

**Tentative Agenda Items  
January 24, 2025 AHECB Meeting**

**BOARD BUSINESS (Introductions, announcements, minutes)**

**EXECUTIVE SECTION**

**AGENCY UPDATES**

**ACADEMIC COMMITTEE REPORT\***

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT\***

**OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS**

\*The Academic Affairs and Finance Committees will continue to meet before the full Board meeting. However, agenda items that will be considered by the full Board will be placed in the Executive section.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

- Introductions
- Minutes, October 25, 2024, Regular Meeting
- **Report of Nominating Committee**  
The Nominating Committee Chairman will make the report of the nominating committee for the slate of Board officers for 2025-26.
- **Reimbursement of Expenses for Members of the AHECB and ICAC**  
In accordance with Act 1211 of 1995 (A.C.A. §25-16-901 et seq.) it is necessary for the Coordinating Board to adopt a resolution authorizing expense reimbursement for board members and members of the ICAC.
- **State Board of Higher Education Foundation Election of Supervisory Committee**  
The Board will elect the supervisory committee for the State Board of Higher Education Foundation.
- Announcements

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- **Annual Higher Education Financial Condition Report**  
  
The annual higher education financial condition report will be presented which depicts the financial condition of all Arkansas public institutions of higher education.
- **Maintenance Report**  
  
The AHECB policy for maintenance of new facilities ensures that all newly constructed or purchased facilities will have a source of funding for maintenance of the new facility. Institutions seeking approval of a loan or a bond issue for the construction or purchase of a new facility must provide for the maintenance of that facility by transferring annually to plant funds an amount as recommended by the Association of Physical Plant Administrators of Universities and Colleges (APPA). The maintenance funds should be transferred to the plant fund annually and shall begin in the fiscal year following the completion and occupancy of the facility and will continue as long as the building is in use.  
  
The Maintenance Report consists of all mandatory transfers made for facilities approved from October 2008 to present.
- **Economic Feasibility for North Arkansas College**  
  
North Arkansas College (NAC) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds of approximately \$2.25 million with a term not to exceed twenty (20) years at an annual interest rate of approximately 6.0 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be for educational and general purposes (E&G) to construct a new Center for Robotics and Manufacturing Innovation instructional facility. The North Arkansas College Board of Trustees will consider this financing at its meeting on January 16, 2025.

## ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

- **Northwest Arkansas Community College**  
**Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician**

The proposed Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program will prepare students for a dynamic career in clinical laboratories, where they play a crucial role in diagnosing and monitoring patient health. This program combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on training in laboratory techniques, including blood analysis, microbiology, hematology, and chemistry, blood banking, urine and body fluid analysis and immunology. Students learn to operate sophisticated laboratory equipment, perform diagnostic tests, and ensure the accuracy of results. Graduates are equipped with the skills needed to work in hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic labs, contributing to patient care through precise and reliable laboratory work.

- **University of Arkansas Monticello**  
**Role and Scope Change**  
**Doctor of Philosophy in Forest Resources**

The proposed Doctor of Philosophy in Forest Resources will increase the state's forestry and natural resources scientific workforce, and importantly, do so through applied, in-depth education and research on Arkansas forestry and natural resource issues. Given that Arkansas has never offered a Ph.D. in forest resources, it has been entirely reliant on doctoral programs of other states. This doctoral program will be offered by UAM's College of Forestry, Agriculture, and Natural Resources (CFANR). The CFANR also houses the Arkansas Forest Resources Center of the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture which provides funding for research that bolsters the ability of the CFANR to deliver the program. The proposed Ph.D. in Forest Resources will require 72 post-baccalaureate credit hours, of which a minimum of 48 hours will be coursework and up to 24 hours of credit for research/dissertation preparation and defense. Additionally, the degree requirements include the completion of an entrance seminar, comprehensive exams, a dissertation, one semester of instruction of a lower-level undergraduate course or lab, and a dissertation defense. Over the first five years, UAM expects to enroll at least fourteen students into the proposed doctoral program.

- **Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Notification**

Programs included in the Arkansas Public Institution Letters of Notification have been approved by the ADHE Director and must be included on the AHECB agenda prior to program initiation. The programs are reasonable and moderate extensions of existing certificates and degrees.

- **Arkansas Public Institutions Letters of Intent**

A Letter of Intent informs the AHECB of institutions that plan to offer new programs or organizational units that require a proposal and Coordinating Board approval. Chief academic and chief executive officers can comment on the proposed programs and organizational units before the proposals are considered by AHECB.

- **Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions**

The following applications may be reviewed by ADHE for possible consideration at the AHECB meeting in January 2025.

### **Initial Certifications – Distance Technology**

Arizona Christian University, Glendale, Arizona  
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration  
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration  
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education  
Bachelor of Science in Psychology  
Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education  
Master of Arts in Education

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri  
Associate of Arts in General Studies  
Associate of Arts in Leadership  
Bachelor of Science in Allied Health  
Bachelor of Science in Applied Health  
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice  
Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Studies  
Doctor of Strategic Leadership

- **Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Notification**

Programs included in the Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions' Letters of Notification have been approved by the ADHE Director and must be included on the AHECB agenda.

- **Out-of-State and Arkansas Private Institutions Letters of Intent**

A Letter of Intent informs the AHECB of institutions that plan to offer new programs that require a proposal and Coordinating Board approval.

## **EXECUTIVE SECTION**

- **Commissioner's Report**

This agenda item will include updates on new employees, legislation and current events.

- **Fall 2024 and 2023-24 Annual Enrollment Report**

Customary enrollment statistics will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. This will include enrollment statistics for total enrollment and institutions and annual unduplicated headcount and FTE.

- **Report on 2020-2024 Fall College-Going Rate**

The annual report concerning the College-Going Rate for Arkansas will be presented. Included will be a table detailing the number of first-time in college by institution for the past five years through Fall 2024.

- **Annual Report on Institutional Certification**

An update on the number of Arkansas residents pursuing academic degrees offered by out-of-state and for-profit institutions certified to operate in Arkansas will be presented.

- **Report on Academic Program Viability**

The periodic report on academic program viability will be presented. ADHE Executive Staff Recommendations will be presented for Coordinating Board consideration of continuation or discontinuation of non-viable programs.

- **Program Review Policy Updates**

This agenda item will include updates on the AHECB Program Review Policy.