

# VISION 2025 COMMISSION

November 8, 2013

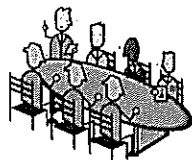
## Arkansas Higher Education Initiatives

- Overview of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education
- Review the Process of the Legislative Taskforce on Higher Education Remediation, Retention and Graduation Rates

Before there was the Vision 2025 Commission (2013-16)

Before there was the Legislative Taskforce on Higher Education Remediation, Retention and Graduation Rates (2007-08)

THERE WAS THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION 2003-04



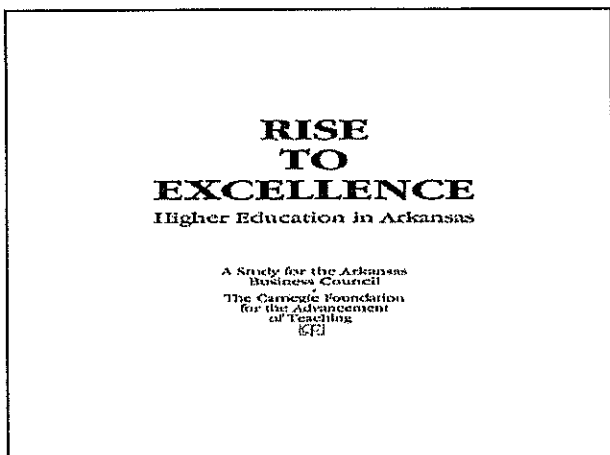
EVEN FURTHER BACK

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING'S REPORT "RISE TO EXCELLENCE" 1988 COMMISSIONED BY THE ARKANSAS BUSINESS COUNCIL (GOOD SUIT CLUB) FOR \$100,000.

ALSO IN 1988 THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION CONDUCTED A SIMILAR STUDY.

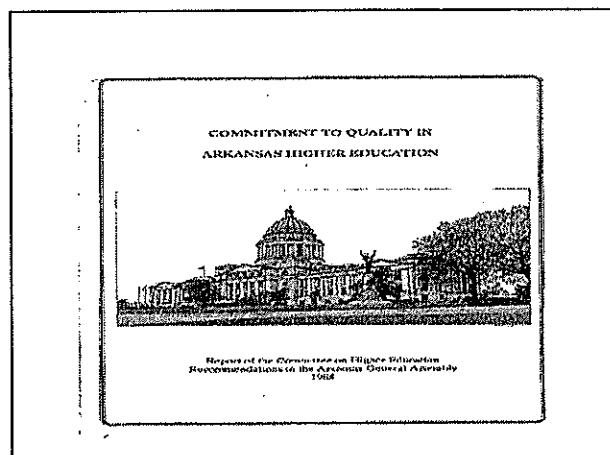
THE QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE (QHESC) - ACT 8 OF 1983





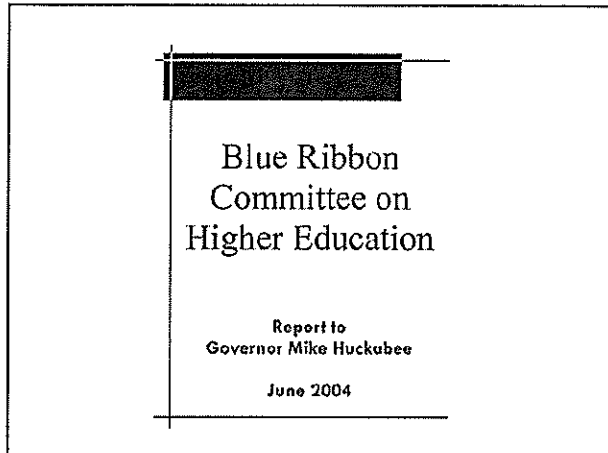
### The Good Suits Club Report

- Arkansas Business Council: included Sam Walton, Charles Murphy, and Don Tyson
- They issued a report in 1988 that endorsed most of the Carnegie study recommendations and added one on faculty tenure.
- Stated their support for higher taxes in exchange for reforms and greater accountability. (Source: Southern Arkansas University . The Mulerider School's Centennial History, 1909-2009. James F. Willis.)



### The Committee on Higher Education

- 15 Member Body—6 legislators & 9 business and education leaders.
- The Committee on Higher Education first met October 2, 1987, and elected Representative Bob McGinnis as chairman and Don Tyson, vice chairman. Subsequent meetings were held October 31, November 21, January 23, 1988, February 17, March 22, April 16, May 20, June 7, June 29, July 6, and August 23. The Committee's ultimate goal was to make recommendations to improve the quality of higher education. Presentations from business and education leaders provided the underlying theme of the vital role of higher education to Arkansas' future. To facilitate the wide range of issues assigned for study, three subcommittees were formed and designated: 1) Academic Issues; 2) Administration and Organization; and 3) Finance and Support.
- Many of same recommendations as the Good Suit Club.



**The Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education**

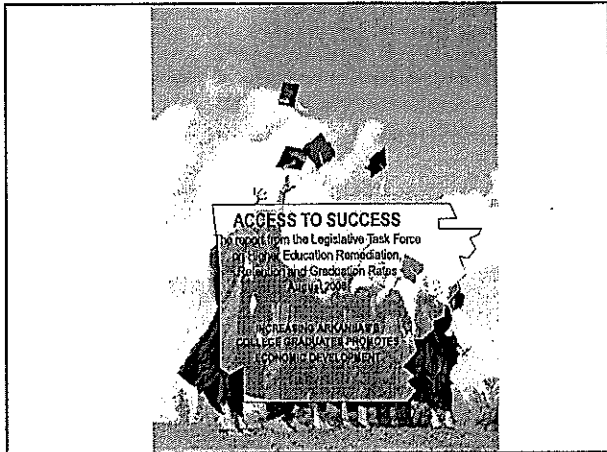
- The study lasted six months—seven meetings.
- Research provided by the ADHE, SREB, ACT, AEDC, SHEEO, and K-12 reports.
- 15 Members—all appointed by Governor Huckabee in 2004.
- Senator Jim Hendren was a member [not in office at that time]. Almost all were business members.

