



ARKANSAS

Teacher Corps

teach.

The Arkansas Teacher Corps (ATC) is a partnership between the University of Arkansas, the Arkansas Department of Education, and Arkansas public school districts to recruit, train, license, and support Arkansans as empowered teachers.

ATC Fellows complete an initial six-week summer intensive program, followed by over 40 hours of professional development and 40 hours of individualized classroom coaching each year during the 3-year fellowship. Fellows also receive a \$5,000 stipend and financial assistance for Praxis exam costs and other licensure fees. ATC recruits an annual cohort of 35 Fellows to teach for three years in a geographic or subject shortage area.

ATC has a total annual budget of around \$1.5 million with the majority of funding from the Walton Family Foundation and additional support from ADE and participating school districts.

Since 2013, ATC has recruited, trained, and supported **11** cohorts of more than **267** teachers in **98** schools and **40** school districts throughout central, eastern, and southern Arkansas.

ATC Fellows teach in schools in which over **70%** of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

107 ATC Fellows have successfully completed the three-year fellowship, with **92%** earning a standard five-year teaching license in one or more content areas, resulting in over **170** total certifications.

Of the alumni who have successfully completed the fellowship, **82%** were still teaching and leading in Arkansas

public schools 1 year later (four years of teaching total) and **56%** were still in Arkansas schools 5 years later (eight years of teaching total).

Of ATC's 2023 cohort, **97%** are from a low-income community, **56%** are first-generation college graduates, and **59%** are homegrown applicants who were already working in the school district where they now teach.

13 ATC partner schools received 2023 "**BEATING THE ODDS**" awards from the Office for Education Policy for outstanding academic growth on the ACT Aspire exam.

9 ATC Fellows have been recognized as "**TEACHER OF THE YEAR**" for their school or district.

ATC Fellows have raised over **\$114,000** in grants to support their students' learning and provide additional enrichment opportunities, such as STEM programs, robotics teams, school gardens, and greenhouses.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Dedrick Cross (2017 fellow, Pine Bluff School District) led his students to a 100% pass rate on the 2022 state civics exam, and his wife **TyKesha Cross** (2020 fellow, Pine Bluff School District) was featured on the **TODAY Show** with a surprise visit by the former Dollarway High School counselor-turned-principal that she credits with saving her life.

Courtney Howard (2016 fellow, Hope School District) was recognized as a “Top Five” finalist for the 2018-2019 National Association for Alternative Certification (NAAC) **OUTSTANDING NEW EDUCATOR** Award, taking home the prize for Honorable Mention. Ms. Howard’s ninth-grade English students consistently scored the highest at Hope High School on the ACT Aspire exam.

Kayla Bryant Robertson (2015 fellow, McGehee School District) led her team of Dancing Owlettes to **FIRST PLACE** at the AAA State Dance Championship in 2018 after capturing bronze in 2016 and silver in 2017 during her Fellowship. A native of McGehee, Coach Robertson returned to teach English Language Arts at McGehee High School, where she had competed as an Owlette herself.

