



Weighing Your Options

Many factors to consider when pursuing adult education

Upon the announcement that the Arkansas State Employees Association had added the University of Phoenix to its member discount benefit, the Partners Program, in order to provide a reduction in tuition, the association received inquiries regarding how University's costs compare to other educational opportunities in the state of Arkansas.

Unfortunately, the great number of variables between the particulars of any student's program with one school versus another makes an "apples to apples" comparison extremely difficult. As an example, an undergraduate credit hour at the University of Phoenix's local campus (it has two, one in Little Rock and one in Rogers, in addition to offering courses online) is \$395.00. In comparison, an undergraduate's tuition and mandatory fees with

the University of Arkansas for the fall and spring of 2011/2012 is \$239.11 per hour. (However, the University of Phoenix's tuition does include the cost of books—but does not include a resource fee of \$95.00 per undergraduate class.)

The state of Arkansas offers a wide variety of fine educational opportunities

Additionally, the state of Arkansas offers a wide variety of fine educational opportunities, many of which are at rates more suited to those with less extensive financial means. The Arkansas State Employees Association of course very much supports Arkansas's state-supported institutions of higher education—just as it furthermore encourages anyone pursuing adult education to fully investigate all of his or her options in order to strike the correct balance between cost and educational preferences.

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