**The Blue Ribbon Committee on Higher Education**

- The report questioned the efficiency of the state's system of higher education and asserted:  
*...we recognize that for Arkansas' two- and four-year higher education institutions to perform at a level comparable to their peers and worthy of the investment made by Arkansas' taxpayers, major structural reform of the existing system is necessary. Incremental change will not create meaningful improvement to the current situation.*  
**We believe the recurring and explicit lack of any meaningful centralized governance is at the heart of our higher education performance issues.**

**Higher Education Initiatives**

- Understand the Setting or Current Reality
- Define the Problem-Challenges (Limits to Scope)
- Establish a Goal(s)
- Identify Resources-Strengths
- Propose Solutions (Recommendations) – Set Benchmarks
- Be Guided by the Legislation - Act 1082 of 2013



### Higher Education Initiatives

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### Challenges


An outline of challenges provided a framework for the research and recommendations.

- Strengthening the Arkansas Education Pipeline
- Improving Preparation
- Decreasing Remediation
- Accessing Financial Aid
- Increasing Retention and Graduation
- Enhancing funding and Governance
- Addressing Data Needs
- Supporting Economic Development

### TASKFORCE MEMBERS

15 appointed positions

- Limited to 4 Legislators
- Agency Representatives
  - Higher Education
  - Education (K-12)
- Practitioners
  - Deans, Faculty
  - Administrative Personnel
  - Four-Year and Two-Year Institutions



### Task Force Meetings

- Started meeting in September 2007
- Met 16 times
- Utilized three work groups
  - K-12
  - Two-Year Institution
  - Four-Year Institution
- These groups met numerous times to consider research and recommendations central to their particular concerns.

### Research Based - Speakers

- Fall Two Day Workshop**
- Dr. Dave Spence, President, SREB
  - Dr. John Ahlen, President, ASTA
  - Dr. Julie Bell, Ed. Program Director, NCSL
  - Dr. Dennis Jones, President, NCHEMS
  - Dr. Joe Marks, Director, SREB
  - Mr. Richard Kazis, Senior VP, Jobs for the Future
- Spring Workshop**
- Governor Beebe
  - Kati Haycock, President, Education Trust

### Task Force Initial Recommendations

Recommendation	Time Horizon	Rationale	Cost Estimate
2.3. Require schools to administer the following preparatory examinations: EXPLORE (8 <sup>th</sup> ), PLAN (11 <sup>th</sup> ), and PSAT (11 <sup>th</sup> ) at state expense?	Summer 2009	These examinations provide early benchmarks for student performance on the ACT and SAT examinations. They also identify the areas in need of further student development.	\$350,000
2.4. Explore the possibility of expanding the Arkansas SCHOLARS program, which is aligned with the Smart Core requirements.	Summer 2009	The Arkansas SCHOLARS program encourages students in the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade to pursue a rigorous course of study, thus increasing their ability to be college/work ready.	No cost
2.5. Diminish the percentage of students opting out of Smart Core by 2016.	Summer 2009	Research supports that it is in the best interest of all students to engage in a rigorous course of study. High expectations are the key to student achievement.	No cost.
2.6. Support the work and recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Best Practices for After-School and Summer Programs. The Task Force was created by executive order EC 07-15.	Summer 2009	Properly structured summer intervention and after-school programs can provide students with additional opportunities and support thus increasing college readiness.	To be determined.
2.7. Encourage a scholarship program to provide tuition for concurrent credit students as a way of encouraging students to get a head start on college prior to full completion of college.	2011-12	Students who have earned the right to enroll prior to enrolling have a greater likelihood of success in college. Washington state is an example of a state currently administering this type of program.	\$6 million

### Tracking Progress on Recommendations

Recommendation	Report Page No.	Time Horizon	GA Number	Bills and Other Actions	Spencer	Ed Status
2.3. Require each college and university to develop their plan to increase the number of students who successfully complete at least one scholar degree. The plan should include a mechanism for coordinating activities between institutions and involve appropriate state and congressional agencies and entities under the Arkansas Career Transfer System which should have common course numbering systems a component.	24	2011-12	HB1537 of 2009	Act to create a transfer jury transferable hour limit, degree in associated arts, in associated sciences and associated arts in teaching among public institutions of higher education.	Ed Status	Approved Act 102 of 2009
			HB1772 of 2011	Act to enhance the opportunity for success through completion through the transfer of credits between institutions of higher education and the State-Private Transfer Policy to clarify which transferable credit agreements, to establish a transfer common course numbering system for institutions of higher education.	Repealed	Approved Act 143 of 2011
2.7. Encourage a scholarship program to provide tuition for concurrent credit students as a way of encouraging students to get a head start on college prior to full completion of college.	28	2010-11				
2.8. Recommend that the state participate in the education program through the Back2BASIC Central Arkansas State University program and promote postsecondary learning.	28	2011-12	HB1540 of 2009	Act to authorize the Department of Correction to participate in the Back2BASIC program through the Department of Correction.	Spencer	Approved Act 184 of 2009
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REPORT OF THE EDUCATION PROFESSION			HB1540 of 2009	Act to create the Arkansas Project Graduation Commission	Word	Approved Act 150 of 2009

### Summary: How to Get it Done

- Build Support
- Identify Action Needed and Actors to Complete the Action
- Track Progress

