

November 8, 2012

Senator Mary Ann Salmon, Senate Co-Chair
Representative Tommy Lee Baker, House Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
315 State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Salmon and Representative Baker:

Your Subcommittee on Higher Education met at 1:30 p.m. October 22, 2012 in Room A MAC to hear the following:

- A review of recent issues discussed at the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Conference. Panelists included Ms. Cynthia Moten of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, Dr. Neal Gibson of the Arkansas Research Center, and Dr. Tracy Tucker with the Arkansas Department of Education.
- A presentation on El Dorado's Bridge to College Algebra program, by Ms. Alice Mahony, State Board of Education member and co-founder of El Dorado Foundations, and Mr. Tom Simmons, Endowed Chair of Mathematics for the El Dorado School District.
- A discussion of loan default rates with Mr. Rex Nelson, President of Arkansas Independent Colleges and Universities.
- Distribution and brief comments on a Cost Containment Report generated by BLR Research Staff, to be used in consideration of higher education institutional budgets.

Sincerely,

Sen. Sue Madison
Senate Co-Chair

Rep. Johnnie Roebuck
House Co-Chair