

Every Student Counts

Selected Achievements
and Advances

Dr. Robin E. Bowen
President

2014-Present



Every Student Counts

- CollegeNET Social Mobility Index ranks ATU No. 1 in Arkansas and top 5 percent of all institutions in the U.S. when it comes to providing students with access to an enhanced economic position following graduation
- Ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the No. 1 regional public university in Arkansas (2021-22 and 2022-23)
- Ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top 32 public universities in the South (2022-23)

Every Student Counts

- Arkansas Tech University established record headcount enrollments in:
 - Fall 2014 (12,002 students)
 - Fall 2015 (12,054 students)
 - Fall 2018 (12,101 students)
- Arkansas Tech University achieved institution records for credentials awarded in:
 - 2014-15 (2,668 credentials)
 - 2015-16 (2,940 credentials)
 - 2017-18 (3,185 credentials)
 - 2018-19 (4,040 credentials)
 - 2019-20 (4,072 credentials)

Every Student Counts

- Increased four-year graduation rate on Russellville campus from 27.5 percent in 2014 to 46.8 percent in 2021
- Increased three-year graduation rate on Ozark campus from 23.9 percent in 2014 to 38.1 percent in 2021
- Arkansas Tech University established record-high four-year graduation rates on its Russellville campus with its 2015 cohort (43 percent) and its 2016 cohort (46.9 percent)
- The 2016 cohort became the first in Arkansas Tech University history to achieve a six-year graduation rate above 50 percent (50.9 percent)

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- Largest increase in base funding from State of Arkansas (\$3.4 million) in ATU history (2021)
- Secured \$725,995 in federal funds for the ATU agriculture program (2022)
- Secured \$675,000 in federal funds for the ATU nursing program (2022)
- Secured \$2.97 million in federal funds for TRIO Upward Bound programs (2022)
- Secured \$2 million in federal funds for CCAMPIS program (2022)
- Secured \$1.49 million in federal funds for TRIO Veterans Upward Bound program (2022)
- Secured \$3.9 million in federal funds for TRIO Student Support Services program (2019)

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- Raised \$12.5 million in new gifts and pledges to the ATU Foundation in 2021-22 and \$10.5 million in new gifts and pledges in 2020-21, including the largest private gift in Arkansas Tech history
- Annual gifts and pledges to the ATU Foundation have more than doubled since 2018-19
- ATU Foundation investment portfolio has grown from \$18,124,269 on July 1, 2014, to \$55,326,128 on March 31, 2023 (205 percent growth)
- Initiated ATU's first comprehensive capital campaign, which has reached 85 percent of its goal (\$46.6 million of \$55 million goal)
- Secured almost \$6 million in Windgate Foundation grants to support need-based scholarships, nursing students, an artist in residence program and continuing art education for K-12 teachers

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- Established the Arkansas Tech Institute (ATI) as a non-formula entity allowing for the possibility of future funding
- Received \$1.2 million grant from Gov. Asa Hutchinson to develop a career coaching program under the Ready for Life initiative; year one of pilot program has served K-12 students in Russellville, Clarksville, Ozark, Johnson County Westside and Mulberry/Pleasant View
- Ensured continuity of operations and safety of university community during COVID-19 pandemic with leadership from COVID-19 task force of ATU faculty and staff

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- Higher Learning Commission reaffirmation of accreditation in 2020 for an additional 10-year period
- Twice awarded bid to host Arkansas Governor's School (2019-21 and 2022-24)
- Increases in globalization evidenced by development of vibrant study abroad program, 16 additional international exchange affiliation agreements and establishment of Miller Center for Global Engagement
- Development of new partnerships with two-year campuses in Arkansas --- including designed to extend opportunities for bachelor's degree attainment to underserved students
- Per Arkansas Division of Higher Education data, ATU has been ranked the No. 1 choice for Arkansas high school graduates who wish to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

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- Nurtured a culture of academic innovation, highlighted by the development of such new programs as cybersecurity, game and interactive media design, manufacturing, environmental science, electrical engineering biomedical option, criminal justice and criminology and applied statistics
- Implemented first doctoral degree in ATU history (Doctor of Education in school leadership)
- Multiple record enrollments, including an all-time high of 12,101 students during fall 2018
- Final freshman class before pandemic (2019) was largest in ATU history (2,098 first-time students)
- First post-pandemic freshman class (2022) increased by 4.2 percent over previous year

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- Developed campus master plan for facilities and gained ATU Board of Trustees approval (2017)
- Reimagined and renovated spaces for the performing arts (Witherspoon Auditorium), visual arts (lab spaces for game and interactive media design), cybersecurity (new lab in Corley Hall), parks, recreation and hospitality administration (Williamson Hall), Esports (Paine Hall), campus life (Hull Student Union) and athletics (Tucker Coliseum)
- Major residence hall renovation projects included Caraway Hall, Wilson Hall and Jones Hall

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- Construction of Brown Hall (classrooms, meeting spaces and offices)
- Construction of Multisport Complex (baseball, softball, tennis and golf indoor practice)
- Upcoming turf projects for athletics (with financial support from Simmons Bank)
- Upcoming new campus entrance project (more than 50 years in development)
- Upcoming new student union and recreation center (scheduled to open 2025)

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- Created Department of Diversity and Inclusion
- Developed partnerships with organizations such as the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Mexican Consulate, creating new opportunities for students of Hispanic descent and leading to more than \$530,000 in scholarships for ATU students
- Became the first Dream.US campus in Arkansas
- Established programs that made ATU a nationally-recognized leader in serving first-generation college students
- Established the ATU Student Veterans Lounge in Doc Bryan Student Services Center
- Completed and published the ATU Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence
- Increased emphasis on service (three-time NCAA Team Works champion)

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- Developed and enacted two new strategic plans, new campus master plan, new mission statement and new vision statement
- Worked with local partners for improvements to West O Street and the forthcoming new campus entrance
- Advancements in shared governance included development of ATU Staff Senate, increased communication with campus/community and the establishment of campus-wide celebrations for faculty receiving promotion and tenure, the holidays, etc.

Recognitions Earned by Dr. Bowen

- AY Magazine's Most Powerful Women (2015)
- INSIGHT into Diversity Presidents and Chancellors Giving Back Award (2016)
- LULAC Council 750 President's Award (2016)
- University of Arkansas at Fayetteville College of Education and Health Professions Outstanding Alumni Award (2017)
- NASPA Region IV-West President's Award (2020)
- AY Magazine's Intriguing Women (2021)
- ACUI President of the Year (2023)
- Selected to Arkansas 250 (Arkansas Business Publishing Group)
- Arkansas Traveler Certificate (State of Arkansas)