



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS HOPE-TEXARKANA ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHANCELLOR



As we close out the year at the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana, I am proud of how much we have accomplished together. Our mission has always been to open doors and lift students toward stronger futures. This year, that mission showed up in real numbers and real success stories.

Enrollment, retention, and graduation rates all moved in the right direction. That momentum reflects the hard work of our faculty and staff, who keep students supported from the first day they walk onto campus to the moment they walk across the graduation stage. Our collegiate academies were also ranked number two in Arkansas for the number of students who earned both a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree simultaneously. That achievement shows how life-changing our partnerships and early college programs have become.

This year, we also rallied our community to raise funding for Kids' College and for scholarships that introduce the next generation to higher education and remove barriers for students who need a boost. Those contributions will pay forward for years to come.

Our teams earned national awards, our faculty and staff reached new milestones, and our students continued to shine in classrooms, competitions, workplaces, and service projects. Every victory, large or small, added to a year defined by progress.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in these successes. Your commitment keeps our college moving forward with purpose and heart. I am grateful for the trust you place in us and excited for what we will build together in the year ahead.

With appreciation,

Laura Clark, University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Interim Chancellor

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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS HOPE-TEXARKANA SEES SUSTAINED GROWTH IN ENROLLMENT, RETENTION, AND GRADUATION RATES

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana is celebrating a continued upward trajectory in student success and institutional growth, marked by increases in enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.

For the third consecutive year, UAHT has seen a fall-to-fall enrollment increase. This fall, enrollment climbed by 7.7% over last year to 1,406 students, demonstrating the college's growing appeal to students seeking high-quality, accessible education in Southwest Arkansas.

In addition to enrollment gains, retention and graduation rates have also shown significant improvement. The fall-to-fall student retention rate rose by 3.8%, a key indicator of student satisfaction and academic support. UAHT's graduation rate has increased for two consecutive years, up 15.2% from two years ago and 7.6% higher than last year, reflecting the college's strong focus on completion and career readiness.

"These results are a direct reflection of our commitment to putting students first," said Laura Clark, UAHT Interim Chancellor. "Our faculty and staff have worked relentlessly to create an environment where students are supported from the moment they step on campus through graduation. The steady rise in our enrollment, retention, and graduation rates is not just a win for UAHT, it's a win for our students, their families, and the communities we serve. This is also a testament to the partnerships we have with our public schools and the success UAHT has in supporting students and school districts in concurrent and dual-credit programs. Together, we are all making a monumental difference for students in our region."

UAHT's consistent performance underscores the college's strategic efforts to expand academic programs, enhance student services, and foster community partnerships.



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS HOPE-TEXARKANA RANKS #2 IN ARKANSAS FOR STUDENTS EARNING ASSOCIATE DEGREES IN HIGH SCHOOL

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana (UAHT) is setting a new standard for early college success, ranking #2 among colleges statewide for the number of students earning both a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree simultaneously. The college ranked behind only Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville.

"We are extremely proud of our students for their hard work and dedication in earning associate degrees while in high school," said Laura Clark, UAHT Interim Chancellor. "Just as importantly, we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our faculty, school districts, college personnel, and families, whose encouragement and commitment made this achievement possible."

This milestone underscores the strength of UAHT's Collegiate Academies, a partnership with Arkansas High School and Hope High School, which earned the #2 and #4 state high school rankings, respectively, for associate degree completion.

"Earning the #2 ranking in Arkansas for students completing associate degrees in high school is a direct reflection of the hard work of our students, the dedication of our faculty and staff, the commitment of our partner school districts, and the steadfast support of our community," said Dr. Mikki Curtis, UAHT Dean of Secondary Programs. "The Collegiate Academy model proves what we have always believed: our students are capable of extraordinary achievements when provided the right opportunities and support. This recognition demonstrates that even in communities with economic challenges, our young people can rise to high expectations, thrive in early college environments, and set the standard for future success."

Beyond Hope and Arkansas High Schools, the college's impact extends to other partner districts, such as Blevins, Genoa Central, and Trinity Christian High School, where students completed associate degrees this year through UAHT.

"UAHT is dedicated to helping every southwest Arkansas high school student achieve their educational goals, no matter their zip code," said Dr. Ashli Dykes, UAHT Concurrent Education Coordinator. "By earning an associate degree while still in high school, students not only save significantly on future costs but also enter the next stage of their academic journey with greater confidence and preparation."

In 2025, Arkansas High School graduated 18 students, and Hope High School graduated 14 students with both a diploma and an associate degree. Blevins High School ranked #11 in the state, with six students graduating, while Genoa Central and Trinity Christian High Schools each had one student earn a degree through UAHT.

