

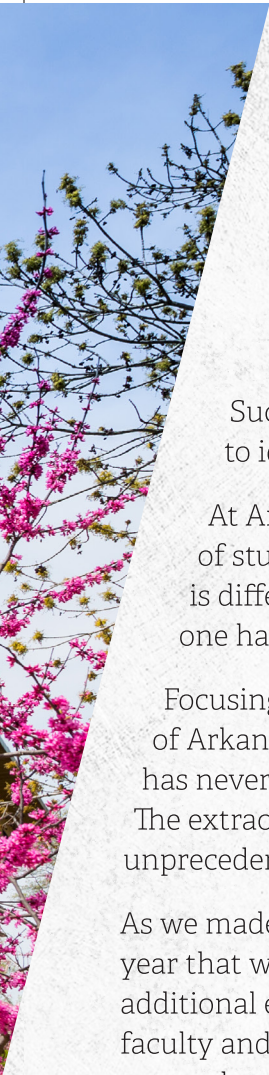


PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2021

ATU[™]
ARKANSAS TECH
UNIVERSITY

FROM THE PRESIDENT





Success can be difficult to define, but it's easy to identify when you see it and feel it.

At Arkansas Tech University, everything we do is in support of student success. However, the path to achievement is different for each of our almost 10,000 students. Each one has a unique life story and set of circumstances.

Focusing on students as individuals has been a strength of Arkansas Tech University for generations. That has never been more important than it was in 2021. The extraordinary times in which we live have created unprecedented challenges and pressures for our students.

As we made our way through a second consecutive calendar year that was shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic, ATU placed additional emphasis on the mental health of its students, faculty and staff. We talked openly about mental health, we ensured our university community was aware of available resources and we were intentional about addressing any stigmas that might prevent someone from seeking assistance.

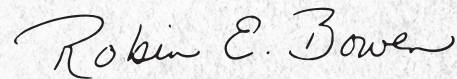
As you review our 2021 report to you, I believe you will find significant evidence that our Every Student Counts philosophy

continues to facilitate the student success that drives our mission.

From increased graduation rates...to a variety of national and state recognitions for our academic and co-curricular programs...to our ever-increasing and strengthening external partnerships...to a national championship in men's golf...and beyond, it was another year in which the people of Arkansas Tech relentlessly pursued and attained success.

The pandemic has revealed our human frailties and our incredible resilience. So long as we are cognizant of the former and maintain our grasp on the latter, Arkansas Tech University will continue to be a place where students succeed, innovation thrives and communities flourish.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robin E. Bowen

