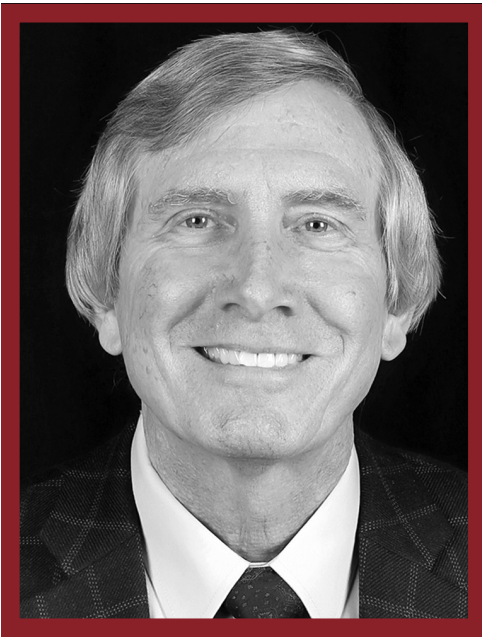


S P I R I T

of SouthArk
P R E S I D E N T ' S A W A R D

Phil Ballard



Phil Ballard is a native of Hope, Arkansas, and a graduate of Hope High School. He has a bachelor's degree in English from Henderson State College and a master's in rhetoric and composition from East Texas State University.

He taught in the secondary schools for ten years before beginning a 29-year career in higher education. He moved to El Dorado in 1987 to take a job at the El Dorado Branch of Southern Arkansas University, where he has taught English and/or done administrative work ever since.

In 1992, he served on the transition committee that guided the merger of Oil Belt Technical College and SAU-E to form South Arkansas Community College. In 1994-96, he coordinated a self-study for the Higher Learning Commission, which resulted in a ten-year reaccreditation of the new college; and in 1999-2000, he served as the interim vice president for academic affairs for eight long months. In the 1990's he served as the division chair for Humanities and Social Sciences while

teaching nine hours each semester.

In 2008, he left the classroom and became the Dean of Liberal Arts. For 10 years, he has chaired the lecture series committee; for 19 years, he has coordinated the Writer's Ink creative writing contest and magazine for high school students, and for 18 years he has served as an associate editor of the *Between the Lines* literary magazine. Also, he helped start and maintain the *South Arkansas Historical Journal*, the *Arts in April* emphasis, Black History Month, and various other annual and special projects.

During retirement, he plans to pursue some hobbies, travel, and catch up on 40 years of neglected pleasure reading.

