

ATU-OZARK TECH TALK!

Academic Affairs Quarterly Newsletter

January 2022



SPRING 2022 SEMESTER

Welcome back to 2022! We hope that your new year is going well! The spring semester is kicking off and Academic Affairs is excited to see everyone on campus again!

NEW FACES

Academic Affairs would like to extend a warm welcome to our most recent full-time instructor, Mr. **Mark Maxwell**. Mark is the new EMT Instructor and Paramedic Clinical Coordinator. He is a 2019 ATU-Ozark EMT/Paramedic alum, and he is currently finishing his Emergency Management bachelor's degree through the ATU-Russellville campus.

Welcome Mark!



Mark Maxwell



Daniel Smith

Also joining the Arkansas Tech University-Ozark campus in the role of business consultant for the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center is Mr. **Daniel Smith**. See the next page for more info on Daniel's background as well as how he may be able to help you!

Daniel Smith and ASBTDC

Mr. Daniel Smith became a business consultant at the Arkansas Tech University ASBTDC in November of 2021. While Mr. Smith's career experience includes banking, management, leadership, and sales, he has spent the previous 10 years in higher education. Daniel takes pride in promoting a standard of excellence through education, experience, and skill. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business from Northeastern State University and a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma Baptist University. In 2021, Daniel was recognized by the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges as outstanding faculty of the year for his extraordinary commitment to business education.

At the ASBTDC, Mr. Smith provides one-to-one confidential **guidance that can be specifically tailored to your business venture**. Whether you are a first-time entrepreneur or a long-time business owner, these services are free of charge to Arkansans. Primary areas of assistance include planning, financial analysis, market research, loan packaging, online and traditional marketing, growth and expansion, management, and profitability. Trainings are also offered to expand your expertise. This training equips small business owners, employees, and prospective entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in today's business environment. Classroom-style seminars and on-demand online learning regarding an array of topics are also frequently offered.

As you plan out your classes, please keep in mind ways to collaborate with Daniel. He is also available as an in-class guest speaker should you have occasion to bring him in on a specific topic, or just for a broad overview of business and entrepreneurship. Daniel's office is located in the Collegiate Center, and his phone number is 479-356-2077.

For more information visit www.atu.edu/asbtcd



KRISTIE'S CORNER

WWW.ATU.EDU/OZARK/LIBRARY

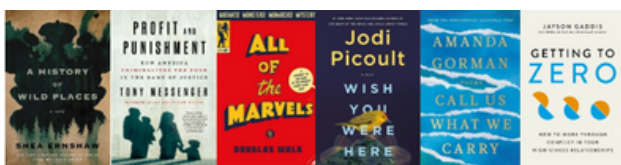
Our fearless librarian, Kristie Moore, has announced some **big changes!**

*"We have a **new library discovery and backend system**, so when you search Find It you will see some major differences! Be patient with students, yourselves, and me as we all work to learn the new system. It will also take some time to make sure all links on our website are pointing to the correct place, but I am working on it. 😊 I do think we are all really going to like it! **Faculty, look for an email from me** our first week back on how to sign in and access Course Reserves. And as always, if you have any questions, please ask!"*

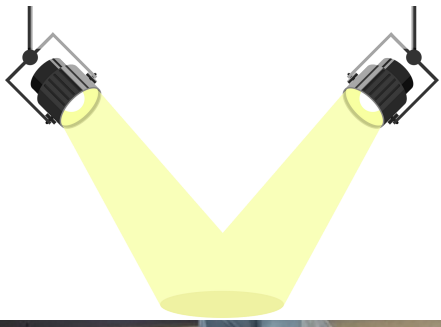
On Display in the Window:

- January - Hobbies
- February – African American History Month
- March - Women's History Month

Featured New Items:



To see more of the latest items available, please visit your LibGuide or the library.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT!

This quarter we are putting the spotlight on the **Air Conditioning and Refrigeration** program! The ATU-Ozark ACR program is committed to offering quality education to students that will allow them to succeed in the high-demand HVAC career field. Mr. **Kenneth Beeler** has been program chair of the ACR program for the past 17 years and can attest to how important the ACR program is to the workforce. Because it is such a well-rounded and versatile program, students that graduate from ACR are able to work in a multitude of maintenance roles. This includes not only heating and air, but also electrical, plumbing, welding, and hydroelectric maintenance. These skills are and will continue to remain essential for residential, commercial, and industrial areas. ATU-Ozark is proud to offer such a significant program that contributes so much to our communities.



