

And the winner is...



2022 ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MID-SOUTH

Chancellor's Report



ASU MID-SOUTH

Awards





LETTER FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Friends,

It is an honor and a privilege to be surrounded by the most talented, dedicated, and hard-working group of people in higher education. ASU Mid-South's faculty and staff are a phenomenal cast of performers, both individually and collectively, and they are the reason ASU Mid-South has been the hottest show on Broadway for the past thirty years.

Truly, there are not enough pages to adequately highlight the innovation, teamwork, and genuine care and concern for students these folks exhibit each and every day. From developing and implementing new programs to help meet the needs of area employers, to providing students the foundation for their baccalaureate degrees, to embracing the communities we serve through outreach and creativity, ASU Mid-South exists to perform in award-winning ways for our students and for our region.

In the eyes of the Arkansas legislators, our performance is judged and funded annually by our productivity. So, in July we were thrilled when the Arkansas Department of Higher Education recognized ASU Mid-South for a 4.3% productivity increase this past year. No doubt this increase is attributable to our ongoing commitment to improving student success.

Every single person on this campus plays a part in that—whether as a teacher in a classroom or by helping to ensure our facilities and grounds are clean and our campus is safe. So, to our faculty and staff, thank you to each of you for the role that you play at our institution, for all your hard work in support of these efforts, and for your continued dedication to serving our students. You deserve a standing ovation for your sacrifices and your commitment.

And to our constituents, friends and supporters, thank you for awarding ASU Mid-South your trust and belief in what we do! We hope you enjoy this highlight reel recognizing some of this year's award-winning performers and performances.

Cheers to another year of great performances. Let's continue to break a leg!

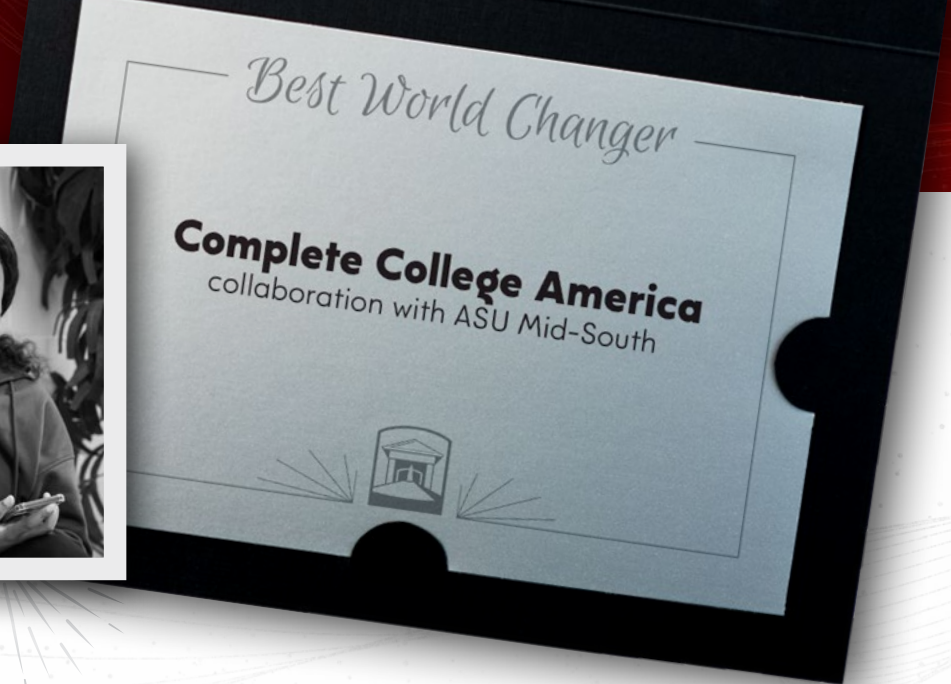
Debra West

Debra West, Ph.D.
Chancellor



Recently Dr. Debra West received an award of her own! Dr. West was named to the Class of 2022 Northeast Arkansas Outstanding Women in Business. Congratulations Dr. West! And thank you for your starring role in outstanding leadership, vision, and enthusiasm.

— ASU Mid-South faculty and staff



I imagine a world where every adult, regardless of racial, social or economic disparities, has a college degree, certificate, industry certification, or other credential of value. These are the goals the cast of ASU Mid-South is working toward thanks to a collaboration with Complete College America (CCA) funded by Lumina Foundation. ASU Mid-South is one of twenty historically or predominantly Black community colleges from across the nation selected to participate in this project with CCA. This initiative seeks to establish a network of institutions committed to advancing expertise, sharing resources, and promoting culturally relevant learning to all Predominantly Black Community Colleges/Historically Black Community Colleges with the ultimate goal of increasing the number of adults of color earning credentials of value.

