

Arkansas Tech University prides itself on grit and determination. Those characteristics have allowed this institution to persevere through tough times and flourish in good times.

We did a great deal of persevering in 2020. From the time the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic reached Arkansas in March through the end of the year, Arkansas Tech continuously found new and innovative ways to deliver quality programs and services to its students.

I will share more thoughts on this topic and where we go from here as an institution at the end of our 2020 report to you.

While COVID-19 was most certainly a daily presence in our lives for the majority of 2020, it did not solely define the experience for Arkansas Tech, nor did it prevent us from carrying out our mission and pursuing our vision on a daily basis.

As you will experience on the pages to follow, Arkansas Tech continued making a positive difference in the lives of its students

and in the communities that it serves despite the challenging circumstances created by the pandemic.

As we look ahead to 2021 and the promise of a brighter future, Arkansas Tech is poised to continue doing what it has done for well over a century: persevere through tough times and flourish in good times.

Regardless of the context that surrounds us, Arkansas Tech's ability to create positive change in the lives of its students remains steadfast. We proved it during tough times in 2020. We will prove it again in 2021 and beyond so that we may continuously fulfill our promise to contribute to the betterment of our state, our nation and our world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robin E. Bowen

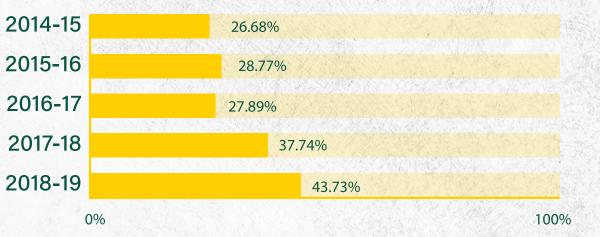
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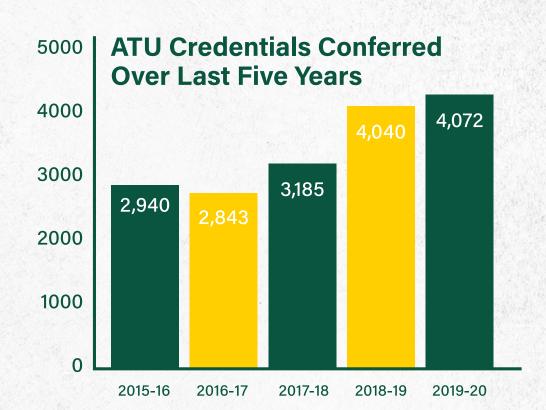
Arkansas Tech University

Robin E. Bowen

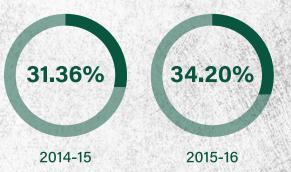
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

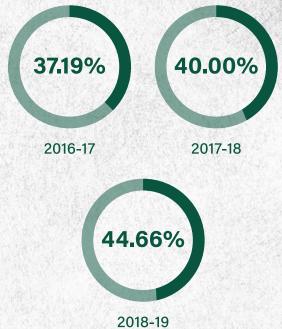
First-Time Freshmen Four-Year Graduation Rate





Three-Year Graduation Rate for ATU-Ozark Campus







National Leader in Affordability, Inclusion

Strive for Five, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing higher education opportunities for low-income and first-generation college students, has recognized Arkansas Tech University for its achievements in affordability and inclusion.

ATU earned the Strive for Five distinctions by maintaining a low net price and by serving a student population with significant demonstrated financial need.

In order to earn the affordability distinction, institutions must maintain a net tuition price that is consistent with the national average net price for students from households with incomes between \$0 and \$30,000 who received Title IV federal financial aid. Strive for Five bestows its inclusion distinction upon institutions that serve a student body population that includes 1 in 4 students from low-income families.

Forefront of Workforce Education

A workforce training partnership that has served Arkansas for more than a decade has earned national acclaim.

Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus and Green Bay Packaging, Arkansas Kraft Division are 2020 recipients of the National Council for Workforce Education Noncredit Exemplary Program Award.

The honor recognizes a collaboration that has provided more than 1,000 employees from approximately 60 Arkansas companies with training needed to help drive the state's economy.

In 2008, Green Bay Packaging envisioned converting a shuttered Levi's manufacturing plant in Morrilton into a workforce education facility. Funding from the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, and an investment from Green Bay Packaging, helped turn that vision into reality.

The final step was identifying a higher education partner with the tools and capacity to implement the training. ATU-Ozark proved to be the right fit.