L-R: Kenneth Beeler, Grayson Bailey

More more info on the ACR program, contact Mr. Beeler at kbeeler@atu.edu

The Academic Affairs office is also extremely proud that the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program has recently been awarded a grant that will help Mr. Beeler with a well-deserved equipment upgrade. Please see the Perkins Reserve Fund Grant section on page 5 of the newsletter for more details regarding this exciting opportunity!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT!

Along with spotlighting a program each quarter, we will also be spotlighting a student from each program. This quarter the student spotlight is on **Grayson Bailey from the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration** program! Grayson is a 19 year old 3rd semester ACR student from Alma, Arkansas. He maintains a 3.5 GPA, and chose to transfer to ATU-Ozark from Henderson State University specifically for our ACR program. After graduation, Grayson plans to begin his career by working for a small HVAC business. His long-term goal is to eventually start his own Air Conditioning and Refrigeration business in the future.



Grayson Bailey



ASSESSMENT

Assessment Coordinator Shirley Bonner has shared some insight into the assessment process and **why it is important** for the ATU-Ozark Campus.


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Why Assessment?

Each of our ATU-Ozark programs has a list of specific learning outcomes. These goals are promises we make to our students, their families, employers, and society – and they serve as the foundation that upholds the overall vision of ATU being a place where students succeed, innovation thrives, and communities flourish. Assessment is a tool to help us ensure that we fulfill the central promises we make to our students. Yet, many of us are struggling to make sense of our assessment results. Sometimes in our busy work lives, we may find that we are just checking “assessment” off of our to-do list.

The office of Academic Affairs is committed to promoting the vision of assessment and improved teaching and learning as two sides of the same coin. So, before we start another assessment cycle, we need to sit back and reflect, starting with my favorite assessment question, "Why?" **Why are we assessing** this particular goal and not others? Why do we think this particular goal is so important? Why did we choose this particular assessment strategy? How has it been helpful? And has its value been in proportion to the time and money we've spent on it? Actually, it's not really our money. ATU-Ozark is simply a steward of other people's money: tuition from our students and their families, funds from taxpayers, gifts from donors, grants from foundations. As good stewards, we have an obligation to use resources carefully, in ways that we are reasonably sure will be both successful and cost-effective. Assessment is a vital tool to help us do this.

Assessment data is currently due in Weave.
For assistance, please see Shirley Bonner





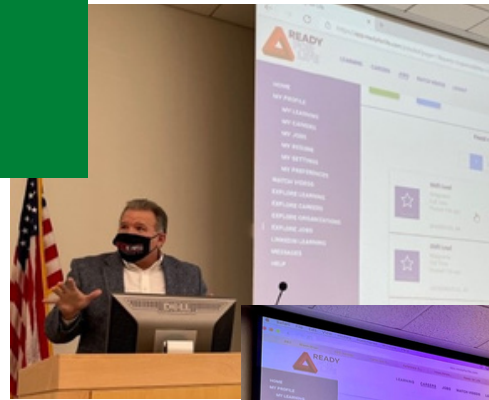
PERKINS RESERVE FUND GRANT

In addition to being this quarter's newsletter spotlight, the **Air Conditioning and Refrigeration** program has exciting news to share: Mr. Beeler and the ACR program were **awarded the Perkins Reserve Fund Grant!**
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From this grant, the **ACR program will be receiving a commercial grade walk-in cooler/freezer unit.** This addition, which was suggested by HVAC Advisory Board members, will provide the program's students with an additional skill set, making them even more employable in a high demand industry. Mr. Beeler and his Advisory Board believe this industry-relevant equipment will not only attract more traditional and non-traditional students, but it will also increase students' chances of securing and maintaining well-paying jobs. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average HVAC technician salary is \$47,610 per year, while the salary for HVAC technicians who possess commercial and industrial installation and servicing skills is even higher at \$60,000+ per year. With a predicted 15% increase in the number of available HVAC jobs by the year 2026, this program upgrade will strengthen ATU-Ozark's capacity to ensure long-term success for ACR students as well as providing the HVAC industry with graduates that have a much needed specialized skill base. Please join us in congratulating Mr. Beeler and the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration program on this exciting opportunity!

READY FOR LIFE

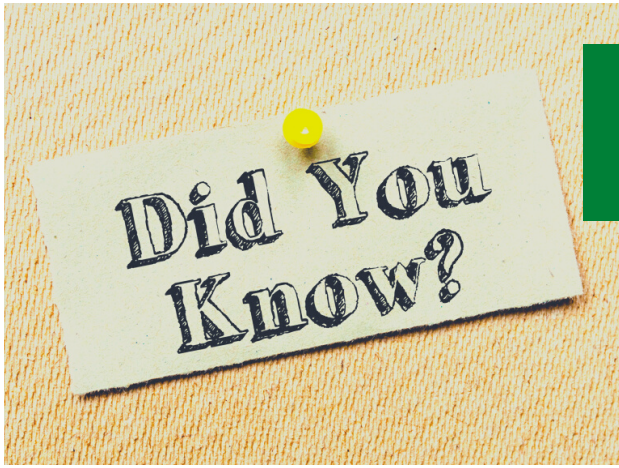
'Ready For Life' is Governor Hutchinson's initiative to connect job-seekers, educators, and employers at a one-stop employment website that includes job openings as well as opportunities for continuing education. It is a learning management system that has a myriad of educational tools and training opportunities for students, adult learners, industry, and community members. ATU-Ozark encourages all our faculty, staff, and especially students to register at www.readyforlife.com.



Left: Rick Neal
Director of
Workforce, Education
and Data
Transformation for
the state of AR
speaking at this
semester's faculty PD



Above: Gina Windle, Chief of Staff at Arkansas Department of Education speaking to the Education and Industry 360 Partnership about Ready for Life



STUDENT RESOURCES

If you have students who are struggling, our campus has many **student resources available**.
See below!

- **Student Success Center-**
 - Math and English tutors
 - ADA accommodations for students who qualify
 - Computers, printing, study space
 - Skills workshops
 - Contact is Beth Snyder-Sinor
- **TRIO (for students who are first-generation, income-eligible, and/or have disabilities)-**
 - Academic and personal advising
 - Free tutoring and academic assistance
 - Assistance with applying for financial aid
 - Career prep and transfer assistance
 - Free cultural and 4-years campus field trips
 - Free printing
 - Contact is Kayla McIntosh, Bethany Lucius, or Winter Starr
- **Career Pathways (for students who are parents and income eligible)-**
 - Assistance with fuel costs to and from classes
 - Books and course-related supplies
 - Loaner laptops and hotspots
 - Job placement after completion of program
 - Life skills workshops
 - Contact is Jessica Spicer or Whitney Parsons
- **Green and Gold Cupboard-**
 - Food pantry available to students (and faculty and staff)
 - Contact is David Spicer
- **CCAMPIS Grant-**
 - Childcare Assistance available to pell-eligible students
 - Contact is Lois Kimbriel at the Russellville campus- lkimbriel@atu.edu
- **Norman Career Services-**
 - Career services including resume/interview help and assistance with job placement
 - Contact is Career Services on the Russellville campus- career.services@atu.edu

IMPORTANT DATES



Mark your calendars for these important dates!

- Jan 28: Faculty Attendance Accounting
 - Due by 11:59pm
- Feb 23-25: Van Buren Freshman Academy Tours
- Feb 28: Midterm
- Feb 28: Faculty Midterm Grades
 - Due by 11:59pm
- Mar 1: Registration Begins for Summer/Fall 2022
- Mar 3: Graduation Fair 9am-2pm
- Mar 8: Preview Day
- Mar 21-25: Spring Break

DON'T FORGET

***Please reserve the last Friday in February and the first Friday in March for FFA Day- date TBD**

***REMINDER: If you need assistance with Academic Early Warning, please reach out to Beth Sinor at esnyder2@atu.edu**

Upcoming Student Success Center Events

Webex Events:

- Jan 26- Industry Panel (for recording of panel, see Beth Sinor)
- Feb 23- Resume Workshop
- Mar 9- Interviewing Workshop

By appointment:

- Mock Interviews

Until next time!