President

Arkansas Tech University

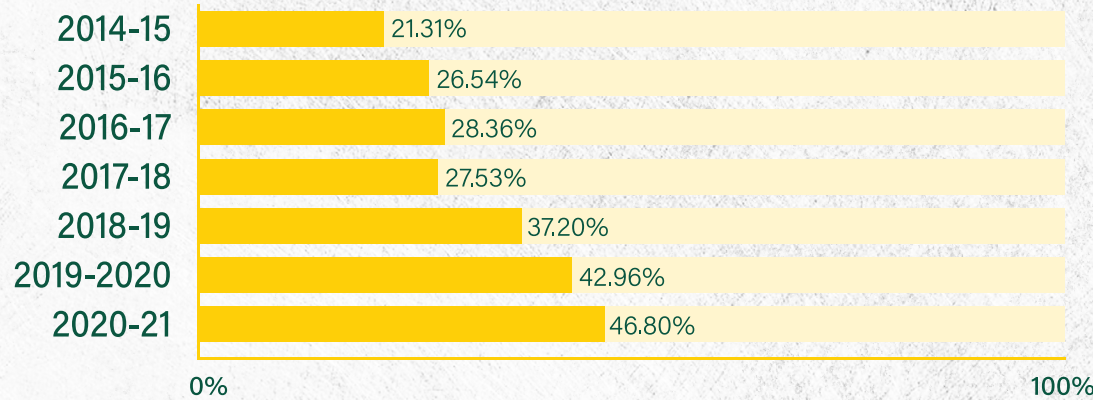


ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

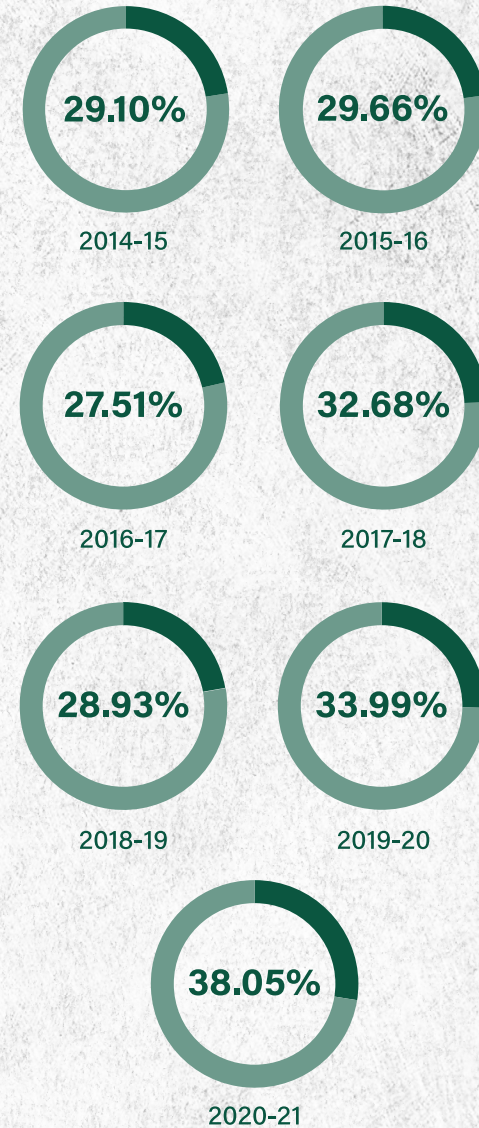




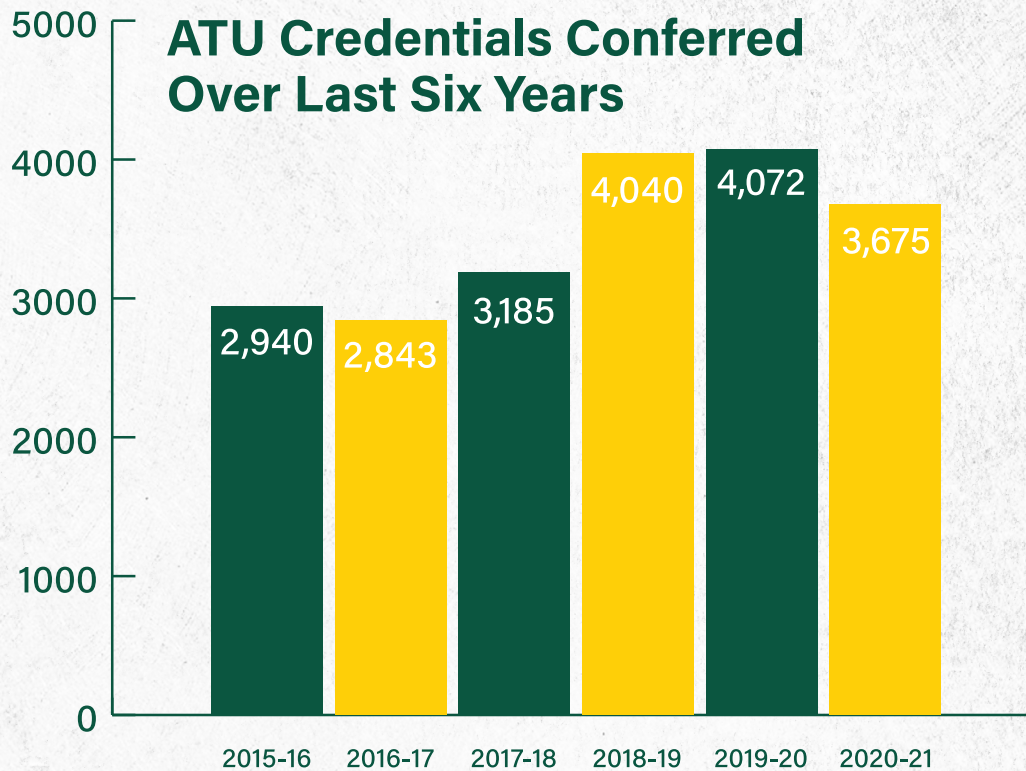
First-Time Freshmen Four-Year Graduation Rate