ATU-Ozark recruits the outside companies that utilize the training center, handles registrations, supports curriculum development, orders instructional material, markets the training center and

serves as the sole higher educational partner in the training. Green Bay Packaging, which owns most of the equipment and building, places two of its highly skilled employees in the role of instructor.

Arkansas' No. 1 University for Nursing

Arkansas Tech University's Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is No. 1 among universities and colleges in Arkansas and one of the top 40 such programs in the United States according to a website that connects students with accessible higher education options.

Study.com compiled and published the 2020 rankings. ATU is the only institution from Arkansas included in the organization's top 50 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree programs in the United States.

Top 15 in the U.S. for Elementary Teacher Preparation Programs

Arkansas Tech University has earned recognition as one of the 15 best elementary teacher preparation programs in early reading instruction in the United States.

The National Council on Teaching Quality (NCTQ) evaluated more than 1,000 traditional elementary education preparatory programs for its published report "2020 Teacher Prep Review: Program Performance in Early Reading Instruction."

Of those more than 1,000 programs, ATU is one of only 15 institutions that received an A+ score from NCTQ.

Leader in Logistics Management

Best Colleges has identified the Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus logistics management program as one of the top 10 online associate degree logistics programs of 2020.

ATU-Ozark began its online Associate of Applied Science degree in logistics management program in spring 2016 after receiving feedback from leaders in the industry, such as USA Truck and ArcBest.

The program offers a sequence of courses that prepare students for careers in the logistics profession. Classes are offered asynchronously to provide flexibility for working adults and those just out of high school.

6 // Academic Excellence

Academic Excellence // 7



Robotics World Finalist

Arkansas Tech University was among approximately 90 higher education institutions worldwide that qualified for the 2020 VEX U Robotics World Championship.

A team of 11 ATU students punched their ticket to the world championship by winning the overall excellence award at a qualifying tournament hosted by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

The process started at the beginning of the fall 2019 semester by identifying team members, many of whom came from ATU's Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) registered student organization.

Once the planning phase was complete, the ATU team built its robots and constructed a raised practice robot field in the Corley Hall laboratory.

Additional on-campus resources available to the ATU robotics team include 3D printers, computer numerical control (CNC) machines, a manual mill and a plasma cutter, all of which help maximize the educational experience.

Top Three in Arkansas Governor's Cup

Recent Arkansas Tech University graduate Kerri Walker is more than a top-three finisher in the 2020 Arkansas Governor's Cup competition. She's an entrepreneur on a mission to connect family cattle farms with beef consumers.

Her business idea, Never Cargo, was one of six finalists in the Simmons Bank undergraduate division of the 20th annual Arkansas Governor's Cup. The competition is sponsored by Dhu Thompson | Revolution of Little Rock and presented by Arkansas Capital Corporation of Little Rock.

Walker earned \$10,000 as the third-place finisher in the competition.

"This brand is small farm focus," said Walker. "We keep quantity down so that we can keep quality up. Unlike grass-fed operations, Never Cargo won't allow farms over 200-head to participate in franchising. We sell direct to consumer through one-on-one contact or through farmers' markets. At some point, we will partner with local restaurants."

Uniting Industry, Education for Growth

Participants in the 2020 Tech for Tech summit at Arkansas Tech University were greeted with a challenge from ATU President

Dr. Robin E. Bowen.

"Let's work together today, and beyond, to do more than reshuffle the deck," said Bowen. "Let's imagine the tomorrow that we want for Russellville...for the Arkansas River

"LET'S WORK TOGETHER
TODAY, AND BEYOND,
TO DO MORE THAN
RESHUFFLE THE DECK."

the Arkansas River Valley...for Arkansas...and let's make that happen."

Approximately 100 experts in economic development, industry and higher education gathered at ATU to discuss emerging technology and future workforce needs.

The event, sponsored by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Russellville Area Chamber of Commerce, included a keynote address by Clint O'Neal, Arkansas Economic Development Commission executive vice president of global business. He told the audience there had been a 460 percent increase in the number of Arkansas high school students enrolled in computer science classes due to Gov. Asa Hutchinson's Arkansas Kids Can Code initiative.

"The momentum in Arkansas is real," said O'Neal. "By

doing things like what we are doing today—bringing industry partners into a room, listening to them and responding to their needs—we demonstrate that

the economic
development
team in Arkansas
is large. Everybody
is welcome to
be on the team.
Anybody who serves
as an ambassador
for your state or your
community...certainly
anyone who would take
the time to be at an event
like this and champion

the cause of economic development...is on the team."

