

## **Unplanned Pregnancy Prevention Annual Report**

Submitted by Ann Clemmer, Senior Associate Director, for Director Maria Markham, Arkansas Department of Higher Education, in compliance with Act 943 of 2015, to:

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Chair, Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee

Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Chair, House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee.

Senator Jane English, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

Representative Bruce Cozart, Chair, House Committee on Education

Under Act 943 of 2015 the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB) was directed to develop an action plan to address unplanned pregnancies on college campuses and to submit annual reports on implementation by November 1 to the above named offices.

The legislation directs higher education institutions in nine areas. Among those directives colleges and universities are: to identify methods of addressing the problem of unplanned pregnancy, to collaborate with health centers, to identify a measure of success, and to incorporate into academic coursework "as appropriate". *The legislation mandates that campuses include in their orientations information on the prevention of unplanned pregnancy.*

The annual reports have been collected by the Department of Higher Education for 2017-2018. The department is able to report that all 11 public four-year universities and all 22 two-year campuses have submitted reports and are in compliance with Act 943.

The implementation reports will be scanned and posted on the ADHE website for campuses to use as they look for additional ways to address this important issue.

### **Highlights from Selected Programs:**

**Arkansas Tech University** had ongoing programming throughout the school year that began with resident hall director training on health services available for students, including birth control. A fall workshop and a sexual responsibility week in February offered training and presentations that informed students about abstinence,

Unplanned Pregnancies on Your Campus in 140 Characters or Less.” This presentation was aimed at spreading awareness of the legislation and promoting campus activities for compliance. Notably, Health Services at UA Little Rock are able to offer eligible students long acting contraceptives by expanding their third-party billing and certification of their APRNs.

**ASU-Mid South** has utilized their first year experience course to impress upon students the challenges an unplanned pregnancy can bring to completing a college credential. They took students to the East Arkansas Family Health Center and familiarized them with the services offered there. An annual campus health fair in the spring and the campus-wide unplanned pregnancy fall event distributed information on unplanned pregnancy. ASU-Mid South developed programs for their athletes and partnerships with Home Visiting Services to reach more students with unplanned pregnancy information.

**College of the Ouachitas** has incorporated the unplanned pregnancy material into freshman experience courses by devoting a full class period to the delivery of medically accurate prevention information. The instructor is conducting pre-tests and post-tests to gauge student learning. “Student-parents” participate in various panels where they talk about the challenges of parenting while in college. All incoming students who indicate that they are also parents are screened for participation in the Career Pathways Initiative, for Healthy Family resources, and encouraged to apply for the CADC Single Parent Scholarship.

**UACC Hope-Texarkana** also incorporated unplanned pregnancy into their first year experience course; they conducted an awareness campaign in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Health; and partnered with 1st Choice Pregnancy Resource Center for their abstinence program and adoption referral services. They worked with Hope Academy of Public Service 9<sup>th</sup> grade class on college preparedness and a discussion on unplanned pregnancy. UAHT has applied for a grant (as encouraged in the legislation) to move to a professional advising model which will have an emphasis on life coaching and include unplanned pregnancy prevention information.