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Division of Higher Education

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Jacob Oliva
Secretary

Ken Warden, Ed.D.
Commissioner

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Jonathan Dismang, Chair
The Honorable Lane Jean, Chair
Joint Budget Committee
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Dismang and Representative Jean:

Please accept this as a formal request from the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to amend the appropriation bill for North Arkansas College for the fiscal year 2026-2027 to reflect the college receiving approval to join the University of Arkansas System:

Section 5. SPECIAL LANGUAGE – CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code 6-53-301 is amended to read as follows:

(a)

(1) The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall designate the following institutions as technical colleges which shall become part of the Arkansas Technical and Community College System under the coordination of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

(C) North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas, Harrison;

Section 6. SPECIAL LANGUAGE – CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code 6-5-302 is amended to read as follows:

From the moneys accruing to the Educational Excellence Trust Fund, the Treasurer of State on the last day of the month shall transfer to the various funds and fund accounts listed below, the amounts determined by applying each fund or fund account's proportionate part of the total of all such allocations set forth in this section to the amount available for distribution as determined in § 6-5-301:

North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas Fund

353,775

372,898

Section 7. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code 6-63-305 is amended to read as follows:

(b) The following maximum number of new additional positions is established for the biennium for the following institutions of higher education at salary rates not to exceed the salary rate or the highest grade level position of comparable positions established in the regular salaries section of the appropriations act for operations for each institution:

(13) North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas – 70

Section 8. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code 19-4-906 is amended to read as follows:

(a) None of the funds appropriated for the various state agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, departments, and institutions of higher education listed below shall be used to purchase, lease for over thirty (30) days, operate, repair, or provide services for more than the maximum number of passenger motor vehicles as set out in this section, except in an emergency as proclaimed by the Governor. Passenger motor vehicles are defined as those licensed for highway use, including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, and vans. Mileage reimbursement for employees' utilization of their personal automobiles shall not be deemed to be included in this restriction.

(100) North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas – 30

Section 9. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code 19-4-906 is amended to read as follows:

(a) None of the funds appropriated for the various state agencies, authorities, boards, commissions, departments, and institutions of higher education listed below shall be used to purchase, lease for over thirty (30) days, operate, repair, or provide services for more than the maximum number of passenger motor vehicles as set out in this section, except in an emergency as proclaimed by the Governor. Passenger motor vehicles are defined as those licensed for highway use, including, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, and vans. Mileage reimbursement for employees' utilization of their personal automobiles shall not be deemed to be included in this restriction.

(100) North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas - 30

Section 10. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code 19-22-103

(m) North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas Fund.

(1) There is established on the books of the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State, and the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State a fund to be known as the "North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas Fund".

(2) The North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas Fund shall be used for the maintenance, operation, and improvement of North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas.

(3) The North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas Fund shall consist of:

(A) Those general revenues as may be provided by law; and

(B) Any other funds made available for the support of North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas which are required to be deposited into the State Treasury by law.

Section 11. SPECIAL LANGUAGE - CODE AMENDMENT. Arkansas Code 19-61-301(a)(23) is amended to read as follows:

(a) In addition to any state agency authorized by regulation to have an agency procurement official, each of the following state agencies may elect to have such an official for commodities, technical and general services, and professional and consultant services, which are not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the State Procurement Director and which are not under state contract:

(23) North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas;

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nicholas Fuller
Assistant Commissioner for Finance