

### Improving College and Career Readiness in Arkansas

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### Increased Economic Development Is Linked to Increased Education

- Education and economic development must be linked for the state's per capita income, which is a reflection of the education level of its people, to improve. No state with a low proportion of bachelor's degrees has a high per capita income. The key to improving per capita income is education and a better trained workforce.
- Currently, Arkansas college and university graduation rates are below the national average.
- Source: Arkansas Task Force on Higher Education Remediation, Retention, and Graduation Rates (2008)

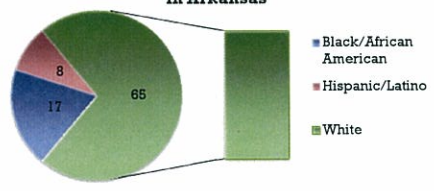
### Arkansas Per Capita Income Ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the Nation

- Arkansas' per capita personal income of \$36,086 ranked 46<sup>th</sup>. West Virginia ranked 47, South Carolina ranked 48, Idaho was at 49, and with an average per capita income of \$34,478, Mississippi ranked last.
- Combined personal incomes in Arkansas during 2013 grew 2.2%, below the 2.6% U.S. average, with the state's per capita average of \$36,086 pushing the state's national ranking from 45 in 2012 to 46 in 2013.
- Source: The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

### Measuring College Readiness in Arkansas

- 90% of the Arkansas Graduating Class Took the ACT- 25,875

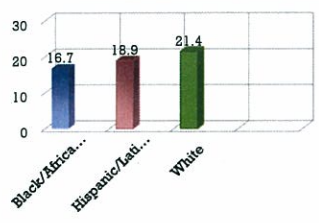
**Percentage of Students Taking the ACT in Arkansas**



Source: ACT 2013

### Act Composite Scores 2013

**2013 Arkansas ACT Composite Scores**

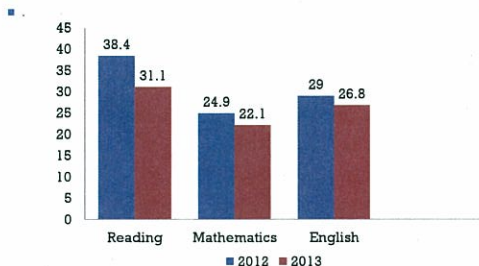


Source: ACT 2013

### The Cost of Remediation in Arkansas

- The cost of remediation in Arkansas was \$53.8 million in 2006 (ADHE, 2008).
- College costs have increased rapidly over the past two decades — far more rapidly than inflation, far more rapidly even than the cost of prescription drugs and health insurance, and far, far more rapidly than family income.
- Kati Haycock, Director, Education Trust, 2006

## + College Remediation Rates 2012-2013



## + Our Goal

- As the title of our proposed program implies, our goal is to help make the state of Arkansas #1 in the nation on the ACT--that is, to raise the average ACT score of public school Arkansans to the highest in the nation.
- We propose to actively and intelligently impact--through a combination of proprietary strategy, tactics, and logistics--Arkansans' ACT scores so that moving their scores +1 or more is not only possible, but probable.

## + In linear and logical order, our aims are to:

**Raise ACT scores by honing students reading, writing, arithmetic, reflective thinking, reasoning, and test taking skills.**

- Thereby enable students to gain admission to more colleges and universities and to earn more in scholarships at those institutions.
- Reduce the rate of remediation in colleges and universities around Arkansas.
- Increase the rate of completion and of postsecondary education in Arkansas.
- Reduce the time of completion of postsecondary education in Arkansas.
- Improve students' performance in Arkansas colleges and universities.
- Improve college students' ability to choose and plan for careers and jobs.
- Improve college graduates' ability to compete capably for jobs.
- Improve college graduates' abilities and success rate in their jobs (through improved reading, writing, arithmetic, reasoning, and problem solving skills).
- Increase productivity and enable economic savings in Arkansas through the improvements above.

## + Why US?

- **Steve** is, as far as we know, the most experienced ACT trainer in the world (30 years.) Steve's approach is unique and uniquely effective. Charity's is complementary, adding a tactical component to Steve's strategic approach which includes reflective thinking, analytical reasoning, rigorous content aligned to the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. Steve has trained students for the ACT for 30 years, half that time with The Princeton Review and half independently.
- **Charity**, founder of the Accelerated Academic Achievement Academy, has 20 years experience teaching the ACT. She previously served as Chair of the Arkansas ACT Council and National Facilitator of States with Universal ACT.
- **Victor** is a professor of Spanish at UALR with 20 years' teaching experience, and Anthony is an engineer by training who ran the Sylvan Learning Center in Little Rock for 10 years.
- **Steve, Victor, and Anthony** established Edsortium.com three years ago, an online live and interactive training platform on which Steve has helped students around the country raise ACT scores.
- The four principals have formed a partnership dedicated to the ARIACT proposal. All four are Arkansans. No other organization or individual, to our knowledge, operates a live, interactive, online program training students for the ACT.