State Champion in Debate

Fifteen Arkansas Tech University students traveled to the Southern Forensics Championship in Starkville, Miss., in late January 2020 and returned home to Russellville with what is believed to be ATU's first statewide championship in debate.

Dr. Gabriel Adkins, associate professor of communication and director of debate and forensics at ATU, said the ATU debate team finished first among all Arkansas teams. The annual Southern Forensics Championship event is recognized as the state championship event for debate teams from Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

8 // Academic Excellence

Academic Excellence // 9



New Option to Study Data Science

Arkansas Tech University began offering a new Bachelor of Science degree in applied statistics beginning in summer 2020.

Dr. Jeanine Myers, head of the ATU Department of Mathematics and associate professor of mathematics, wrote the letter of intent proposing the new program. She noted that the degree would include two tracks—actuarial science and data science—that students may pursue.

"Demand for professionals with strong quantitative analytical skills is not new," wrote Myers, "but recent changes in the economy and the growing reliance of our businesses and governments on data have created an even greater need for workers who can manage data, produce informative visualizations of data and are guided by fundamental statistical principles. The curriculum in applied statistics is tailored to professionals who may be working with data and statistics in any industry, including natural

resources, environmental agencies, non-profit organizations, health care, insurance, business and finance, or [with] any industry where the analysis of data research results is required."

The degree program includes classes in mathematical theory, statistical modeling, computer programming, economics and business analytics.

One of 11 in the Nation

The Arkansas Tech University chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the national collegiate Hispanic honor society, was named a Sigma Delta Pi Honor Chapter for its activities during the 2019-20 academic year.

Only 11 chapters across the United States earned the Sigma Delta Pi Honor Chapter distinction for 2019-20. This is the fifth time the Arkansas Tech chapter has earned the award.

First Scholars Network

Arkansas Tech University is one of 31 institutions of higher learning from around the United States chosen to participate in the inaugural cohort of the First Scholars Network.

An initiative of the Center for First-generation Student Success and the Suder Foundation, the First Scholars Network supports institutional goals to scale programmatic initiatives to empower first-generation students throughout the student lifecycle and beyond.

According to the sponsoring organizations, ATU was selected for the program "after demonstrating a commitment to advancing the outcomes of first-generation students through improving both first-generation student success initiatives and institution-wide approaches."

Arkansas Tech hosted a First Generation Institute for high school students during 2019 and 2020 and was an active participant in the national First-Generation College Celebration 2019.

Additionally, the university hosted a series of Wednesday Workshop events during spring 2020 to provide college success skills to first-generation students. ATU was one of 77 higher education institutions nationwide—and one of just two four-year universities in Arkansas—to earn a place in the 2020-21 First-gen Forward Cohort.

ATU was subsequently elevated to First-gen Forward advisory institution status and will provide leadership for fellow First-gen Forward institutions in the south-central United States.

"...DEMONSTRATING
A COMMITMENT TO
ADVANCING THE
OUTCOMES OF FIRSTGENERATION STUDENTS
THROUGH IMPROVING
BOTH FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENT SUCCESS
INITIATIVES AND
INSTITUTION-WIDE
APPROACHES."

10 // Academic Excellence

Academic Excellence // 11

ALFRED J. CRABAUGH AWARD ABIOLA SASORE



Rehabilitation Science

■ Involvement

- Student Government Association Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion
- Orientation Leader
- Summer Ambassador
- Conduct Board

Sasore is attending graduate school at the University of Central Florida with plans to become an athletic trainer and start a sports medicine clinic to help fill a need for those services in his native Ireland.

MARGARET YOUNG AWARD BAILEY GREENWOOD



Broadcast Journalism

■ Involvement

- Society of Professional Journalists President
- Golden Girls Dance Team Captain
- Delta Zeta Officer
- 2019 Homecoming Court
- Orientation Leader

Greenwood earned a social marketing internship with ARVAC Inc and has long-term plans of pursuing a master's degree and a career in public relations.

JILL LESTAGE BROWN SERVICE LEADERSHIP AWARD DANIELLE DUGGAN



Management and Marketing

■ Involvement

- 2019 Tyson Foods Hunger Hero (One of 21 in the U.S.)
- Green and Gold Cupboard
- Student Government Association
- Presidential Leadership Cabinet
- Zeta Tau Alpha

Duggan gained employment as a director of recruitment for Northwestern Mutual.

