

# AT THE **CENTER** OF INNOVATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2023





# BUILDING FUTURES



In the heart of the capital city, we are dedicated to shaping the future to benefit our students and Arkansas. This Annual Report serves as a testament to our strategic efforts aimed at fostering education access, economic development, and community engagement. At UA Little Rock, we are building a future where students have access to quality, affordable education, innovation thrives, and our communities benefit from an excellent university in Little Rock.





## From the Chancellor

This year UA Little Rock celebrates a bountiful harvest—the result of several years of dedicated seed sowing and cultivation both on campus and within the community.

Through the innovation and hard work of many, we are increasing enrollment, building new programs, expanding our community partnerships, and significantly growing our endowment.

Over the course of the year, the campus community has validated the institutional priorities I outlined in 2020 and transformed them into a new 5-year strategic plan. Increasing access to a quality college education remains our number one goal with affordability a key initiative. We recently launched the Trojan Guarantee that ensures zero tuition cost for Pell Grant-eligible full-time freshmen who also receive the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship. Along with many other financial aid opportunities, our efforts in this area have made us one of the most affordable four-year institutions in Arkansas based on the average of what students pay—the net price.

We continue to enrich the student experience through innovative programs like Cybersecurity and the new Teacher Education residency program, and through enhancements of the living and learning environment such as the spectacular new Trojan Way. Our commitment to building industry and community partnerships is stronger than ever with dozens of new partners joining us to sponsor classroom upgrades, provide industry internships, and build new career pathways at UA Little Rock.

I hope you find lots to inspire in this year's annual report. Please consider visiting our campus in the coming year to see for yourself what is at the center of innovation.

Sincerely,

Christina S. Drale, Chancellor / UA Little Rock



# On Campus & In the Community



Chancellor Dale proudly unveils the plaque honoring Scott Ford as the Rotary Club of Little Rock's Business and Professional Leader of the Year.



Chancellor Dale meets with UA Little Rock students as they receive scholarships from LULAC. UA Little Rock has been a LULAC premier destination campus since 2010.



Read how Chancellor Dale discusses the value of broadening the concept of workforce development in a commentary that appeared in Arkansas Business. [ualr.edu/chancellor/2023/08/07/lets-broaden-the-concept-of-workforce-development](https://ualr.edu/chancellor/2023/08/07/lets-broaden-the-concept-of-workforce-development)



Chancellor Dale visits with students at BBQ at Bailey. The annual tradition brings together the campus and local community each fall.





## Center Stage

The university's new strategic plan is the result of an inclusive and collaborative process involving all divisions within the institution. Each division actively contributed to the development of the overarching goals. Following the adoption of the overarching goals, each campus division has worked to develop a component plan that works in support of the overarching goals.

This collaborative approach ensures that the plan reflects the collective vision and aspirations of the university's campus community and helps the entire campus community understand and support the strategic vision of the university.

These goals are central to the UA Little Rock student, faculty, and community experience. As such, this annual report will highlight the work happening on campus in support of these important campus strategic goals.

### Goal 1 – Access

Increase student access to transformative educational experiences that are affordable, versatile, and relevant.

### Goal 2 – Experience

Improve the student, faculty, and staff experience by cultivating an engaging campus community that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

### Goal 3 – Attainment

Strengthen educational attainment through academic programs leading to social and economic mobility and the achievement of students' aspirational goals.

### Goal 4 – Research

Expand the institution's applied research footprint to provide advanced educational opportunities and to broaden external impact.

### Goal 5 – Community Engagement

Enhance community engagement through partnerships and collaborations involving faculty, staff, and students that address local, state, and regional needs.



# About UA Little Rock Students

At UA Little Rock, our campus community has worked hard to overcome over a decade of enrollment declines. For the first time in more than a decade, UA Little Rock is seeing positive enrollment gains. This year we experienced an increase in undergraduate and graduate student full-time equivalents (FTE) of 1.2% and an increase in student semester credit hours (SSCH) of 1.0%.

At UA Little Rock, the student community has a multitude of diverse lived experiences. With nontraditional, transfer, first-generation, military, working, parenting, and independent students all converging, classrooms become a mosaic of perspectives. This blend generates a dynamic learning environment, where the exchange of unique viewpoints fosters creativity, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the world.

As students from all walks of life come together, they create a unique space for holistic learning that extends beyond textbooks, preparing them for the complexities of a diverse and interconnected global society.

Here's more about our undergraduate students:



**89%** ARE FROM ARKANSAS



**3.33** IS THE AVERAGE GPA OF ENTERING FRESHMEN



**61%** WORK WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL



**58%** RECEIVE PELL ASSISTANCE



**51%** HAVE A FAMILY



**7%** ARE MILITARY STUDENTS



**85%** OF ALUMNI STAY IN ARKANSAS







Student candidates for a new teacher residency program partnership between UA Little Rock and Jacksonville North Pulaski School District sign their letters of intent during a press conference.