The project at ASU Mid-South involves team members from Academic Advising, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Career Services, and Institutional Research/Institutional Effectiveness. It complements the work ASU Mid-South is already engaged in through our Predominantly Black Institution (PBI) grant initiative.

“Ultimately, the goal is to increase economic opportunity, social mobility, and racial justice among our stakeholders that includes the students and communities that we presently serve,” said Gerar Pope, ASU Mid-South's Director of Title III PBI Grant. Pope is heavily involved in the CCA initiative. “From a more personal perspective, I think CCA has revealed and confirmed to many of us that there are many impactful things that ASU Mid-South is presently doing, yet as with any endeavor there is always room for growth.”

Pope, along with Jeremy Reece, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Michael Lejman, Associate Vice Chancellor of Institutional Research and Assessment, attended the CCA Conference in Atlanta in October. CCA's mission is to build a new system that restores the promise of higher education. According to the CCA website, “We can either reflect the racial, social, and economic injustices of society—or we can be an engine of equity, prosperity, and hope.”

CCA has helped ASU Mid-South create a promise scholarship program, which is a last dollar scholarship to help ensure local students who want to attend ASU Mid-South are able to do so without financial concern. “We are seriously blessed to be able to participate in a number of these initiatives,” Reece said.

Ashley Ruby is ASU Mid-South's project coach. “I have enjoyed learning about ASU Mid-South, the students it serves and the institutional and project priorities,” Ruby said. “Every action the team has taken through the lens of this project has been meaningful.” One item we are proud of is the progress we've made with Academic Maps. Research demonstrates that quality Academic Maps at a higher education institution are an effective enrollment and persistence strategy. Our Maps feature clear education pathways with stackable credentials. Through this partnership with Complete College America, Greyhounds will continue to thrive!



“ASU Mid-South is fortunate to have so many caring staff and faculty at the institution and working on this project team. The beneficiaries of this vital work are the students.”

– Ashley Ruby, Director of Advising and Academic Success at Garrett College



Program Most Likely
TO GAIN REGIONAL TRACTION

Transportation Automotive & Diesel



*T*he Arkansas General Assembly determined that in order to compete with an aggressive and effective 21st century economic development strategy, the state must start by properly evaluating and addressing the workforce education needs. Preparing and encouraging this region's Arkansans to pursue high-demand jobs, including those stemming from industry recognized credentials, career and technical certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees is essential to building a skilled and employment-ready workforce.

This fall, in response to local demand from Carvana, Ford Motor Company, Goodyear Commercial, and others, ASU Mid-South added an automotive component to its existing Diesel Maintenance Technology program. Primary changes to the curriculum included the revision of the program's existing Brake Systems course and the addition of introductory courses emphasizing safety and proper use of tools. The West Memphis School District and Arkansas' Office of Skills Development have pledged to assist with instructional and equipment costs related to providing this program in the college's Secondary Technical Center.

As a part of the comprehensive transportation/distribution program ASU Mid-South was also awarded a \$1 million Regional Workforce Grant by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education. These funds will be used in support of programs in Transportation, specifically truck driving. A portion of the funds were used to purchase a truck and trailer. The remaining funds will be directed to purchase an on-campus truck-driving range in close proximity to the Marion Berry Renewable Energy Center, which houses the Automotive/Diesel Technology Program.

Commercial Truck Driving provides students entry into a high-demand, high-wage career. The addition of this program, long sought-after in our community, will be a huge step forward in supporting our local transportation/distribution employers. These include Schneider, FedEx Freight, and Paschall Truck Lines, as well as city and county governments and local school districts, all of which are in need of individuals with CDL Class A or B licenses.



While we celebrate the expansion of our transportation and distribution programs, we also highlight special recognition of Greg Mosley, Diesel Technology faculty member, ASU Mid-South alumnus, and former Secondary Technical Center Student, who was recently featured in an annual publication, "Arkansas Next", distributed each fall to every Arkansas student in grades 8-12. The publication encourages students to pursue education beyond high school. Greg is a living example of what it means to take advantage of the opportunities provided in high school, carry them to the next level, and ultimately turn them into a rewarding professional career.