Three-Year Graduation Rate for ATU-Ozark Campus



ATU Credentials Conferred Over Last Six Years



HLC Reaffirms Accreditation for Arkansas Tech

Arkansas Tech University received notification from the Higher Learning Commission in spring 2021 that its accreditation is reaffirmed for an additional 10-year period.

The reaffirmation continues an institutional accreditation as a four-year, degree-granting institution of higher learning that Arkansas Tech first attained in 1951 and has maintained ever since.

"This is a wonderful achievement by Arkansas Tech University," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. "We benefited from great participation and leadership from the ATU Board of Trustees during our reaffirmation of accreditation process, and our faculty and staff have worked diligently to thoroughly review every aspect of our university. This continuation of accreditation is evidence of the good and important work that takes place at Arkansas Tech on a daily basis. We are focused on student access and student success, and this outcome is affirmation that our university has continued to make significant strides in those areas over the past decade."

Arkansas Tech Achieves Increased State Funding

Gov. Asa Hutchinson has pledged phased additions to the Arkansas Tech University annual appropriation that will result in a \$3.4 million increase to the institution's base budget by no later than fiscal year 2025.

The action comes after many years of advocacy on behalf of ATU by alumni, community leaders and elected officials, including Sen. Breanne Davis of Russellville and Rep. Dr. Joe Cloud of Russellville.

"We are incredibly grateful for this support from Gov. Hutchinson," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. "Sen. Davis has been an absolute warrior for Arkansas Tech and Rep. Cloud has been very helpful as we have told our story and helped raise awareness of the generational funding inequities that ATU has experienced. It is my hope that this significant first step will

ultimately lead to more increases and long-term fairness in funding for Arkansas Tech as compared to its peer institutions."

ATU: No. 1 Regional Public University in Arkansas

U.S. News and World Report recognized Arkansas Tech University as the No. 1 choice among regional public universities in the Natural State as part of its 2022 college rankings.

ATU is listed as the No. 1 regional public university in Arkansas for overall quality, best value and service to veteran students.

For its 37th college rankings, U.S. News and World Report assessed factors such as graduation and retention rates, social mobility, faculty resources, survey data concerning academic reputation, average class sizes and graduate indebtedness.

Colleges of Distinction Lists ATU Among Nation's Best

Colleges of Distinction honored Arkansas Tech University with a position in its 2021-22 cohort.

The overall Colleges of Distinction honor is based upon an institution's demonstrated commitment to excellence in four categories: engagement, teaching, community and outcomes.

"Every student has their own unique set of abilities, their own goals and their own ideal settings in which they would thrive," said Wes Creel, founder of Colleges of Distinction. "That's why we don't rank our schools. It's about finding the best opportunities for each individual's needs and desires."

Arkansas Tech University has received national recognition for its efforts to promote student safety, well-being and inclusion.

Vector Solutions has bestowed the 2021 Campus Prevention Network Seal of Prevention upon ATU. Of the more than 1,000 campuses across



the United States that were considered for the Campus Prevention Network Seal of Prevention for 2021, less than 15 percent were selected.

"This honor is a direct result of our commitment as a university community — students, faculty and staff — to create a safe, positive, caring culture that promotes student access and student success," said Dr. Keegan Nichols, ATU vice president for student affairs. "Together, we are enhancing the safe learning and working environment at Arkansas Tech."