## Partnerships: Advancing Access and Internship Opportunities

Dedicated to facilitating quality education and cultivating student opportunities, UA Little Rock has strategically cultivated partnerships with industry leaders.

These partnerships effectively bolster our students' growth through:

- Providing educational access
- Creating valuable internship experiences
- Elevating academic excellence

While our annual report encompasses all three aspects, this article zeroes in on educational access and internships. These collaborations synergistically align with UA Little Rock's efforts to support the State of Arkansas through workforce development.

In an impressively brief span, our corporate affiliations have surged from three to over 22 in less than a year. With a focus on providing access to education, corporate partnerships offer a winning scenario for everyone. They support industry leaders in enhancing the knowledge and skills of their workforce, while simultaneously driving growth in the workforce in Arkansas.

"We are thrilled with the growth of our corporate partnership program," said Matthew Bellew, corporate partnerships coordinator. "Its success demonstrates the value this program offers to industry organizations, and it supports our collective mission of access."

Additionally, industry partnerships lead to valuable internship opportunities for students. Internships help students gain practical experience, apply classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios, and build connections.





Students benefit from internships with leaders in the capital city.



Corporate partners provide increased access opportunities for students.



22 PARTNERS OFFERING TUITION SUPPORT



100+ INTERSHIP AND ACADEMIC PARTNERS

"By partnering with our industry partners, we're able to ensure our students have relevant internship opportunities," said Dr. Kim Jones, interim co-director of the School of Social Work. "Having our students work in settings and with clients is meaningful and helps them to fully see what a career in social work can entail."

UA Little Rock is dedicated to forging and nurturing strategic industry partnerships, knowing they play a pivotal role in shaping the success of students and provide value in supporting the economy of our state.



Watch UA Little Rock student Guillermo Soto discuss the value of his internship with Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield.  
[youtube.com/watch?v=XSWuavl2fOs](https://youtube.com/watch?v=XSWuavl2fOs)





# Providing Access Through Affordability

At UA Little Rock, our core mission is to provide an affordable education for students, helping benefit the state and our region. One way we're accomplishing this is through removing barriers that many students face.

"It is an institutional priority for UA Little Rock to help students obtain their degree with little to no debt at graduation," said Dr. Cody Decker, vice chancellor for student affairs and chief data officer.

We've developed a comprehensive scholarship initiative supporting access to institutional, state, and federal funding, without asking students to take on student loans. Here are ways we are making sure college is affordable and accessible for students:

- **Trojan Guarantee** - Starting in Fall 2024, this will guarantee that if a student is Pell-eligible and gets the Academic Challenge Scholarship, they can earn a zero-tuition bachelor's degree.
- **½ Off Scholarship** - This provides entering freshmen students with a half-off tuition scholarship for the first two years at UA Little Rock.
- **Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship** - This scholarship is for Arkansas residents and is funded by the Arkansas Scholarship Lottery. It is available to students regardless of their financial status.
- **Need-based Scholarships** - UA Little Rock has multiple need-based scholarships that support students with significant financial need.
- **UA Pulaski Tech - Scholarship Matching** - Students transferring from UA-PTC receive a tuition matching scholarship, allowing them to continue their education at the same rate they paid at UA-PTC.
- **Scholarship Universe** - This is our no cost scholarship-matching tool that matches students with private university scholarships and national scholarships.
- **Corporate Partnerships** - UA Little Rock has developed a corporate partnership program with more than 22 industry partners that provides a discounted tuition rate for partner employees.
- **Trojan Works** - UA Little Rock has developed a campus work program helping students gain valuable experience. This program does not require federal work study eligibility.
- **Minority Outreach** - UA Little Rock supports the Hispanic community by being a LULAC Destination Campus, providing a Spanish-speaking recruiter, and offering admissions materials in Spanish, helping ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment for potential students.
- **"Get Your Feet Wet" Scholarship** - This scholarship supports graduate students beginning their academic journey by covering the tuition for one course, helping them ease into graduate school and gain confidence.





As a result of focusing on affordability, UA Little Rock has continued reducing the net price students pay and is now the third least expensive four-year public university in the state.

For many students, combining the offerings helps significantly reduce the price. For example, when combining the half-off scholarship and the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship, a student can earn a four-year degree for \$14,000 total. That's the baseline. However, when factoring in additional scholarships, Pell Grants, and other funding sources – the cost is much less.



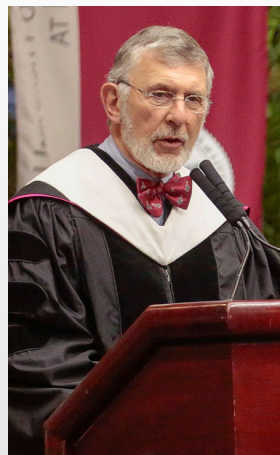
**1500** EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS MATCHED  
IN SCHOLARSHIP UNIVERSE

**1/2 OFF**

**405** STUDENTS UTILIZED THE HALF-OFF  
SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR



**125** STUDENTS CAPITALIZING ON  
THE UA-PTC MATCH



“I continue to be impressed by the work UA Little Rock is doing to provide opportunities for students in our community. Their ongoing work to ensure a quality college experience that is affordable is to be commended and will benefit Little Rock and the region for years to come.”