Best Sports Performance

Greyhound Baseball & Softball
Greyhound Athletics Expansion

Braxtyn McCuien
NJCAA All-Academic First Team



On October 22, ASU Mid-South filed a letter of intent with the NJCAA, formally signaling its interest in expanding its athletics offerings to include baseball and softball as early as the 2023 Season. The athletics expansion will provide more opportunities to attract students to our campus. Student-athletes come to ASU Mid-South, perform well on the court and in the classroom, and then transfer on to continue playing and finish their degrees. The addition of baseball and softball will add diversity to campus by pulling in students from the region and other states.

“Lady Greyhound and Greyhound basketball has become an ASU Mid-South tradition,” Jeremy Reece said. “Athletics brings people together and we are excited to expand in this area. Hopefully this is just the beginning.”

The 2021-22 Greyhound Men's and Women's basketball teams put on incredible performances, finishing their regular seasons ranked second in conference standings. The women (17-9 overall and 8-2 in conference play) finished the season ranked 16th in NJCAA Division II standings. They also finished 3rd in home game attendance for Division II. The men (13-11 overall and 7-3 in conference play) finished out of the top 20 rankings nationally, but 5th in home game attendance.



ASU Mid-South has its first-ever NJCAA All-Academic Team member. Greyhound basketball forward Braxtyn McCuien was named to the 2021-22 NJCAA All-Academic First Team at the end of the season. McCuien is a native of Conway, Ark., and he finished his freshman year with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. "It's a huge thing to me to be a Greyhound. Coach Parker always says we're in a fishbowl, so no matter where I go, I want to represent ASU Mid-South in the best way possible," McCuien said.



*T*he Lady Greyhounds have begun a new era with an all-new team and head coach as Addie Lees takes the helm in her first year at ASU Mid-South after a successful four-year run at Kilgore College located in Kilgore, Texas, where she led the Lady Rangers to a 75-42 record and three 20-win seasons, culminating in a top 25 National ranking in 2021-22.

Lees, a Plainview, Texas native boasts a 100% graduation rate for her student-athletes, with each of her teams averaging a 3.15 grade-point average or above. Prior to her job at Kilgore college, Lees spent two years as Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator at NCAA Division I Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, where she was key in helping the Lady Bobcats achieve a WBI postseason tournament appearance.

In her student days, Lees played for NJCAA Region 5 Midland College for two seasons, while earning her Associate's degree, before finishing her career at NCAA Division II University of Arkansas at Monticello, where she earned her Bachelor's degree with Magna Cum Laude honors.

With no returning players from last year's 17-10 squad, Coach Lees began her duties in July and recruited 14 players for the 2022-23 season. The Lady Greyhounds begin Region 2 play in January with 10 games that conclude with the Region Tournament at home sites with the championship held March 6 at Harding University in Searcy, Ark.



"I love being a part of this team. We're all new and growing together as a family. It's going to be good."

– Aryah Hazley, freshman point guard from West Memphis

"Basketball means everything to me. Growing with people, learning about people and just buying in to create a great program. My experience has been great under Coach Lees. Basketball has brought me closer to people I didn't know and made me a better person."

– Quintasia Leatherwood, sophomore guard from Tuscaloosa

— Best Supporting Cast —

Workforce and Community Education



Regional labor shortages exist throughout our region. Arkansas Delta Workforce Opportunities for Rural Communities (ADWORC) is an initiative to increase the labor participation rate by preparing new entrants for the workforce, particularly persons from impoverished backgrounds, who are or have been incarcerated, and dislocated workers for jobs in high-demand fields.

This program provides skills training to individuals who may have been previously unemployed, underemployed, or have challenges in becoming employed. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor and Delta Regional Authority, ADWORC is an initiative of the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC), a partnership of the five community colleges in eastern/northeastern Arkansas, and provides coursework and certifications in Work Ready Essentials, CPR/First Aid, Forklift Operations, and OSHA 10. Participants also have the opportunity to obtain the National Career Readiness Certification. This is one of the many opportunities that have been provided to residents of East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center (ECACCC) in West Memphis.

ASU Mid-South is proud to participate in this initiative, and even more proud to celebrate the success of the program and those staff and faculty members who've ensured the success in 2022.



"I am very thankful for all the teachers. You all have done really well at getting me ready for the world upon my release from ECACCC. Mrs. Bennett was so down to earth and never judgmental. She made me feel like I was not dumb and deserved a second chance. I am sad that the program is over. Thank you. Mr. Rob was awesome also!"

— ECACCC resident

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...



