

ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Regular Quarterly Meeting
July 25, 2025

Minutes of Meeting

The July 25, 2025, regular meeting of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was held at the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock. Chair Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Jim Carr, Chair
Lucas Pointer, Vice Chair
Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary
Graycen Bigger

Coordinating Board absent:

Dr. Jerry Cash
Heather Maxey
Carolyn Rhinehart

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

Chair Carr began by calling on Chancellor Summer DeProw for a welcome. Dr. DeProw welcomed Coordinating Board members, ADHE staff, and presidents and chancellors to the UAPTC Campus.

Next, Carr stated the board would go into a Committee of the Whole, which would allow all members to vote during both committee meetings.

Agenda Item No. 1
Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic
Revenues and Expenditures for 2025-26

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

Institutions with intercollegiate athletic programs submitted ADHE Form 21-2, "Certification of Budgeted Athletic Revenues and Expenditures" and proper supporting documentation. ADHE finance staff verified that the athletic data submitted by the institutions matched the overall 2025-26 institutional operating budgets.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board accepts the Certification of Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and

Expenditures Budgeted for 2025-26 as prepared in accordance with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board uniform accounting standards and definitions for athletic reporting.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 1 to the full Board for consideration. Graycen Bigger seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems,
Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems, and Data Applications
North Arkansas College

The Uncrewed Aerial Systems program by North Arkansas College was removed from the agenda prior to the meeting.

Agenda Items No. 3 & 4
Arkansas Public Institutions
Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education approved institutional requests for new programs not requiring Board action unless further review is requested by the Board. During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests from Arkansas public institutions to offer degree programs. The program notice lists appear in the Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification on pages 3-1 through 3-44 and in the Arkansas public institutions Letters of Intent on pages 4-1 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 5
Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions

RESOLVED, That pursuant to A.C.A. §6-61-301, the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board grants initial certification to the institutions listed on pages 1 - 2 to offer the specified degree programs to Arkansas residents for a period of three years through December 31, 2028.

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

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

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

Initial Program Certifications – Distance Technology

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri
Pepperdine University, Malibu, California
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

New Institution – Initial Program Certifications – Distance Technology

Claremont Lincoln University, Claremont, California

Initial Program Certifications – Arkansas Campus

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Graycen Bigger moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 5 to the full Board for consideration. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Items No. 6 & 7
Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions
Letters of Notification and Letters of Intent

The Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education approved institutional requests for new programs not requiring Board action unless further review is requested by the Board. During this period, the Institutional Certification Advisory Committee received notice of requests from out-of-state and Arkansas private institutions to offer degree programs to Arkansas residents. The program notice lists appear in the Letters of Notification on pages 6-1 through 6-3 and in the Letters of Intent on page 7-1 of the agenda book.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 8
Report on Academic Program Review

Arkansas Code §6-61-214 requires that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) review existing academic programs at Arkansas public colleges and universities to identify certificate and degree programs not meeting minimum standards

of quality and to establish schedules for either resolving these concerns or removing the programs from the AHECB approved program inventory. Mason Campbell summarized the reports submitted to ADHE during Academic Year 2024-2025.

Agenda Item No. 8a
Academic Program Review Recommendations of Notice

Arkansas Code §6-61-214 requires that the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) review existing academic programs at Arkansas public colleges and universities to identify certificate and degree programs not meeting minimum standards of quality and to establish schedules for either resolving these concerns or removing the programs from the AHECB approved program inventory.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 4 of the "Recommendations to Coordinating Board" within the aforementioned policy, the programs listed below are hereby placed on notice for potential removal from the AHECB approved program inventory. ADHE is committed to working with institutions to address these concerns and maintain the highest quality of academic programs across Arkansas.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the Arkansas Division of Higher Education recommendation of notice for potential removal from the AHECB approved program inventory.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to inform the President and Chief Academic Officer of each institution which programs are placed on notice.

Dr. Katherine Dudley moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 8a to the full Board for consideration. Graycen Bigger seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 9
Concurrent Enrollment Continued Authorization

In accordance with the Concurrent Enrollment policy, an institution with Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board continued authorization for the Concurrent Enrollment Program can offer courses for concurrent enrollment for a period of up to seven (7) years. Institutions that wish to continue to offer courses for concurrent enrollment must request AHECB reauthorization.

Lucas Pointer moved to recommend Agenda Item No. 9 to the full Board for consideration. Graycen Bigger seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 10
Approval of Minutes

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 10. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 11
Approval of Arkansas Higher Education
Coordinating Board By-Laws

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (the “Coordinating Board”) is charged by state law to coordinate higher education in Arkansas and to assure an orderly and effective development of each of the publicly supported institutions of higher education.

The committee recommends the by-laws in this agenda item for adoption to allow the Coordinating Board to discharge its responsibilities in a more effective manner.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board adopts the by-laws presented in this agenda item for the operation of the Coordinating Board.

Chair Carr noted the main change in the by-laws removed the requirements for Committees. Because the board membership has been reduced to seven (7) members, they will no longer split into committees.

Dr. Katherine Dudley moved to approve Agenda Item No. 11. Graycen Bigger seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 12
Commissioner’s Report

Commissioner Warden began by thanking Dr. DeProw and UAPTC for hosting such a wonderful meeting. He then thanked the Coordinating Board members and DHE staff for all they do for higher education in Arkansas.