— Dr. Dean Kumpuris, Chair  
UA Little Rock Board of Visitors







# TECHNOLOGY



Fifteen classrooms and labs  
have been upgraded with technology that helps students.



Students use high-tech equipment  
to enhance their learning experiences.



# Embracing Technology to Help Students Prepare

In order for students to succeed in today's ever-changing workforce, embracing technology is critical. In the classroom, students need access to the latest tools and technology to prepare for their career.

Here are just a few of the latest technologies available for UA Little Rock students to use in their studies:

- **Clean Research Room:** This is a specialized room that removes pollutants like dust and airborne microbes. It helps students conduct research and be assured their research is not impacted by airborne contaminants.
- **CAVE (Cave Automatic Virtual Environment):** This space connects giant 3D screens for a lifesize virtual reality experience. It helps cybersecurity students develop full-scale prototypes of buildings and places to mitigate issues prior to development.
- **Simulation Labs:** Available for multiple programs, these spaces allow students to practice their skills in a safe environment helping them improve through immediate, real-time feedback.

Access to much of the latest technology is made possible because of industry partnerships and helps ensure UA Little Rock students learn on the latest technology, so they're prepared when they step into their industry internship or career.

"We are grateful to our industry partners in the construction industry," said Dr. Lawrence Whitman, dean of the Donaghey College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. "The relationships we've built help our students. When they learn on similar equipment, we're preparing them to be better employees because they're already familiar with the technology in the field. It's a true symbiotic relationship."

In addition to facility upgrades, industry partnerships also support academic excellence through curriculum enhancements. Through collaboration with industry partners, UA Little Rock remains closely attune to industry trends, cutting-edge technologies, and evolving practices. This alignment ensures that our students receive an education that mirrors the current demands of the workforce, enhancing their employability upon graduation.

Embracing technology is more than an instructional strategy; it fosters collaborative endeavors that bring unique groups together to learn from one another.

For example, the Crimescene 360 Virtual Reality application developed at UA Little Rock emerged from a partnership between the Emerging Analytics Center and the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology. The EAC students utilized



Clean Research Room



Crimescene 360 Virtual Reality

their skills to develop and build the app, while students in the criminal justice program use the app as an applied learning tool.

"Being able to utilize the app helped our students to hone their crime scene skills," said Dr. Tusty ten Bensel, associate dean, College of Business, Health, and Human Services. "We are looking to expand our use of technology in the classroom. With major advances in virtual reality and artificial intelligence, there are many more options to utilize such tools to provide active learning experiences for our students."

These are just a few examples of UA Little Rock's continued commitment to ensuring students are prepared for their career. By integrating technology into the learning process, students at UA Little Rock are poised to shape a world that embraces the power of knowledge and the importance of collaboration.



# Enhancing the Living and Learning Environment

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is investing in a significant upgrade that will change the university for decades to come.

Thanks to a generous \$8+ million dollar grant from the Donaghey Foundation and other private donors, the university is redefining its north to south campus promenade. The Trojan Way, as the project is called, will be completed in 2024-25 and will result in a major upgrade to the campus living and learning environment.

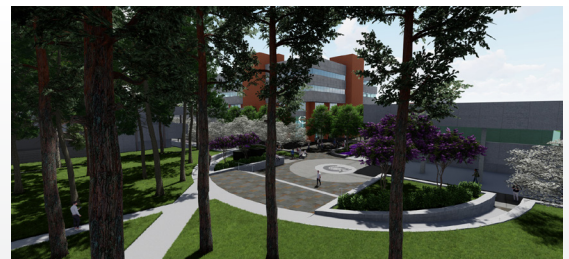
Living and learning environments are spaces specifically designed to help the university community build connections, gather for special events, and regularly network with one another.

Some of the planned upgrades for the Trojan Way that will foster such connections include:

- Enhanced walkways with landscaping and lighting
- Outdoor learning environments
- Stage for hosting campus events
- Seating wall with built-in charging stations

More than just reimagining the campus promenade, living and learning environments play a key role in student success.

"Helping students succeed drives everything we do at UA Little Rock, and this project is no different," said Chancellor Christina S. Drale. "By providing these gathering spaces, we are creating community on our campus and giving students the opportunity to learn not only from their faculty but from one another. We know that developing these places will help build a strong connection to our campus and help students succeed, which will pay dividends for years to come for our university and our state."



With the physical transformation of the Trojan Way, the university project will feature:

7 gathering spaces planned

218,750 square feet of project areas

267 trees to be planted







Competition winners in Chicago after taking home first place.

## Students Learn Through Competitions

Students in the University of Arkansas at Little Rock real estate program won a national real estate challenge this spring in Chicago.

Academic competitions provide a valuable platform for students to put their classroom learning into practice, allowing them to refine their research and writing skills while gaining hands-on experience in real-world scenarios.

