Tentative Agenda Items
October 24, 2025, AHECB Meeting

BOARD BUSINESS (Introductions, announcements, minutes)
EXECUTIVE SECTION
AGENCY UPDATES
OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS

BOARD BUSINESS

- Introductions
- Minutes, July 25, 2025, Regular Meeting
- **Approval of 2026 Coordinating Board Meeting Schedule**
  The proposed 2026 schedule of the regular quarterly meetings will be recommended to the Board.
- **Appointment of Nomination Committee**
  Chair Jim Carr will appoint members of a nomination committee, which will recommend the officers for the upcoming year at the January board meeting.
- Announcements

EXECUTIVE SECTION

- **Commissioner's Report**

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

- **Prevention of Sexual Assault on Campus**

  An update on the activities by ADHE to address the prevention of sexual assault on our college and university campuses, pursuant to Act 563.

- **Prevention of Unplanned Pregnancies on College Campuses**

  An update on the activities by ADHE to prevent unplanned pregnancies on Arkansas college campuses among young adults, pursuant to Act 943.

- **Report on Academic Program Status**

  A report detailing program status changes during the 2024-2025 Academic Year will be presented indicating the number, level, and type of programs that were changed. An academic program's status can be one of six possible values: active, active future, inactive, future inactive, delete, phase-out/delete. The information will also be summarized by institution. This report was previously called the report on academic program deletions.

- **Report on Concurrent Enrollment**

  The annual report on Concurrent Enrollment and Credit will be presented. Concurrent enrollment allows students to obtain credit toward a high school diploma at the same time they earn college credit. The report will focus on the state of concurrent education among Arkansas postsecondary institutions in academic year 2024-2025 and comparison data from AY2021 through AY2025.

- **Academic Program Policy Update**

  This agenda item will include updates on the AHECB Policy for creating and revising academic programs and organizational units.

- **Annual Report on Credentials Awarded**

  The Credentials Awarded report provides multi-year trend data on credentials awarded by our public and private institutions, including trend data by award level, institution type, STEM and high demand. The 2025 report will include students receiving credentials in the 2024-25 academic year as reported last month by all institutions.

- **Grading and Course Credit Rules**

  ADHE, in collaboration with CTE and DESE, has been actively engaged in developing rules for Uniform Grading and Course Credit. While ADHE is not the official promulgating authority, this has been a coordinated Department-wide effort to ensure consistency across secondary and postsecondary education. The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to alignment for transparency and student success.

FINANCE SECTION

- **Bond/Loan Feasibility Update**

  This update consists of the actual terms for bond and loan issues receiving AHECB approval that occurred from October 2024 through October 2025. This update was requested by the AHECB during the July 30, 2010, quarterly meeting.

- **Economic Feasibility for South Arkansas College**

  South Arkansas College requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds of approximately $9.5 million with a term not to exceed thirty (30) years at an annual interest rate of approximately 7.0 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used to construct the first residence hall on campus. The South Arkansas College Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on June 19, 2025.

- **Economic Feasibility for the University of Central Arkansas**

  The University of Central Arkansas requests approval of the economic feasibility of plans to issue bonds of approximately $10.52 million with a term not to exceed twenty (20) years at an annual interest rate of approximately 5.5 percent. Proceeds from the bond issue will be used to enhance the overall capacity and efficiency of the Campus District Loop Hydronics systems. The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees approved this financing at its meeting on August 8, 2025.

- **Recommendation for Distribution of Productivity Funding for State-Supported Institutions**

  The productivity-based funding formulas were approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) at its Special Meeting held on May 22, 2017. This report will provide the outcomes for each University and College based on the productivity-based funding formulas aforementioned for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

- **Report on Intercollegiate Athletic Revenues and Expenditures for 2024-25**

  Act 245 of 1989 (A.C.A.6-62-106) directed the Coordinating Board to develop and establish uniform accounting standards and procedures for reporting revenues and expenditures and, based on these standard definitions and formats, to collect the financial data and provide a uniform report of each institution's athletic revenues and expenditures. In addition, the Coordinating Board must provide a report to the Legislative Joint Audit Committee and the public by November of each year on each institution's athletic costs. In this agenda item, institutions have submitted reports of their actual intercollegiate athletic program revenues and expenditures for 2024-25 in the required format.

ACADEMIC SECTION

- **Arkansas State University Beebe**

  Certificate of Proficiency in Construction Trades
  Technical Certificate in Construction Trades

  The proposed Construction Trades Technology program is designed to prepare students with the necessary skills and knowledge to be proficient in the fundamentals of residential and commercial construction. The 27 credit-hour Technical Certificate, with embedded 12 credit-hour Certificate of Proficiency, provides instruction in safety and industry codes, methods and materials of construction, blueprints and drawings, site layout, carpentry and roofing, plumbing and electrical systems, framing, flooring, cabinetry and finishing work, and general processes of project management. Graduates of the proposed program may continue their education through additional coursework in HVAC-R, welding, and other related fields or pursue the Associate of Applied Science in General Technology. Electrical or plumbing apprenticeship programs are also available at the ASUB Heber Springs campus.

