



Your Association Biweekly e-newsletter • American Association of State Colleges and Universities • Delivering America's Promise

October 18 Issue 

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**Millersville University of Pennsylvania**

**Southeast Missouri State University**

## COMMIT NOW TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL!

### SIGN THE PLEDGE

#### Programs

##### **East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania**

To help first-generation college students, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (ESU) launched its 1st Gen project in September. Faculty and staff who were in the first generation of their families to go to college will be invited to wear buttons that say "1ST GEN" to identify themselves on campus for current first-generation students who have questions or just want to talk to someone who was once in their shoes. As of fall 2016, first-generation college students made up 28.5 percent of ESU undergraduates. [Read more](#)

##### **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

- University of Arkansas at Little Rock's (UA Little Rock) College of Social Sciences and Communications (CSSC) rolled out its Merci CSSC initiative in August, which allows people to recognize those from the college who have made a positive impact by performing an act of kindness or going above and beyond to help someone. Dean Julien Mirivel, who is a well-known scholar on the effects of positive communication, said that acknowledging goodness and kind acts will encourage more people to perform similar acts. [Read more](#)
- The Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center, based at UA Little Rock, has started a new program to help rural businesses identify and target new customers, so rural businesses can remain competitive while dealing with dwindling population and online competition. [Read more](#)

#### Grants and Gifts

##### **Arkansas State University**

Three veteran faculty members have been named the first recipients of Vaughn Professorships at Arkansas State University. The professorships were created through a gift of \$3.69 million from the estate of James E. and Wanda Lee Vaughn, alumni of the university. The gift from the Vaughns, who were inducted in 1999 into the university's Legacy Society for donors of planned gifts, also provided a scholarship endowment and other initiatives benefitting the university. [Read more](#)

##### **Arkansas Tech University**

- A \$667,000 regional workforce grant has enabled Arkansas Tech University to open a new automation technology laboratory at its Arkansas Tech Career Center (ATCC). ATCC houses nine programs—automation systems technologies, automotive service technology, computer engineering, construction technology, criminal justice/law enforcement, culinary arts,

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**

Spotlight 

**Arkansas State University**

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**Black Hills State University (S.D.)**

**California State University Northridge**

**Millersville University of Pennsylvania**

**Southeast Missouri State University**

**Texas A&M University-San Antonio**

**University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

**University of Central Florida**

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cosmetology, health science technology, metal fabrication and logistics management. [Read more](#)

- External grant funding at Arkansas Tech University topped \$5.6 million during the 2016-17 fiscal year, an increase of 3.8 percent over the previous year. [Read more](#)

#### **Black Hills State University (S.D.)**

Black Hills State University was awarded a \$785,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support South Dakota high schools in implementing computer science courses. The project, Expanding Pathways into Computer Science across South Dakota, will build upon previous work also funded by the NSF with an expanded focus: reaching rural regions and underserved students throughout the state, including those on or near American Indian reservations. [Read more](#)

#### **California State University, Los Angeles**

California State University, Los Angeles has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to create a fast track for students studying to become math teachers. The grant from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) will be used to create an expedited Integrated Teacher Preparation Program in mathematics, commonly known as SCOPE. [Read more](#)

#### **Central Michigan University**

Two Central Michigan University physics professors are at the forefront of a four-year, \$4.8 million U.S. Department of Energy research grant. The project spans five universities and 10 senior scientists. [Read more](#)

#### **North Carolina Central University**

North Carolina Central University has been awarded \$16.3 million by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), for a new Research Center in Minority Institutions (RCMI) focusing on elevating the university's health disparities research program. [Read more](#)

#### **Pittsburg State University (Kan.)**

A nearly \$900,000 grant awarded to Greenbush - The Southeast Kansas Education Service Center aims to help those teachers at public schools across Kansas by partnering with the Kansas Center for Career and Technical Education at Pittsburg State University to enhance its mentoring program. [Read more](#)

#### **University of Arkansas at Little Rock**

- Dr. Paul Crutcher, assistant professor of English at UA Little Rock, has received a grant from the Freeman Foundation to teach the Consortium for Teaching about Asia program to Arkansas teachers. Crutcher has received more than \$15,000 to host the program, which is a multi-year initiative to encourage and facilitate teaching and learning about East Asia in elementary and secondary schools nationwide. [Read more](#)
- Little Rock engineering company Bernhard TME has announced a \$50,000 gift to the UA Little Rock's Facilities Management Event Fund, which provides scholarships to facilities management employees. In the past six years, the fund has awarded 210 scholarships totaling \$166,000. Fifteen scholarship recipients have completed degrees. [Read more](#)

#### **University of Central Oklahoma**

University of Central Oklahoma alumnus and former student athlete Chad Richison, founder and CEO of Oklahoma City-based Paycom Software Inc., has donated an additional \$4 million to the UCO Athletics Complete the Dream campaign. As the second-largest gift in university history, Richison's recent contribution is surpassed only by his previous gift of \$10 million in 2015, the single-largest gift in university history and among the largest ever received by a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II institution. [Read more](#)