In the real estate challenge, the dozen university teams were asked to develop and present a proposal for a redevelopment project of a high-profile area of real estate in Chicago.

The UA Little Rock students proposed a comprehensive development plan to revitalize the area and create a community hub complete with retail, restaurants, office buildings, and a learning center.

"This competition highlighted the creativity of our students," said Elizabeth Small, director of business networks and instructor of real estate development. "The students applied what we've been covering in our courses to creatively solve this challenge. It's my hope this project and presentation experience will help them better understand the many facets of a career in real estate."

Students participating in the competition included:

- **Adison Cummings**
- **Paige Goodale**
- **David Lopez**
- **Victoria Temples**
- **Lamar Townsend**

They were supported by industry mentors Jenna Goebig and Siteng Ma.

The project is one example of the practical nature of many courses at UA Little Rock helping support the learning students receive in the classroom. Specifically, students learned to research, conceptualize a project, collaboratively solve problems, and articulate their plans, both verbally and in written form.

By taking part in competitions, students gain valuable experience and expertise that goes beyond what's covered in textbooks.

# Transforming Teacher Education in Arkansas

The need for quality teachers will pay dividends for decades, helping educate students who then positively impact our community. It's in that spirit that UA Little Rock is transforming teacher education in Arkansas.

By providing students with paid residencies, the ability to learn with expert national partners, and the opportunity to collaborate with a local school district, UA Little Rock is embarking on a comprehensive program to recruit, train, and retain K-12 teachers in Arkansas.

"Our intention is to become the No. 1 provider of day one ready teachers in the state," said Dr. Sarah Beth Estes, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Education. "After their year-long residencies, our teacher candidates will be exceptionally prepared to take the helm of their own classrooms."

That bold vision is driving the work: work that is now happening thanks to partners Forward Arkansas, the Windgate Foundation, the Little Rock School District, and the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District.

Forward Arkansas will provide more than \$1.6 million over the next three years through direct funding and access to technical assistance. Those funds will help provide paid residencies for teachers and provide access to national experts in teaching training.

Windgate joined the effort in May announcing a \$3.5 million grant to endow the directorship of the School of Education. The new Windgate Director will focus on strengthening partnerships with K-12 schools and state school districts, supporting curricular innovation, and raising funds to support teacher preparation efforts.

The Little Rock School District and the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District are serving as hosts of the teacher residency program and are providing feedback to help support continuous improvement in teacher education and training. Together, UA Little Rock and its partners are working collaboratively to ensure that Arkansas has a pipeline of professionally trained teachers ready to prepare the next generation of students in our state.

Watch Dr. Leslie Sharp explain how UA Little Rock is thinking about the importance of teacher education.  
[youtube.com/watch?v=WK50Be11Ge0](https://youtube.com/watch?v=WK50Be11Ge0)





Watch UA Little Rock student Skylar Bailey discuss what she's looking forward to when she begins a career in teaching.  
[youtube.com/watch?v=5QwO3cuAS44](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QwO3cuAS44)



*“Our intention is to become the No. 1 provider of day one ready teachers in the state.”*

— Dr. Sarah Beth Estes, dean  
College of Humanities, Arts,  
Social Sciences, and Education





# Researching Student Success in STEM with Landmark Grant

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock is helping support STEM education as part of a prestigious nearly \$2 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The grant will help revolutionize teaching and learning in undergraduate STEM education, and it's the largest grant UA Little Rock has ever received from the NSF.

Spanning five years, it will provide comprehensive support for faculty and students in the Donaghey College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, with a specific focus on increasing engagement and retention rates among underrepresented student populations.

The grant and corresponding research study will identify and develop strategies to combat barriers to success in lecture-based STEM courses, particularly for historically underserved populations, first-generation students, and Pell Grant recipients.

"By fostering classroom environments that offer equal opportunities for engagement, we can empower every student to reach their full potential and thrive in their educational journey," said Dr. Mark Baillie, assistant professor of chemistry and grant team member.

As part of the study, UA Little Rock will enhance its already successful Mobile Institute on Scientific Teaching (MoSI) and the Learning Assistant Programs to be more widespread throughout the STEM disciplines, will offer additional incentives for those taking part, and provide feedback to support faculty in enhancing student-centered teaching practices.

These initiatives, exclusive to UA Little Rock among higher education institutions in Arkansas, have already demonstrated remarkable success in faculty and student achievement.

By studying the long-term effects of the additional student support, the team hopes to better understand how students learn STEM content and apply the findings to other courses at UA Little Rock and to STEM education across the country.

Members of the grant team include:

- Dr. Mark Baillie
- Dr. Michael Moore
- Dr. Lundon Pinneo
- Mr. Cole Dwyer
- Ms. Ronia Kattoum
- Dr. David Montague
- Dr. Stephanie Feola
- Ms. Maria Waite

This groundbreaking NSF grant propels UA Little Rock's longstanding commitment to STEM education and positions the institution as a leader in advancing inclusive teaching practices and student success.



Watch this feature from KARK 4 News to learn more about the program.