WorkKeys/National Career Readiness Certificate,
Myers-Briggs personality assessment,
Emotional Intelligence, Employability **Michelle Bennett**
Financial Literacy **Jack Poff**
Communications, Emotional Intelligence..... **Dr. Tracy Giovanetti**
Employability **Riley Cook**
College Financial Aid..... **Crystal Burger**
College Admissions Processes **Debra Jennings**
One-Stop/WIOA Services..... **Tracy Hinton**
Adult Education/Literacy Program/Services **Donnylle Hampton**



Forklift Operations **Mike Dailey , Ed Cook, J.R. Underwood**
OSHA 10 for General Industry **Rob Semmel, Mike Dailey, John Judd**
CPR/First Aid/Stop the Bleed **Glenn Faight, Lance Wallace**



Lastly, the Producer Award goes to **Dr. Callie Dunavin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Workforce Education**, whose tireless dedication, and commitment to excellence directs this grant program and many others on the ASU Mid-South campus.

BEST LEAD ROLES

ACC & NISOD

Each year, ASU Mid-South participates in the Arkansas Community Colleges (ACC) awards and the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence awards.

Please join us in congratulating the honorees for 2022.



Ray Duch, ACC Outstanding Faculty (awarded posthumously)

For 22 years, Ray Duch proudly, but humbly, served the students, the mission and most importantly, the soul of ASU Mid-South. For new faculty and staff, he was a mentor. For longer-serving members of the institution, he was a friend. For his students, he was a capable and patient instructor and for many, a father figure. He took all of his responsibilities in earnest, whether he was showing his students how to upgrade a motherboard, staying late to advise his evening students or coaching his students to medals at SkillsUSA state competitions. He exemplified genuine character through every interaction, which is evident in the many long friendships he formed with his students and colleagues alike. The impact he had on the college and his colleagues will be lasting, as will his legacy.



Angshylea (Angie) Jones, NISOD Outstanding Staff

While Angie Jones is always positive and caring to her students and colleagues, this year she went above and beyond on multiple occasions. Angie hosted “Ladies Let’s Chat,” and showed so much care and enthusiasm for her students’ success. It’s evident that students trust and admire Angie as an advisor and campus leader. She takes time to explain the needs of the student when referring them to various campus services. Angie gives students the support backstage they need and is always in the front row cheering them on. ASU Mid-South is a better place for students and the community with Angie in our cast!



Mitchell Stokes, ACC Outstanding Alumnus

It's important to spotlight strong, smart, positive role models at ASU Mid-South, and Mitchell Stokes is just that. Mitchell has been a 6th grade Math and Science Instructor at Jackson-Wonder Elementary for nearly 12 years. For 19 years, he has been the lead guitarist for the Soul Shockers, one of our region's most sought-after R&B bands. On top of that, he also owns a musical production company, Ja'Mar Productions. Mitchell plays many roles, and we are grateful he leads the band of outstanding alumna at ASU Mid-South!



Debra Jennings, ACC Outstanding Staff

Debra Jennings is someone who is always positive, has a can-do demeanor and is a joy to be around. Her knowledge and professionalism ensure that anyone who walks into her department will receive the best service possible. She is prompt, efficient and goes out of her way to make sure any problem is resolved. Debra is always willing to help. Her kindness never feels forced – she is a genuine and integral part of why ASU Mid-South continues to get 5-star reviews.



Jayden McNair, ACC Academic All-Star

Few actors inspire the entire cast like Jayden McNair. He shows up, shows out and never wants the spotlight. Jayden is involved in just about every scene on campus. He is a student ambassador, assists in student recruitment, campus activities and workshops, and is a star representative for ASU Mid-South. He's a current Information Technology intern and will graduate and assume the position of Network Administrator for our IT department in January. You make us all proud, Jayden!



Mary Field, NISOD Outstanding Faculty

Always prepared and positive, Mary Field is the epitome of an effective educator. She easily connects with students and imparts her contagious thirst for learning. She motivates students to reach beyond their expectations. Mary was at the forefront of virtual learning at ASU Mid-South and demonstrates enthusiasm in understanding and using new technology in the classroom. She assumes the lead role in multiple initiatives and committees on campus and across the state. Mary is a dedicated educator and is invested from the first take to curtain call. We are all better because of Mary!

Lifetime ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*J*n late September of 2022, the family and friends of Charles Stokes established a scholarship fund to honor the memory of this twenty-three year old crop duster. They had a goal to endow the **Charles Garland Stokes Scholarship for Aviation Maintenance at Arkansas State University Mid-South** in perpetuity, creating a lasting memorial to Charles.