"We are excited to celebrate our graduates, indeed all the graduates, for their hard work and dedication to their educational journeys," said Dr. Jonathan Crossley, HPSD Superintendent. "UAHT and HPSD concurrent programs are foundational to HPSD's strategic plan and purpose for all kids. HPSD has a record number of students enrolled in concurrent courses, and we are primed to expand those opportunities. We are grateful for our partnership with UAHT and look forward to continued success."

Altogether, UAHT's early college programs accounted for 17.5% of all Arkansas high school students who

graduated with an associate degree this year. These programs offer a significant head start, as students earn college credentials for free while still in high school, saving an average of \$20,394 per student compared to two years of tuition and fees at a public university in the state.

“It is an understatement to say how impressive it is for our students, from a small rural high school in southwest Arkansas, to graduate with both a high school and an associate degree,” said Stephanie Dixon, BSD Superintendent. This achievement demonstrates high academic expectations and a strong commitment to their future success. This dual enrollment opportunity has enabled our students to gain valuable experience in a higher education environment, providing them with



Jaylon Bradley, 2025 Hope Collegiate Academy Graduate

a considerable advantage on their pathway to career readiness. The college and career landscape has changed vastly over the past ten years, and UAHT has been with us every step of the way. Our students have reaped the benefits of this successful partnership.”

Additionally, every UAHT early college associate degree graduate who transferred to a four-year university received scholarship support and began taking junior-level courses, moving faster toward completing a bachelor’s degree. Many of

them benefited from the Arkansas Transfer Achievement Scholarship, allowing them to attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville while paying UAHT’s lower tuition rate. Others entered the workforce with a degree and skills to help them earn higher wages.

“These students have proven their readiness, not just for college, but for life,” said Dr. Lloyd Jackson, TASD Superintendent. “By tackling real college coursework in high school, they have shown they can meet high expectations and thrive in rigorous environments. We are incredibly proud of our Arkansas High School students, and others, who have not only earned their diplomas but also achieved associate degrees through our partnership with UAHT. Their success demonstrates the power of collaboration between our school district and higher education to provide life-changing opportunities. Graduating with both a diploma and a degree is an extraordinary accomplishment that sets these students apart and prepares them for a strong future in college, career, and life.”

As the Class of 2025 closes one chapter and opens the next, their accomplishments stand as a powerful example of what is possible when opportunity meets commitment. Their success is a celebration of academic excellence, community partnership, and the promise of a brighter future.

BEADS, BAGS, BANGLES, & BIRTHDAY BASH KIDS' COLLEGE FUNDRAISER

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Foundation hosted the 18th Annual Beads, Bags, and Bangles Kids' College fundraiser presented by Farmers Bank & Trust on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at Hempstead Hall.

This year's event theme was "Birthday Bash." Celebrate UAHT's 60th Birthday with us in style. Guests relived the joy of childhood birthdays with a grown-up twist! The fun-filled evening featured delicious food, festive drinks, carnival games, a silent auction, and plenty of dancing to music by DJ Stanley. Attendees released their inner child as they visited the Birthday Arcade Lane, played Skee-Ball and Plinko, among other exciting games. They also played the Musical Chair-ity Challenge to support a great cause!



Pictured back row left to right: Carol Ann Milam, Jennifer Cunningham, Amanda Lance, front row left to right: Jennifer Tyree, Kelly Wilcox, Brooke Beck, Wendy Jones, Kim Hollis, Anna Powell, Allison Wilson, Kathy Struckman, Debbie Malek, Laura Clark

Over \$41,000 was raised at the 18th annual BBB event ensured our ability to continue providing quality Kids' College programming, supplies, and teachers to inspire young minds.

KIDS' COLLEGE STATS:

Kids College Program: **172 Students**

Camp Save-A-Life: **23 Graduates**

Total Scholarship Dollars Awarded: **\$5,025**

25% increase of new student enrollment across the board!



GENCYBER CYBERSECURITY CAMP AT UA TEXARKANA A HUGE SUCCESS

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana hosted its inaugural GenCyber Cybersecurity Camp on the Texarkana campus this year, and it was a full house. High school students from across the region spent two action-packed weeks diving deep into the fast-growing world of cybersecurity.

"We're so proud of the amazing high school students who completed the GenCyber Summer Camp at UAHT this week!" said camp director Brittini Hardie.

Campers didn't just sit in lectures. They built, broke, and decoded their way through real-world cybersecurity challenges. They explored careers in cyber defense, mastered tools to protect their digital lives, and tackled big concepts like cryptography, robotics, Python programming, and ethical hacking.

Using hands-on projects and GenCyber's core principles, students learned to Think Like an Adversary, apply Defense in Depth strategies, and approach cybersecurity with the ethics and best practices critical to keeping digital systems secure.



UA HOPE-TEXARKANA COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2025

The 2025 University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana commencement ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 13, at Hempstead Hall. This year, 468 students graduated (a 13% increase from last year) with 618 degrees and certificates (a 25% increase from last year). We were honored to have University of Arkansas System President Jay Silveria as our special guest, who addressed the graduates.