[kark.com/education-matters/ua-little-rock-receives-2-million-grant-from-national-science-foundation/](https://kark.com/education-matters/ua-little-rock-receives-2-million-grant-from-national-science-foundation/)







# STEM EDUCATION

**59** FACULTY WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED  
IN MOSI TO DATE

**83** LEARNING ASSISTANTS  
DURING 22-23 ACADEMIC YEAR

**493** STUDENTS BENEFITING  
FROM THE GRANT









# Supporting Students is Critical for Their Success

At UA Little Rock, we know that affording college is only half the equation. Many students need additional help to achieve their goals. By working to remove barriers, UA Little Rock is helping students graduate with the skills needed to positively contribute to a productive society.

That work is paying off, with UA Little Rock seeing a 10% increase in freshman retention from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023.

“Providing a variety of services to support students is critical in helping them succeed,” said Kara Brown, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs. “No two students are exactly the same, so it’s imperative that we have a wide variety of support services to meet any student where they are and provide them with the resources they need to continue their educational journey.”

With support from the Donaghey Foundation and other donors, UA Little Rock has developed a comprehensive suite of services, all available at no additional cost to students:

- Embedded social workers in every campus college
- Early warning alert collective program
- Learning Commons tutoring program
- Learning assistants in STEM courses
- Peer mentors
- Campus Career Services
- University Career Closet
- Trojan Food Pantry
- Childcare Connections voucher program
- Trojan Works campus work program
- Multicultural center programming



Learning Commons Tutoring Program

## TROJAN WORKS PROGRAM

“Trojan Works has impacted my time in a good way. I am learning different programs in the Creative Cloud and how to use Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator, which will really help me with my goal of becoming a graphic designer. Because I’m working on campus, the office is also flexible when I need additional time for my studies.”

— Charla Tozer, *Trojan Works student and graphic design major*



Trojan Works is a program at UA Little Rock and is supported by the Donaghey Foundation. In addition to federal work study, the university provides institutional work study to provide financial assistance to a wider range of students.

Students taking part in the program have year-round employment opportunities, obtain real-world work experience, and gain leadership development.

Other program benefits include:

- Financial literacy training
- Professional development activities
- Networking opportunities

Additionally, national research shows that students who work on campus are more engaged in campus life and have higher retention and graduation rates than students who don’t work on campus.





**Dr. Philip Huff**  
Assistant Professor, Donaghey College of Science,  
Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Watch Dr. Philip Huff, assistant professor of cybersecurity, share how the research his team is conducting is helping the community and students at UA Little Rock.

[youtube.com/watch?v=bZjBg53Pii8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=bZjBg53Pii8)



## UA Little Rock Protects Against Cyberattacks with \$1 Million Grant

UA Little Rock continues to lead in applied research aimed at protecting the region against cyberattacks and providing opportunities for students.

Earlier this year, the university expanded its Emerging Threat Information Sharing and Analysis Center to strengthen the fight against the escalating threat of cybersecurity attacks in the energy sector. This expansion is thanks to a \$1 million award from the Department of Energy's Office of Cyber Security, Energy Security, and Emergency Response and was endorsed by Sen. John Boozman.

"The Emerging Threat Information Sharing and Analysis Center will be an instrumental part of our national strategy to prevent cybersecurity breaches and attacks that have the potential to disrupt our lives," Sen. Boozman said. "I'm proud to support initiatives that strengthen the Natural State's role in combating cyberthreats and prepare and train our workforce to help protect our information and secure our critical networks."





Watch student-athlete and cybersecurity student Cameron Jackson discuss how his professors go above and beyond to assist in his chosen profession.

[youtube.com/watch?v=X-cibkV6\\_IA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=X-cibkV6_IA)



**7** ACTIVE APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS  
IN THE FIELD OF CYBERSECURITY

The new center will build a pipeline of student researchers to develop innovations to defend against cyber threats, with students from UA Little Rock and the University of Arkansas conducting the threat analysis.

"Everyone wins in these types of partnerships," said Dr. Albert Baker, head of the computer science department at UA Little Rock. "This center will allow our students to obtain relevant, real-world cyber experience that will give them a competitive advantage in their career field, and it allows UA Little Rock to continue supporting the needs of our community."

The center will also develop energy sector control system simulations for community members to train and test defensive measures to enhance protection against



**125** STUDENTS STUDYING  
CYBERSECURITY AT UA LITTLE ROCK

cyberattacks. Local utilities and power system operators to benefit from the simulations include:

- the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas
- Arkansas Public Power Utilities
- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- Entergy
- Midwest ISO
- Southwest Power Pool

Through applied research partnerships, UA Little Rock achieves its mission of applied research that benefits both the region and the students it serves.





## \$5 Million Grant to Assess Threats

UA Little Rock is researching better ways to analyze socio-cognitive security threats thanks to a substantial \$5 million grant from the U.S. Army Research Office (ARO). This grant is to develop innovative socio-computational capabilities that will allow for a more thorough assessment of emerging threats.

