



Handout C1

Arkansas Department of Higher Education

114 East Capitol • Little Rock, Arkansas • 72201-3818 • (501) 371-2000 • Fax (501) 371-2001

Mike Beebe
Governor

Shane Broadway
Interim Director

NOTE TO EDITORS: Please refer to attached tables for enrollment at all institutions.

Oct. 4, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Brandi Hinkle, Communications Coordinator
Arkansas Department of Higher Education
501-683-2078
brandi.hinkle@adhe.edu

Arkansas colleges, universities see increased fall enrollment

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Total fall semester enrollment at Arkansas colleges and universities increased by two percent compared to last year, according to preliminary figures released Tuesday by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE).

Total fall enrollment in higher education is 176,114 in public and private schools. Figures are based on a “snapshot” of enrollment on the 11th day of classes for both undergraduate and graduate level students.

“For the last few years, the state has had steady increases in enrollment,” said Shane Broadway, ADHE interim director, “but more importantly over the past two years Arkansas was ranked first in increased bachelor’s degree production among public schools in Southern Regional Education Board states.”

In 2006-07, Arkansas conferred 8,496 bachelor’s degrees as compared to 9,392 in 2008-09, an increase of more than 10 percent, according to SREB data.

“Arkansas must create a workforce that has in-demand credentials and skills,” Broadway said, “as forecasts indicate by the year 2020 nearly three-fourths of jobs will require an education beyond a high school diploma.

“Increasing enrollment is important,” Broadway continued, “as it’s also an indicator of retention, and we know in Arkansas that retention is a barrier to overcome in reaching the governor’s goal of doubling the number of degree holders in the state by 2025.”

The ADHE is responsible for carrying out the policy directives of the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB), approving and reviewing college and university academic programs and developing funding recommendations for the state’s 11 public universities and 22 public two-year colleges as well as several other post-secondary entities. In addition, the agency is responsible for distributing approximately \$170 million annually from state revenues and lottery funds intended to ease the financial burden of students seeking an education beyond high school.

For more information, visit www.adhe.edu.

###

Handout C1

Increase in Bachelor's Degrees Conferred Public Four-Year Universities, 2006-07 to 2008-09

	2006-07	2008-09	% Increase
SREB states	346,540	368,898	6.5%
Arkansas	8,496	9,392	10.5%
North Carolina	28,193	30,905	9.6%
Florida	47,326	51,449	8.7%
Georgia	25,895	28,041	8.3%
Alabama	17,701	18,996	7.3%
Oklahoma	14,800	15,874	7.3%
Texas	74,153	79,420	7.1%
Delaware	3,821	4,075	6.6%
South Carolina	14,051	14,973	6.6%
Virginia	29,005	30,725	5.9%
Maryland	16,577	17,477	5.4%
Louisiana	16,936	17,497	3.3%
Mississippi	9,867	10,193	3.3%
Kentucky	14,742	15,134	2.7%
West Virginia	8,127	8,242	1.4%
Tennessee	16,850	16,505	-2.0%

Source: SREB Table 2: Degrees and Other Awards Conferred All Public Four-Year Universities.