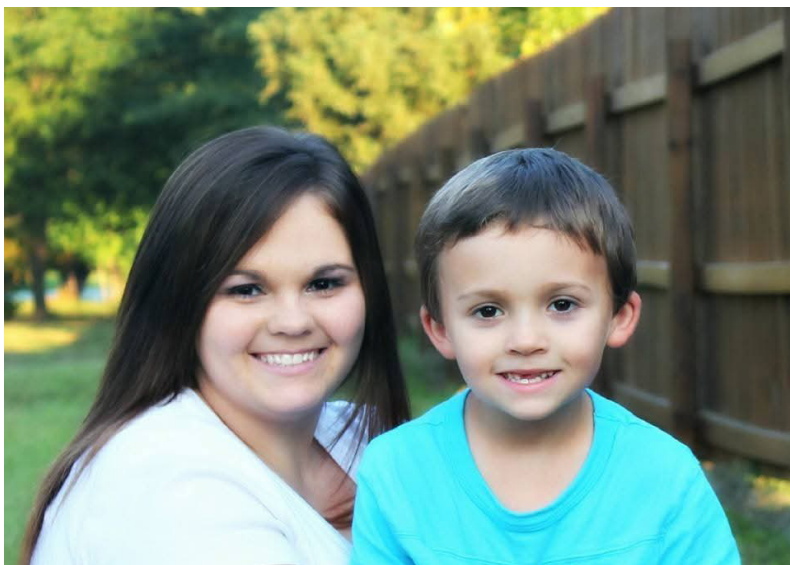


CHANGING TRAJECTORIES: MOTHER AND SON GRADUATE TOGETHER AT UAHT.

Amber Walker had always dreamed of attending college and becoming a nurse, but those plans were put on hold when she became a single mom at 18. She had her son, Dawson Hinds, at a young age and spent many years raising him alone until she met her wonderful husband. "For a long time, I put my own goals on the back burner to focus on giving my children the love, support, and stability they needed," Amber said. "Once they reached a point where they were more independent, I finally felt it was time to do something for myself, and that's when I began my journey at UAHT."

Starting at UAHT was a truly unique experience for Amber, especially because she began her college journey alongside her son, Dawson, who was just 16 then. Their bond, strengthened by their shared goal of education, was a source of inspiration. "Dawson was already a few steps ahead, having been part of the Arkansas High Collegiate Academy at UAHT since the 10th grade," she said. "Since Dawson already had some college experience, he never hesitated to help me when I needed guidance."

"At 34 years old, going to college with my high school-aged son was both humbling and incredibly rewarding," Amber said. "My path to higher education was not a straight one—I had to put it on hold to raise my children and focus on building a life for them. But I never let go of the dream. Though our journeys were different, Dawson and I shared a common goal of growth, perseverance, and lifelong learning. He brought youthful energy and a fresh outlook, while I brought life experience and determination. Together, we supported and inspired each other every step of the way."



During Amber's time at UAHT, she was honored to receive multiple scholarships and became a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a reflection of her commitment to maintaining strong grades and pushing forward despite many challenges. Dawson also persevered, simultaneously earning his Associate of Arts degree and high school diploma through the Arkansas High Collegiate Academy at UAHT. He will be heading to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville this August, having earned over \$24,000 in scholarships. "My experience at the Arkansas High Collegiate Academy at

UAHT was great," Dawson said. "The faculty and staff were always friendly, and the courses had excellent content to prepare me for the University of Arkansas. UAHT always prioritized the students."

"Together we pushed through, supported one another, and accomplished a significant milestone side by side," Amber said. "Our journey proves that age is just a number, young or older, and that you should never let it define or limit what you can achieve." Now, Amber and Dawson have graduated together at 36 and 18, just a mother and her son, who walked across the commencement stage side by side, completing their goals and stepping into the next chapter of their lives. "It is one of the best feelings, graduating with my son and reaching our life goals together," Amber said. "Thank you, UAHT, for helping make this possible!" As they move forward, Amber plans to continue her education by pursuing an RN degree in the ARNEC program at UAHT and become a labor and delivery nurse. Dawson is excited to start his journey at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in finance. Their education has not only opened doors for them but also set an inspiring example for others.

UA HOPE-TEXARKANA MARKETING DEPARTMENT & STUDENT WIN NATIONAL ADVERTISING AWARDS

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana College Relations Department was selected as the winner of five educational advertising awards at the 40th Annual Educational Advertising Awards competition in Atlanta, Georgia. The Educational Advertising Awards is the country's largest educational advertising awards competition. This year, over 2,000 entries were received from more than 1,000 colleges and universities across all 50 states and numerous foreign countries. Judges for the Educational Advertising Awards consisted of a national panel of higher education marketers, advertising creative directors, and marketing and advertising professionals.



