digital Technology and Design, Emphasis in Game Design*
- ix. B.S., Digital Technology and Design, Emphasis in Animation and Motion Graphics*
- x. M.S., Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management*
- xi. M.S., Exercise Science*
- xii. M.M., Music - Performance, Concentration in Collaborative Piano*
- xiii. M.M., Music - Performance, Concentration in Composition*
- xiv. M.M., Music - Performance, Concentration in Conducting*
- xv. M.M., Music - Performance, Concentration in Performance – Instrumental or Vocal*
- xvi. M.M., Music - Performance, Concentration in Piano Performance and Pedagogy*
- xvii. OTD, Occupational Therapy*
- b. Name or Cip Change of Existing Certificate, Degree, Major, Option or Organizational Unit
 - i. A.A.S. and B.S., Clinical Laboratory Science, to be renamed, A.A.S. and B.S., Medical Laboratory Science*
 - ii. Minor, Multimedia Journalism, to be renamed, Minor, News*
 - iii. B.S. and MAcc, Accounting with Data Analytics, to be renamed, B.S. and MAcc, Accounting with Data Analytics and Applied AI*
 - iv. B.S., and M.S., Exercise Science, CIPs to be changed to 26.0908*
 - v. M.S., Applied Digital Technology, to be renamed, M.S., Business IT and Applied AI*
 - vi. M.S., Applied Digital Technology, Emphasis in Business Analytics, to be renamed, M.S., Business IT and Applied AI, Concentration in Analytics*
 - vii. Athletic Training to be combined with Department of Physical Therapy, and Department renamed, Department of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training*

D. Discontinued academic programs:

- a. Program Deletion/Inactivation or Reactivation
 - i. Deletion, Minor, Leadership Studies*



- ii. Deletion, M.S.A., Agriculture, Concentration in Vocational-Technical Administration*
- iii. Deletion, M.S., Computer Science, Emphasis in High Performance Computing*
- iv. Deletion, G.C., Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
- v. Deletion, G.C., High Performance Computing*
- vi. Deletion, B.S., Digital Technology and Design, Emphasis in Mobile Application Development*
- vii. Deletion, B.S., Digital Technology and Design, Emphasis in Web Design*
- viii. Deletion, A.S., General Education**

** Approved by AHECB at the July 24, 2026, meeting*

*** Will be submitted to the AHECB for the Oct. 23, 2026, meeting*

E. Accreditation visits & news:

- a. Arkansas State University will have an HLC multi-location visit in Spring 2027 to A-State degree centers located at ASU-Beebe and ASU Campus Queretaro (ASUCQ). Accreditation and Assessment staff are currently developing the documentation for the visit.
- b. Preparation is also underway for A-State's HLC Mid-Cycle Assurance Review, which will take place during the 2027-28 academic year. Five criterion committees and a review committee will develop the Assurance Review document, beginning in Fall 2026. As an HLC Open Pathway institution, A-State's Assurance Review will not require an on-site visit.

4. Institution Awards & Honors

- A. A-State earns ninth HEED Award and Champion designation:** Arkansas State received the Insight Into Academia HEED Award for the ninth time and was named a first-time HEED Award Champion, recognizing sustained institutional commitment to higher education excellence and belonging.
- B. A-State recognized as a College of Distinction:** A-State received 2026-27 Colleges of Distinction recognition along with six badges in the State-Public, Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing and Transfer categories.

5. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. A-State establishes partnership with First Community Bank Sportsplex:** A-State has been designated the Official Education Partner of the new First Community Bank Sportsplex in Jonesboro. The multiyear agreement provides brand integration throughout the facility and its communications, establishes the Red Wolves Cafe



and creates a foundation for student employment opportunities. The partnership will introduce A-State to athletes, families and visitors attending tournaments and events at the new regional sports destination.

- B. Regional Leadership Accelerator Academy expands leadership development across Northeast Arkansas:** The Delta Center for Economic Development has opened applications for the second cohort of the Northeast Arkansas Regional Leadership Accelerator Academy, a year-long program serving a 17-county region. The academy brings together emerging and established leaders from business, education, healthcare, government and nonprofit organizations for practical training while strengthening regional networks and collaboration.

6. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

A. Total gifts and private funds amount raised:

- a. For FY26, the university recorded 28,682 gifts and documented commitments from 7,286 unique donors totaling \$9,594,772.56. The total includes outright cash gifts, gifts-in-kind, planned gifts and new pledges.
- b. During the fiscal year, the development team conducted 608 donor visits and made 747 individual solicitations representing approximately \$7.6 million in potential funding for academic and athletic priorities.

B. Alumni & fund-raising events:

- a. Official A-State license plates totaled 5,557 as of June 30, a 3.2% increase from the previous year-end total.
- b. The 2026 Distinguished Alumni honorees are **Dr. Tim Langford '84**, **Phillip Poston '96** and **Dr. Billy Don "B.D." Tiner '72**. The 2026 Emerging Young Alumni honorees are **Dr. Morgan Benefield '14**, **Erica McKay Huffstetler '12**, **Robert Morris '18** and **Joshua Mullinax '19 '24**.
- c. **Upcoming alumni events:**
 - i. 9/19: A-State vs. TCU pregame gathering – Fort Worth
 - ii. 10/8: Emerging Young Alumni Luncheon – Cooper Alumni Center
 - iii. 10/24: Distinguished Alumni Breakfast – Cooper Alumni Center
 - iv. 10/24: 50-year reunion – Cooper Alumni Center
 - v. 10/24: Homecoming All-Alumni Tailgate – Cooper Alumni Center
 - vi. 12/5: Pancakes & PJs – Cooper Alumni Center
 - vii. 12/5: Howlidays on the Rooftop – ASU System Office
 - viii. 1/30/27: Bubbles & Bingo Fundraiser – Cooper Alumni Center

C. New scholarships created:

- a. John C. Chunn and Ryan Stinson History Scholarship (\$25,000).



7. Intercollegiate Athletics

A. Athletics Department news & success stories:

- a. Four A-State sports programs posted perfect 1,000 Academic Progress Rate scores, helping the Red Wolves record a 981 all-department APR average, the fifth highest in program history.
- b. Red Wolves student-athletes completed the spring semester with a school-record 3.25 all-department GPA, while 68 student-athletes earned perfect 4.0 GPAs, also a school record.
- c. A-State accumulated 124.5 points, the second most in school history, to finish runner-up in the 2025-26 Bubas Cup for the second consecutive year.
- d. All Centennial Bank Stadium suites and Johnny Allison Tower Loge Boxes sold out for the 2026 season, while season tailgating plots at Dustin White Realty Tailgate City increased 42% over 2025.
- e. Arkansas State Athletics and Centennial Bank expanded their longstanding partnership through a multiyear sponsorship placing Centennial Bank's logo on Red Wolves football jerseys beginning with the 2026 season.

B. Team news & success stories:

- a. The women's tennis team won the UTR Sports NIT Championship.
- b. The men's golf team made its first NCAA Championship appearance in program history and finished 22nd in the nation.

8. Major Initiatives Update

A. College of Sciences & Mathematics and College of Veterinary Medicine

establish accelerated pathway: The Beck College of Sciences & Mathematics and College of Veterinary Medicine have established a 3+4 pathway allowing high-achieving students in the Biological Sciences Pre-Veterinary track to enter the College of Veterinary Medicine following their junior year. Students will earn their B.S. in Biological Sciences upon successful completion of their first year in the veterinary medicine program, creating an accelerated pathway from undergraduate study to the D.V.M.

B. A-State strengthens graduate recruitment through new tuition support:

Beginning Fall 2026, A-State is providing a three-credit-hour-per-semester tuition benefit to regularly employed master's-level Graduate Teaching and Research Assistants. A-State provided approximately \$200,000 in tuition support during the inaugural semester. The initiative complements the full tuition benefit already provided to doctoral graduate assistants and is expected to strengthen graduate recruitment.



C. Information technology strengthens cybersecurity and core infrastructure:

A-State completed its campus-wide transition from Cisco Duo to Microsoft Authenticator, strengthening identity protection while providing a more seamless experience. ITS also implemented comprehensive Information Security Standards and initiated major modernization projects for the enterprise telephone and firewall systems to improve reliability, security and long-term resiliency.

9. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

A. Federal or state grants information for facilities or programs

- a. The A-State Museum received a \$150,000 grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council to upgrade HVAC systems in several collection storage spaces, marking the first time the museum has received funding from ANCRC.

B. Federal or state grants information for research

- a. From April 1 through June 30, 2026, Arkansas State submitted 63 proposals totaling approximately \$74.7 million and received four awards totaling \$250,910.

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

A. Career Development and Engagement expands employer and student

connections: During FY26, Career Development and Engagement hosted 16 career fairs involving 187 unique employers and 763 students. The team also offered 23 workshops attended by 381 students, delivered 55 classroom presentations and provided 231 students with individualized career development assistance, including résumé reviews and mock interviews.

- B. College of Agriculture develops food science workforce initiative:** The College of Agriculture is developing a food science program focused on the practical aspects of food processing and preparing graduates for Arkansas' food-processing industry. Students are currently enrolled in three food science courses as development of the initiative continues.



**Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees
October 16, 2026**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University-Beebe**

Chancellor Summary

- A. [Early College Nursing Students Make History](#)
 - a. ASU-Beebe Early College students Za'Kiya Smith of Augusta High School and Kooper Neal of Riverview High School became the first high school students to complete the college's practical nursing program.
- B. [Rice Family Endows Wisdom Agricultural Scholarship](#)
 - a. The Rice family provided a gift that brought the Chuck Wisdom Jr. Agricultural Heritage Scholarship to endowment level, ensuring annual scholarship support for ASU-Beebe agriculture students.
- C. [Fall Enrollment Grows for Fifth Year](#)
 - a. ASU-Beebe experienced an 8.4% increase in fall enrollment, marking the college's fifth consecutive year of growth.
- D. ASU-Beebe's 100th anniversary
 - a. In 2027, ASU-Beebe marks its 100th year anniversary of serving Arkansans with higher education opportunities in agriculture and beyond. Our March 8, 10 a.m. launch event will kick off the year. *Save the date.*
- E. [ASU-Beebe Partners with Kubota TECH](#)
 - a. ASU-Beebe added the Kubota TECH Center of Excellence training program to the Diesel Technology and Power Sports curricula at the Searcy campus. The partnership provides students with industry-leading training and certification opportunities on Kubota equipment, while ASU-Beebe was also recognized as a National Coalition of Certification Centers Leadership School.

Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

- A. [Early College Nursing Students Make History](#)
 - a. ASU-Beebe Early College students Za'Kiya Smith of Augusta High School and Kooper Neal of Riverview High School became the first students to complete the college's practical nursing program while still enrolled in high school. Both students completed college-level nursing coursework alongside their high school requirements, earning a college credential and establishing a pathway for future Early College nursing students.
- B. [Boyd Receives Metallica Scholars Gear Pack](#)



- a. ASU-Beebe automotive technology student Constance Boyd received a Wolverine x Metallica Scholars gear pack in recognition of her achievement and commitment to the automotive field. Boyd earned the top first-year student position in the program, won a state SkillsUSA gold medal for pin design, and plans to pursue a career as an automotive technician after completing her associate degree.
- C. [Wiedmaier Receives State CTE Award](#)
 - a. Dr. Cheryl Wiedmaier, dean of the Division of Career Education at ASU-Beebe, received the Postsecondary Professional of the Year Award from the Arkansas Association for Career and Technical Education. The honor recognized her outstanding contributions to career and technical education programs, student success, and workforce-focused learning throughout Arkansas.
- D. [Cooper Earns National Financial Aid Certification](#)
 - a. Jamie Cooper, ASU-Beebe associate director of financial aid, earned the Financial Aid Administrator Certification from the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, becoming one of only 10 professionals in Arkansas to hold the designation. The certification recognized her advanced knowledge of federal financial aid regulations, ethics, and professional best practices.

Academic Affairs

- A. [Majors Named Dean of Learning and Assessment](#)
 - a. ASU-Beebe welcomed Dr. Charles Majors as dean of learning and assessment. Majors brings experience in academic leadership, accreditation, curriculum development, instructional design, educational technology, and student learning assessment from previous roles at Central Baptist College, Arkansas Tech University, and the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville.
- B. [CNC Program Receives Gene Haas Grant](#)
 - a. ASU-Beebe's Computerized Machining Technology program received a \$19,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation to support student scholarships, SkillsUSA competition expenses, and professional development. The funding expands access to machining education while supporting career preparation and employment opportunities for students entering the industry.
- C. [Teagle Foundation Grant](#)
 - a. ASU-Beebe received a \$25,000 Teagle Foundation planning grant to develop the Vanguard Odyssey Cornerstone Initiative, an Arts and Humanities



program that will integrate transformative texts and critical inquiry into general education courses. The initiative will begin on the Heber Springs campus and position the college to pursue up to \$300,000 in additional implementation funding.

Community Engagement & Partnership

A. [LRAFB Campus Earns CLEP Military Honor](#)

- a. The ASU-Beebe Little Rock Air Force Base Testing Center was named one of the nation's Top 20 Military College-Level Examination Program test centers. The recognition honored the center for administering a high number of Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support-funded exams, helping service members accelerate progress toward their academic and career goals.

Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

A. Gifts & Private Funds

- a. As of Sept. 2, ASU-Beebe has raised \$190,044 in private support through individual gifts, payroll contributions and estate giving. Of that amount, \$72,328.96 was raised between May 1 and Sept. 2, reflecting continued momentum in donor engagement and support for ASU-Beebe.

B. [Rice Family Endows Wisdom Agricultural Scholarship](#)

- a. The Rice family provided a gift that brought the Chuck Wisdom Jr. Agricultural Heritage Scholarship to endowment level, ensuring annual scholarship support for ASU-Beebe agriculture students. The endowed fund honored Wisdom's legacy as an educator and advocate for agriculture while providing lasting financial assistance for future generations of students.

C. Foundation Scholarships

- a. For 2026-27, ASU-Beebe initially awarded \$105,623 in Foundation scholarships to 80 students representing 37 Arkansas communities. An additional \$5,981 from the Dr. Ruth Couch Endowment was reserved to help bring as many Foundation scholarship recipients as possible to a zero account balance. Once those funds are distributed, the total amount awarded for the year will be \$111,604.
- b. ASU-Beebe will continue its Celebration of Scholars, bringing Foundation scholarship recipients together with the donors and families who make these opportunities possible. Receptions will be held Thursday, Nov. 12, in the morning on the Heber Springs campus and in the evening on the Beebe campus.



D. Development Council Updates

- a. ASU-Beebe is planning a joint council meeting on Dec. 8, bringing together the ASU-Beebe Development Council, the Heber Spring Campus Development Council, the Board of Visitors, and the Alumni Board. We are looking forward to this collaboration and a student-centered approach to future initiatives and decision-making.

E. Alumni Relations

- a. ASU-Beebe will host a new event, the Gratitude Luncheon, on Tuesday, Nov. 17, honoring Debbie Elgen, the 2026 Outstanding Alumni of the Year. The luncheon will also serve as a fundraiser for the new Alumni Association Scholarship.
- b. The Alumni Board continues to develop the ASU-Beebe Business Partnership Program, working with businesses throughout Beebe, Searcy, Heber Springs, Cabot and surrounding communities to provide benefits for Alumni Association members.
- c. The Alumni Association will host Alumni & Friends Sonic Nights: Beebe-Sept. 19; Searcy-Oct. 3; Cabot-Oct. 24 and Heber Springs-Nov. 1. Participating locations will provide a complimentary drink to alumni attendees from 6-8 p.m.
- d. [Dr. Ruth Couch Day: “A Walk Down Memory Lane”](#) will be held Wednesday, Sept. 23, at the Dr. Ruth Couch Center. This drop-in event will feature yearbooks, photographs, and memorabilia, along with light refreshments.

Major Initiatives

A. [Fall Enrollment Grows for Fifth Year](#)

- a. ASU-Beebe experienced an 8.4% increase in fall enrollment, marking the college’s fifth consecutive year of growth. Enrollment reached 3,890 students, an increase of 303 from fall 2025, while concurrent high school enrollment rose 25.7%, semester credit hours increased 4.09%, and residence hall occupancy reached 93%.

