

Vision 2025 Commission — January 17, 2014 Meeting Review:

- **Mr. Shane Broadway**, Director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE). He discussed the activities of the College Opportunity Summit, the commitments made by ADHE, the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville plan to expand college opportunities for low-income students, and gave a broad overview of the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet meeting held earlier that day. Mr. Broadway’s presentation included statistics related to: value of postsecondary education, personal per capita income, state general revenue, and other related topics. He mentioned the success of programs and initiatives such as the Career Pathways Program available to TANF recipients. Since 2007, he stated approximately 24,000 participants have received a certificate through the program. He also briefly discussed the ADHE’s partnership with AATYC and PACE.
- **Mrs. Sonja Wright-McMurray**, Associate Director, Arkansas Works, Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE). She discussed the Career Coach Program that started in January 2010 as a pilot in twenty-one (21) of Arkansas’s neediest counties to help high school students with college and career planning. She discussed how the Kuder system helps students create and revise their career plan. The state’s Career Coach Program employs 49 Career Coaches. She also discussed program territory, funding sources, and performance results.
- **Mr. Ray Henson**, Associate Director, Workforce Training, Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE). He was introduced to define the Kuder system (used by ACE since 1998), which is “an education planning and career guidance program that uses evidence-based assessment and various planning and guidance resources.” Arkansas Works designed and utilized a similar system to help middle school and high school students connect with college and career opportunities. In the last four years, there have been 85,000 users. He stated more financial support would be needed, and there are efforts to begin securing 70% of funding from local business and industry. The ACE is also working with Arkansas Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas Economic Development Commission to support students by offering equipment sharing, job shadowing, industry tours, and guest speakers.
- **Ms. Amy Baldwin**, Complete College America (CCA) Coordinator, ADHE. She discussed the CCA grant (starting in 2011) that is used to increase the number of degrees in participating states. Ms. Baldwin said the state used the grant to address: developmental (remedial) course redesign, development of a quantitative literacy course as a college-level math course, and a student prior learning assessment tool. Nine participating institutions have completed the work to get a grant from the CCA; she stated they have achieved success. Discussion contributors: Ms. Brandi Hinkle, Communications Director, ADHE; and Dr. Marla Strecker, Director of Education Leadership Program and Transitional Studies/Assistant Professor of Education, Southern Arkansas University (SAU)

Some Issues of note included:

- Include unions and the Arkansas Education Association in the funding stream for programs;
- Including labor and the trades in the Commission’s discussions;
- Independent colleges and issues impacting them, including performance-based funding;
- Budgeting for Career Coach Program; background information and requirements for coaches;
- Data on counties with Career Coaches vs. those without Career Coaches;
- Success of co-requisites at SAU; retesting students before remedial placement at SAU;
- Need for a presentation to the Commission on the credentialing process for labor;
- Statewide system of tracking student hours toward issuance of a degree;
- What are we not doing to reach the “Class of 2006,” and what can we do better;
- Developing campaigns to encourage non-traditional students to return to college;
- Remediation, UTeach, and Academic Challenge, and compiling a list of building capital needs for each college and university; and
- Statewide tracking system of tracking student hours toward issuance of degree.