



Arkansas Division of Higher Education

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Johnny Key
Secretary

Maria Markham, Ph.D.
Director

June 1, 2022

The Honorable David Wallace, Chair
The Honorable David Hillman, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council – Personnel Subcommittee
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Wallace and Representative Hillman:

Pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated 21-5-1409 (c) (1) (B), I am requesting your review of a salary adjustment of more than two percent (2%) provided for all classified employees at Ozarka College (OZC) for Fiscal Year 2022-23 due to a request of a three percent (3%) COLA for all classified, non-classified and faculty employees. A letter from OZC is attached to provide details and justification regarding this request.

Should you require additional information, please let me know and I will be happy to provide.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Markham". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Maria Markham, Ph. D.
Director



Ozarka College

Providing life-changing experiences through education.

May 23, 2022

Dr. Maria Markham, Director
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
423 Main Street, Suite 400
Little Rock, AR 72201

Re: Cost of Living Adjustment

Dear Dr. Markham:

Per your memorandum of April 25, 2022, Ozarka College is making a formal request to issue a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to all classified, faculty, and non-classified staff for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The Ozarka College Board of Trustees supports this COLA and voted unanimously to approve the 3% COLA on May 20, 2022.

The total cost for the 3% increase will be \$128,275. Ozarka College has sufficient resources to afford the 3% COLA and will utilize salary savings created from retirements and vacancies to fund over two-thirds of the increase.

Due to the rising cost of inflation that the country is experiencing and to help retain qualified staff the administration and board feel that a greater-than-normal COLA is critical. As such, we respectfully ask for your support of this request.

Sincerely,

Richard Dawe, Ph.D.
President

Ozarka College
Cost Breakdown of 3% Increase

	Total
Cost of 3% Increase - Classified	19,127
Cost of 3% Increase - Faculty	59,016
Cost of 3% Increase - Nonclassified	<u>50,132</u>
Total	128,275