B. [New Tuition Calculator and Tiered Model Introduced](#)

- a. ASU-Beebe introduced a new tuition calculator and simplified tiered tuition model as part of its [2026-27 ASU Beebe Viewbook](#). The updated structure aligned tuition with course resource requirements, while the calculator provided students and families with a clearer estimate of costs based on individual academic pathways.

C. 2027 – ASU-Beebe to Celebrate 100 Year Anniversary

- a. Planning continues for ASU-Beebe’s 100th anniversary under the theme “A Century of Education. Lifetimes of Impact.” Current work includes the



Centennial identity and webpage, signature events, alumni and student engagement, historical storytelling, campus improvements and lasting legacy projects. The year of celebration kicks off March 8 at 10 a.m. on the Beebe campus.

- b. Dr. James A. Brent, ASU-Beebe Associate Professor of History and Political Science, was commissioned to author a book to preserve the people, milestones and stories that have shaped ASU-Beebe's first century. Sales from the special collector's items book will fund ASU-Beebe scholarships. Other plans include a Centennial time capsule, an alumni art exhibition in the England Center Art Gallery, an Alumni Picnic, and more.

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

A. [ASU-Beebe Partners with Kubota TECH](#)

- a. ASU-Beebe added the Kubota TECH Center of Excellence training program to the Diesel Technology and Power Sports curricula at the Searcy campus. The partnership provides students with industry-leading training and certification opportunities on Kubota equipment, while ASU-Beebe was also recognized as a National Coalition of Certification Centers Leadership School.

B. [ASU-Beebe Returns to Metallica Scholars Initiative](#)

- a. ASU-Beebe was selected to participate for a second year in the Metallica Scholars Initiative, receiving a \$50,000 grant to support HVACR students at the Searcy campus. Funding provided professional toolkits and hands-on resources designed to reduce financial barriers and strengthen career readiness, bringing ASU-Beebe's total support through the initiative to \$125,000.

Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees
October 16, 2026

Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University-Mountain Home

Addition of Four Promise Scholarships for ASUMH

The Dr. Roger Simons Promise Scholarship is a transformative investment that will expand access to higher education for graduates of four North Central Arkansas school districts. The scholarship is made possible through a generous gift from Dr. Roger Simons and will establish Promise scholarship opportunities for eligible graduates of Cotter, Flippin, Norfolk, and Yellville-Summit High Schools who choose to attend ASUMH. Beginning with the 2027 graduating classes, eligible students will receive scholarship support covering remaining tuition and mandatory fee costs after federal, state, and institutional financial aid has been applied. These four new promise opportunities compliment the existing, highly successful Mountain Home Promise.

Strategic Growth Initiative / Revenue Expansion:

ASUMH has moved from the planning phase of its Strategic Growth Initiative into the early stages of implementation. Following a review of enrollment trends, program capacity, workforce demand, and revenue-generation opportunities, ASUMH has identified its first six priority initiatives focused on increasing student enrollment and credit hour production within traditional academic programs. These initiatives are designed to strengthen both recruitment and retention while expanding educational pathways that align with student demand and regional workforce needs.

Initial implementation efforts include development of an online Practical Nursing/Paramedic-to-Registered Nursing Bridge program; exploration of accelerated associate transfer degree pathways; evaluation of financial aid eligible off-campus housing partnership options to support enrollment growth; creation of targeted recruitment strategies linking nursing and athletics participation; earlier scholarship award timelines to improve student yield and enrollment conversion; and identification of additional academic programs with strong market demand and growth potential. Responsible leaders have been assigned to each initiative, with implementation timelines being finalized during Fall 2026. Together, these projects represent the first phase of ASUMH's broader growth portfolio strategy and demonstrate the institution's transition from strategic planning to measurable action focused on long-term enrollment growth, student success, and financial sustainability.

Career Pathways Director Honored

ASUMH Director of Career Pathways Bailey Hutcheson has been named the 2026 Distinguished Alumna by the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund, recognizing her professional achievement, leadership and commitment to helping others succeed. A former scholarship recipient and single parent, Hutcheson overcame financial and family

challenges to earn her degree with support from ASUMH and ASPSF. Today, she has come full circle, using her own experiences to help ASUMH students navigate educational opportunities, build career goals and connect with resources that can lead to meaningful employment and long-term success.

Healthcare Workforce Development and Program Expansion:

ASUMH continues to strengthen its role as a regional healthcare workforce provider through the development of grant-supported initiatives designed to expand educational opportunities and address critical rural workforce shortages. Current efforts focus on the enhancement and expansion of nursing, emergency medical services (EMS), certified nursing assistant (CNA), and allied health pathways, while also addressing faculty recruitment and compensation challenges that impact program capacity. In parallel, the College is working to strengthen and expand clinical affiliation agreements and employer partnerships across the region to increase student training opportunities, improve workforce responsiveness, and support strong job placement outcomes for graduates. These initiatives align with both regional healthcare needs and the College's broader strategic growth objectives.

Grant Development and External Funding:

ASUMH continues to pursue external funding opportunities that support student success, workforce development, and campus infrastructure improvements. We are pursuing three significant grant proposals totaling more than \$5.1 million. These include a \$720,298 request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service to expand access to education and economic mobility opportunities in rural communities; a \$4,211,672 proposal to the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities program to address regional healthcare workforce shortages through expanded educational and training pathways; and a \$195,100 application to the Arkansas Department of Transportation's Recreational Trails Program to enhance the James and Sally Moore Recreational Trail. Collectively, these proposals reflect ASUMH's ongoing commitment to leveraging external resources to expand educational access, strengthen workforce development initiatives, and enhance campus and community assets.

Ongoing Excellence in Public Art

ASUMH is expanding the Mountain Home Art Walk with the launch of its first-ever national Call for Entry for the new Mountain Home Art Walk Visiting Artists Series, along with a new three-year partnership with Jim Brown Company as presenting sponsor. The series will bring a rotating collection of outdoor sculptures by artists from across the country to the Twin Lakes Region twice a year, selected through a competitive, juried process. The program will showcase exceptional contemporary sculpture, provide new experiences for visitors and further establish Mountain Home Art Walk as a premier destination for public art.

ASUMH's Performing Arts Series celebrates its 15th Anniversary Season with an exciting lineup of music, comedy, visual artistry, history and high-energy entertainment. The season opens with the dazzling, family-friendly *Artrageous*, followed by the iconic rock band *Smash Mouth*, the soulful sounds of *Uptown: A Celebration of Motown and Soul*, and a

special lecture by acclaimed food writer and historian *John T. Edge*. The holiday season comes alive with *Christmas with the Nelsons Starring Matthew & Gunnar Nelson*, followed by the inspiring *From History to Hip Hop* and the breathtaking acrobatics of *Cirque Mechanics*. Several of the performances are offered free through generous community endowments and sponsorships, including outreach to students in ASUMH's K12 partner districts.

Updates to Vada Sheid Community Development Center

The new Switzer Culinary Center has taken shape inside the Vada Sheid Community Development Center thanks to the hard work and craftsmanship of ASUMH's own maintenance team. From framing and sheetrock, to HVAC, equipment installation and finishing touches, our dedicated staff transformed the space into a functional, professional catering center that will enhance events and hospitality at The Sheid for years to come. The project is made possible in part by a generous \$50,000 gift from Jim McClure, demonstrating how private support and the talents of our campus team can come together to create something special for ASUMH and the community.



**Arkansas State University System
Board of Trustees Report
October 16, 2026**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University-Newport**

Strategic Priority 1: Student Success

Educational Programs

- The Arkansas State Board of Nursing released FY2026 licensure exam results: ASUN's Practical Nursing program posted an 88.3% first-time pass rate (above the 86.3% national average).
- The Medication Assistant cohort for 2026 boasted a 100% pass rate on the Arkansas State Board Certification Exam.
- The Newport Campus Practical Nursing students passed the NCLEX-PN exam at 100%. This is the third cohort in a row from the Newport PN group to earn this accolade.
- ASUN has launched new short-term certifications (micro-credentials), including Certified Production Technician and Production Welding.
- Students at the McPherson Correctional Unit completed Employability Skills Training, attended by ASUN Vice Chancellor/Instructor, Charles Walker and Director of Prison Education, Tonya Gates.
- Tim Pendergrass, Instructor of Advanced Manufacturing, and Ken Beach, Assistant Director of Workforce Development, secured \$15,000 in student scholarship funding from the Gene Haas Foundation to support ASU-Newport CNC students, reduce financial barriers, and prepare the next generation of manufacturing professionals.
- ASUN now hosts secondary centers (IGNITE Academy) on all three campuses: Newport, Jonesboro, and Marked Tree. The recent addition on the Marked Tree campus allows high school participants to complete certificates in Health Professions, Automotive Service Technology, and Energy Control Technology.