## + Our Approach-Delivery

In order to raise the ACT state average, we propose to reach virtually every public school student in one or more of several ways:

- Live online interactive training made available every week throughout the year. Currently Steve teaches online twice a week, Thursday and Sunday nights, 7:30-9:00 pm on the Edsortium site. ARIACT students may join this class or similar classes offered at different times. In this way, every public school student in Arkansas with access to a computer and the internet would be able to prepare twice a week for the ACT year-round with an expert of 30 years' experience.
- A hard copy of "The Skinny," an eBook by Steve
- A copy of Steve's ACT DVD
- In person seminars hosted at selected high schools around Arkansas
- ACT Clubs set up in high schools, led by high scoring students under the direction of our staff

## + The One/Six approach

- The strategy ("One") is to recognize how simple the test really is and approach it that way. The techniques ("Six") allow students to implement that strategy (2 on English, 2 on Math, 1 on Reading, and 1 on Science).
- The One/Six approach would fit on a postcard. We want that postcard mentally ingrained in the minds of all public school students. We also want them to practice that approach as much as possible.
- Then, we want them to go in and take the ACT three times a year. It may not be possible for all students to do this, but it is a goal to aim for. Those who can't afford the sign-up fees may be provided waivers by the test company.
- If we can get a student to do this, we can raise his or her score not one, but several points. If we can get most students to do this, we certainly can achieve a significant improvement state-wide in 1 year.



### + Efficacy of the Program

- Steve's average improvement over the years is 2-5 points for all students. That is, 75% fall within that range of improvement. For those who take the test multiple times with multiple doses of preparation with Steve, the range improves to 5-8 points.
- Charity's improvements are similar.  
<http://www.act.org/activity/winter2010/arkansas.html>
- A sample class of 150 students hosted by Lyon College 2 years ago in which Steve taught 5 two-hour sessions over 3 days resulted in an average increase of 3 points.

### "A Learning Opportunity of A Lifetime!"

My name is Marcus Brown and I Won \$150,000 in scholarships. I learned to increase my vision, dedication, and learning speed. I wish I had encountered this type of learning environment earlier in my high school career. This is a learning opportunity of a lifetime!"



Thanks,  
Marcus Brown

### + I Have Been Awarded Approximately \$150,000 In Scholarships

Through working under the direction of Dr. Charity Smith, I was able to raise my ACT score by three points in four short weeks. The techniques I learned helped me to become more confident in my abilities as well as helping me gain speed and endurance so I could actually finish an ACT test. As a result of my improvement, I have been awarded approximately \$150,000 in scholarships, grants and work study from Pepperdine University.

Ryan Todd



### + I Finally Earned A Composite Score of 30!

My name is Maryam Adamu . Despite trying several preparation classes, I was unable to increase my score. When I came to the Accelerated Academic Achievement Academy, I felt I had reached a ceiling. After I spent my summer at the academy, my scores improved. On my last ACT, I finally earned a composite score of 30 with a 33 in reading! I plan to attend Stanford University in the Fall.

Maryam Adamu



### + What Our Parents Say About Us

- My son Jonathan Evans received \$93,000 in scholarships. I only had to pay for phone bills. His ACT score climbed from a 19 to a 26. This summer he concluded an internship at Harvard University. He is a biomedical engineering student.

Earnestine Evans, Parent

- Faced with high tuition costs, the only way my daughter could go to college was to make a better score on the ACT and receive a scholarship. Thank goodness I found the help and support she needed.

Sharron King, Parent

### + What Our Peers Say About Us

Dr. Smith,

I hope you are doing well. I wanted to thank you for allowing Allison Congleton and Ben Cassidy to attend your ACT Prep Course. They, and their parents, have had nothing but good things to say about you and the program. I think the students might have been slightly overwhelmed, in a good way! You are really challenging them to push themselves, which we are so happy about. Thanks for all you are doing with them!

Sara Carter, Program Coordinator

Aspirant Program

Vanderbilt University