

A COMPACT WITH THE PEOPLE of ARKANSAS



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



University of Central Arkansas



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM



The Presidents and Chancellors of the state's baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree granting institutions hereby pledge the following 16 points to the People of Arkansas, our Boards of Trustees, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Coordinating Board, the General Assembly, the Governor, and other Constitutional Officers:

- 1. Transparency:** To be transparent and accountable in decision making. As college costs continue to rise, the importance of disclosure of information about programs, finances, and performance to the citizenry becomes an increasingly important factor for the public.
- 2. Careful Fiscal Management:** To spend the state's resources, as appropriated by the General Assembly, carefully, prudently, and appropriately with a strong commitment to cost savings and cost containment.
- 3. Performance Measures:** To hold ourselves to public accountability on performance measures and key indicators that demonstrate to all citizens that progress is being made continuously toward the quality of our programs and efforts.
- 4. Governor's Challenge:** To meet the Governor's challenge of doubling the number of degrees produced by our institutions of higher learning by 2025.
- 5. Increasing Baccalaureates:** To increase dramatically the number of our citizens with a baccalaureate degree.
- 6. Tuition and Fees Low:** To keep tuition and fee costs for students as low as possible while recognizing the need for increased state support and the importance of maintaining academic quality and upkeep of our sizeable physical facilities.
- 7. Seamless Transfers:** To work collectively on academic collaboration and unique partnerships between and among two-year and four-year institutions to make student transfer as seamless and efficient as possible.
- 8. Lower Remediation Rates:** To work collectively with primary and secondary schools to lower remediation rates and help better prepare students for the rigors of college life and work so that they are able to access the American opportunity system through a baccalaureate degree and beyond.
- 9. Sustainability:** To protect the environment and invest in energy efficiencies and sustainable business practices.
- 10. Expand Diversity:** To continue our collective commitment to expand the diversity of our student bodies and significantly increase the number of faculty and staff with persons of color and from underrepresented groups.
- 11. Assist Veterans:** To reach out to current and future student veterans helping them to navigate the processes of enrollment, coordinate access to services, and reduce barriers to their full participation in campus life.
- 12. Student Goals and Aspirations:** To work with all students to help them realize their goals and aspirations and to succeed in producing graduates with the ability to think globally, act locally, and value learning for a lifetime.
- 13. Affordability:** To assist students with financial aid and scholarship support so that no student in Arkansas is denied a four-year degree because of his or her inability to pay.
- 14. Non-Traditional Students:** To bolster our efforts to accommodate non-traditional and transfer students who are equally important to the goals of increasing the percentage of the Arkansas population holding a bachelor's degree or higher and helping to bring higher wage jobs to the state.
- 15. Entrepreneurial:** To be entrepreneurial in seeking additional sources of revenue for key initiatives and student support. While public funding will continue to comprise the crucial backbone of our operating budgets, we pledge to seek other revenue sources including private gifts, external grants, and contracts. Spillovers of knowledge from research often translate into new products and services and new jobs for Arkansas. Our institutions are enhancing the success and competitiveness of a growing number of emerging technology companies that can sustain economic prosperity in Arkansas.
- 16. Economic Development:** To engage more fully in contributing to economic development in the state by fostering conditions to create, attract, and retain businesses and industries that will benefit by the expanding number of well-educated and prepared students graduating from colleges and universities in Arkansas.

Our baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree granting public universities in Arkansas cannot achieve the ambitious compact outlined above without the concerted efforts and support of the legislative and executive branches of state government. We pledge to do our part in growing the economic base of Arkansas and improving the lives of our citizens.

The prosperity of our state and nation, not to mention individual citizens, depends on the acquisition of higher education. Our ability to move forward productively in all areas of society depends on an educated workforce and informed citizenry.

We pledge collectively and cooperatively as the presidents and chancellors of our state's public universities to work as hard as humanly possible toward the achievement of the 16 points above.

Presidents and Chancellors

Joel Anderson
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Paul Beran
University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

Robert C. Brown
Arkansas Tech University

Lawrence Davis
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

David Gearhart
University of Arkansas

Dan Howard
Arkansas State University

Jack Lassiter
University of Arkansas at Monticello

Allen Meadors
University of Central Arkansas

Robert Potts
Arkansas State University System

Dan Rahn
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

David Rankin
Southern Arkansas University

Alan Sugg
University of Arkansas System

Charles Welch
Henderson State University

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