FACULTY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY HOLLY RUTH GALE



Associate Professor of Music

- Faculty member since 1997
- Bachelor of Arts degree from Arkansas Tech University
- Master of Music degree from the University of Central Arkansas

FACULTY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING DR. PATRICK HAGGE



Associate Professor of Geography

- Faculty member since 2012
- Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science of Business Administration degree from the University of Arkansas
- Master of Science degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Pennsylvania State University

FACULTY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE DR. MICHAEL ROGERS



Professor of Political Science

- Faculty member since 2007
- Bachelor of Science degree from Wabash College
- Master of Arts degree and his Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University at Albany

12 // Academic Excellence



Remembering "The Best of Humanity"

Gov. Asa Hutchinson and approximately 125 representatives from the Arkansas Tech University and Arkansas River Valley communities gathered on the ATU campus in Russellville Wednesday, Feb. 5, to view and reflect upon an exhibit of portraits by photographer Gay Block.

The exhibit opening event for "Rescuers: Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust" provided those in attendance with an opportunity to view portraits and learn the stories of individuals who risked their lives to save the lives of European Jews during World War II.

"These portraits honor those who, through the light of their own souls, protected a persecuted people," said Hutchinson. "We are grateful

for them. The rescuers represent the best of humanity, and they chose to protect others from the worst of humanity. These are people who tended to describe themselves as ordinary, but they displayed extraordinary courage in the face of evil. It is encouragement for all of us who consider ourselves ordinary that when the moment calls for extraordinary, we can act.

"We hope to find the will to do the right thing," continued Hutchinson. "Most of us will never be faced with the circumstances, thank God, that these rescuers were faced with. But when you look at this exhibit, you cannot help but ask, would I have the courage of these people? Simply by thinking about it, we are more prepared to serve others. Ms. Block requires us to consider the risk of acting. She also requires us to consider the cost of failing to act."



Transfer Agreements Enhance Access

Arkansas Tech University and the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton signed eight new transfer agreements during a ceremony at the UACCM Fine Arts Auditorium on Thursday, Dec. 10.

The agreements will provide students seeking specific degrees with a seamless transfer process from UACCM to ATU.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by UACCM Chancellor Lisa Willenberg and ATU President Dr. Robin E. Bowen.

"Arkansas Tech University is committed to creating seamless transfer opportunities for graduates from two-year colleges," said Bowen. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to partner with UACCM to

provide its graduates with a pathway to continue their studies in pursuit of a baccalaureate degree. Partnerships such as this one help Arkansas produce a well-trained, adaptable workforce and drive economic development."

ATU, Consulate of Mexico Continue Partnership

Gregorio Luke is more than the curator of "José Sacal: A Universal Mexican," an art exhibit that was displayed at Arkansas Tech University in early 2020.

Luke was Sacal's friend, and he made a special trip to Russellville to share memories of the sculptor during the opening of the exhibit at Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. "Sacal was a true artist," said Luke. "So many times, we look at artists who have found success, achieved critical recognition and are known for a type of work... and they spend the rest of their careers recreating that type of work...because it sells and because it's comfortable.

Not Sacal. He was always evolving."

The show was made possible through a partnership between ATU, the Consulate of Mexico in Little Rock and the José Sacal Micha Foundation.

"Over the course of the past five years, Arkansas Tech University has collaborated with the Consulate of Mexico in Little Rock to extend educational opportunities... opportunities that would have been out of reach absent our partnership," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. "This exhibit is another way we are working together to improve cultural awareness...promote diversity and inclusion... and expose our students to thought-provoking expression."

Windgate Provides Scholarship Dollars

The Arkansas Tech University Foundation received a \$610,000 grant from the Windgate Foundation in support of ATU visual arts students and programs.

Part of the grant will create an endowment intended to provide scholarship assistance to ATU art students.

The grant will also fund the continuation of the ATU artist in residence program and the Windgate Summer Art Launch for Arkansas Educators, a continuing education program for K-12 art teachers, for the next two years.

"The Windgate Foundation is one of the leading advocates for the visual arts and art education in our state and region," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president.

"Arkansas Tech University is pleased to continue and strengthen its relationship with the Windgate Foundation in a way that benefits Arkansas art students of all ages."

Partnership to Grow Workforce

Georgia-Pacific has pledged \$10,000 in scholarship funds to Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus as a means of supporting workforce development. The partnership helps students with their educational expenses and provides the Fort Smith factory with skilled and prepared workers.

"We are always striving to improve our business and provide more opportunities for present and future employees," said Jordan Kenworthy, Georgia-Pacific environmental manager.

ATU-Ozark graduates from programs such as automation technology and logistics management help Georgia-Pacific ensure a continuous flow of qualified employees.