Miraculously just weeks later, through the generosity of Charles' friends and family, the \$25,000 endowment was fully funded, and exceeded the intended balance.

Charles' love for flying began at a young age. He obtained his private pilot's license before he graduated from high school, and later got his commercial license. It seems so appropriate that future aviation students who share a passion for planes will be reminded of Charles' life. "I believe that's the best possible way we can remember and honor his life forever," said his father, Tracey Stokes, owner of Stokes Flying Service in Earle, Arkansas.



Charles was born in July 1999. He attended school in Marion and in 2017 graduated from Marion High School. He pursued higher education at the University of Arkansas studying business. In addition to flying, Charles enjoyed playing and watching football, hunting, and spending time with family and friends.

"We are honored and quite frankly, touched, that his family and friends chose ASU Mid-South for this tribute to Charles," said Diane Hampton, Vice Chancellor of Institutional Advancement. "What a loving and generous way to turn tragedy into an opportunity to help others. Charles had a passion for being in the air, and this scholarship will allow future students to soar in their future careers in aviation."

We celebrate a life well-lived by a young man who was so obviously well-loved. Charles Garland Stokes will forever fly high.



CHAIRMAN'S *Award* OF EXCELLENCE

LLANA Y. SMITH-RADA
1952-2022



*S*ome people define excellence. Lllana Smith was one of those people and her marks of excellence can be recognized throughout the ASU Mid-South campus and our Foundation. Lllana was passionate about education, and about arts and culture. Through the establishment of the Rockie Smith Endowment for the Arts in memory of her mother, and the A.B. Smith Endowed Scholarship to honor her father, Lllana proved that she understood and respected education as a way to expand opportunity, and arts and culture as a way to expand humanity, and its appreciation of beauty.

Lllana served on the Board of Directors for the ASU Mid-South Foundation for over a decade. During that time, just about any project or program the Foundation undertook, Lllana led the charge. From the development of the successful Wild Game Dinner, to the 25th Anniversary Hall of Fame Gala, to expanding athletics, and more, Lllana was always dreaming of the next big idea to support ASU Mid-South.

Everything that Lllana did, every person she loved, every event or program she supported...she always wanted it to be right. She never let good get in the way of perfect.

Simply put, Lllana made everything so much better. That was her life, and now her legacy.



"In the time I came to know and dearly love Lllana, I learned this: There was right, and there was Lllana-right. And Lllana-right was a very special kind of right."

— Lucie Brackin, Chair of the Foundation supporting ASU Mid-South

Best After Party
(& BEFORE...& DURING)

Yellowstone Theme
Tommy Goldsby Wild Game Dinner 2022



Some ranchers put the same mark on their herd that their great-great-grandfathers did. For others, they're the first generation to make a mark, signifying the realization of an American dream.

In a similar way, the **Tommy Goldsby Memorial Wild Game Dinner** leaves its mark on eastern Arkansas. A legacy of generosity, belief in the power of higher education, and a need to improve the economic health in our region was the dream of Mr. Goldsby. Twenty years ago, he put irons in the fire to develop a unique and innovative scholarship program at ASU Mid-South that today continues to make a mark on students and families across our region.



We are proud to announce the results of the 6th annual **Tommy Goldsby Memorial Wild Game Dinner**. There were 582 people in attendance, who were unbelievably generous, and dozens more who supported the event even though being unable to attend. As a result, we achieved a net of \$285,000 – the second highest net in the brand's history – to fund the approximately \$275,000 annual scholarship cost.

Tommy Goldsby put irons in the fire in 2001, with a gift of \$1,000,000 to make an indelible mark on students across our region. The brand continues, stronger than ever! To our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and ranch hands, thank you for another amazing year!

The Goldsby Wild Game Dinner Committee – Alicia Mooney, Chair



"I've been a Goldsby Scholar for two years and plan to graduate with my Associate's Degree in May two days before my high school graduation. Taking concurrent classes has helped me excel above my peers at times. The college instructors are understanding and your peers help you and work with you. If you need a tutor they have plenty ready to help. I plan to continue my education at ASU Jonesboro and work on getting my engineering degree."

– Colton Nicks, Earle High School

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2022 donors as of November 30th

BOLD = Donors who gave at least an accumulated \$1,000 during 2022

Italics = Employee Donor

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Arkansas Greyhound Association Scholarship
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