Commencements and Ceremonies

- The ASUN Adult Education program held its graduation ceremony June 23. Congratulations to Grover Welch, Director of Adult Education, and team on a 22% increase in enrollment, a 50% increase in GED awards, and a 78% retention rate.

- ASUN honored 40 practical nursing graduates at the summer Capping, Pinning, and Commencement Ceremony June 30, 2026.
- The ASUN Surgical Technology Program held its pinning ceremony for 26 graduates on July 16.
- ASUN awarded a total of 1,423 certificates and degrees to 757 students in academic year 2025-2026.

Student Achievements and Awards

- Faculty and students from Energy Control Technology, Computer Networking Technology, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, and Esthetics represented ASUN at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Atlanta.
- Cosmetology student Riley Staten won first place and the gold medal in Esthetics at the 2026 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, reinforcing ASUN's Cosmetology/Esthetics program as the top-ranked in the nation.
- Over 300 students achieved the Chancellor's and Vice Chancellor's List for Spring 2026.
- Eli Tate was named the 2026 Charles L. Welch Presidential Scholar, an ASU System honor (established 2024), recognizing one outstanding transfer student from each two-year institution.

New Student Orientations

- New Student Orientations were held at each ASU-Newport campus: July 28 (Newport), July 29 (Marked Tree), and August 3 (Jonesboro).
- The ASUN High Voltage Lineman Technology New Student Orientation was held June 23, 2026, and drew over 100 attendees, including 40 students who represent the HVLTL class of 2026-2027.

Strategic Priority 2: Employee Success

Faculty & Staff Awards/Recognition

- Charnelsa Powell was named Top-Performing Career Coach in Region 2 at the Career Coaches Conference (July 23–24), recognized by the Division of Career and Technical Education for her performance, event support, and data accuracy.
- Lindley Gilliam, Dean for Applied Trades, and Michael Moody, Assistant Professor of Criminology, received NISOD Excellence Awards in Austin, Texas, for their commitment to student success and leadership.
- Porsha McGregor, Director of Advising, was named to the NACADA Professional Development Committee for the 2026–2028 term.
- Kathryn Warren, Advanced Instructor of Nursing, and Debbie Jewell, Coordinator of Academic Support Services, are the recipients of the 2026 ASUN Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards and will be recognized at the 2026 ACC Conference, October 11-13.

Faculty & Staff Development

- A select group of faculty and staff attended the Delta Heart Retreat at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute as part of the Educating Character Initiative (ECI): Dean for Grants Development, Dr. Jeri Bryant, Dean for Applied Trades, Lindley Gilliam, Dean for Energy Technologies and Advanced Manufacturing, Michael Nowlin, Dean for Assessment and Accreditation, Anna Westman, Dean for Liberal Arts & Honors Program, Joe Campbell, Director of HVLTL, Kenny Browning, Advanced Instructor of Cosmetology, Katelyn Antwine, and Advanced Instructor of Agricultural Technology, William Tate.
- Christy Mann, Director of Career & Transfer Services, represented ASUN at the Building Bridges: Creating Change Conference at ASU Mid-South, presenting Virtual Reality in Allied Health Education and the return on investment of Allied Health career paths.
- An Enrollment Management and Admissions training session was held at the ASU-Newport Jonesboro campus on May 18, bringing together Admissions, Financial Aid, and Recruiting staff to update processes and create a new Admissions Guide; hosted by Elizabeth Wakefield, Associate Vice Chancellor for Continuous Improvement.
- ASUN contributed to the 2026 Better Together Summer Professional Development Conference at ASU-Mountain Home: Andrea Jones, Director of Recruitment and Admissions, and Porsha McGregor, Director of Academic Advising, presented building student support networks; Interim Chancellor Ike Wheeler, and Dean Joe Campbell, delivered the keynote, "Sustaining a Positive Campus Culture Through Change."
- Fall 2026 Convocation took place August 12, welcoming faculty and staff back to campus and kicking off ASUN's 50th anniversary celebration with a '70s theme.
- ASUN employees recently participated in training based on Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. The habits align closely with ASUN's values by encouraging individuals to be proactive, focus on what matters most, seek win-win solutions, listen to understand, collaborate through synergy, and continually grow.
By placing these in practice, ASUN will strive to build a culture of trust, accountability, teamwork, service, and continuous improvement as the institution works together to serve students and communities.

Strategic Priority 3: Institutional Excellence

Institutional/Governance News

- The ASU System Board of Trustees unanimously approved an \$18 million budget on August 7 for a new Center for Health Sciences on the Newport campus.
- The ASUN Board of Visitors met on August 19, covering institutional updates, new employees, enrollment reports, and academic and student affairs updates.

Accreditation & Institutional Recognition

- ASUN received HLC feedback on its Quality Initiative, "Re-Imagining Academic Advising to Support Student Success," which focused on advising practices and student self-efficacy, particularly for transfer programs. The HLC confirmed a "genuine effort," moving ASUN closer to reaffirmation of accreditation.
- ASU-Newport earned NACEP accreditation for its Concurrent Enrollment Program, joining 136 accredited programs nationally.
- ASUN continues to make strong progress in preparation for its March 2027 reaccreditation visit. All accreditation criteria have been outlined, and writing of the assurance argument is actively underway thanks to the leadership of Anna Westman, Dean for Assessment and Accreditation.

Grants & Funding

- The Educating Character Initiative approved ASUN's ACLI proposal for a \$50,000 grant, tied to Wake Forest University's Lilly Endowment-funded initiative on character education, led by Dr. Jeri Bryant, Dean for Grants Development, and team.
- ASUN was awarded a professional development grant to advance the expertise of its academic advisors, further enhancing the quality of student advising and support.
- ASUN is participating in the inaugural cohort of a nationally funded Prison Education Research Initiative (PERI), which is a multi-state, multi-institution study to comprehensively examine postsecondary education in prison across a diverse number of programs and institutions.

Finance and Administration

ASUN's financial health remains strong. Despite a minor reduction in total assets, ASUN's net position remains stable and slightly improved, reflecting a reduction in total liabilities and an increase in overall institutional wealth.

Comparative Analysis of Net Position (2025 vs. 2026), Unaudited

	2025 (Year-End)	2026 (Year-End)
Total Assets	\$31,672,206	\$31,398,061
Total Liabilities	\$7,626,102	\$7,260,803
Total Net Position	\$23,751,024	\$23,867,755

ASUN's balance sheet improved during the 2026 fiscal year. Although Total Assets decreased by approximately \$274,000, this was offset by a more aggressive \$365,000 reduction in Total

Liabilities. This stabilization of the balance sheet provides the necessary leverage to support our operating liquidity.

FY27 Revenue Trends:

- ASUN achieved **99.8%** of its budgeted Fall revenue. With Flex II and Winter Intersession opportunities still ahead. (ASUN is in a low-risk position to exceed Fall revenue targets).
- ASUN achieved **115%** of its budgeted Summer II revenue.
- ASUN has earned **46.8%** of FY2027 Budgeted Revenue.

FY27 Expense Management: Salaries and Benefits (Months 1–2)

- **Salaries Performance:** Salaries are trending favorably with YTD activity is **\$1,239,759.24**. This represents a spend of **12.8%**, compared to the 16.6% linear benchmark.
- **Benefits Performance:** Benefits are trending favorably with YTD activity of **\$417,754.28**. This represents a spend of 15% compared to the 16.6% linear benchmark.
- **Supplies Expense Performance:** ASUN has expensed or set-aside 29.7% of the supplies budget for FY 2027.

