



University of Arkansas

Clinton School of Public Service

Arkansas 2032

Overview of the project

“Arkansas 2032”, a conference designed by the Clinton School of Public Service, brought student leaders from across Arkansas together to critically assess the major challenges Arkansas will face over the next twenty years. Student leaders represented both public and private and two- and four- year higher education institutions across the state.

The “Arkansas 2032” Leadership Class

- Total Students: 33
- Public vs. Private Breakdown:
 - Public 26
 - Private 7
- Two-year vs. Four-year breakdown:
 - Two-year 14
 - Four-year 16
 - Prof. Schools 3
- Gender:
 - Male 18
 - Female 15

Methodology

- College President or Chancellor selected one student to represent their respective institution
- Pre-conference questionnaire submitted by student leaders defined scope of the conference
- Pre-conference research in each issue area assigned to students

“Arkansas 2032”

- Two-day conference
- Six breakout sessions
 - Economic development
 - Public health
 - Race relations
 - The Aging populations
 - K12 public education
 - Higher education
- Five large-group discussions
 - Presentation from US Sen. John Boozman
 - Young elected officials panel
 - Economic development panel
 - Higher education panel
 - Keeping talent in Arkansas panel
- Seventeen presenters

Conference presenters

Dr. Don Bobbitt, President of the University of Arkansas System

Senator John Boozman, United States Senate

State Representative Davy Carter, Arkansas General Assembly

Gretchen Hall, CEO of the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau

Jason Hamilton, Arkansas Commitment

Jordan Johnson, Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods

Mike Malone, Northwest Arkansas Council

State Representative Stephanie Malone, Arkansas General Assembly

Georgia Mjartan, Executive Director Our House

John Rutledge, President/CEO First Security Bank Little Rock

Warwick Sabin, Oxford American publisher

State Representative Matthew Shepherd, Arkansas General Assembly

State Representative Nate Steel, Arkansas General Assembly

Charles Stewart, Heifer International Board of Directors

Grant Tennille, Executive Director Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Dr. Chuck Welch, President of Arkansas State University

State Representative Darrin Williams, Arkansas General Assembly

“Arkansas 2032” Student Leader Recommendations

- Extend state legislative *term limits* to 20 years collectively between both the House of Representatives and the Senate
- Pass a *half-cent sales tax* increase designated specifically to higher education to supplement, not supplant, existing revenues
- Develop a *uniform distance-learning model* that incorporates all Arkansas higher education institutions
- Ensure entrepreneurs are able to obtain financing, including development of more *micro-finance opportunities*
- *Reduce dependence on standardized testing* scores for learning assessment
- Identify coalitions to help bridge regional gaps that currently exist within the state and adapt strategies to *encourage more regional collaboration*

“Arkansas 2032” Student Leader Recommendation

- **Implement financial literacy curricula** in the public school system (K-12)
- **Expand the Natural State advertising brand** to include health promotion to increase awareness of existing natural resources for active living
- Develop a **multimedia public advertising campaign** to every generational market featuring cultural icons addressing racism
- Mandate K-12 and higher education campuses to have **on-campus diversity professionals** and/or department that provide preventative and responsive race relations programming.
- Better utilize and **promote the home health care system** to facilitate independent living
- **Create a third party oversight entity** that will identify and expose racial disparities in public systems addressing disparities in sentencing in our judicial system, governmental contracts and racial profiling by individuals of authority

Conclusion

Recommendations

Market Arkansas's resources to attract businesses from outside the state and provide infrastructure resources to small businesses within the state

Spur economic development through education by critically examining Arkansas's state-funded scholarship and grant programs to ensure that they benefit students in the most effective way

Create a panel to meet with various industries and provide recommendations to help them further grow and develop

Ensure entrepreneurs are able to obtain financing, including development of more micro-finance opportunities

Identify coalitions to help bridge regional gaps that currently exist within the state and adapt strategies to encourage more regional collaboration

Recommendations

Reform the school day to be a model of healthy living

Build on current infrastructure and develop new infrastructure to encourage healthy lifestyles

Expand the Natural State advertising brand to include health promotion to increase awareness of existing natural resources for active living

Improve and expand continuity of care

Research and evaluate existing health programs

Encourage economic competition as a means to reduce insurance cost

Foster greater accountability and quality control of existing state-funded systems

Recommendations

Create a third party oversight entity that will identify and expose racial disparities in public systems addressing disparities in sentencing in our judicial system, governmental contracts and racial profiling by individuals of authority

Develop an advertising campaign featuring cultural icons to address racism

Mandate on-campus diversity professionals and/or departments to provide preventative and responsive programming on K-12 and Higher Ed campuses

Recommendations

Provide job/skills training for the Aging Population reentering and remaining in the workforce

Utilize the Home Health Care system to facilitate independent living

Reallocate resources to develop walk-in clinics to alleviate ER Visits and increase access to health care

Implement Financial Literacy curricula in the public school system

Recommendations

Prevent burnout and maintaining morale through development and implementation of new materials

Use cross-curricular education and skill-based education to foster a more inclusive and holistic learning environment for students

Encourage school boards to take advantage of grants that support the expansion of the EAST Initiative Core

Reduce dependence on standardized testing scores for learning assessment

Develop a coalition of school representatives to foster an exchange of ideas

Utilize testing scores to group students based on skill level within a three-year age group

Recommendations

Extend state legislative term limits to 20 years collectively between both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Increase funding for career pathways programs to support both traditional and non-traditional students

Develop a uniform long-distance learning model that incorporates all Arkansas higher education institutions

Increase focus on the importance of higher education beginning in the ninth grade

Pass a half-cent sales tax designated specifically to higher education that supplements not supplants existing revenue

Increase post-grad guidance and job placement program