



Arkansas Department of Higher Education

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Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Maria Markham, Ph.D.
Director

November 30, 2017

The Honorable John Cooper, Chair
The Honorable Les Eaves, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council – Personnel Subcommittee
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Cooper and Representative Eaves:

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) submits a request from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) for your review. UAMS has requested a professional certification differential of 6.0% for S031C/Skilled Tradesman, Grade – C115 as established by ACA §21-5-221.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences currently possesses one hundred and thirty-three (133) positions authorized as Skilled Tradesman. The Campus Operations Division at UAMS has implemented a new criteria requiring a certification that allows these positions to work in multiple areas. This enables the university to greater utilize current and future manpower. The Skilled Tradesmen are required to operate, update and maintain complex medical surroundings to ensure patient and family safety as well as keep medical equipment running at an advanced level of performance. As a result, they must pass additional certifications and maintain a high level of complex skill sets that are not required at other state entities or in most cases the private sector. These certifications are standard to the industry and will allow for the Skilled Tradesmen to be more competitive in the marketplace.

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) has reviewed the submitted documentation by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and recommends the institution's request for approval of the professional certification compensation differential of 6.0% for the classification of S031C/Skilled Tradesman, Grade – C115. The cost will be \$2,862 with a potential high of \$114,480.

Your consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Markham".

Maria Markham, Ph.D.
Director