ASUN has begun to transition from a period of cash-contraction in 2025 to a period of liquidity growth in 2026. This positive momentum has carried into the first two months of the 2027 fiscal year. With 99.8% of Fall revenue already captured—buttressed by over-performance of 115% in Session 2 tuition—and salary expenditures trending at a favorable 12.8% (well below the 16.6% linear expectation).

Management remains focused on maintaining this discipline, ensuring that our robust cash position and strengthened equity continue to support the institution's long-term strategic goals.

Leadership & Staff Appointments

- Dr. Typhanie Myers, Provost/Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, was reappointed to the AACC Commission on Student Agency and Student Success, Learning Pathways, and Wellbeing.
- Charles Walker was appointed Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, effective June 1, 2026.
- Michael Nowlin was named Dean of Energy Technologies and Advanced Manufacturing.
- Lindley Gilliaum was named Dean of Applied Trades.
- Grover Welch was named Director of Adult Education

Strategic Priority 4: Community Engagement

Events & Fundraising

- The third annual Aviator Classic Golf Tournament was held on September 11, 2026. The event was a great success with profits supporting ASUN Student Professional Development.

K-12 Engagement & Camps

- ASUN hosted Aviator Exploration Camp Week (July 7–9) with a design-based learning challenge covering agriculture, electrical circuits, Minecraft, surgical technology, and VR.
- The ASUN-Jonesboro Campus hosted a free Welding CAMPP for grades 9–12 to introduce trade skills at no cost.
- ASUN Workforce's TekStarz event provided 13 students from Westside, Brookland, Nettleton, and Riverside a look at advanced manufacturing and technical careers, including tours of Unilever, Hytrol, Ritter, Frito-Lay, TrinityRail Maintenance, and Best Manufacturing, plus info on ASU engineering and ASUN's Nursing, CNC, Welding, and Industrial Maintenance programs.

Community Engagement

- ASUN employees supported the Newport Delta Arts Festival (June 5–6) as part of the college's civic and arts engagement.
- Dean Michael Nowlin promoted ASUN at the Statewide Military Upskill & Hiring Event at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, part of the Camp Alliance Hiring & Upskill series connecting Arkansas Air and Army National Guard members with employers, training partners, and workforce resources.
- The Jackson County Community Theatre summer camp, held on the ASU-Newport campus and directed by Jackson County native Malachi Gates, brought together 30 elementary-aged students over three weeks, culminating in a free public performance of "Jungle Book Kids" at the Center for the Arts, July 17.
- ASU-Newport provided AWS Welder Qualification Testing to regional high schoolers; over 60 students from Buffalo Island Central, East Poinsett County, Gosnell, and Valley View completed the D1.3 Sheet Steel qualification, earning a High-Demand Industry-Recognized Credential (and eligibility for the Arkansas Diploma of Merit), with certification costs funded by Crowley's Ridge ESC.

ASUN Academic Program Notifications

New Certificate Programs

- Certificate of Proficiency in Electricity for Construction (6 credit hours).
 - Certificate of Proficiency in HVAC Technician (10 credit hours).
- These certificates align with nationally accredited certifications, increasing employability in the HVACR industry.

Certificate Deletion

- Deletion of the Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing—High School Program
Due to a lack of funding (ALIGN Grant) and a lack of enrollment, this program has been submitted for deletion.

Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees
October 16, 2026

Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University Mid-South

Fall 2026 Enrollment

ASU Mid-South entered the fall semester with continued enrollment momentum following significant growth during the 2025–26 academic year. Headcount enrollment as of Sept. 16 is up 4.6 percent over end of term last fall, while student semester credit hour production is up 6.7 percent. Much of the increase is being driven by growth in concurrent enrollment; however, first-time entering adult enrollment is also up, signifying that the college's effort to better align its programming with local workforce opportunities is continuing to produce results. These numbers will continue to fluctuate, as enrollment in Fall 2 courses continues through October 5.

Great Colleges to Work For Recognition

For the third consecutive year, ASU Mid-South has been named a Great College to Work For by The Chronicle of Higher Education and ModernThink®. The recognition is based on an institutional audit and feedback gathered through an independent survey of faculty and staff. Only 76 colleges nationwide received the distinction this year.

ASU Mid-South also earned Honor Roll status for the second consecutive year, signifying recognition in multiple areas. The college was recognized in five categories:

- Mission & Pride
- Professional Development
- Faculty & Staff Well-being;
- Shared Governance; and
- Faculty Experience

The 2026 results will be featured in a special insert of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, distributed digitally and in print to subscribers on Sept. 18.

ASU Mid-South has a strong history of recognition through the Great Colleges to Work For program, having previously been honored in 2017, 2018, 2020, 2024 and 2025. The college earned Honor Roll distinction in 2018 and 2025, making 2026 its third Honor Roll recognition overall.

In 2019, ASU Mid-South was also one of 19 institutions nationwide recognized as a Most Promising Place to Work in Community Colleges by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development and *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*.

Commercial Driver Training Enhancement

Thanks to a generous donation from Google, ASU Mid-South added a Virage VS60 truck-driving simulator to its Commercial Driver Training program this summer. The simulator allows students to develop and practice critical driving skills in a controlled environment before encountering more complex situations on the road. It can simulate a variety of vehicles — including ambulances, street sweepers, dump trucks, buses and tractor-trailers — as well as changing weather, traffic, terrain and other driving conditions.

The addition builds on significant progress in the CDL program since its launch in fall 2023 and further strengthens the college's capacity to prepare students for careers in transportation and logistics.

Transportation and distribution remain particularly important workforce sectors for ASU Mid-South given the college's location within one of the nation's premier logistics hubs, with immediate access to interstates 40 and 55 and proximity to five Class I railroads, the Port of West Memphis, the International Port of Memphis and the FedEx World Hub.

New Head Coach – Men's Basketball

Ben Tanoff was named head coach of the Greyhound men's basketball team July 1 following a nationwide search. He joins ASU Mid-South after four seasons as associate head coach at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa, where he helped lead the Panthers to the 2024 Region XI Championship, their first NJCAA Division II Final Four appearance in 47 years and a national runner-up finish in 2025. During his tenure, Ellsworth also sent more student-athletes to NCAA Division I programs than any other NJCAA Division II school.



At Ellsworth, Tanoff helped develop two NJCAA All-Americans and 15 all-region players, with 34 student-athletes earning scholarships to four-year institutions. The program also achieved a 100% graduation rate and a 3.46 team GPA in 2024-25.

Tanoff's collegiate coaching experience includes NCAA Division I positions at Presbyterian College and Georgia Tech. As director of recruiting at Georgia Tech under head coach Josh Pastner, he was part of a program that won its first ACC Championship since 1993 and

advanced to the NCAA Tournament. He also coached at Maine Maritime Academy and the University of Pikeville, where he was part of two NAIA national tournament teams and was named Graduate Assistant Coach of the Year in 2019.

Tanoff takes the helm of an established Greyhound program following a 2025-26 season that included Region II and South Plains District championships and an appearance in the NJCAA Division II National Tournament.

New Head Coach - Softball

Jeff Walls begins his first season as head softball coach at ASU Mid-South after previously serving as an assistant coach with the college's softball and baseball programs.

Walls brings 19 years of coaching experience at the high school and collegiate levels, including both head and assistant coaching roles. At DeSoto Central High School in Mississippi, he helped lead the baseball program to three state championships in 2015, 2018 and 2019. Throughout his career, he has also helped numerous baseball and softball student-athletes advance to compete at the collegiate level.



A native of Batesville, Mississippi, Walls attended Northwest Mississippi Community College, where he competed in baseball and football, before continuing his collegiate career at Delta State University.

NASH Academy

ASU Mid-South hosted the third and final session of the National Association of Higher Education Systems and WestEd Center for Economic Mobility's *Designing for Economic Mobility Metrics Academy* on Sept. 16-17. The session concluded a months-long professional development initiative involving ASU-Beebe, ASU-Newport and ASU Mid-South.

The academy provided participating institutions with practical tools to use labor market data more intentionally in program planning, student advising and employer engagement, with the ultimate goal of improving students' economic mobility and ensuring programs remain responsive to workforce needs.