National Award for Workforce Training

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark and Green Bay Packaging, Arkansas Kraft Division received the National Council of Workforce Education Noncredit Exemplary Program Award during the 2021 NCWE Conference in Tucson, Ariz., on Wednesday, Oct. 6.

Bruce Sikes, ATU-Ozark chancellor, and Justin Smith, ATU-Ozark chief business and community outreach officer, accepted the award on behalf of ATU-Ozark Campus and Green Bay Packaging.

The award recognizes a collaboration that has provided more than 1,000 employees from more than 60 Arkansas companies

with training needed to help drive the state's economy.

"The training center fills one of the state's largest workforce and economic skills gaps, which is that of hands-on technical skills," said Smith.

CAEP Grants Accreditation to ATU College of Education

Arkansas Tech University has earned national accreditation for its educator preparation programs.

The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) reviewed Arkansas Tech's undergraduate and graduate programs in educator preparation and determined that the ATU College of Education meets CAEP educator preparation standards.

"The review has confirmed the excellence of our programs, both in terms of the curriculum that we teach and the outstanding faculty members who work so diligently to ensure that our graduates are prepared to serve the next generation of students," said Dr. Linda Bean, dean of the ATU College of Education.



AACSB Reaffirms ATU College of Business Accreditation

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) has announced that the Arkansas Tech University College of Business has extended its AACSB International accreditation.

AACSB first accredited the degree programs in business at Arkansas Tech in 2000. The most recent AACSB review has yielded reaffirmation of that accreditation for the Arkansas Tech College of Business until the next scheduled review during the 2024-25 academic year.

"The extension of our AACSB accreditation is both an honor and a privilege for the ATU College of Business," said Dr. Russ Jones, dean of the ATU College of Business. "AACSB is the highest standard for business colleges in the world today. While this is great news, we will continue to focus on the notion that continuous improvement is the aim of AACSB."

ATU Develops New Degree in Manufacturing

Arkansas Tech University is supporting the Natural State's manufacturing industry through the development of a new

degree program that is the first of its kind in Arkansas.

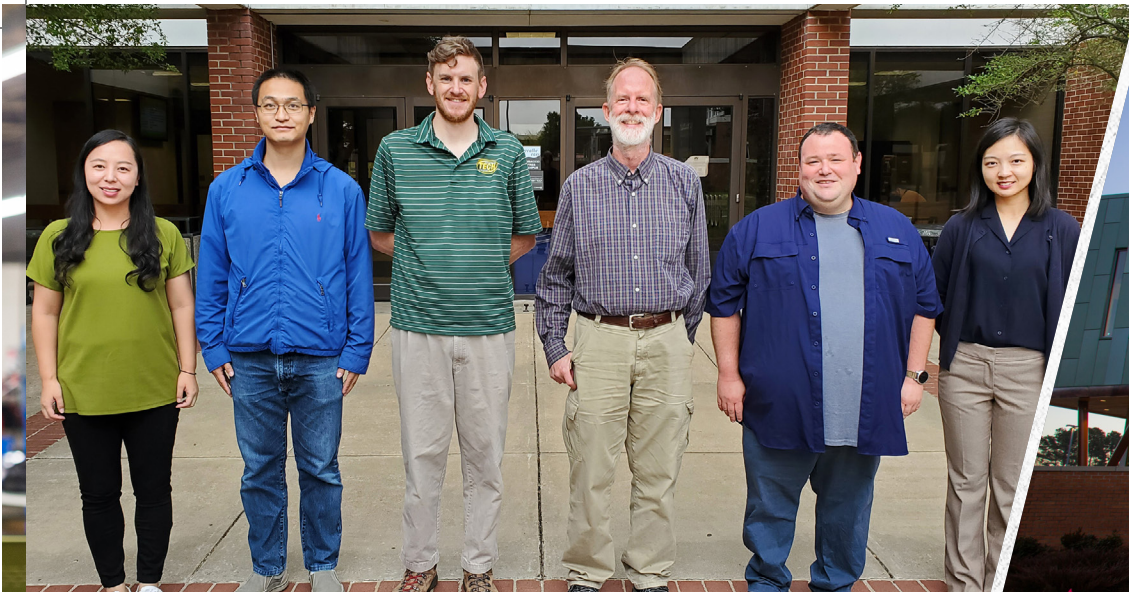
The ATU Associate of Science degree program in manufacturing, includes courses in manufacturing processes, methods and statistical analysis. The degree made its debut during the fall 2021 semester.

The program differs from existing Associate of Applied Science degree programs in manufacturing at other institutions because the ATU program is designed to provide engineering students with access to an additional credential and the career opportunities therein.

Forwarding Study of Data Science

The study of data science at Arkansas Tech University will soon be enhanced by a two-year, \$99,760 Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant from the Arkansas National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NSF EPSCoR).

Dr. Weijia Jia, assistant professor of statistics at ATU and director of the university's applied statistics degree program, is providing leadership for the grant project.



"The objective of this research is to collect series of datasets from different disciplines related to the research of faculty members at Arkansas Tech University and preparing data science course projects, practicum courses, capstone projects and senior design projects for college-level data science education," said Jia.

ATU-Ozark No. 1 in State for Perkins Act Funding

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus leads all two-year, post-secondary campuses in the Natural State in earned Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act funding for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

ATU-Ozark will receive \$194,859 in Perkins funding during the period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. Funds are allocated to career and technical education (CTE) providers based upon the number of students they serve who have declared intent in a CTE program of study and have completed a prescribed number of credit hours.

"We are pleased to earn this mark of distinction as Arkansas' leader in Perkins funding," said Bruce Sikes, ATU-Ozark chancellor. "ATU-Ozark is known for its high-quality career and technical education programs. Our stackable technical certificate and associate degree programs provide students with knowledge and skills that result in well-paying, rewarding careers."

Rehab Science Makes History With Accreditation

Arkansas Tech University is the first institution in the United States to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) for an in-person rehabilitation science undergraduate degree program.

"I feel like we learned a lot about ourselves," said Dr. Erica L. Wondolowski, program director and associate professor of rehabilitation science at Arkansas Tech. "The greatest benefit was the feedback from our advisory board and our students. It was affirming and energizing to hear the feedback."

**ALFRED J. CRABAUGH AWARD
DAKOTA MOONEY**



Rehabilitation Science

Involvement:

- Student Government Association
- Collegiate Future Farmers of America
- Pi Kappa Alpha
- Order of Omega
- Interfraternity Council

Dakota is pursuing a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at the University of Central Arkansas.

**MARGARET YOUNG AWARD
EMILEE SMITH**



Political Science

Involvement:

- Presidential Leadership Cabinet
- Alpha Sigma Tau
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars
- Order of Omega,
- Student Activities Board
- Pre-Law Society
- University Honors
- Model United Nations
- Resident Assistant
- Orientation Leader

Emilee is a graduate student in the University of Nebraska College of Law.

**JILL LESTAGE BROWN SERVICE
LEADERSHIP AWARD
BRITTNEY KEYS**



Biology (Biomedical Option)

Involvement

- Student Government Association
- Presidential Leadership Cabinet
- Student Philanthropy Council
- Women in STEM
- The Pre-Med Club and Tri Beta biological sciences honor society

Brittney is employed as a clinical laboratory assistant at Arkansas Children's Hospital Northwest.

***FACULTY AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP
AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY
DR. DAVID BLANKS***



Professor of History

- Faculty member since 2015
- Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Michigan State University
- Doctor of Philosophy degree at Ohio State University

***FACULTY AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE
DR. ALEJANDRA CARBALLO***



Associate Professor of Spanish

- Faculty member since 2009
- Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Rio Cuarto and Master of Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania
- Doctor of Philosophy degree from Florida State University

***FACULTY AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
DR. HAMED SHOJAEI***



Associate Professor of Physics

- Faculty member since 2009
- Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Sharif University of Technology
- Doctor of Philosophy degree from Indiana University

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS



ATU Receives IME Becas Scholarship Funds

The Consulate of Mexico in Little Rock and Arkansas Tech University are continuing a collaboration for the benefit of ATU students of Mexican heritage.

Under the terms of a memorandum of understanding, ATU received \$8,250 in IME Becas Fellowship scholarship funds that was disbursed to selected eligible students who are Mexican or of Mexican origin and enrolled at Arkansas Tech for fall 2021. The ATU Foundation provided \$8,250 in matching funds to further support ATU students benefiting from the scholarship program.

"These funds will assist us as we continue to recruit, retain and graduate a diverse student body equipped with the skills necessary to build a stronger state, nation and world," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president.

The IME Becas partnership between the Consulate of Mexico in Little Rock and Arkansas Tech dates back to 2016.



ATU, Ray of Hope Continue Partnership

Arkansas Tech University has continued an ongoing international partnership by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Ray of Hope Academy in Douala, Cameroon.

The MOU calls for ATU and Ray of Hope to “cooperate for the purpose of providing a mutual beneficial partnership to improve the learning outcomes of educational stakeholders.”

ATU and Ray of Hope will utilize distance technology to conduct interactions and achieve shared objectives.

Over the past five years, students and faculty from the ATU College of Education have participated in projects that led to sharing lesson plans, activity ideas and donated supplies with the students and faculty at Ray of Hope.

Enhanced Collaboration Between Education, Industry

A new partnership in the Arkansas River Valley is connecting students with careers and employers with a skilled workforce.

The Education and Industry Alliance held its first meeting at Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus in March 2021. Representatives from ABB, Butterball, Ozark Public Schools, Bank OZK, Guy Fenter Educational Co-op, ATU-Ozark Campus, Arkansas Tech Career Center (ATCC), Arkansas Valley Electric, Black Hills Energy and the Ozark Area Chamber of Commerce are involved in the collaboration.

“The purpose of the Education and Industry Alliance is to develop and sustain partnerships with local industry,” said Dr. Sheila Jacobs, chief academic officer at ATU-Ozark. “We seek to enhance industry relevant curriculum and educational and work-based experiences for our students so that we may continue to play an integral role in regional and state economic development.”

**“ARKANSAS TECH
UNIVERSITY IS GRATEFUL
TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO COLLABORATE WITH
THEDREAM.US.”**

Articulation Agreements With NAC and NWACC

Arkansas Tech University signed articulation agreements designed to provide graduates from North Arkansas College (NAC) and Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC) with a smooth transition to specified baccalaureate degree programs at ATU during a pair of ceremonies in October 2021.

“Agreements such as these align with ATU’s mission of student access and student success by extending opportunity and reiterating to students from the north and northwest regions

of our state that Arkansas Tech University is a quality option for their continuing educational needs,” said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president.

NAC President Dr. Rick Massengale and NWACC President Dr. Evelyn E. Jorgenson signed the agreements on behalf of their respective institutions.

ATU Partners With TheDream.US Scholarship Program

Arkansas Tech University has become the first institution of

higher education in Arkansas to partner with TheDream.US, the nation’s largest college access and success program for immigrant youth.

“Arkansas Tech University is grateful to have the opportunity to collaborate with TheDream.US,” said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. “Student access and success are central to our mission as an institution. This partnership helps the university by further advancing these key efforts.”

GAINING EXTERNAL SUPPORT



“Transformational Gift” from Windgate Foundation

Arkansas Tech University President Dr. Robin E. Bowen announced on Thursday, Aug. 19, the ATU Foundation has received a \$4.3 million donation from the Windgate Foundation.

The majority of the gift — \$4 million — is earmarked to create a need-based scholarship endowment for the benefit of Arkansas Tech students.

“This is a transformational gift for Arkansas Tech University,” said Bowen, who made the announcement during a meeting of the ATU Board of Trustees. “Student access is the foundation of our mission. The ability to provide more need-based scholarships will make the dream of graduating from college attainable for more Arkansas Tech students. We offer our appreciation to the Windgate Foundation Board of Directors for their support of Arkansas Tech and their investment in our students.”

The remainder of the funds from the Windgate Foundation gift will be utilized to purchase new simulation equipment for use by students in the ATU Department of Nursing.



ATU Commemorates Lloyd D. McDaniel Center

A portion of Corley Hall at Arkansas Tech University was commemorated as the Lloyd D. McDaniel Center for Engineering and Computer Science during an event on Thursday, July 15.

The naming is in recognition of a \$3.2 million estate gift from McDaniel, who died in 2017.

Born in Pine Bluff on June 16, 1940, McDaniel graduated from Little Rock Hall High School. He enrolled at Arkansas Tech, where he earned an engineering degree in 1960 before moving on to further study at the University of Arkansas.

McDaniel spent his career as an engineer and working with computers. He was at the forefront of the computing revolution during his service as an executive at Hewlett Packard from 1977-91.

New Program Supports Diverse Teacher Candidates

Arkansas Tech University is creating new pathways and incentives for individuals from historically underrepresented groups in northwest Arkansas to enter the teaching profession.

A \$600,000 grant from the Walton Family Foundation at the recommendation of Alice Walton will support the program by providing loan forgiveness to eligible ATU graduates.

ATU students who participate in the program will agree to teach in northwest Arkansas for the first three years after their graduation and two additional years in any area of Arkansas.

ATU Donors Step Up for Student Access and Success

Fund-raising for the benefit of Arkansas Tech University yielded more than \$10.5 million in gifts and pledges during the 2020-21 fiscal year.

"The fact that Arkansas Tech University was able to enjoy such a successful fund-raising year in the midst of a global pandemic is evidence of the overall support of the university that exists within the larger ATU community," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. "We are grateful for each individual and entity that stepped forward to provide this assistance to our students. Your gifts make a genuine difference in the lives of our students and create significant opportunities for academic and personal growth."

Arkansas Tech alumni and friends donated and pledged \$10,551,640 to the ATU Foundation from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

"We are grateful for the Arkansas Tech University alumni and friends who demonstrated their support for the mission and vision of our institution through their financial support in 2020-21," said Jason Geiken, ATU vice president for advancement. "Your gifts and pledges helped us respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19. We are appreciative of your partnership in ensuring student access and student success at Arkansas Tech."

The 2020-21 giving to the ATU Foundation represents a 72 percent increase over just two years ago.

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EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETICS





Wonder Boys Golf Reaches the Pinnacle

For the first time ever, the Wonder Boys are national champions.

Andre Jacobs' one-stroke victory in the fifth and final match of the day gave the Arkansas Tech University men's golf team a 3-2 victory over Georgia Southwestern University in the finals of the 2021 NCAA Division II Championships on Friday, May 21.

"It was relief, excitement and pure joy," said Luke Calcaterra, ATU head men's golf coach. "I felt it for myself, but more so for these guys who have worked so hard and for the alumni who came before them and got the train rolling. It's an incredible moment we're going to remember forever."

It is the first collegiate national golf championship won by a team from Arkansas and ATU's third national title in any sport. The Golden Suns basketball program won back-to-back NAIA national championships in 1992 and 1993.

"You could just tell in the way that they felt, our guys were prepared," said Calcaterra. "I have five really talented leaders who can play against anyone. They got it done."

2021 GAC President's Trophy Champions

Arkansas Tech University earned the inaugural Great American Conference President's Trophy in 2021.

The new award is presented to the program that earns the highest percentage of GAC all-sports points based on the sports they sponsor. ATU earned 81 percent of its possible total points during the 2020-21 academic year. Harding University finished second with 74 percent.

"I am beyond proud of all our student-athletes, coaches and athletic staff for not only what they achieved in their respective competitions, but what they all persevered through this past year," said Abby Davis, ATU interim director of athletics. "Earning the GAC President's Trophy reflects just how well-balanced our department is and how our teams meet our expectations of competing year-in and year-out for championships."