Pictured left to right: Carol Ann Milam, Graphics & Social Media Coordinator; Raeli Putman, UAHT student; and Casey Curtis, Communications Coordinator

This year, UAHT Communications Coordinator Casey Curtis and UAHT Graphics and Social Media Coordinator Carol Ann Milam were joined by UAHT freshman Raeli Putman to help promote the Hempstead Guarantee scholarship. Raeli, a Spring Hill High School graduate, is part of the first class awarded the Hempstead Guarantee. She helped the team produce the gold-winning Hempstead Guarantee video. Putman said she was proud to help promote such a wonderful scholarship that not only makes college possible for many who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend but also helps set students up for a more successful future by limiting their debt. "I am thankful that UAHT, our local high schools, and the community provide this amazing opportunity," Putman said.

The team won the following awards:

- Gold Award Total Advertising Campaign: Hempstead Guarantee Campaign
- Gold Award Publication: Program Spotlight Magazine
- Gold Award Instagram Content: UAHT Programs and Salaries Post Series
- Gold Award Digital Video Ad: Hempstead Guarantee Video
- Bronze Award Student Viewbook: UAHT College Guide

HUGHES SELECTED AS UA HOPE-TEXARKANA OUTSTANDING ALUMNA

Misty Hughes was recently selected as the 2025 University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Outstanding Alumna. Hughes has been instrumental in helping students build bridges to brighter futures at UAHT for over 16 years. She has served in many roles at the college, including Power Plant Technology Advisor, Director of Testing, Student Services Specialist, Director of Advising & Title III Activity Director, and Dean of Institutional Effectiveness. In all her roles at UAHT, Misty has shown an unwavering dedication to improving the lives of students in the southwest Arkansas area. She is passionate about education and is a vital part of the college's success.

As a 2002 graduate of UAHT, Misty understands the transformative power of community colleges. She has seen firsthand how these institutions can break down barriers to a college education and set students on a trajectory for success. UAHT is proud to have Misty, among many other great women, as part of its team. Her dedication and hard work have played a significant role in making the college a place where students can succeed, and her journey is an inspiration to us all.

According to her Alum of the Year nomination letter, Misty is not just committed and dedicated; she is the embodiment of these qualities. She practices what she preaches, leading by example. Her genuine care for this institution and its mission is evident in every action she takes. Her kindness and respect for her colleagues have earned her their admiration. She has truly given back to the institution where she began her higher education journey, and her commitment is a shining example for all of us.



JONES SELECTED AS OUTSTANDING STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR AT UA HOPE-TEXARKANA



Each year, the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana honors an outstanding staff member. UAHT is proud to announce that this year's winner is Wendy Jones. Wendy has served in the human resources department since 2021.

Her nomination letters stated: Wendy is the embodiment of this award's purpose, demonstrating unwavering dedication, positivity, and a deep commitment to the UAHT community. She consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. Whether stepping in as the Chancellor's assistant during a transitional period or juggling multiple responsibilities gracefully and efficiently, Wendy does it all with a can-do attitude and a smile. She has reliably taken on additional roles, filled in during staff shortages, and still maintained excellence in her own duties. Her adaptability and commitment have kept operations running smoothly more times than we can count.

But Wendy's impact isn't just in what she does, it's in how she does it. She brings contagious energy, warmth, and kindness to every

interaction. She's one of those people who light up a room and make others feel welcome, seen, and supported. Many of us can point to Wendy as the person who made us feel at home at UAHT.

Her service-minded approach extends beyond her daily responsibilities. Wendy is a driving force behind campus events and initiatives like the Holiday Forum Committee, Women of UAHT (Texarkana Casino Night), and the BBB Committee. She brings the same dedication and heart to these efforts, helping build a strong, connected community.

Wendy is not just a team player, she's a team lifter. Her work ethic, generosity, and genuine care for her colleagues and the campus community make her indispensable. She exemplifies the spirit of excellence in every way. There is no one more deserving of this recognition.

SCHROADER SELECTED AS OUTSTANDING FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR AT UA HOPE-TEXARKANA

Each year, the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana honors an outstanding faculty member. UAHT is proud to announce that this year's winner is Jessica Schroader. Jessica is the Director of the Practical Nursing program and has served as a member of the health professions faculty at the college since 2018.

Jessica's nomination letters stated: Her leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to student and faculty success have transformed the nursing program and inspired everyone around her. Since stepping into her role as Director of the Practical Nursing Program, Jessica has been instrumental in improving the NCLEX pass rate to an impressive 100%. This achievement reflects not just her high standards but also her tireless support for students and instructors. She works one-on-one with students to help them master difficult material, ensuring no one is left behind. Her belief in every student's potential is evident in her daily actions.

Her leadership creates a culture of excellence and unity. Jessica leads with empathy and purpose, motivating the entire team with her passion for nursing education. Her vision for success is clear, and she brings others along with her, not by pressure, but by example. When another teacher experienced a personal loss, Jessica didn't hesitate to step in and cover her classes, showing the same compassion to colleagues that she shows to students.