"Georgia-Pacific recognizes the importance of being able to recruit students from local higher education institutions," said Justin Smith, chief business and community outreach officer at Arkansas Tech-Ozark Campus. "They value building relationships with local educators, which is vital in growing a quality workforce."

16 // Building Partnerships



New Mural Installed on Campus

Tiffany Black had a plan to involve the surrounding community in a landmark art installation as part of her spring 2020 artist in residence assignment at Arkansas Tech University.

Then, when the world changed in mid-March due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, what was intended to be a highly collaborative project was transformed into a mostly solitary pursuit.

"There are always unknowns, although a worldwide health emergency was quite the curveball," said Black. "I think that we have all been challenged in a big way to reach down deep for all the grit we can muster in the face of this pandemic."

With the support of colleagues at ATU and partners at Main Street Russellville, a few good audiobooks and a lot of coffee, Black carried on with creating a mural depicting Lake Dardanelle and Mount Nebo.

That scene was selected through an online vote of inspirational images provided by Liz Chrisman, director of photography at ATU.

Black's mural was installed on the southwest side of McEver Hall during summer 2020.

MOU with Black River Technical College

Representatives from Arkansas Tech University and Black River Technical College met in February 2020 to discuss how the two institutions could collaborate to expand educational opportunities for students. Conversations centered on programs offered at Black River Technical College that could be aligned to create a seamless transfer to ATU for BRTC graduates.

At the end of the session, ATU President Dr. Robin E. Bowen and BRTC President Dr. Martin Eggensperger signed a memorandum of understanding formalizing the working relationship between the two institutions.

The terms of the agreement in the MOU state that "any student who has earned an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from, and is in good standing with BRTC will be eligible to transfer to ATU for an approved baccalaureate degree program with full junior classification upon admission, subject to the provisions listed (in this MOU), in the attached programspecific addenda, Higher Learning Commission

requirements, in Arkansas Law and in the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Transfer System."

ATU Remains Tree Campus USA

Arkansas Tech University has achieved the Tree Campus USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for a fourth consecutive year.

Tree Campus USA is a national program created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor colleges and universities for effective campus forest management and engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

Arkansas Tech achieved the title in 2016 and maintained it in 2017, 2018 and 2019 by meeting Tree Campus USA's five standards, which include maintaining a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and student service-learning project.

More Sustainable Together

The educational partnership between the Arkansas Tech University interdisciplinary project-based learning initiative and Denali Water Solutions has yielded an environmentally sustainable solution for the company's home office in Russellville.

Students enrolled in an ATU spring 2020 course taught by Dr. Julie Mikles-Schluterman, professor of sociology, were charged with developing a composting program for Denali Water Solutions administrative office employees.

Interdisciplinary project-based learning is one component of the ATU Center for Community Engagement and Academic Outreach. According to its website, the center is "designed to create unique educational experiences for students while improving the local and global communities."

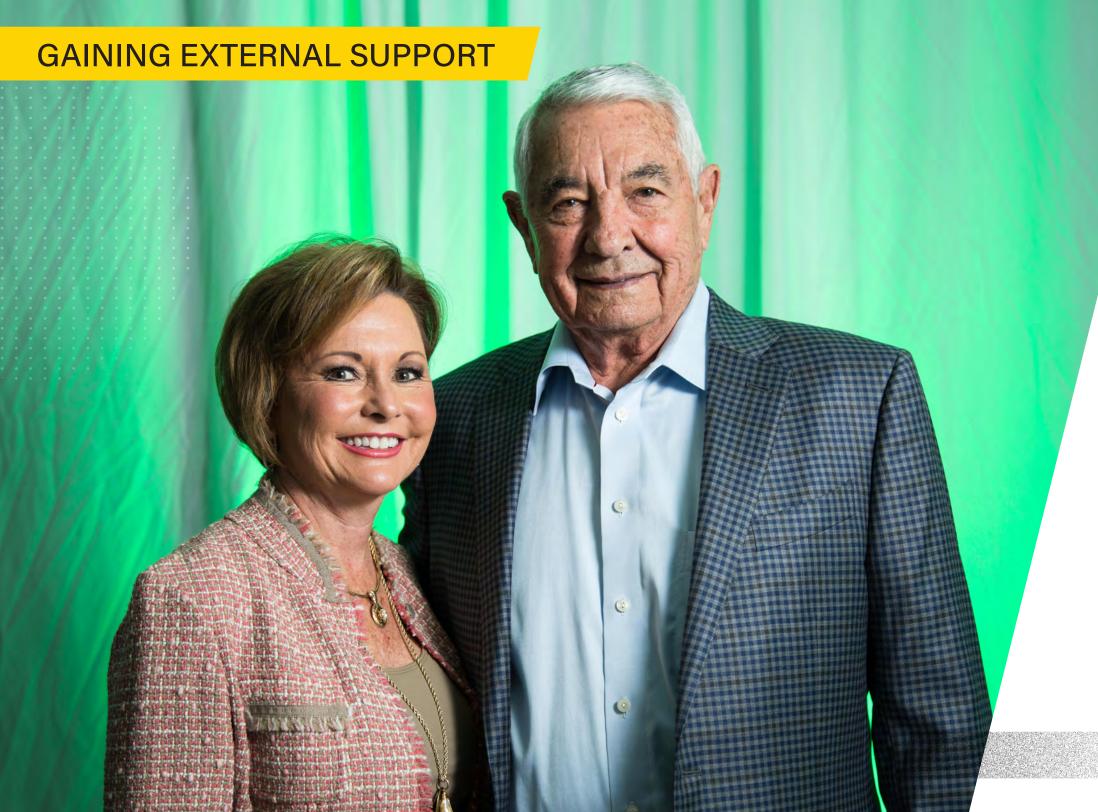
"IT WILL DEFINITELY
TAKE YOU OUT OF YOUR
COMFORT ZONE AND
CHALLENGE YOU TO THINK
AND WORK DIFFERENTLY."

