

Tentative Agenda Items
January 23, 2026 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 24, 2025, 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 2026-27.
- **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.
- Announcements

FINANCE SECTION

▪ **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.

▪ **Recommendations for Educational and General Operations for State-Supported Institutions**

This agenda item contains the operating budget recommendations for the 202-2 fiscal year based on productivity funding distribution recommendations and non-formula requests.

▪ **Personal Services Recommendations**

ADHE staff reviewed personal services requests for those Arkansas public institutions of higher education that requested position changes for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year. This agenda item will consist of the personal service request recommendations for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year.

- **Economic Feasibility for Southern Arkansas University**

Southern Arkansas University Magnolia (SAUM) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure auxiliary refunding bonds not to exceed \$23.775 million with a term of thirty (30) years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.85 percent. Proceeds will be used to refund the 2015, 2016 and the 2018A series bonds, with no new funds issued. The Southern Arkansas University Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on October 8, 2025.

- **Economic Feasibility for Arkansas State University-Jonesboro**

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASUJ) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to secure a loan from the College Savings Bond Revolving Loan Fund (CSBRLF) not to exceed \$2.95 million with a term of twenty (10) years with an annual interest rate not to exceed 0.2 percent. Proceeds from the loan will be used for the construction of an Equine Barn and a Bovine Barn, and for the replacement of the Dean B. Ellis Library Chiller at Arkansas State University- Jonesboro. The Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University-System approved this financing at its meeting on December 12, 2025.

- **Economic Feasibility for Arkansas State University-Jonesboro**

Arkansas State University-Jonesboro (ASU) requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds not to exceed \$16 million with a term of fifteen (15) years at an estimated annual interest rate of 4.5 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used to renovate Kays Hall. The Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on December 12, 2025.

ACADEMIC SECTION

- **Arkansas State University Beebe**

Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture
Certificate of Proficiency in Precision Agriculture

The proposed Precision Agriculture program consists of a 31-credit-hour Technical Certificate and a 9-credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency both designed to meet growing industry needs in technology-driven farming and agri-technology. This program's curriculum integrates plant and soil science, geospatial technologies, and agricultural systems with specialized training in GPS-guided equipment, unmanned aerial vehicles, control systems, and livestock monitoring tools. This blend of coursework and application will prepare students for entry-level employment in precision agriculture operations or for continued study in related degree programs.

The Certificate of Proficiency in Precision Agriculture is a stackable credential that applies directly toward the Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture. Students wishing to further their education may apply these credentials toward ASUB's Associate of Applied Science in Agricultural Equipment Technology or Associate of Science in Agriculture, or as a transferable option into Arkansas State University's Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in GIS and Precision Agriculture.

One full-time faculty member will be hired and will join a team of experienced and credentialed faculty. The proposed program will utilize existing resources including ASUB's 150-acre on-site farm. Additional equipment will be purchased and housed in a newly constructed instructional storage facility.

- **University of Arkansas Community College Batesville**

Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management
Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture
Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Drone Technology

The proposed Farm and Ranch Management program will provide students with stackable credentials that integrate applied learning with essential technical and business competencies, preparing

graduates to successfully operate or support modern farm and ranch enterprises. The 60-credit-hour Associate of Applied Science in Farm and Ranch Management, a primarily hands-on program, will prepare students to manage crop or livestock production by integrating best practices of agriculture operation with practical tools to start or manage a small-scale farm business. The 30-credit-hour Technical Certificate in Precision Agriculture will provide students with foundational knowledge in safety principles and practices, equipment operation, maintenance, and repair, resource management, efficiency, and sustainability. The 12-credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency in Agriculture Drone Technology offers essential training in agricultural drone operations and precision agriculture tools. Together, these credentials will prepare graduates for entry-level employment in precision agriculture, farm operations, and related fields, while supporting a skilled workforce capable of meeting the technological demands of modern agriculture.

Although UACCB offers an Associate of Science in Agriculture Business and Associate of Science in Agriculture Technology, these programs were designed as transfer pathways for students seeking a bachelor's degree. In contrast, the proposed Farm and Ranch Management program is an applied, workforce-oriented program intended to lead directly to employment or advancement within agricultural production settings rather than transfer into a four-year program.

One full-time faculty member and one adjunct faculty member will be sufficient for the first three years of enrollment. However, in year four, UACCB will hire one additional full-time faculty member. The proposed program will utilize existing resources including UACCB's two farms totaling 259 acres which includes a 100,000 square foot building. Additional equipment will be purchased through the HIRED grant received in November 2024.

- **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 2026.

Initial Program Certifications – Distance Technology

Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri
Associate of Applied Science in Accounting
Associate of Applied Science in Addiction Studies
Bachelor of Science in Accounting
Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies
Bachelor of Science in Biology
Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Bachelor of Science in Social Science
Master of Science in Sport Performance

San Jose State University, San Jose, California
Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology
Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Bachelor of Science in Integrative Health

Initial Program Certifications – Arkansas Campus

Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Doctor of Executive Leadership

Doctor of Medical Science

Initial Program Certifications – New Institutions

Community Christian College, Quartzsite, Arizona

Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts

Southwest University at El Paso, El Paso, Texas

Associate of Applied Science in Business Management in Healthcare Support Systems

Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Leadership Management

- **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 will 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.

- **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.

- **Annual Enrollment Report**

Customary enrollment statistics will be presented to the Coordinating Board as an information item. This will include statewide enrollment statistics for total enrollment by student level and institution and 2024-25 annual unduplicated headcount trends.

- **Annual Report of the College-Going Rate**

The College-Going Rate for Arkansas public high schools and public charter high schools will be updated to include the 2025 high school graduate cohort. Additional information by workforce region will be provided for those public high school graduates who chose to attend college out-of-state.