As a mentor, she's helped many of her colleagues grow, whether new instructors finding their footing or seasoned faculty developing new skills. Her support during transitions and challenges is unmatched. If someone is new to teaching and overwhelmed, Jessica patiently answers every question and ensures the right tools and guidance are always within reach. She's the type of leader who never makes a person feel alone in their work.

Jessica also excels in communication. She keeps the team informed and connected, which fosters trust and collaboration. Her availability, clarity, and willingness to listen make a difference in the everyday experience of teaching at UAHT.

Jessica Schroader has elevated the Nursing Program through measurable outcomes like increased pass rates and by cultivating an environment where students and faculty alike are supported, challenged, and inspired. Her leadership, heart, and tireless efforts make her truly deserving of this recognition.



HOPE COLLEGIATE ACADEMY WELCOMES ITS LARGEST CLASS

The Hope Collegiate Academy, a collaborative program between the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana and the Hope Public School District, has reached a significant milestone this year, welcoming its largest incoming sophomore class since the program began in 2018. What started with just 19 students now boasts a sophomore class of 46 and a total of 96 high school students working toward not only a high school diploma but also an Associate of Arts Degree.

This innovative early college program, located on the UAHT Hope campus, provides Hope High School students with the opportunity to take dual-credit college courses and graduate from high school with a college degree in hand. The program's growth reflects its proven success in helping students from underserved communities break barriers and outperform expectations. "The partnership between the Hope Public School District and the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana serves as a role model for the possibilities that exist for students when school districts and local colleges and universities collaborate," said Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Jacob Oliva.

"Not only does this partnership give students the opportunity to obtain a college degree and earn industry credentials while in high school, it also aligns with the educational goals of Governor Sanders' LEARNS Act and ACCESS legislation. Students deserve higher education opportunities in high school, and this example is one that should be replicated around the state."

Dr. Mikki Curtis, Dean of the Collegiate Academy, credited the students, faculty, staff, and community for the program's impact and momentum. "The Hope Collegiate Academy proves what we've always believed our students are capable of incredible things when given the right support and opportunity. This program has demonstrated that even in high-poverty areas, our young people can thrive in early college environments. In fact, our collegiate academies led the entire state in the number of high school students earning associate degrees last year, and we expect to be ranked near the top this year. That's something our community should be extremely proud of."

The Academy's continued success is no small feat. In a time when many schools struggle with engagement and opportunity gaps, Hope has built a national-caliber program right in its own backyard. Not many communities, especially in rural Arkansas, can claim a pipeline that simultaneously equips students with a high school diploma and a college degree, while saving them thousands of dollars along the way. "The Hope Collegiate Academy is proof that when we work together and support our students' needs, we can change the trajectory of their futures," said Interim Chancellor Laura Clark. "The partnership is not just about degrees; it is about giving opportunity to our children to achieve more than they ever expected."

This year's record-breaking class is more than a statistic; it's a signal that momentum is growing and that



families in Hope are recognizing the value of a program that changes lives and transforms futures.

The Hope Collegiate Academy is more than just an educational initiative. It's a point of pride for Hope. And it's a powerful example of what's possible when schools, colleges, and communities believe in their students and back that belief with action. Hope Public School Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Crossley stated, "The Collegiate Academy is a cornerstone of our vision at Hope Public Schools. We are proud to partner with the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana to provide life-changing opportunities for our students. This collaboration shows the power of schools and colleges working together to change trajectories. At Hope Public Schools, our commitment is clear: to prepare every student to leave our campuses ready to thrive as productive citizens."

FERGUSON SELECTED AS ACADEMIC ALL-STAR AT UA HOPE-TEXARKANA

Aubrey Ferguson of Texarkana, Arkansas, has been selected as the 2025 Academic All-Star at the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana. Thus far in her time at UAHT, Ferguson has been President of the Student Government Association (SGA), received the AB & Pauline King Scholarship, was named to the Vice Chancellor's Honor Roll twice, received the Dean's Emerging Leader Award, and was named the 2025 TRiO Achiever of the Year.

For Aubrey, college became more than lectures and exams; it became a launchpad for leadership and personal transformation. After enrolling with a focus on academics, she initially hesitated to step outside her comfort zone and get involved on campus. That changed when a mentor encouraged her to join the Student Government Association (SGA). Motivated by that support, she not only joined but eventually served as SGA president, a role that became a defining part of her college journey.

Through SGA, Aubrey engaged in leadership training, organized community service projects, and collaborated on initiatives that gave students a voice in campus decisions. The experience reshaped her view of education, from just earning a degree to becoming an advocate and change-maker. "UAHT gave me the foundation," Aubrey shared, "and SGA gave me the confidence to use it." Now working on initiatives to enhance campus life, Aubrey says her most meaningful educational experience came not from a classroom, but from the lessons learned through leading, collaborating, and creating change.