ATU student Morgan Richardson said her experience exceeded those standards.

"It was a class like I've never had," said Richardson. "It will definitely take you out of your comfort zone and challenge you to think and work differently. Also, you will have to collaborate with people from other majors, and that can be a culture shock. It's easy to get comfortable in your major with people who are like-minded or learning the same material as you. This class will help you grow more as a professional."

18 // Building Partnerships

Building Partnerships // 19



Biblers Pledge Largest Personal Gift in ATU History

Laurie and James Bibler of Russellville have pledged an estate gift of \$6 million to the Arkansas Tech University Foundation. Their commitment represents the largest personal gift pledge in the 111-year history of Arkansas Tech University.

"James and I realize that education is so important to young adults," said Laurie. "If they are not given the opportunity for post-secondary study they risk being left behind. We don't want that to happen. We want them to succeed and achieve their goals. We also want to encourage others to give in support of Arkansas Tech. If we can provide a college education for even just one person and that person goes out and succeeds to their fullest, think about the impact that they will make."

The Biblers' gift will be designated to two funds within the ATU Foundation: the James and Laurie Bibler Scholarship fund and the University's Greatest Need fund.

"The pledge that Laurie and James Bibler have made in support of Arkansas Tech University will positively influence the trajectory of our students' lives for generations to come," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. "There are no words to express how deeply and sincerely we appreciate the Biblers' generosity and their support of our mission of student access and student success."

In 2011, ATU bestowed its highest honor upon James when he was inducted into the Arkansas Tech Hall of Distinction.

"I used to go to these national board meetings for the forestry industry," said James. "I'd be sitting around a table with people who graduated from Harvard or Yale, and they'd ask me where I went to school. I told them I went to Arkansas Tech for two years, and then I went to the school of hard knocks."

"The story of Laurie and James Bibler is one of personal success paired with a passion for helping others," said Jason Geiken, ATU vice president for advancement. "The pledge that they have made to the ATU Foundation is an expression of their affection for Arkansas Tech and their confidence that these resources will be well invested in providing for the educational needs of ATU students. On behalf of those students, we express our profound gratitude and appreciation to Laurie and James."

\$3.9 Million in Student Support Services Grants

Arkansas Tech University has earned \$3.9 million in estimated grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education for three Student Support Services (SSS) programs.

The grant funding will allow ATU to continue its existing SSS program on its Russellville campus, establish a new SSS teacher preparation program on its Russellville campus and develop a new SSS program for its Ozark campus. ATU will receive the SSS grants over five years.

"Arkansas Tech University is committed to making higher education attainable for all who wish to pursue it," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. "We exist to facilitate student success regardless of background. The resources provided by Student Support Services have benefited our Russellville campus students since 2010, and we are excited to be able to expand those opportunities at our university with the addition of similar programs for teacher candidates and Ozark campus students."





But during spring 2020, the Arkansas Tech University Golden Suns were focused on sharing a more important fundamental: reading.