The first session, hosted by ASU-Beebe, focused on evaluating program return on investment using state labor market data, while the second, hosted by ASU-Newport, addressed academic planning and advising. The final session at ASU Mid-South focused

on employer engagement and included a panel discussion with representatives from the West Memphis Fire Department and FedEx.

The employer-engagement theme continued with a dinner at Ignite Steakhouse inside Southland Casino Hotel, one of ASU Mid-South's key employer and community partners. The group was welcomed by Southland General Manager Osi Imomoh, who spoke about Southland's role as a major regional employer and its partnership with the college in supporting workforce and economic development.

HLC Off-Campus Site Visits

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) conducted an *Additional Location Confirmation Visit* on Sept. 29 for ASU Mid-South's concurrent enrollment locations at the Academies of West Memphis and Marion High School. The visit is part of HLC's routine accreditation oversight of locations where an institution offers 50% or more of an academic program. During the visit, HLC peer reviewers evaluated the college's oversight of the locations, including the quality and consistency of instruction, faculty qualifications and support, student services and resources, and the integration of off-campus offerings into the college's overall academic and administrative processes.

Academic Program Notifications

ASU Mid-South reports no academic program status changes (inactive or deleted) this quarter.



**Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees
October 16, 2026**

**Chancellor's Report
Arkansas State University Three Rivers**

1. Chancellor Summary

A. Financial Update: Since arriving on campus on May 15, our primary focus has been the careful and consistent management of the university's budget and daily expenditures as we prepared for the fall semester. We are grateful for the continued support and guidance of the Board and the ASU System Office as we navigated the summer months and worked diligently to position the institution for a successful fiscal year.

We are pleased to report that we have remained within budget and have achieved the Student Semester Credit Hours (SSCH) enrollment level we identified as necessary to support the budget approved by the Board in June. This accomplishment reflects the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, and leadership team, as well as our commitment to responsible financial stewardship.

While we recognize that continued diligence will be necessary to manage both revenue and expenditures—particularly as we prepare for the spring semester—we are encouraged by the progress we have made. Our leadership team has worked closely with each budget manager to monitor spending, evaluate needs, and make informed decisions on an ongoing basis. This collaborative approach will remain a priority as we continue to safeguard the financial stability of the institution and ensure that resources are aligned with our most important priorities.

B. Enrollment: Our team worked diligently throughout the summer to strengthen enrollment for the fall semester, and we are very pleased with where we concluded the enrollment period—particularly with the diversity of student populations contributing to our overall numbers. We experienced growth across several key areas, including undergraduate enrollment, a new apprenticeship program, the Career Center program at the Saline Center, and concurrent enrollment.

With the fall enrollment period complete, our focus has now shifted to developing a comprehensive recruitment strategy for the coming year. A key component of this plan will be strengthening our relationships with area high schools and counselors while making



more effective and efficient use of the recruitment tools and resources available to us. Our goal is to establish consistent, meaningful engagement with prospective students and provide them with clear pathways to ASU Three Rivers.

Our Student Affairs team demonstrated tremendous dedication throughout the summer. Despite staffing reductions, team members worked numerous evenings and weekends to keep pace with the volume of applications and enrollment-related needs. We are now evaluating processes, staffing requirements, and opportunities to improve efficiency so that we can better serve prospective and incoming students while maintaining a high level of service.

We are also exploring opportunities to expand our apprenticeship offerings to reach additional student populations and address workforce needs in our region. In addition, we are in discussions with the Arkansas Department of Corrections regarding the potential development of a partnership through its Prison Education Program. While these conversations are still preliminary, we believe this could provide an additional pathway for education and workforce development and are continuing to explore the opportunity.

C. Workforce Training: Another key area of focus is Workforce Training. Unlike credit programs, which are primarily tied to semester-based enrollment and funding cycles, workforce training operates throughout the entire year, providing opportunities for both continuous enrollment and revenue generation.

We are grateful for the strong partnerships we have with business and industry and are encouraged to see several of these partnerships returning to levels similar to those experienced last year. We are actively pursuing additional opportunities to partner with regional employers and industry leaders to provide customized training that addresses their workforce needs.

Expanding both enrollment and workforce training will be critical to our efforts to return the institution to a more sustainable financial position. By strengthening existing partnerships, developing new industry relationships, and identifying additional opportunities for year-round training, we can increase revenue while continuing to fulfill our mission of preparing students and employees for the workforce needs of our communities and region.

D. Nursing Program: We are hopeful that we will have some exciting news to share soon regarding our Nursing program. In the meantime, one of our primary areas of focus is faculty recruitment. Due to a reduction of one position in the current budget and the departure of two faculty members over the summer, our existing nursing faculty and Dean have taken on additional responsibilities to ensure that all courses are adequately



covered. We are extremely grateful for their dedication and flexibility as they work to meet the needs of our students.

We are encouraged to have a full nursing cohort this year and see significant potential for continued growth in the program. However, our ability to expand enrollment will depend largely on our ability to recruit and retain qualified nursing faculty. Addressing this staffing need will therefore remain a high priority.

In addition to faculty recruitment, we are pursuing grant opportunities through the Rural Health Transformation Program to support the renovation and repurposing of space in our former nursing facility. These improvements could provide additional opportunities to expand our healthcare education and training capacity while supporting the workforce needs of our region.

E. Ritz Theatre: The Historic Ritz Theatre continues to strengthen its role as a community gathering place by partnering with local organizations, supporting community initiatives, and providing diverse entertainment opportunities for residents of Malvern and the surrounding region.

In July, the Ritz participated in the Malvern150 citywide celebration by hosting a vintage fashion show highlighting styles from the community's history. The Theatre also welcomed a nationally recognized, award-winning podcaster for a live podcast broadcast, providing a unique opportunity to showcase the Ritz and the Malvern community to a broader audience.

As part of the joint triennial reunion of Malvern High School and Wilson High School, the Ritz hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary *Unearthing the Dream*, which explores the history and experiences surrounding segregation and integration in Malvern. The event also included the unveiling of the newly dedicated balcony, made possible through the generous support of the Henson-Benson Foundation. This dedication represents an important recognition of the Theatre's history and its significance to generations of community members.

Monthly community movie nights are now underway, providing regular opportunities for residents to gather at the Ritz while creating meaningful opportunities for community involvement. Volunteers have stepped forward to serve as ushers, ticket takers, and concession workers, further strengthening the Theatre's connection with the community and fostering a sense of shared ownership and participation.



Most recently, nationally recognized touring artist Sean of the South brought his show to the Ritz, drawing a record-setting attendance and an audience from communities throughout Arkansas and neighboring states. The event demonstrated the Theatre's growing ability to attract visitors from beyond the local area and serve as a destination for cultural and entertainment experiences.

The momentum will continue throughout the fall, with events scheduled every weekend in October. The upcoming programming is designed to engage audiences of all ages and provide additional opportunities for community participation, volunteerism, and connection. As the Ritz continues to expand its programming and partnerships, it is becoming an increasingly important cultural and community asset for Malvern and the surrounding region.

F. Program Modifications: ASU Three Rivers has conducted a comprehensive academic program review and recommends the formal deletion of the following programs.

Program	Degree	CIP Code	Degree Code
Medical Coding	Technical Certificate	51.0707	4746
Healthcare Administration	Associate of Applied Science	51.0705	0705
Management	Technical Certificate	52.9999	4590

1. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

A. Student success:

- ASU Three Rivers student Candi Pierce has been named a 2026 Chime Workforce Scholar, joining 200 students nationwide recognized for their academic achievement and pursuit of career-focused education. Pierce, who is pursuing an Associate of Applied Science in General Business at ASU Three Rivers, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to assist with educational expenses. She is expected to graduate in December and plans to pursue a career in office administration.

B. Faculty success:

- The Arkadelphia Alliance and Area Chamber of Commerce recently recognized Brandi Adams, RN, BSN, and Master Instructor at ASU Three Rivers Career Center as a FutureMaker Honoree. With over 25 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, Mrs. Adams brings incredible clinical authority to her classroom, where she educates juniors and seniors from 11



surrounding high schools. From specialized roles in Labor and Delivery to OB Transport, her real-world expertise is shaping the next generation of healthcare professionals. Beyond the technical skills, she is dedicated to workforce readiness—focusing on vital soft skills and leading her students to success in SkillsUSA competitions. Her classroom is frequently adorned with state champion banners, proving her ability to prepare students to compete against the best and brightest in Arkansas.