After graduating from UAHT, Aubrey plans to transfer to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to major in psychology and work towards her doctorate to become a therapist or counselor.

The Academic All-Star Program is a prestigious initiative that acknowledges the academic and service accomplishments of Arkansas' two-year college students. As a recipient, Aubrey will be awarded a \$500 scholarship for her final semester at UAHT and a full-tuition transfer scholarship to any Arkansas public four-year university.



THE SKY IS THE LIMIT WITH AN EDUCATION FROM UAHT!

I would love to start this story by saying my life after high school was a pleasant dream. I would love to say that the road to obtaining my bachelor's degree was planned to a "T" and without any bumps in the road. The year after my high school graduation certainly was not a pleasant dream, though, and was certainly not planned to a "T." There were figurative road bumps and literal obstacles every way I turned. One year after high school graduation, one non-fulfilled college sports scholarship later, one non-fulfilled college academic scholarship later, and bringing one small perfect human into this world, I found myself needing a game plan for college. I turned to what I thought was my last resort. That last resort was to start back at ground zero at a community college. Little did I know that that "last resort" would turn out to be one of the best decisions of my life.

In 2005, I graduated from UAHT (then UACCH) with an Associate of Arts degree, and that "last resort" set me up for success and prepared me for admittance to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Nursing, where I was accepted after my first application. Every single instructor facilitated my academic growth at UAHT. There was so much stigma surrounding non-4-year colleges back then that I never expected to receive the level of education I obtained. What I learned at UAHT helped me graduate with my BSN from UAMS in 2007.



To this day, I still carry the knowledge from Mrs. Garrett's microbiology labs and Mr. Thaxton's A&P 1 and II courses. Now, I am 18 years into the nursing profession and am an educator myself. The content I was taught at a community college lives on as I teach today. That was over 20 years ago, and I can still see the positive learning impact those classes had on me. Because of my positive experience at UAHT, I actively advocate for community colleges every chance I get. If I could go back, I would choose UAHT all over again.

Since graduating from UAMS, I have worked in various roles, including Emergency Care, Critical Care, Prehospital Transport, Management, and Education, in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas. My favorite nursing role of all time was after I became a Flight Nurse and began transporting patients in a Bell 206 Helicopter. I currently serve as the Clinical Operations Regional Educator for Air Evac Lifeteam-Global Medical Response, and I am honored to onboard and train new Flight Nurses and Paramedics. I have a total

of 8 Helicopter Bases and 75 medical crew members under my Clinical Operations blanket. I hold current certifications as a Certified Flight, Trauma Certified, and a Certified Transport Registered Nurse. I am a National Registered EMT and an American Heart Association Facility Instructor. UAHT laid the foundation for my success, and I am very proud to call myself an alumnus. The sky was literally the limit for me at UAHT, and it can be for you as well.

Sara Branch, CFRN, BSN, NREMT
Clinical Operations Regional Educator – Arkansas

UA HOPE-TEXARKANA LPN GRADUATES EARN 100% NCLEX PASS RATE

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana is proud to announce that graduates of its Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) program achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) for the 2025 fiscal year. This includes graduates from May 2024, December 2024, and May 2025.

"I am so proud of our students and faculty for reaching this exciting achievement," said Jessica Schroader, UAHT LPN Program Director. "A 100% NCLEX pass rate reflects our students' dedication, perseverance, and excellence, along with the unwavering commitment, guidance, and support of the LPN faculty. Together, they have truly shown what excellence looks like."

The success underscores the strength of UAHT's LPN program, a full-time, 11-month, selective admission program that provides comprehensive preparation for students to become licensed practical nurses. Graduates earn a Technical Certificate in Practical Nursing and are fully prepared to sit for the NCLEX-PN. The program meets all accreditation requirements set by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, ensuring the highest standards of education and training.



JONES APPOINTED TO UA HOPE-TEXARKANA BOARD

The Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas approved the appointment of Jacob Jones of Hope, Arkansas, to serve as a member of the Board of Visitors at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana. The UAHT Board of Visitors comprises ten members appointed by the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas. The Visitors serve staggered five-year terms and have significant knowledge and experience regarding UAHT's service region.

"Joining the UAHT Board of Visitors is a true honor and a humbling distinction," Jones said. "I believe in the power of education to transform lives and look forward to working alongside others who share that same vision. Together, we have an opportunity to make a lasting and meaningful impact on our community."

Jones is a Hope native (Hope High School Class of 1999), a Southern Arkansas University alumnus (2004), and a graduate from the Southwest Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University (2021). He is the Market President for Farmers Bank & Trust, where he has worked since 2016. In this role, he is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Hope and Prescott branches and the commercial lending department. He also represents Farmers Bank in its interactions with the community. Jacob generously donates his time and energy to many local groups and organizations, serving as a past president of Hope Kiwanis Club, Vice Chair of the Hempstead County Library Board, Board Member of Southwest Arkansas Regional Medical Center, and an active member of Bethany Baptist Church.

