

**ARKANSAS**  
TeacherCorps  
**COMMIT. SERVE. TEACH.**

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## INTRODUCTION

### **The Arkansas Teacher Corps (ATC) program:**

- Similar model to Teach for America (TFA)
- Recruits, trains, and supports service-oriented and talented individuals to serve as teachers
- Goals
  - *To provide an accelerated path to teaching for the most talented and committed individuals*
  - *Provide qualified teachers to districts with severe teacher shortages*
  - *Have a lasting impact on students and communities in Arkansas*
- The very ambitious one-line mission motto penned by our teachers:
  - *"All Arkansas students will have extraordinary lives through exceptional education."*

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## OVERVIEW

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## THE NEED: TEACHER SHORTAGES

- **Need for quality teachers is an undisputed concern**
  - In Arkansas, there is a critical shortage of teachers
  - Severe shortages in certain content and geographic areas
- **Enrollment in education prep programs is down 10% this year**
  - 25% decrease from 2010 to 2014
- **Many districts in central and southern Arkansas continue to express great need, especially in math and science**
  - ATC has received over 500 request for teachers in just 3 years
    - Over 200 requests this year alone
- **In the state of Arkansas, there are a large number of teachers teaching outside of their content area**
  - In the 2012-2013 school year 1,475 waiver requests were filled
  - In the 2013-2014 school year 1,696 waiver requests were filled
    - Represents a 15% Increase

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## THE NEED: IMPLICATIONS

- **Without qualified teachers, Arkansas falls behind:**
  - 1 out of 5 Arkansans has a bachelor's degree
  - 70% of Arkansas 8<sup>th</sup> graders read below grade level
  - 82% of high school graduates in Arkansas are behind the national average in math
  - 8% of students from low-income Arkansas families will graduate from college by the age of 24
  
- **We owe our students - the future of our state - the best education possible**
  - *Through access to the best and most committed teachers possible!*

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## PROGRAM LOGIC: SELECTIVE & ACCELERATED

- **Teach for America is a good model**
  - In Arkansas since 1990
  - Strong presence in the Delta
  - Participant numbers have decreased over the past few years
  - Still a significant unmet need for teachers
  
- **ATC aims to expand on the TFA model**
  - Attract talented and committed *Arkansans*
  - 3 year commitment
  - Reach more districts in different geographic areas
  - As a land grant institution, the Univ. of Arkansas should serve entire state; ATC only serves disadvantaged schools

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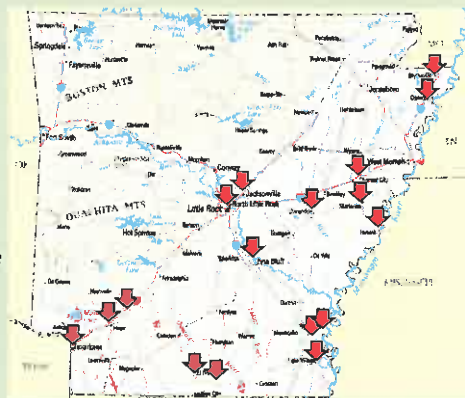
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## WHAT'S THE STATE OF ATC?

- Entering our third year
- Nearly 500 individuals have applied. Of the applicants:
  - One-third are minorities
  - Half originally from low-income communities
  - Acceptance rates from 15-22%
- 48 teachers across the state
  - 19 Districts
  - 26 Schools
    - Avg FRL 70%
    - Avg Minority 69%



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## WHERE ARE THE 48 ATC FELLOWS?

Subject	# Teachers
Science	14
English/Lit.	12
Math	11
Fine Arts	6
Spanish	4
Elementary	3
Soc. Studies	2
Business	1
Administration	1

Some teachers teach multiple subjects.

Level	# Teachers
Elementary	3
Middle School	34
High School	11

Level	# Teachers
Southeast (Delta)	10
Southwest	18
Central	15
Northeast	5

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# WHO ARE THE ATC FELLOWS?

Recruiting new talent to the field: Cohort 1 (Fall 2013)



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# WHO ARE THE ATC FELLOWS?

Recruiting new talent to the field: Cohort 2 (Fall 2014)



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## WHO ARE THE ATC FELLOWS?

Recruiting new talent to the field: Cohort 3 (Fall 2015)



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## HOW HAVE ATC TEACHERS PERFORMED?

- Success in the classroom
  - 3 ATC Teachers named "Teacher of the Year"



Emilianne Slomons, 2013 Fellow at Dermott High School



Randi Curtis, a 2013 Fellow at Prescott High School



Will Chesher, a 2103 Fellow at Hope High School

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## RESULTS: ATC WANTS TO KNOW!

- Overall success with our students
  - Initial test score results look positive (full results pending)
  - Of course, test scores do not alone tell the story, so we went straight to the source: students and school leaders.
  - Surveys show students find **ATC Teachers** (compared to their other teachers):
    - More effective at teaching their subject
    - More knowledgeable about their subject
    - Create a more positive classroom environment
    - Have higher expectation/more rigorous
    - Foster supportive relationships
    - Put in extra time and are more committed to their students

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## RESULTS: ACCORDING TO THE SCHOOL LEADERS

- ATC Teachers are sought after by principals and superintendents
  - *"The caliber of individual accepted to the program [ATC] is greater than that of which I find in [other programs]. Individuals are dedicated to the profession, intelligent, and extremely caring."*
    - Heather Johnson, School Director at KIPP Delta College Preparatory
  - *"It has been a remarkable experience for both the teachers and the district, as well...[ATC Fellows] are very dedicated, loyal and hard-working, and they bring in a totally different perspective for our students to see. It's very difficult, especially for schools in the Delta, to recruit and retain highly qualified mathematics teachers. We hope the program continues to grow. It's off to a remarkable start."*
    - Lee Vent, Superintendent at Clarendon School District

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## MOVING FORWARD

- With the **need for quality teachers** across the state continuing to grow, the Arkansas Teacher Corps plans to **increase** the impact it can have on the state.
  - ATC is currently planning new initiatives including:
    - Increasing the number of teachers placed by **30-40%**,
    - Increasing the number of schools served by **10-20%**,
    - Creating a **Junior Fellowship** program to provide some Fellows with an **additional year of training**, and
    - Expanded recruitment of **STEM teachers** (including computer science/coding teachers).
- Please spread the word to any promising candidates; they can be working with students by the Fall of 2016

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## QUESTIONS?

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