2. Enrollment & Recruitment

A. Current traditional enrollment status

Fall 2026 as of 9/14/2026 (near final numbers)

	Fall 2026	Fall 2025	Fall 2026	Fall 2025
Enrolled Status	Count	Count	SSCH	SSCH
Continuing	160	239	1793	2743
New First Time Freshman	279	121	2714	1510
Returning	61	62	576	627
Transfer	141	79	1806	955
Unclassified	0	3	0	18
Undergraduate Total	641	504	6889	5853
High School	1863	1444	10171	6760
Total	2504	1948	17060	12613

B. Recruitment & application trends

- Off-campus recruiting events range from welcoming students in car-rider lanes at local schools, participating in area high school events, college fairs across the central region.
- Campus tours were conducted all summer and are tailored to the prospect's interests, including demonstrations, faculty conversations, and financial aid.
- Sent recruiting letter to all Saline County Career Technical Campus and ASU Three Rivers Career Center graduating seniors inviting them for a tour and admissions advising appointment.
- Partnered with Public Relations to create an informational packet for mailing to all undergraduate applicants.
- Participated in a nursing recruiting meeting to collaborate on ways to increase the nursing applicant pool to ensure filling each program to



capacity for each cohort. Kaplan testing dates have been expanded to increase then number of RN program applicants.

- f. Creating a new welcome/orientation video for first time entering students to introduce them to support services and being ready for the first day of classes.
- g. Approximately 75 new students and their families were welcomed on July 21 and August 4 with a college fair style orientation event that allowed students to visit directly with staff regarding support programs and services along with campus tours. Many commented that they were able to zero in on much-needed services and get questions answered quickly.

3. Academic Affairs

- A. Total credentials most recently awarded
 - a. For July 2026, 45 Practical Nursing (Technical Certificate) candidates and 35 Registered Nursing (Associate of Applied Science) candidates.
- B. Accreditation visits & news
 - a. The ACCESS law providing an incentive to high schools for students earning Diplomas of Merit or Distinction has increased the demand for concurrent offerings. Once a high school offers 50% or more of a degree, an application must be made to the Higher Learning Commission for these high schools to become an additional location of ASU Three Rivers. This process began over the summer.
 - b. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) conducted a site visit of the Health Sciences Division in the spring semester as part of their accreditation process. The division received a glowing review, and a final determination will be announced in October.

4. Community Engagement & Partnerships

- A. Science Olympiad
 - a. The annual Science Olympiad was held on campus on June 16. This free event hosted 32 participants from kindergarten through sixth grade for a morning of hands-on science experiments. The event ended with a floor show by the Museum of Discovery sponsored by the Malvern Rotary Club.
- B. Ritz Reels
 - a. Ritz Reels is more than just a movie night—it's a themed experience! Every movie will feature a special pre-show designed to immerse you in the fun before the lights dim and the movie begins. From sing-alongs and dance



parties to costume contests, trivia, games, and more, each event will have its own unique twist!

C. SCCTC Saline County Outreach and Partnership Activities

- a. Benton Third Thursday Community Outreach - SCCTC staff, in collaboration with the Recruiting Department, participated in Benton's Third Thursday community events in June and July and plan to continue participation throughout the year. Third Thursday is a monthly community event that brings together local businesses, vendors, and organizations in downtown Benton. This event provides an excellent opportunity to recruit prospective students, build community relationships, and promote SCCTC programs and services.
- b. Arkansas Career and Technical Educators (ACTE) CTE Conference - SCCTC hosted the Arkansas Career and Technical Educators (ACTE) CTE Conference from July 20–24 for the fourth consecutive year. The conference welcomed more than 400 career and technical education (CTE) teachers, administrators, and industry partners from across Arkansas. Hosting this statewide event reinforces SCCTC's commitment to supporting professional development and advancing career and technical education throughout the state.
- c. Arkansas School Bus Mechanics Conference - SCCTC hosted the Arkansas School Bus Mechanics Conference on June 15–17, serving more than 200 school bus mechanics and transportation professionals from across Arkansas. The conference provided participants with valuable technical training, professional development opportunities, and a forum for sharing industry best practices.
- d. Cottages Career Exploration Program - In partnership with the Arkansas Division of Youth Services (DYS), SCCTC continues to offer the Cottages Career Exploration Program, which introduces high school students in DHS custody to a variety of career pathways through one- and two-week instructional modules. Training includes the Mike Rowe Work Ethic curriculum, OSHA 10 certification, Basic Life Saving certification, Networking, Welding, Automotive Technology, and Construction. The program continues to produce positive outcomes by exposing students to high-demand career fields and equipping them with foundational skills and certifications that support successful workforce entry upon their release.
- e. Summer DHS Career Training Programs - During June, SCCTC provided Summer DHS Career Training programs in Welding and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). Eleven students completed Welding training, and six students participated in the CNA program. These hands-on training



opportunities enabled students to develop technical skills while earning industry- and state-recognized certifications that enhance their employability and prepare them for successful transitions into the workforce following their release from DYS custody.

5. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. Total gifts and private funds amount raised for the quarter
 - a. Donations/Gifts: \$45,490 (April 1 – August 31, 2026)
 - Athletics Discretionary: \$220
 - ASUTR Discretionary: \$1,569
 - General Scholarship: \$2,055
 - Golf Tournament: \$22,900
 - Retention Awareness: \$25
 - Ritz Theatre Development: \$12,022
 - SCCTC Discretionary: \$80
 - Softball Discretionary: \$2,150
 - Baseball Discretionary: \$25
 - Workforce Development: \$50
 - Year to Date: \$90,726 (through August 26, 2026)
- B. Alumni & fund-raising events
 - a. 6th Annual Golf Tournament (May 18, 2026)
 - b. Athletics “Adopt an Eagle” Fundraiser (September 15, 2026 – Ongoing)
 - c. Donor Scholarship Reception (August 25, 2026)
- C. Notable contributions & major gifts that are public
 - a. Henson Benson Foundation - \$10,000, Naming of the Balcony (Final Installment)

6. Intercollegiate Athletics

- A. Athletics Department news & success stories
 - a. The 2025-2026 ASUTR Baseball Team was just named: ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award winner. Our program was 1 of 44 junior college programs selected for this award.



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

A. ASUTR Workforce Development

- a. Workforce training initiatives continue to expand in both scope and impact. The West Fraser Qualified Millwright and Electrical Training program remains active with weekly classes, and additional sessions have recently been added to meet growing demand.
- b. The Alweld Boats Electrical Maintenance Training Program is also progressing steadily, with classes held each Tuesday and Thursday, encompassing approximately 330 to 350 hours of instruction.
- c. Leadership Development classes for Middleton Heating and Air in Benton are in the process of being scheduled, while additional leadership training is being delivered for West Fraser's Henderson and Angelina Mills in Texas.
- d. Program development efforts are also underway, including collaboration with Acme Brick Corporate to establish Class A and Class B Millwright Training Programs for the Perla plant in Malvern.
- e. The Summer Workforce CNA class began this month was 8 students enrolled. We are already enrolling students for the Fall CNA class.
- f. ASUTR Workforce is conducting Electrical 70E Arc Flash and 70B training for 28 employees at Kohler Co. in Sheridan.
- g. Workforce is working with West Fraser Corporate Training division to assist in facilitating Supervisory Skills Training in December of this year.

B. SCCTC Workforce Development

- a. The SCCTC Workforce Program continues to expand its impact by providing industry-driven training that addresses the evolving workforce needs of advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, and telecommunications employers throughout the region. Through strategic partnerships with business and industry, the program delivers customized training that enhances workforce readiness, supports incumbent worker development, and creates pathways to high-demand careers.
- b. SCCTC's CNC Training Initiative, launched in partnership with CoorsTek, has grown to include a 120-hour CNC Training Program and CAD Programming courses. These offerings are available to both the public and incumbent workers, providing accessible pathways for individuals seeking careers in advanced manufacturing while enabling employers to upskill their existing workforce. Building on the success of the foundational training, SCCTC continues to expand advanced instructional opportunities to meet the increasing demand for skilled CNC professionals.