"The opportunity to develop interdisciplinary capabilities to mitigate emerging socio-cognitive threats can pay dividends for society by shoring up our defenses and strengthening community resilience. I am honored that the ARO trusts our team to lead this critical research in a global context and provide new learnings," said Dr. Nitin Agarwal, the principal investigator of the grant. Dr. Agarwal serves as the Maulden-Entergy Chair and Distinguished Professor of Information Science and founding director of the UA Little Rock COSMOS Research Center.

Traditional approaches to socio-cognitive threat analysis often focus on technical aspects, but the socio-computational approach Dr. Agarwal is developing goes beyond the technical. It seeks to explore the intersection of technology, human behavior, and socio-cognitive factors that contribute to the evolving landscape of socio-cognitive threats.

By developing advanced computational models that incorporate these factors, Dr. Agarwal's research could potentially uncover hidden patterns, motivations, and connections among threat actors (virtual or physical). This deeper understanding could lead to more effective strategies for threat detection, response, and prevention.

This kind of applied research exemplifies UA Little Rock's commitment to exploration that extends beyond academia to benefit the state, region, and the global community.



# Students Recognized for Research

A group of students from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock received the prestigious Gingles Award from the Arkansas Historical Association for their research on a 1930s controversial criminal case.

Led by Dr. John Kirk, the George W. Donaghey Distinguished Professor of History, the paper was co-written with students as part of a Seminar in the Public History capstone course that focuses on collaborative research for students who are earning a Master of Arts in public history.

The paper titled "From Lynching to Legal Lynching, Mob Justice to Courtroom Justice:

The Arkansas 'Scottsboro' Cases of James X. Caruthers and Clear 'Bubbles' Clayton, 1935-1939," will be published in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly.



The students taking part in researching and drafting the paper included:

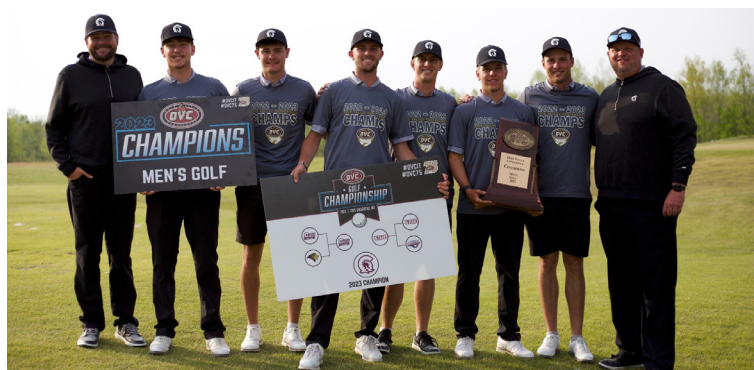
- Dora Bradley
- Emily Housdam
- Harrison Mitchell
- Kellie Solomon
- Revis Edmonds
- Kristen Miller
- Britney Reding

"It is our goal to work with students to ensure that our capstone courses provide practical research experience for our students. Learning how to research, how to look for data, and how to articulate arguments in an organized manner will benefit these students in their chosen career," said Dr. Kirk. "Having the research recognized with such a prestigious award is incredibly exciting."

This is one example of the opportunities the University of Arkansas at Little Rock offers for students to conduct applied research. These projects provide students with the experience of conducting in-depth research and presenting their findings in a scholarly manner, which helps students prepare for future career opportunities in academia, museums, archives, or other public history-related professions.







## Little Rock Trojans Excel in New Conference and in Community

The Little Rock Trojans made an impressive debut in their first year in the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) for Division I athletics. The first season in the new conference included multiple conference championships and postseason appearances.

Here are some of the highlights of the Little Rock Trojans:

### ► Women's Basketball

- OVC Conference Regular Season Champions
- Berth into the WNIT

### ► Men's Golf

- OVC Conference Champions
- NCAA Regional Appearance

### ► Men's Track and Field

- NCAA Tournament Appearance

As the Little Rock Trojans continue establishing themselves in the OVC, their strong first season is a foundation for continued success.

"The achievements by our student-athletes demonstrate their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence," said Athletic Director George Lee. "We look forward to continuing to build on this momentum and represent Little Rock and Arkansas with pride."

Off the court, the Little Rock Trojans are hard at work creating community in the capital city. Throughout the year, student-athletes volunteer at various community service initiatives to give back.

Several ways student-athletes volunteered this year included:

- Tornado relief and cleanup
- Reading to students in elementary schools
- Encouraging students before standardized testing
- Visiting after-school programs and playing with children

"Our student-athletes understand the importance of coming together as a community. When a devastating tornado struck, they stepped up without hesitation to provide assistance and support to those impacted," said Head Track and Field Coach J.P. Behnke. "Their efforts exemplify the values of teamwork, compassion, and leadership."

Between their athletic achievements and active community involvement, the Little Rock Trojans are champions on and off the field, leaving a lasting legacy of excellence, compassion, and community engagement.





Little Rock Trojans sophomore pitcher and Arkansas native Jackson Wells helped the Trojans earn recognition on the national stage.