After their season and semester were cut short by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, members of the ATU softball team recorded more than 20 videos in which they read some of their favorite childhood books. The videos were posted online and made available to the same Russellville School District children the Golden Suns regularly mentor as part of their community service efforts.

"Maintaining contact with our community is so important to us," said Kristina McSweeney, ATU head softball coach. "I thought that having the girls create read-aloud videos for our elementaryage students would help motivate them to continue reading during this difficult time. Being a reading specialist myself, I know how vital it is for kids to be reading daily and the vast improvements in learning and vocabulary acquisition that occur when children read and are read to on a consistent basis."

Golden Suns Tennis Team Aces Hunger Relief

Arkansas Tech University's women's tennis team has good timing. It's a requirement when serves are hurtling toward them at speeds similar to cars on the interstate. The Golden Suns' sense of timing also applies to community service endeavors.

A Go Fund Me campaign started by ATU senior tennis team member Kami Ward provided funds to donate more than \$330 worth of food to children at Oakland Heights Elementary School in Russellville before Arkansas K-12 schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in spring 2020.

"When I posted (the Go Fund Me) to my Facebook page, the goal amount was reached within a week," said Ward. "I was super surprised how quickly people donated, but I was happy people cared."



Green and Gold Give Back Persists Through Pandemic

Arkansas Tech
University student
Dania Castillo played
the role of veteran
leader during Green and
Gold Give Back 2020.

A sophomore elementary education major from De Queen, Castillo spent the morning of Saturday, Nov. 7, at Lake Dardanelle State Park with some of her sisters from Alpha Sigma Tau sorority.

They raked leaves and built relationships while contributing to ATU's largest annual day of service.

"We have a bunch of new members out here, so I get to know them," said Castillo. "It's definitely a big bonding experience for us.

"I really like it because it brings the Tech community together and gives us an opportunity to participate in an annual tradition of service," continued Castillo. "It was fun last year, so I want to do this every year I can. It benefits us as students, the university in its entirety and the community. Especially now due to COVID, it's very important to help and give back as much as we can. It feels good when you give back."

ATU students fanned out over 21 locations for Green and Gold Give Back 2020. A total of 96 students participated in the program, which was adjusted this year to ensure the safety of participants in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Founded in 2013, Green and Gold Give Back is an annual student volunteer effort orchestrated by the ATU Department of Campus Life.

"Civic engagement has been harder than ever to engage in during the pandemic, but at the end of the day, we recognized how important it was to serve the community of Russellville," said Chelsea Lairamore, ATU interim assistant dean for campus life. "This year we worked outside, in smaller groups and with masks so that we could work to lower the spread of COVID."

One of Arkansas' Best Employers

Forbes has named Arkansas
Tech University one of
the 20 best employers in
the State of Arkansas.

Along with partner Statista, Forbes conducted 80,000 surveys of employees at businesses and non-profit organizations that employ at least 500 individuals between October 2019 and May 2020.

Safety of work environment, competitiveness of compensation, opportunities for advancement and openness to telecommuting were among the survey factors.

Respondents were also asked to indicate how likely they would be to recommend applying for employment at their organization to others. All surveys were conducted anonymously.

"Together, we have worked diligently as a university community to ensure that Arkansas Tech is a place where faculty and staff have the opportunity to pursue their passions, earn compensation and benefits that are competitive with peer institutions and apply their talents for the benefit of our students." said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president. "This recognition is a testament to the seriousness and consistency with which we have pursued those goals. It is gratifying to know that our greatest asset—our human capital recognizes that Arkansas Tech University is committed to the professional and personal support and development of its faculty and staff."



to make it the best possible space for them now and in the

in Hull will be available for meetings and events.



Williamson Hall Project Set for Completion in 2021

Phase two of the Williamson Hall project at Arkansas Tech University will be carried out by Alessi Keyes Construction.

The ATU Board of Trustees awarded a \$2,658,919 construction contract to the Maumelle-based firm during its regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 15, 2020.

Phase one, which included stabilization, selective demolition and testing, drying to overcome water damage and environmental procedures to ensure the building's safety, was completed in fall 2020.

Grant funding from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council and insurance reimbursements are assisting ATU in completing phase two reconstruction and restoration of Williamson Hall.

Barring possible delays from weather and the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, ATU hopes to return Williamson Hall to service during the fall 2021 semester.

Opened in 1940 as the home of the National Youth Administration (NYA) headquarters for Arkansas, the building that came to be known as Williamson Hall reverted to ATU ownership after the NYA was discontinued in 1943.

