

## CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock has a deep and abiding interest in the vitality of the neighborhoods around the campus. We have an allegiance to this place where this institution has grown and matured over the past 75 years, and we expect the university to prosper here during the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond.

This report, *Partners for Progress: Shaping the Future of the University District*, is the third of three university planning reports. *On the Move* provides a campus master plan for campus land and facilities. *UALR Fast Forward* describes higher educational programs in teaching, research, and public service designed to meet the needs of our students and other constituencies in Arkansas. The first two planning initiatives focus on campus-based developments that will be decided primarily by campus officials. This third planning initiative turns to matters that require decisions by external partners.

The first two reports acknowledge that enduring facility and program improvements on campus depend on sustainable improvements to the neighborhoods around the campus. Strong neighborhoods will help UALR recruit and retain students, faculty, and staff. Strong neighborhoods will enhance and protect UALR's investment in programs and facilities.

Revitalization of the surrounding neighborhoods requires resources and decision-making authority not given to a public university. Developing affordable housing and improving public safety and public education at the neighborhood level depend largely upon the programs and services of the City of Little Rock and the Little Rock School District. Rebuilding apartments and obsolete commercial districts depend upon private financing and private developers. Preserving and protecting the vast wetlands and other environmental resources depends upon initiatives of Audubon Arkansas and a myriad of local, state, and federal agencies. Engaging the area residents and businesses in the development process depends upon community leadership at all levels. Therefore, shaping the future of the University District must be a partnership effort.

UALR's role in the University District revitalization initiative thus far has been to convene partners, to help finance the master planning efforts, and to provide staff to lead and coordinate the effort. UALR will continue to be an active partner contributing ideas and other resources toward realizing the vision for the University District. We look forward to working with all of the University District partners to achieve the results anticipated in this planning report, *Partners for Progress: Shaping the Future of the University District*.

Sincerely yours,



Joel E. Anderson  
Chancellor