Here are a few awards he earned during the season:

- Named National Statistical Champion in Earned Run Average, placing ahead of LSU's National Championship pitcher
- Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Year
- Collegiate Baseball All-American Selection
- American Baseball Coaches Association All-Region Selection

Watch KTHV's feature on Jackson Wells.  
[youtube.com/watch?v=jG2ebR9zsBs](https://youtube.com/watch?v=jG2ebR9zsBs)



## HERE'S MORE ABOUT UA LITTLE ROCK STUDENT ATHLETES:



**234** STUDENT-ATHLETES



**40** UNIQUE MAJORS REPRESENTED



**3.32** STUDENT-ATHLETE GPA



**84%** GRADUATION RATE





# PUBLIC RADIO

## Celebrating 50 Years of Public Radio

UA Little Rock Public Radio is celebrating 50 years of providing the state with news, music, and public radio programming.

Station KLRE 90.5 first signed on the air back in 1973. Since that time the station, along with its sister station KUAR FM 89.1, have provided Arkansas with a news outlet and countless hours of radio programming.

While the station has been in existence for 50 years, there are several recent updates. One of the most significant changes is the addition of a new general manager, Jonathan Seaborn, who is passionate about the station's mission and moving the station forward.

"From music and news to community events and local stories, the station has been a staple in Arkansas, connecting people through the power of radio," said Jonathan Seaborn, general manager of UA Little Rock Public Radio.

The radio station is now housed within the College of Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Education, which provides an opportunity for students to gain professional experience by working as interns and part-time staff members.

As evidence of this training pipeline, KUAR News Director Daniel Breen and KUAR reporter Josie Lenora were both student interns and now serve as newsroom employees.

Another exciting update happened earlier this year, as UA Little Rock Public Radio unveiled a new brand highlighting the future of both stations.

"We are no longer simply a radio station," said Seaborn. "Instead, people now listen online, on their smart speakers, or through satellite radio. This refreshed look encapsulates the multiple ways people can interact with KUAR and KLRE, and it's a fitting step toward our next 50 years."

UA Little Rock Public Radio exemplifies the importance of community engagement, helping inspire and educate listeners across our state.



Daniel Breen began as an intern and advanced to serving as news director.

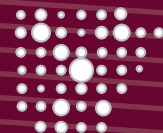






ASBTDC

ARKANSAS SMALL BUSINESS AND  
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER



## ASBTDC Supports State Economy

The Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center (ASBTDC) headquartered at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock helped add nearly \$102 million to the state's economy.

"We've worked hard to help our small business clients across the state achieve their goals, and I'm very proud of our team," said Laura Fine, state director.

The ASBTDC team includes 28 consultants throughout 10 offices in Arkansas. Together, those consultants helped 264 clients with 408 funded projects.

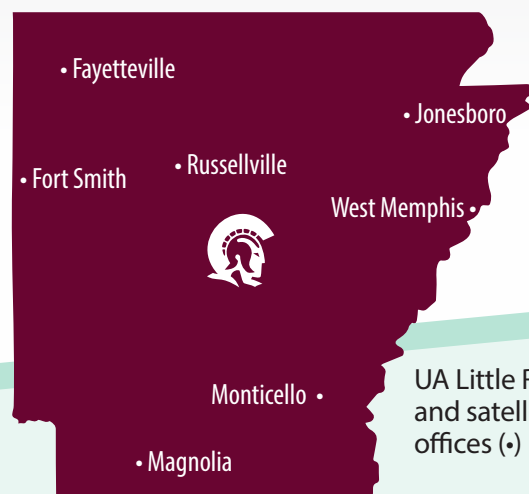
"We need people to grow and start businesses to build the state's economy," Fine said. "One way our office can help the entire state is through our expertise of helping businesses access financing including loans, lines of credit, grants, and seed funding."

Unlocking the power of economic development, the ASBTDC regularly champions UA Little Rock's vision of being a strong community partner by offering unparalleled resources and support to local businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovators, helping to enhance our state.

**10** OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, WITH  
THE MAIN OFFICE AT UA LITTLE ROCK

**18,132** JOBS GENERATED  
IN THE LAST DECADE

**\$101,966,578**  
INFUSED INTO THE ARKANSAS ECONOMY IN 2022



UA Little Rock  
and satellite  
offices (•)



## Community Connections



Winthrop Rockefeller Distinguished Lectures

At UA Little Rock, we believe in being a strong community partner. We are better when we work together. That's why we have many programs that engage with the community, offer opportunities for the community to visit campus, and provide resources that benefit our entire community.

Here are a few ways we're working to make our community stronger:

### **Winthrop Rockefeller Distinguished Lectures**

UA Little Rock welcomed award-winning journalist and investigative reporter Kim Zetter for a lecture on how we can better prepare for cyber threats. Supported by the Winthrop Rockefeller Distinguished Lectures, the event annually brings speakers to campus, delivering thought-provoking lectures on challenges our communities face.