Institutional Changes

Anthony Graham, Ph.D. was appointed Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff on March 21, 2025, following unanimous approval by the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees. He officially assumed the role on July 1, 2025.

Prior to his appointment at UAPB, Chancellor Graham served as a tenured professor of education and held the position of Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina. From 2023 to 2024, he also served as Interim Chancellor of the institution. Earlier in his career, he was a tenured full professor and Dean of the College of Education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

Collin Callaway has been named the new executive director of Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC), where she has worked for 17 years. Collin has more than 20 years of experience working in student services and higher education policy in Arkansas. Julie Bates, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the system since 2011, has retired from that role and will move into a part-time role as Chief Financial Advisor.

Engage Arkansas

Commissioner Warden introduced Engage staff, Starr Crow, Michael Rau, Katie Matthews and Zoe Tollette. The Engage Arkansas staff advocates for local, people-driven solutions by partnering with government agencies, municipalities, education systems, and the nonprofit or faith-based sectors. Through the AmeriCorps grant program, it secures federal funding to sub-grant to local organizations operating direct service programs. AmeriCorps members provide vital services to assist in key impact areas such as education, economic opportunity, disaster services, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families throughout the state. The Engage Arkansas staff provides professional guidance and technical assistance to its sub-grantees.

Non-credit Workforce Data

Dr. Tina Moore provided information on non-credit workforce data. Non-credit Workforce education/training is defined as non-credit postsecondary courses that develop or enhance occupational, technical, and/or durable skills of individuals – whether employed, underemployed, or unemployed – to meet the needs of employers and/or increase individual opportunity in the labor market. Courses may include methods such as lecture, workshop, customized training, apprenticeship, etc. While these courses carry no institutional credit applicable toward a degree, diploma, or certificate, the competencies and skills attained through Workforce Education/Training could apply toward a prior learning credit. The small quantity and poor quality of noncredit data poses problems for a range of higher education stakeholders.

Agenda Item No. 13 Concurrent Enrollment Policy Updates

Arkansas law allows for the enrollment of high school students in college-level courses under certain conditions. Concurrent enrollment allows students to obtain credit toward a high school diploma at the same time they earn college credit.

The concurrent enrollment policy was first approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) in October 1998 with the latest revision was in July 2024.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the policy amendment on concurrent enrollment effective Fall 2025. The concurrent enrollment policy outlines the guidelines for concurrent program participation; however, Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities are not required to participate in a concurrent enrollment program; and a high

school/school district may choose to partner with more than one Arkansas college/university for concurrent courses.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That any Arkansas state-supported college or university that chooses to participate in a concurrent enrollment program with a public school district, private high school, or home-school student shall implement and administer the concurrent program in accordance with the policies of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the rules of the Arkansas State Board of Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education to provide a copy of the amended policy to presidents and chancellors, chief academic affairs officers, students affairs officers, and institutional research officers at Arkansas state-supported colleges and universities.

There were no questions.

Graycen Bigger moved to approve Agenda Item No. 13. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 14 Rules Governing the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education

In compliance with Act 413 of 2023, the rules for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Uniform Course Credit for Institutions of Higher Education rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 15
Scholarship Stacking Policy Change

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, changes to the Scholarship Stacking Policy will be presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board Reviews the changes presented in this agenda item for the Scholarship Stacking Policy.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Stacking Policy changes be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 16
Rules Governing the Arkansas Workforce
Challenge Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program rules be approved for public comment release.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 17
Rules Governing the Access to Acceleration
Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules for the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the ACCESS to

Acceleration Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the ACCESS to Acceleration Scholarship Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 18
Repeal of the ADHE Rules Governing
the Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules for the Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Repeal of the Rules Governing the Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 19
Repeal of the ADHE Rules Governing the
Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules for the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Repeal of the Rules Governing the Law Enforcement Officers' Dependents Scholarship Program be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 20
Rules Governing the Arkansas Academic Challenge
Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 21
Rules Governing the Governor's Higher Education
Transition Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules for the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Governor's Higher Education Transition Scholarship Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 22
Rules Governing Residency Classification for
State-Funded Scholarships at State-Supported
Institutions of Higher Education

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules governing Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Residency Classification for State-funded Scholarships at State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 23
Rules Governing the Arkansas Teacher Academy
Transition Scholarship Program

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules governing Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program to be administered by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education or his designee is authorized to make technical changes and corrections, when necessary, in the program rules for the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Teacher Academy Scholarship Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item No. 24
Rules Governing the Arkansas Teacher
Opportunity Program

In compliance with Act 340 of 2025, the rules governing Arkansas Teacher Opportunity Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for approval.

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Teacher Opportunity Program rules be approved.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Items No. 14 - 24. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Report of the Committees

Chair Carr presented the report of the Finance Committee and moved approval of Agenda Item 1. Lucas Pointer seconded, and the board unanimously approved.

Chair Carr presented the report of the Academic Committee and moved approval of Agenda Items 5, 8a & 9. Dr. Katherine Dudley seconded, and the board unanimously approved.

Remarks by Presidents/Chancellors and Guest

The next quarterly meeting will be held on October 24, 2025, at Arkansas State University - Beebe, at 9:00 a.m.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary