ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD
Special Meeting
September 22, 2026

Minutes of Meeting

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, via Zoom. Chair Jim Carr called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:
Dr. Jim Carr, Chair
Lucas Pointer, Vice Chair
Graycen Bigger
Carolyn Rhinehart
Chris Woodard

Coordinating Board absent:
Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary

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

Chair Carr welcomed presidents and chancellors to the special board meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Agenda Item No. 1
Rules Governing the Arkansas Heroes
Scholarship Program

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 79), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Heroes Scholarship are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Heroes Scholarship 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 Heroes Scholarship.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Heroes Scholarship rules be approved for final approval.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 2
Rules Governing the Arkansas Future
Grant Program

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Sections 74-76), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Future Grant Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

> **RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Future Grant 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 Future Grant Program.
>
> **FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Future Grant Program rules be approved for final approval.
> There were no questions.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 2. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 3
Rules Governing the Military Dependents'
Scholarship Program

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 79), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Military Dependents' Scholarship Program is sunsetting to be replaced by the Arkansas Heroes Scholarship. Therefore, these rules are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

> **RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Military Dependents' 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 Military Dependents' Scholarship Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Military Dependents' Scholarship Program rules be approved for final approval.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 3. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 4
Rules Governing the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program

In compliance with the Arkansas ACCESS Act of 2025 (Act 341 Section 48, p. 63), the Arkansas Division of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final approval.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Arkansas Direct Admissions 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 Direct Admissions Program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program rules be approved for final approval.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 4. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Agenda Item No. 5
Rules Governing the Student Undergraduate
Research Fellowship Program

In compliance with Arkansas Code §6-61-236, the Arkansas Division of Higher

Education Rules Governing the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program are presented to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) for final
approval.

> **RESOLVED**, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board reviews the rules presented in this agenda item for the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship 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 Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program.
>
> **FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program rules be approved for final approval.

There were no questions.

Lucas Pointer moved to approve Agenda Item No. 5. Carolyn Rhinehart seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

_____
Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

_____
Dr. Katherine Dudley, Secretary