

September 15, 2020

## **ASU Mid-South Receives Great College to Work For Distinction for 2020**

Arkansas State University Mid-South is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a new survey by The Great Colleges to Work For® program.

The results, released on September 14th in a special insert of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, are based on a survey of 221 colleges and universities. In all, 79 of the 221 institutions achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with ASU Mid-South included among small universities with 500 to 2,999 students.



ASU Mid-South was the only two-year institution in Arkansas to receive this distinction this year, winning honors in the Facilities, Workspace & Security category.

“This is a very satisfying affirmation of ASU Mid-South, but our real goal is not recognition – it’s being a campus community that values the needs and contributions of every individual. In that sense, everyone at Mid-South contributes to making this a great place to work,” said Dr. Debra West, Chancellor.

“Our amazing faculty and staff deserve special kudos this year for their commitment to being good stewards of institutional culture and workplace quality. In the face of unprecedented uncertainty, their commitment never wavered. I am so proud of a team that proves it is possible to be a great workplace, even in the face of disruption, unprecedented challenges, and limited resources.”

The Great Colleges to Work For® program is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. The survey results are based on a two-part assessment

process: an institution questionnaire that captured employment data and workplace policies from each institution, and a survey administered to faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was the employee feedback. ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm, administered the survey and analyzed the results.

“This year’s list of recognized institutions in the Great Colleges to Work For® program was united in their commitment to organization culture, even in the face of a worldwide pandemic. They stand apart in their recognition that workplace culture can actually be a roadmap for navigating unparalleled times,” offered Richard K. Boyer, Senior Consultant at ModernThink.

“This year has definitely been a challenge,” said Ed Cook who directed the Facilities Maintenance Department during the survey period. “The health and safety of our students and staff are a top priority for ASU Mid-South. On any given day since the pandemic began, we had to be prepared to respond to needs on campus, while simultaneously taking whatever steps necessary to function remotely. Securing the necessary PPE, keeping our workplaces sanitized, reconfiguring classrooms and common areas to accommodate physical distancing, and being flexible enough to maneuver through constantly shifting public safety guidance was a daily challenge. To be recognized this way for our Facilities, Workspace and Security really points out to our team that our hard work was noticed.”

### **About Arkansas State University Mid-South**

Arkansas State University Mid-South is a public two-year institution of higher education with an open-door admission policy, serving Crittenden County, Arkansas and the surrounding areas. The College is committed to enriching lives through high quality educational programming that fosters student success, workforce development, and lifelong learning. For more information about ASU Mid-South, visit <https://www.asumidsouth.edu/>.

### **About The Chronicle of Higher Education**

The Chronicle of Higher Education is dedicated to serving the higher-education community with insights, understanding, and intellectual engagement. Academic leaders and professionals from around the world trust The Chronicle’s analysis and in-depth exploration to make informed decisions.

## **About ModernThink LLC**

As a research and consulting leader in workplace issues, ModernThink has supported a wide variety of “Best Place to Work” initiatives. The ModernThink team of organizational development experts is dedicated to helping colleges follow through and capitalize on feedback from employees and benchmark data from peers to drive meaningful change at their institutions. To learn more, visit <http://www.modernthink.com>.

-30-

For more information, contact Diane Hampton, Vice Chancellor for Advancement at Arkansas State University Mid-South – [dhampton@asumidsouth.edu](mailto:dhampton@asumidsouth.edu) or (870)733-6880