Named to the National Register of Historic Places on Sept. 8, 1992, Williamson Hall was in the midst of a major renovation project when it caught fire Apr. 3, 2019.

"It will be a joyous and long-anticipated day when we celebrate the reopening of Williamson Hall," said Dr. Robin E. Bowen, ATU president.

"Preserving this aspect of our university history is an important and worthwhile endeavor. I am grateful for the leadership of our Board of Trustees and the persistence of all involved as we have worked together to achieve the goal of returning Williamson Hall to service. We look forward to the continued progress of this project in 2021."

Arkansas Tech Added Degree in Applied Statistics

Arkansas Tech University plans to offer a new Bachelor of Science degree in applied statistics. The ATU Board of Trustees approved a letter of intent during its Aug. 15 meeting concerning the proposed program, written by Dr. Jeanine Myers, head of the ATU Department of Mathematics.

"Demand for professionals with strong quantitative analytical skills is not new, but recent changes in the economy and the growing reliance of our businesses and governments on data have created an even greater need for workers who can manage data, produce informative visualizations of data and are guided by fundamental statistical principles," wrote Myers. "The curriculum in applied statistics is tailored to professionals who may be working with data and statistics in any industry including natural resources, environmental agencies, non-profit organizations, health care, insurance, business and finance or any industry where the analysis of data research results is required."

The degree program would include classes in mathematical theory, statistical modeling, computer programming, economics and business analytics as part of two tracks—actuarial science and computer science.



Looking Back

From the time COVID-19 arrived in Arkansas through the end of 2020, the people of Arkansas Tech University united behind a common goal: ensuring the continuation of student access and student success.

Faculty members preserved their learning outcomes while turning their entire professional world on a dime. Still more faculty and staff were invaluable in transitioning courses to an online modality. Additional staff took extraordinary measures to support our learning outcomes and continue the business of the university. Internal experts came together on the ATU COVID-19 task force and applied their collective knowledge for the benefit of Arkansas Tech.

Equally inspiring was the response from our students. Their academic achievements in the face of adversity—whether it was making the Dean's List, earning statewide recognition, completing a credential or the thousands of small and unseen victories that occur in the learning process—were nothing short of amazing.

During summer 2020, ATU faculty and staff worked tirelessly to develop the frameworks and procedures that would allow us to return to campus for classes and activities during the fall 2020 semester. During that same timeframe, our university came together to discover and implement the means necessary to successfully provide the 41st Arkansas Governor's School to almost 300 of our state's most exceptional rising high school seniors.

We achieved those goals, and we did so safely in a manner that balanced our responsibility to provide quality programs and services with our civic duty to limit the spread of the virus.

There are simply no words sufficient to praise the efficiency and effectiveness with which the people of ATU responded to the pandemic. I've never been more proud to be associated with Arkansas Tech University than I was in 2020.

Looking Ahead

The landscape of higher education was already changing before the onset of COVID-19. As we approach the year 2025, we will enter a period of time when there will be fewer high school graduates in the United States due to lower birth rates during the Great Recession of the late 2000s.

Arkansas Tech University, like every other institution of higher learning in the United States, must prepare for the changes on the horizon.

The pandemic has provided us with a head start on one of our most important opportunities. We have proven to ourselves and our students that we can effectively deliver high-quality curriculum not only in person but also online and through a mix of the two in a variety of disciplines. We must press forward and continue to pursue the delivery methods that best suit our students' learning styles and availability.



We must also identify and implement better and more efficient methods for serving learners of all ages. Developing meaningful credentials that lead to career advancement for working adults, partnering with industry to meet its training needs and providing more seamless transfer opportunities for students at two-year colleges are all paths to sustainability that comprehensive, four-year universities must evaluate and consider in order to maintain a viable business model.

Arkansas Tech is beginning a restructuring process to ensure that we are aligned with our mission, accountable to our constituents and innovative in our approach to student access and student success within the context of our changing environment.

Change has continually affected Arkansas Tech and allowed us to adjust to meet the educational needs of our students.

When we welcomed our first 186 students back in 1910, we offered a high school level curriculum in agriculture and domestic science. Over the course of the last 110 years, we have evolved from high school to junior college to four-year college; we have progressed to offer degrees at the master and doctoral levels; we have grown from nine faculty members to become one of the largest employers and a driver for economic development in the Arkansas River Valley.

All of these improvements required adaptability and an ever-changing vision for the future.

As we rise to the occasion of the evolving circumstances all around us, Arkansas Tech University will once again adapt to meet the needs of our students so that we may continue to fulfill our vision of student success, thriving innovation and flourishing communities.