Jacob's inspiration comes from his family: his wife, Jordan, his children, Jenna and Jett, and his parents. He said that after watching his parents remain active in the community and school system, he feels it is his turn. "This is home for me," Jones said. "I am blessed with the opportunity to work and give back to the same community I was raised in, the community I'm now raising my family in. The people I work with at the bank, the people in my civics clubs, and the people I grew up with—we're all in this together." Whether representing Farmers Bank & Trust or acting on behalf of an organization, Jacob strives to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

"Jacob Jones is a remarkable addition to our Board of Visitors—not just because of his professional expertise, but because of his deep, personal investment in this community," Casey Curtis, UAHT Communications Coordinator, said. "As a Hope native, a committed civic leader, and a champion for local growth, Jacob brings both insight and heart to the table. His leadership at Farmers Bank & Trust and his tireless service to area organizations reflect the very values we aim to instill in our students. We're proud to welcome him, and we know his perspective will strengthen our mission to serve and uplift Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas."



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS HOPE-TEXARKANA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF GRADUATE NEXT GENERATION OF FIBER OPTIC TECHNICIANS

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana (UAHT) is proud to announce the successful graduation of its latest Fiber Optic Technician class hosted at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). The program, offered through UAHT's Industry Training Program, equips students with the technical knowledge and hands-on skills needed to meet the growing demand for high-speed broadband infrastructure across Arkansas and beyond.



This year's class achieved a remarkable milestone. 100% of students successfully passed the OpticPath Fiber Technician exam and will be awarded the nationally recognized Fiber Optic Technician Certification. The graduates are now prepared to enter the workforce in a rapidly expanding industry that is essential to connecting communities, supporting businesses, and driving innovation in the digital economy.

In addition to their fiber certification, students were also offered certifications in CPR/First Aid and OSHA 10 Construction, further enhancing their readiness for safe and effective employment in the field.

The program, a part of the Arkansas Fiber Academy, is co-designed with industry partners to provide participants with the opportunity to embark on a meaningful and rewarding career in the fiber broadband industry. Classroom and hands-on field experiences equip students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities employers seek when hiring Fiber Optic Technicians to install, maintain, and troubleshoot fiber networks.

The Fiber Optic Technician Program was offered free of charge, thanks to the support of the Office of Skills Development and the University of Arkansas System Workforce Response & Training Center, funded by the Arkansas Economic Development Institute.

32ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY FISH & CHICKEN FRY

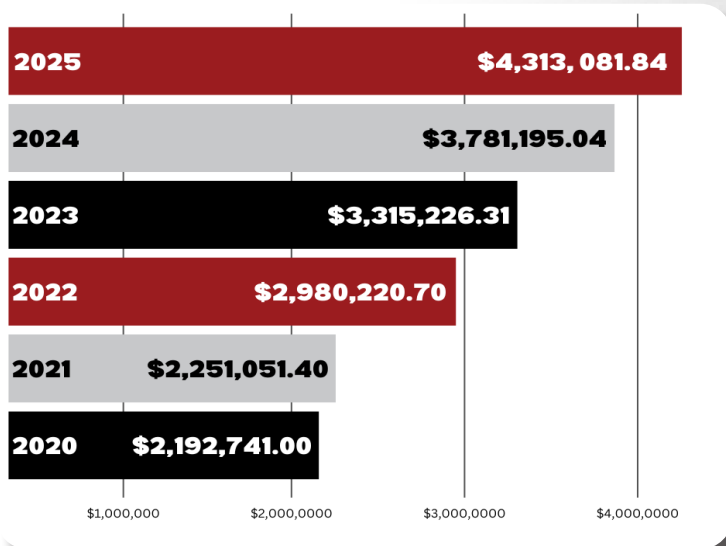
The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana held the 32nd Annual Community Fish & Chicken Fry on Thursday, September 18. This beloved tradition continued to serve up community favorites: crispy Lions Club fried fish and juicy Tyson chicken.

Every plate supported the UAHT Foundation, helping to fund student scholarships, such as the U Can Scholarship, which provides a free class for residents of Hempstead, Nevada, Miller, and Lafayette Counties.



