ACCESS TO SUCCESS

IMPROVING OUR COLLEGE COMPLETION RATE

THROUGH

POLICY SOLUTIONS FOR ADULT LEARNERS

WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

October 5, 2010
By the end of this decade, more than 60% of jobs will require college education\(^1\)

Today, 26% of Arkansas’s young adults aged 25-34 have a college degree.\(^2\)

\(^1\) Carnevale, T., Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 2009. High-growth fields based on national projections of total new and replacement jobs. [http://cew.georgetown.edu/research/jobs/79012.html](http://cew.georgetown.edu/research/jobs/79012.html)

\(^2\) “College degree” means an associate degree, bachelor’s degree, or higher. National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), 2008 (from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample File.) [http://www.higheredinfo.org](http://www.higheredinfo.org)
### The Impact of Education on Individuals: Lifetime Earnings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Estimated Lifetime Earnings</th>
<th>Difference Compared to High School Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>$976,350</td>
<td>-$478,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school dropout</td>
<td>1,150,698</td>
<td>-304,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate</td>
<td>1,455,253</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>1,725,822</td>
<td>270,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>1,801,373</td>
<td>346,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>$2,567,174</td>
<td>$1,111,921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>2,963,076</td>
<td>1,507,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctorate</td>
<td>3,982,577</td>
<td>2,527,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>5,254,193</td>
<td>3,798,940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 2005
No state with a low proportion of Bachelor’s degrees has a high per capita income.

No state with a high proportion of Bachelor’s degrees has a low per capita income.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2006
Ed Barlow, Futurist:

**Speed to Market and Close to Customer**

1. Implement a series of initiatives that expedite the *number of degrees* produced and the *speed at which degrees are produced*.

2. Enhance the production of *degrees in high-demand programs* that are needed for the modern Arkansas economy.

3. **Incentivize students** to complete a degree and to work in Arkansas.
ACCOMPLISHMENT 1
Assessed Current Reality

STRATEGIES
1. Strengthening the Arkansas Education Pipeline
2. Improving Preparation
3. Decreasing Remediation
4. Accessing Financial Aid
5. Increasing Retention and Graduation
6. Enhancing Funding and Governance
7. Addressing Data Needs
8. Supporting Economic Development
9. Issues for Further Study
ACCOMPLISHMENT 2

Identified “Ready Adult”

- Withdrew from college but is within 25% of graduation.
- Has a minimum GPA of 2.0.
- Has been out of school for at least a year.
- Is at least 22 years old.
- Is an Arkansas resident or works in Arkansas.
ACCOMPLISHMENT 3

Removed Transfer Barrier

ARKANSAS IS RANKED 4TH AMONG STATES IN ADULT MIGRATION WITHIN THE STATES.

Greater acceptance of college transfer credits is essential for student success.

(ACT 182 OF 2009)
Improving Transferability Statute

• AA/AS programs must contain transferable college credit for the first 60 hours.

• All higher education institutions must clarify specific general educations courses required for the major.

• All higher education institutions must agree to a common course numbering system.
ACCOMPLISHMENT 4
ENSURED GREATER AND EASIER ACCESSIBILITY
Arkansas Universal Financial Aid System

ACCOMPLISHMENT 4
ENSURED GREATER AND EASIER ACCESSIBILITY
Arkansas Universal Financial Aid System

www.adhe.edu

- Launched on January 1, 2010
- Search and apply for all ADHE administered scholarships and grants at one time
- Receive e-mail status notifications
- Available all year, but deadlines built into processing
- Connects to multiple government datasets to reduce applicant input... and error.
- Manage your account 24/7 to include:
  ✔ Updating personal information and college
  ✔ Reviewing transcript and test score information
Financial Aid Applications

- 2007: 13,661
- 2008: 13,755
- 2009: 23,105
- 2010: 125,170
The Arkansas Academic Challenge Lottery Scholarship will:

- increase student success
- reduce student loans
- decrease loan default rates
- prepare more students for high wage high demand jobs
- benefit Arkansas’s economy

**Outreach:**

- SayGoCollege
- Career Coaches

The Lottery Act requires students to:

--- complete remediation within the first 30 hours of coursework
--- take 15 hours each semester (first term Freshmen can take 12)
--- 8 semesters going full-time
Academic Challenge:
– $2,500 for Community College students
– $5,000 for University students
– Traditional Students --$53 million
– Nontraditional students
  • Adult learners/returning students – $12 million
  • Current Achievers --$43 million (phased out over 3 years.)
• Expansion of need-based aid to Adults
  – Go Opportunity Grant provides an additional $1,000 for low-income students
  – Expanded to include adults beginning Fall 2010
ACCOMPLISHMENT 5
COLLABORATED WITH LEGISLATURE

- Developed a universal scholarship web application that allows students to apply for the state’s 21 scholarship programs via one online application.
- Reduced the major factor for tuition and fee increases in Arkansas which were caused by large numbers of tuition waivers in the form of institutional scholarships. These tuition waivers resulted in higher tuition costs for all students.
- Provided for the seamless transfer of credits earned in completing an AA/AS degree to the universities.
- Developed a “Comprehensive Accountability Report” that provides the good, bad and ugly of higher education (in general) and for each institution.
- Expanded the eligibility for the state’s need-based scholarships to adult learners. Low income adults can now qualify for a $1,000 annual scholarship.
- Developed the state’s lottery scholarship criteria. In addition to $53 million in new financial aid for traditional students, scholarship funds were also allocated for adult learners/returning students ($12 million) and currently enrolled students ($43 million for 2010 to be phased out over the next 3 years). The scholarship criteria for continuing eligibility are designed to encourage speed to graduation.
- Established a standard remediation exit measure as a requisite for students moving into credit bearing courses in the remediated subject.
ACCOMPLISHMENT 6

CONDUCTED HIGHER ED POLICY REVISIONS

• Based twenty percent of the funding formula upon course completion FTE.
• Doubled the academic program degree production standard from 3 to 6 degrees per year. Slightly lower productivity standards for STEM and technical majors.
• Altered the academic program review process to include technical experts for AS and Certificates and out-of-state reviewers for BA/BS baccalaureate.
• Developed a “financial condition” report that shows how higher education institutions spend and manage their money.
• Changed the metric for determining if an institution was financially viable to borrow funds. In addition, institutions had to declare source of funds for maintenance.
• Provided extensive professional development on student success strategies.
• Promoted the importance of college readiness, college attendance and financial aid in Arkansas high schools. Acquired more than $1,000,000 a year in funding from grants.
• Provided for 43 Career Coaches to work in Arkansas’s poorest communities and high schools with low college attendance.
• Conducted a two-year adult learner task force of institutional leaders to determine how our institutions could be more adult-friendly.
• Implemented initiatives to develop sustainable communities by creating partnerships between colleges/universities, community-based organizations and state agencies.
“I realize that, without improvement in higher education, our economic development efforts will face enormous barriers.”

-Gov. Mike Beebe