  In mid-2024, ASUB partnered with local political and business leaders, Quitman High School, and the Office of Skills Development to assume administration of the longstanding Quitman Building Trades Program after its former partner, the Conway Public School District, ended its involvement. ASUB integrated the existing Building Trades program into its Regional Career Center offerings, with plans to develop a credit program enabling Cleburne County and surrounding-area high school students to earn concurrent credit and gain workforce-ready training for careers in construction. The proposed Construction Trades Technology program will be available exclusively to high school students enrolled for college credit through ASUB's Regional Career Center at Quitman High School.

  No new personnel, facility, resource, or equipment costs are anticipated for the proposed program. Continued funding from the Office of Skills Development is anticipated.

- **National Park College**

  Associate of Applied Science in Outdoor Recreation
  Technical Certificate in Outdoor Recreation
  Certificate of Proficiency in Foundations in Outdoor Recreation
  Certificate of Proficiency in Mountain Biking & Trail Maintenance
  Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Maintenance
  Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Activities
  Certificate of Proficiency in Outdoor Recreation Management
  Certificate of Proficiency in Tourism & Hospitality
  Certificate of Proficiency in Wilderness Safety

  The proposed program contains a 60-credit hour Associate of Applied Science and 45-credit hour Technical Certificate, both in Outdoor Recreation, as well as seven Certificates of Proficiency, varying from eight to twelve credit hours, that allow a student to tailor the program to their interests and needs. The program will provide students with a fundamental understanding of the outdoor recreation industry, issues in policy and law, leadership and supervision, survival and first-response in remote environments, to name a few. A comprehensive listing of skills per program is available in the full proposal.

  The proposed Outdoor Recreation program will be the first academic program at NPC to provide instruction jointly with the Division of Workforce Development, Community & Corporate Training. As a result, this program will serve both credit-seeking college students as well as local businesses and agencies in need of employee training or upskilling. Most Certificates of Proficiency will be cross-listed as workforce non-credit programs, allowing a completer to receive equivalent credit if they later enroll as a degree-seeking student.

  Utilizing existing faculty in partnership with workforce instructors, the proposed program will require only one additional faculty member to be hired in the spring of 2026. Existing campus facilities such as classrooms, offices, and laboratories will be used to deliver the program. Instruction space, resources,

and equipment needed to deliver off-campus classes will be provided by industry partners. Although NPC anticipates the significant need for equipment and supplies for the proposed program, these costs are difficult to forecast. NPC will work with industry partners to identify equipment and supply needs and anticipate their support in offsetting associated costs.

- **North Arkansas College**

  Associate of Applied Science in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications
  Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications
  Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems

  Developed with support from a three-year NSF grant, the proposed program in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications will prepare students for careers in commercial drone operation, data analysis, and related emerging applications across industries such as agriculture, criminal justice, digital media, real estate, and construction. Graduates will earn their FAA Part 107 certification and gain skills in mission planning, drone maintenance, aerial data analysis, business practices, and cybersecurity considerations.

  The proposed 16 credit hour, 100% online Certificate of Proficiency in Uncrewed Aerial Systems will focus on the skills necessary to operate and troubleshoot the various types of drones and equip students with the knowledge to apply industry regulations and standards to ensure safe, responsible drone use in commercial, governmental, and recreational environments. The proposed 31 credit hour Technical Certificate in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Application aims to educate students on the analysis, interpretation, and application of aerial data, effective communication, and the evaluation of ethical issues, privacy implications, and cybersecurity threats associated with drone use in different professional contexts. Expanding on the foundational and technical certificate-level training, the proposed 61 credit hour Associate of Applied Science in Uncrewed Aerial Systems and Data Applications will prepare students for advanced roles in drone industry by obtaining deeper knowledge in data analysis, business applications, and workforce readiness.

  All faculty, equipment, and instructional resources will be funded through the NSF grant, ensuring no new costs or allocations will be required. Existing facilities, including classrooms, laboratories, and mobile drone training enclosure will be utilized.

- **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 October 2025.

  Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, Fort Smith, Arkansas
  Doctor of Public Health

  Carrington College, Sacramento, California
  Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene
  Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy

  Rocky Vista University, Englewood, Colorado
  MED 4201 Advanced Topics in Pain Management
  MED 4515 Clinical Simulation
  MED 4521 Working in Global Health

Southwest University at El Paso, El Paso, Texas
Associate of Applied Science of Business Management in Healthcare Support Systems
Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Leadership Management

University of California Irvine, Irvine, California
Master of Business Analytics

University of the People. Pasadena, California
Master of Education in Advanced Teaching
Master of Science in Information Technology

Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Bachelor of Science in Special Education
Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Business Administration-Dual Degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Healthcare Administration
Doctor of Public Safety and 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 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.