ArtWAYS Art Education Program

**Inspiring and Inclusive Speaker Series** – Chancellor Christina S. Drale welcomed Monica Guzman to campus for a day of workshops. In a presentation, Guzman shared strategies to have curious conversations with those who believe differently, helping to facilitate better understanding in the world.

**New Law School Leadership** – Colin Crawford has joined UA Little Rock's William H. Bowen School of Law as the dean of the law school. He comes to UA Little Rock from Golden Gate University and replaced Theresa Beiner who stepped down after five years in the role.

**ArtWAYS Art Education Program** – Art students and educators statewide spent part of their summer at UA Little Rock taking part in the ArtWAYS summer program. Supported through a grant from the Windgate Foundation, the program provides continuing education to high school art teachers and helps future artists hone their skills.

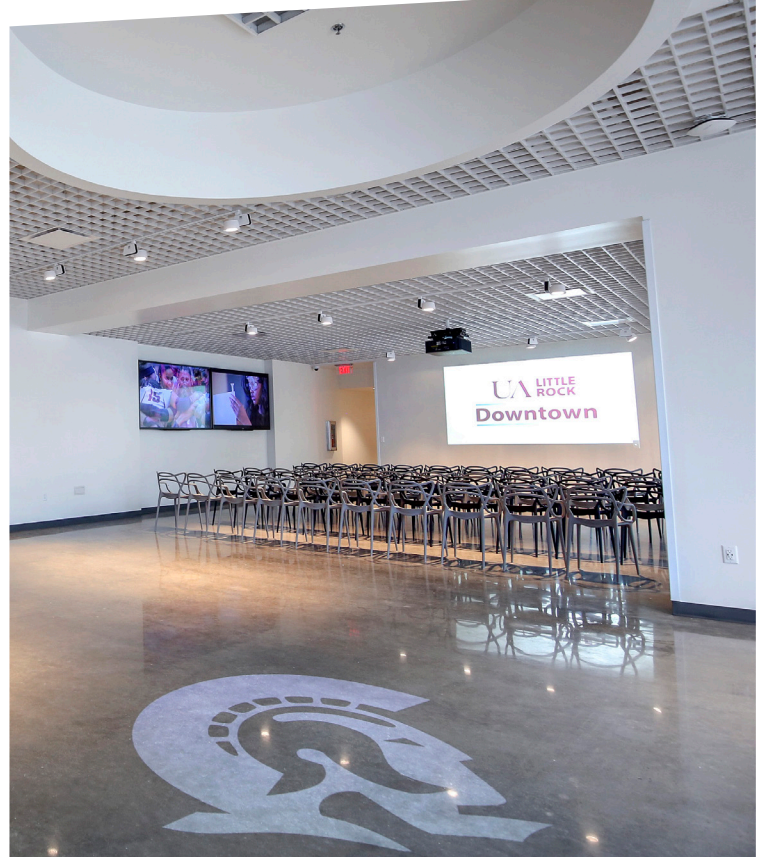


Arkansas Research Alliance Membership

**Arkansas Research Alliance Membership** – UA Little Rock faculty member Mary Yang has been named to the Arkansas Research Alliance. The fellowship recognizes scientists and engineers who reside at an institution in Arkansas for their ongoing, exemplary contributions to the state's core research focus areas. She will receive a \$75,000 grant to advance her research.

**Social Work Students Gaining Experience** – Members of the Master of Social Work program are getting hands-on experience thanks to a grant from Blue & You. The grant allows students in the program to apply their skills by providing behavioral healthcare support, helping address a shortage of social workers in the state.





UA Little Rock Downtown

UA Little Rock has a strong presence in downtown Little Rock. Here are a few places you can connect with us.

**UA Little Rock Downtown Campus** - This space hosts activities and programs for members of the community and offers a gathering space the community can utilize for events.

**William H. Bowen School of Law** - Founded nearly 50 years ago, the law school helps prepare future lawyers in the capital city utilizing practice-ready and skills-focused learning.

**Center for Arkansas History and Culture** - This is a partnership with the Central Arkansas Library System dedicated to exploring and promoting the history of Arkansas by identifying, collecting, and preserving records that are of enduring value.

**Little Rock Tech Park** - UA Little Rock is a proud member of the Little Rock Tech Park, which is focused on providing job opportunities and economic development in Central Arkansas.



UA Little Rock  
William H. Bowen School of Law



Center for Arkansas History  
and Culture





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Little Rock, AR 72204-1099

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## KEY CAMPAIGN PILLARS

ADDING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS  
PROVIDING ADDITIONAL STUDENT SUPPORT  
SUPPORTING PROGRAM EXCELLENCE  
UPGRADING THE LIVING & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



**\$250 MILLION**  
CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN  
TO TRANSFORM ARKANSAS

**\$180 MILLION**  
RAISED

MORE THAN  
**23,000**  
UNIQUE DONORS



Scan to learn more about how we're expecting more for  
ourselves, our students, and Arkansas or go to this link: [ualr.edu/centennial](http://ualr.edu/centennial)