Top Five in NCAA Division II in Service

Arkansas Tech University is home to one of the most service-oriented athletics departments in all of NCAA Division II.

ATU finished fifth among more than 300 institutions in the 2020-21 Helper Helper Team Works Service Challenge competition, which counts the number of volunteer service hours donated by student-athletes.

It is the fifth consecutive year in which Arkansas Tech has finished in the top five. ATU led all of NCAA Division II in community service hours in 2018-19 and 2019-20.

TECH IN THE COMMUNITY



ATU Named 2021-22 Military Friendly School

Arkansas Tech University has achieved the distinction of Military Friendly School for 2021-22 following compilation of data by ratings organization Viqtory Media.

Assessment by Viqtory Media includes analysis of public data sources and proprietary data obtained through an annual Military Friendly Schools survey that is offered to more than 8,800 institutions across the United States.

The final determination of Military Friendly status is made by combining the survey scores with an assessment of the institution's performance in student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students, and specifically, for student veterans.



ATU Among Elite Company in Voter Participation Effort

Arkansas Tech University has earned national recognition as a leader in the effort to encourage civic engagement among higher education students.

The National Resource Consortium on Full Student Voter Participation and the Students Learn, Students Vote Coalition selected ATU as a co-designer campus in the Ask Every Student program.

ATU is the only institution in Arkansas that was selected as a co-designer campus and one of just 31 universities in the nation chosen for the honor. Other institutions named Ask Every Student co-designer campuses include Harvard University, the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Texas-Austin.

“Providing opportunities for civic engagement is one aspect of the mission statement at Arkansas Tech University,” said Dr. Keegan Nichols, ATU vice president for student affairs. “By serving at the

forefront of programs such as Ask Every Student we help our students develop lifelong habits of voting and actively participating in the communities in which they will live and lead following graduation.”

ATU Students Give “Overwhelming” Gift 35,425.

That’s the number of non-perishable food items Arkansas Tech University fraternities and sororities donated to River Valley Food 4 Kids in Russellville through a drive that culminated on Friday, April 9, with a drop-off event at the organization’s North El Paso Avenue location.

“I’m very overwhelmed right now,” said Josh Dunbar, executive director of River Valley Food 4 Kids, during a break between delivery waves. “This is a lot more food than even I was anticipating. It’s a testament to how impactful it is. Students don’t have to do this, so the fact they are willing to go out and donate this amount of food really is awesome.”



Serving Others: Green and Gold Give Back

Forty-seven households in Russellville and Lake Dardanelle State Park benefited from the kindness and commitment to help others demonstrated by Arkansas Tech University students on Saturday, Nov. 6.

Approximately 200 ATU students registered for the 2021 edition of Green and Gold Give Back, an annual day of community service sponsored by the ATU Department of Campus Life.

Senior Lora Brown of Rogers said the opportunity to participate in Green and Gold Give Back with her friends brings extra meaning to the event.

"We get to go out and help someone in the Russellville community who needs help," said Brown. "It's a chance to put a good foot forward for Arkansas Tech and show that we love our school and we love Russellville. I'm from two hours away, but I love Russellville. This is now my home. It's a really great town and school. I love it."

AGS Remains at Arkansas Tech Through 2024

Arkansas Governor's School will continue to be conducted on the Arkansas Tech University campus in Russellville through 2024.

The decision to award AGS to Arkansas Tech from 2022-24 was made during a meeting of the Arkansas Board of Education in June 2021.

"When Arkansas Tech University began its association with Arkansas Governor's School in 2019, we made a promise to serve as proper stewards of a great Arkansas tradition," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. "Through our collaboration with the Arkansas Department of Education, Arkansas Tech has applied its institutional strengths to provide AGS students with an enriching educational experience. We look forward to the transformational opportunities that AGS will continue to provide for many of the top high school students in our state."

Arkansas Governor's School serves up to 400 selected students from around the state during the summer before their senior year in high school.







Arkansas Tech University
Office of the President
1509 N. Boulder Ave.
Russellville, AR 72801