UAHT FOUNDATION

ENDOWMENT GROWTH



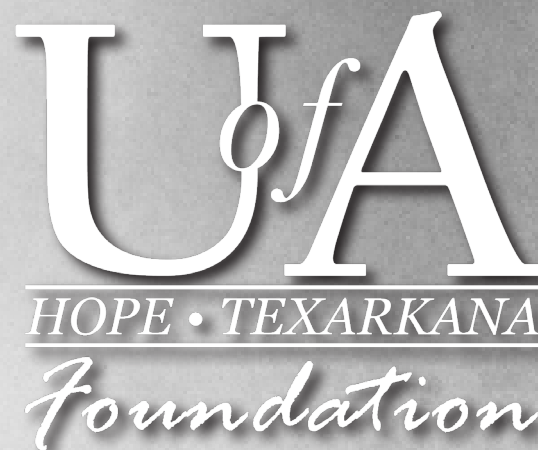
\$120,000

In Annual & Endowed Scholarships
in Spring & Fall of 2025

ANNUAL AWARDS:

Internal Giving Bridge Builder Scholarships: \$5,000

U-Can Scholarship: \$11,600



UAHT Foundation Board Members:

Shelby Brown, President
Kathy Struckman, Vice President
Honorable Dennis Ramsey, Treasurer
Deborah Malek, Secretary
Charlotte Bradley
Dr. Robert Carter, D.D.S.
Dr. Trevor Coffee, D.D.S.
Judy Davis
Adam Dixon
Dr. LaDell Douglas
Lindy Franks
Honorable Dolly Henley
Honorable Prissy Hickerson
Jacob Jones
Honorable Steve Montgomery
Jamie Pafford-Gresham
Jerry Pruden
John Sitzes
Freddie Smith



SCAN ME

"One of the greatest blessings of my time at UAHT was receiving the Virginia Clinton Kelley Endowed Scholarship, which alleviated the financial burden of tuition and enabled me to devote more energy to my studies. Balancing a full-time job with full-time school isn't easy, but this support made it possible."
- Kami Carr



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

UAHT succeeds because of the continued support of individuals, foundations, and corporate gifts. Maintaining strong alliances with community partners ensures we are building our bridge to the future with a strong and ready workforce to meet the demands of local industry. Your generosity and support of UAHT allow us the opportunity to positively impact the lives of our students and community. If you would like to support UAHT, please contact me, Kelly Wilcox, Director of Institutional Advancement at (870) 722-8516 or by email at kelly.wilcox@uaht.edu.



Over **150** orders each semester!

UAHT Foundation Underwritten Programs

Kids College Program: **172 Students**

Camp Save-A-Life: **23 Graduates**



MISSION

The primary purpose of the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Foundation is to advance higher education by securing private financial support for all units and activities of the college.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana Foundation supports students through scholarships and special projects to advance the institution. The most common giving opportunities are annual and endowed scholarships. The Foundation currently has over 125 privately funded annual and endowed scholarships awarded to students each year. Additionally, the Foundation supports \$10,000 yearly in "U-Can" scholarships for students who have not been enrolled in college in the past two years and have not completed an associate degree or higher.

University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana employees strongly support the Foundation by giving internally to the UAHT Bridge Builder Scholarships each year. Other opportunities for giving include naming of buildings, estate planning, securities, life insurance, matching gifts, event sponsorships, and memorial or honorarium donations. Your investment in the education of University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana students is an investment in your community and the future of our region.

NEW ENDOWMENTS

- The Ned Ray Purtle Memorial Endowment

UAHT QUICK FACTS



What is an Iron Horse?

The Iron Horse reflects the history of the railroad in the development of Hope and Texarkana and ties local rural history to the advancements that have brought the area from relying on horse power to today's modern technology. **His name is Spike!**

EARN AN AA DEGREE

100%
ONLINE!

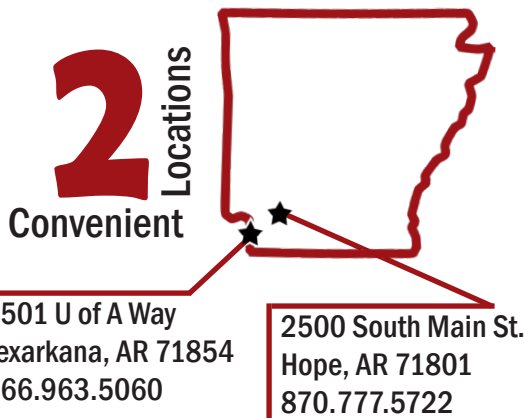


The Hempstead Guarantee is a scholarship that guarantees the first year of college **at no cost** at UAHT for students who graduate from high schools in Hempstead County, Arkansas.

WORLD-CLASS



SYSTEM EDUCATION



Accredited by the
Higher Learning Commission

50+

Degrees & Certificates

12:1

Student to
Teacher Ratio

80%

of our students
received financial
aid in 2023-2024

Students
1632
LAST ACADEMIC YEAR

120+

PRIVATELY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

INSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

PLUS GED
'U CAN'
Bridge
Honors
Chancellor's
Hempstead Guarantee



Get started in high school!

- Concurrent Credit
- Collegiate Academies
- Secondary Career Center



One of the most
affordable tuition
prices in Arkansas!

Arkansas Transfer Achievement Scholarship
UAHT's low tuition rate
@ UA-Fayetteville



\$20

Cost of
your rental
textbooks
per credit
hour!



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