- c. The Tower Technician Program remains a cornerstone of SCCTC's workforce training efforts. This intensive four-week program equips participants with the safety, climbing, rescue, and technical skills required for employment in the telecommunications industry. Through its partnership with the Arkansas Division of Youth Services (DYS) and Rite of Passage in Bryant, the program continues to prepare students for careers in the broadband and telecommunications sectors. Training under the current Broadband Grant will continue through October 31. Upon completion of the grant, the Tower Technician Program, along with other qualifying workforce programs, will transition to funding through the Workforce Challenge initiative.
- d. SCCTC continues to explore new workforce opportunities through the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) HIRED Grant. The college is working to transition the Commercial Upholstery Program into a Fiber Technician Program to better align with regional broadband workforce needs. This proposal remains under review.
- e. Industry collaboration continues to drive workforce expansion. CMS Wireless has played an integral role by contributing materials for the construction and enhancement of SCCTC's training tower while actively engaging with students throughout the program. Company representatives regularly participate in graduation ceremonies, offering encouragement, sharing industry insights, and reinforcing the connection between workforce training and employment opportunities.
- f. Demand for customized business and industry training continues to grow. Middleton Heat & Air has requested delivery of the complete Leadership Development Academy curriculum for two separate employee groups. While those classes have not yet been scheduled, the company has committed to both Basic HVAC and Advanced HVAC training, with classes scheduled to begin in October and continue through February 2027. These partnerships reflect SCCTC's commitment to providing responsive, employer-driven training that supports workforce development and regional economic growth.
- g. Together, these initiatives demonstrate SCCTC's commitment to delivering high-quality, industry-aligned workforce training that meets the evolving needs of employers, strengthens strategic partnerships, and prepares individuals for successful careers in Arkansas's high-demand industries.



**Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees
October 16, 2026**

**Chancellor's Report
Henderson State University**

1. Chancellor Summary

A. Enrollment:

Overall Enrollment and the Freshman class experienced a significant increases this year. This has also led to increases in Housing, Food Service, and Campus Activities.

Overall Enrollment: 2,465 = Up 9.7%

Freshman: 740 = Up 32%

Graduate: 507 = Down 12% - Loss of two State Grants for Teacher Educ.

Housing: 1,333 = Up 22%

B. Degrees awarded- Academic year 2025-2026:

Associates: 360

Bachelors: 265

Masters & EDS: 213

Certificates: 144

Total Credentials: 982

C. Comprehensive Capital Campaign:

We have begun our work to inaugurate Henderson's first comprehensive fundraising campaign. We have engaged the J.F. Smith Group, and they are currently doing individual interviews with 150 alumni and friends as part of our Feasibility Study to target the campaign goal amount. We will also be conducting focus group discussions to help us in setting our goals. These interviews will continue through December.

The silent phase of the Campaign will begin in January, with an official launch during the Fall of 2027.



D. Campus Renovations and Improvements:

Wells Center:

The \$1,900,000 renovation of the Wells Center and Gymnasium is nearing completion with major work being accomplished this summer. This was made possible by an ANCRC Grant, the Reddie Club, and the Henderson Foundation. Improvements include:

- Wells Arena: painting, extending ceiling, lighting, new scoreboards, branding, new doors
- Throughout the building (1st and 2nd Floors): new piping, new boilers, painting, branding, and new flooring

Caver Engineering Fabrication Lab:

Renovation of a classroom space to house the new Fabrication Lab for Engineering students. This includes new equipment and renovation of two rooms. Made possible by a donation from Dr. Troy Caver.

Krug Entrepreneurship Institute:

Renovation of three rooms in Mooney Hall (College of Business) to house the Tad and Judy Krug Entrepreneurship Institute classroom, computer lab and office for the director. Made possible by a donation from Tad and Judy Krug.

Reynolds Science Center:

Renovation of existing hallways, classrooms and offices with fresh paint and flooring. Made possible by the Henderson Foundation.

Arkansas Hall (Auditorium):

Complete painting, carpeting, repair of damaged ceiling and lighting in the auditorium.

Wage Player Development Center:

We dedicated the Wage Player Development Center on September 12. This is a covered practice facility for baseball and softball. This is a 100' X 80' structure for both sports. Total cost of the structure \$505,000. Made possible by donations of HSU alumni and friends.



Nursing Building:

A \$440,000 renovation of classroom and computer lab expansions has begun. This will increase our capacity to admit more nursing students into the program. Made possible by a Windgate Foundation grant.

Reddie Renovators (Student Summer Workforce):

For the second summer, Henderson had 115 students work throughout the campus to improve facilities and furnishings. These students painted, reupholstered furniture, conducted basic carpentry, cleaned spaces, and moved furniture to help us improve the campus. In return for their work and skills learning, they received free housing and meals.

2. Student, Faculty & Staff Success Stories

- A. HSU-NYIT Pre-Med Pathway: Three Henderson Students have been selected into the first cohort of the HSU-NYIT Pre-Med Pathway. These students are Madison Howard, Olivia Speech and Lainey Morrison.
- B. European Study Tour: The Henderson Foundation has permanently established a European Study Tour for Honor students or Honors eligible students. Each summer the program will give 15-16 students and two faculty members the opportunity to tour and study in England, France and Italy.

3. Finance & Administration

Components of Henderson's continued fiscal growth and strength include:

- A. Henderson ended the year with more than 120 days cash on hand. This includes a significant fund balance increase.
- B. Henderson Food Service ended the year with a positive for the first time in over six years.
- C. The university presented its third balance budget in a row.
- D. HSU was able give a \$2,000 COLA to all full-time employees. This is the first across the board COLA in 12 years.



- E. Henderson was the only four-year state university that did not raise tuition this academic year.

4. Academic Affairs

Academic changes and updates include:

- A. New Concentration/Option
 - a. BS in Computer Science – Software Development Concentration
- B. Title Changes
 - a. MS in Teacher Leadership: English as a Second Language concentration change to English to Speakers of Other Languages
 - b. Undergraduate Certificate: change to English to Speakers of Other Languages
 - c. Graduate Certificate: change to English to Speakers of Other Languages
- C. New Off-Campus Locations
 - a. Ouachita High School – Concurrent Courses in Certificate in Teaching
 - b. Cutter Morning Star High School – Concurrent Courses in Certificate in Teaching
 - c. Benton High School – Concurrent Courses in AA in General Education (History)
- D. Inactivation of Certificate or Degree Program
 - a. Family and Consumer Sciences BS Degree
 - b. Graduate Certificate in English
 - c. Graduate Certificate in History

5. Fund-Raising & Alumni Relations

- A. Henderson ended the 2026-2027 fiscal year with the largest fund-raising 12 months in its history! The final total was \$6,985,000. This included 685 new donors who had never given to the University.
- B. The current fund-raising total for the first two months of this fiscal year is \$825,000.
- C. The HSU Alumni Office organized five alumni events throughout the state this summer. Including gatherings in Benton, Hot Springs, Conway, Texarkana and Northwest Arkansas.



- D. A \$375,000 ANCRC grant was secured in May for the restoration of the roof of Smith Hall.

6. Intercollegiate Athletics

A. Track and Field:

Henderson welcomed 91 Track and Field athletes this fall. This marks the first track and field team at the University since 1993. The restoration of the Henderson Track and Field Throws Areas are complete, made possible by the Reddie Club and institutional funding.

B. Women's Flag Football:

HSU will be the first university in the Great American Conference to establish Women's Flag Football as a varsity sport. This is the fastest growing women's varsity sport in the nation. The University plans to field the first team in the Fall of 2027. ROI projections show a \$150,000 net positive the first year.

7. Update on Federal & State Grant Funding

- A. Henderson has received a \$650,000 Title III grant to expand university advising, tutoring, and career development. This is the first year of a five-year \$1,500,000 request.
- B. We have applied for two Rural Health Initiative grants totaling \$1,600,000 for the expansion of nursing education and mental counseling.
- C. Henderson has also submitted an appropriation request to Senator Boozman for \$9,500,000 for the expansion of nursing education and a major physical expansion of our Nursing Building to increase our capacity and admissions.