



# Arkansas Tech University



## Strategic Plan 2016-2021 Year Three Progress Highlights





# A Note From Our President

Three years ago, the Arkansas Tech University community came together to imagine our collective future. We sought new solutions that would allow us to build toward our shared vision of student success, thriving innovation and flourishing communities.

Our 2018-19 strategic planning recap offers a snapshot of the progress that we made, together, in pursuit of that vision over one 12-month period.

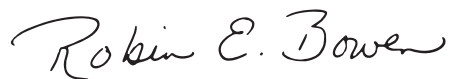
Much was achieved before this most recent year, and more work remains.

This publication is a celebration of the students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members and others who are joining us in this endeavor.

Arkansas Tech University continues to grow stronger, more diverse and increasingly perseverant as we create a better future for our institution.

We are tenacious, yet supportive; competitive, yet compassionate and caring. Innovative, leading-edge and forward-thinking...we are Arkansas Tech University.

Sincerely,



Dr. Robin E. Bowen  
President

## ATU: Where Students Succeed, Innovation Thrives and Communities Flourish

- No. 1 in Arkansas, top 10 percent in U.S. on Social Mobility Index
- No. 1 choice for Arkansans who wish to study STEM
- One of the three largest institutions of higher learning in Arkansas
- Top two in state for conferring credentials in health care professions
- 93 percent of ATU students are from Arkansas
- 70 percent of ATU alumni remain in Arkansas after graduation
- No. 1 in NCAA Division II in student-athlete community service
- 15,870 hours of volunteer service by students in 2018-19
- \$6.1 million in new gifts and pledges to ATU Foundation in 2018-19



# Year Three Progress Highlights

## GOAL ONE: HUMAN CORE

- Increased graduation rate by six percentage points (35% in 2015-16 to 41% in 2017-18)
- Conferred more than 4,000 academic credentials during the 2018-19 academic year (28 percent increase over 2017-18)
- Increase in faculty and non-classified staff compensation to 94.6 percent of the median of the CUPA regional comparison (Rsvl)
- Student-to-faculty ratio dropped to 17.8-to-1 (down from 19-to-1 in fall 2015)
- Scholarship budget increased by \$5.5 million for 2019-20 academic year
- University Honors took leadership of the Green and Gold Cupboard, which serves ATU community members in need
- The Green and Gold Cupboard opened a location on the Ozark campus of ATU
- ATU engineering students finished third among U.S. teams at the 2019 Shell Eco-marathon Americas challenge
- Fight On 1013 developed and implemented to help orient incoming student-athletes to the university
- Study abroad opportunities afforded to 82 ATU students during 2018-19 (52 percent increase over previous year)

## GOAL TWO: ACADEMIC COHERENCE

- Every Student Counts retention plan finalized for 2019-20 implementation
- Developed new advising and orientation model, TECHAdvise, for fall 2019 incoming freshmen
- Inaugural First Generation Institute welcomed 52 high school students during June 2019
- University-wide ethics policy approved by ATU Board of Trustees
- Mary B. Gunter Leadership Living Learning Community (LLC) debuted
- Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness took leadership of academic program reviews for ADHE reporting
- Developed certificates in Spanish for medical interpretation and Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages
- Expanded ATU prior learning assessment policy passed by Deans' Council
- Reconfigured the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree into a Bachelor of Arts degree in organizational leadership
- Ozark campus developed new online programs in banking and logistics management
- Entered into MOUs with North Arkansas College and South Arkansas College to enhance access to bachelor's degrees

## GOAL THREE: OPERATIONS EXCELLENCE

- Obtained more than \$6.1 million in new gifts and pledges to ATU Foundation; 36 percent increase over 2017-18
- Plans initiated to renovate Hull Physical Education Building pool area and convert to temporary student union space
- Former sod farm adjacent to campus purchased in accordance with campus master plan
- Architect selected to plan construction of new student union and recreation center
- Collaboration with Arkansas Department of Transportation and City of Russellville led to progress on campus entrance/drainage improvements (slated for 2021)
- Created cybersecurity lab at Corley Hall
- Purchased and renovated facility at 716 N. El Paso Ave. to become new home for ATU Department of Public Safety
- Tech \$ense web presence developed to assist students and parents increase their financial literacy
- Energy manager hired to implement energy training and awareness
- Approximately 90 percent of energy savings phase I projects completed (more than \$100,000 in savings year one)
- Economic impact study measuring ATU's effect on region and state showed annual regional impact of more than \$330 million

## GOAL FOUR: CITIZENS OF THE REGION, STATE AND WORLD

- Legislators introduced bills designed to bring equity in higher education funding to Arkansas
- Completed initial phases of university brand study
- Partnered with City of Russellville to plan for innovation hub and makers' space to Russellville Downtown
- Introduced March to Main collaboration with City of Russellville
- Became first institution in Arkansas to achieve Voter Friendly Campus status
- Developed plans for an annual publication highlighting civic involvement by ATU employees
- Ozark campus partnered with Bank OZK on a banking services accelerator program
- Developed new partnership that created international internship opportunities



# HAVE GRIT?



Arkansas Tech University is dedicated to student success, access, and excellence as a responsive campus community providing opportunities for progressive intellectual development and civic engagement. Embracing and expanding upon its technological traditions, Tech inspires and empowers members of the community to achieve their goals while striving for the betterment of Arkansas, the nation, and the world.

[www.atu.edu/strategicplanning](http://www.atu.edu/strategicplanning)