

Arkansas Department of Higher Education

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Asa Hutchinson Governor Maria Markham, Ph.D. Director

December 13, 2017

The Honorable Keith Ingram, Chair The Honorable Chris Richey, Chair Arkansas Lottery Legislative Oversight Committee State Capitol Building Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Ingram and Representative Richey:

In accordance with Arkansas Code Annotated 6-85-219(b), I am submitting for your review the Arkansas Department of Higher Education (ADHE) recommendations for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program.

I propose an evaluation and analysis of the scholarship with the following principles in mind:

- The scholarship program should be reviewed in conjunction with other state financial aid programs to ensure that college affordability combined with student performance is a priority.
- Consideration given to increasing the amount of expenditures allowed from \$12 million to \$15 million for the nontraditional student population.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Maria Markham, Ph.D.

Director