

**ACTION SHEET**  
**JOINT MEETING**  
**OF THE**  
**HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, August 25, 2015**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**Wal Mart/Regions Room, First Floor, Student Center, ASU-Beebe**  
**1000 Iowa Street, Beebe, Arkansas**

Senator Jane English, the Chair of the Senate Interim Committee on Education, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Jane English, Chair; and Senator Eddie Joe Williams.

**MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION IN ATTENDANCE:** Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair; Representative Charles L. Armstrong; Representative Gary Deffenbaugh; Representative Michael John Gray; and Representative Mark Lowery.

**OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE:** Senator Stephanie Flowers; Representative Jim Dotson; Representative Stephen Meeks; and Representative Sue Scott.

Senator English requested that legislators introduce themselves.

Welcome to ASU-Beebe Campus

*Presenter:*

**Dr. Eugene McKay**, Chancellor, ASU-Beebe, was recognized, and welcomed legislators. Dr. McKay presented a brief history of the John Deere Agriculture Technology (Ag Tech) Program. He remarked how in 1995 the General Assembly appropriated \$136,000 for the program to be initiated on the ASU-Beebe campus. He said the first years were a struggle, but this year there are seventy-two (72) students in the program. He stated he has been impressed with John Deere for the company's insistence on quality in the program and for the support it has given to make the program work. Dr. McKay went on to explain that it's a two-year program with classes held four days a week. He said those who complete the program are awarded an Associate of Applied Science in Agriculture Equipment Technology. He commented that the program affords students a career path with excellent employment opportunities. Dr. McKay continued with a discussion of other programs, including the Veterinary Technology Program and the Multi-Skills Technology Program.

*Contributors to the Discussion:*

**Mr. Jerry Carlisle**, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration, ASU-Beebe  
**Dr. Theodore J. Kalthoff**, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, ASU-Beebe  
**Dr. Belinda Shook**, Superintendent, Beebe School District

*Issues Included in the Discussion:*

- recruitment of students,
- communities from which students originate,
- space available in the program,
- source of tuition payments,
- impact of computerization of farm equipment on learning,

- benefits of residence halls on campus, and
- finding niche programs for ASU-Beebe to serve.

**Dr. Charles Welch**, President, Arkansas State University (ASU) System, was recognized, and announced that Dr. McKay will retire in January 2016, having worked at ASU-Beebe for over 49 years.

**Mr. Shane Broadway**, Vice President, Governmental Relations, ASU System, and former member of the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas Senate, was recognized. Mr. Broadway made additional introductions and announced the tour of the John Deere Agriculture Technology (Ag Tech) Program.

*Next Scheduled Meetings:*

Monday, September 14, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. in Committee Room A, MAC Building, Little Rock

Tuesday, September 15, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room A, MAC Building, Little Rock

*Adjournment:*

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

*Approved: 09/14/15*