

BARB'S Wire

March, 2016

Our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change. -Martin Luther King Jr.

This is a very busy year with preparations for HLC, Jenzabar conversion, grant implementations, programmatic accreditations, teaching, and much more. In addition, we have experienced an enrollment decline and are making budget adjustments, accordingly. We have experienced an increase in graduation rate attributable to our changes in remedial education, tutoring, Early Alert, intrusive advising, and other initiatives. You are making a difference in the lives of our students! We are "...adjusting to new ideas, remaining vigilant, and facing challenges of change."

Thank You All for your dedication to the SouthArk Mission and our students! What a great team!



SouthArk Lead - Linda Bates, Genevieve White, Amy Sturdivant, Heather Smith, and Dr. John Spencer – have been busy this year. They have progressed through six modules/days of training, discussions, reflection, and planning. They have visited the Arkansas Capitol to learn more

about ADHE, ACC, the AR Legislature, and even observed the Legislative Task Force for Higher Education. They still have two more modules and a project to present before "graduation" in May.

~from IE and Workforce and Continuing Education

A new corporate **soft skills program** was implemented for the spring semester. The first class was held exclusively for Murphy USA employees and was a great success. They have scheduled eight more classes through mid-May as part of their corporate training program.

Warren site: Non-credit courses will be offered at the new Brunson classroom in Warren at the request of Bradley Chamber of Commerce, Bradley County Medical Center, and area industries. Professional Development classes are due to begin the end of March.

Culinary/hospitality training: A new non-credit culinary/hospitality program is taking shape with plans to start-up in May. A restaurant advisory board was formed to assist in curriculum creation and implementation. Registrations will begin in April.

Weave: Last year we began using an assessment management system known as **Weave: Performance Cloud**. This tool has allowed us to easily document not only our course and program assessments but also our administrative assessments. It allows us to tag individual department/ course outcomes with the College Wide Student Learning Outcomes, Strategic Plan Initiatives, and Indicators of institutional effectiveness. Trainings have been conducted with faculty and staff. The new Assessment Coaches are providing one-on-one assistance to faculty filing assessment reports through this new process.

~from Student Services:

Updated Enrollment Management Plan (Recruitment Retention) has been sent to the Pre-College Education Committee and the Retention and Student Success Committee for review and approval.

Enrollment Updates

We have a five-year high enrollment of "new students" for this academic year; we need to increase the number of non-traditional, transfer, and African-American students.

Early Alert System is showing positive trends in number of faculty using and retention rate of students receiving Early Alerts.

Recruiting: We have hired an interim recruiter, Irene Portia, who is busy visiting area high schools, etc., with a permanent hire to occur in May.

Concurrent Enrollment: We are continuing to explore ways to expand concurrent enrollment and recently received approval to offer services in Louisiana. We received approval to offer courses digitally to high schools to satisfy AR Act 1280. We have submitted a proposal to participate in the *Experimental Sites Initiative*, whereby high school students could be eligible for Pell grant money for concurrent courses.

Other recruiting efforts:

- working with employers who offer to pay tuition for additional education for their employees
- reaching out to Hispanic students, whose numbers have grown significantly in the past three years
- setting up information tables during events at ECC such as Rhea Lana
- *Dollars for Scholars at SouthArk* on March 13 to assist with FAFSA form completion
- Spring Fling/Senior Day on West Campus and First Annual High School Welding Competition on East Campus on March 17

- **Dean Inman sent out by email to the campus an expanded list of recruiting activities for March. Please participate when and if you are able.**

National Emergency Grant/Arkansas Sector Partnership (NEG/ASP) – “Back on Track” - Consortium of ACC, 12 AR community colleges, ADWS, and Winrock. It targets displaced workers, especially military, disabled, minorities, previously incarcerated, and homemakers to prepare them for entrance into the field of advanced manufacturing. Staff: Career Counselor: Grace Palculict; Administrative Assistant: Bre Hicks

~ From Finance and Administration

Budget: Adjustments have been completed for the current budget and budget managers need to review their accounts for revisions. If there are concerns or questions concerning the revisions please discuss them with your vice president. In March, work began on next year's budget. With our declining enrollment, we are planning for 16-17, accordingly. Thank you for your assistance in making these budget adjustments.

Energy Efficiencies: We appreciate your assistance and comments in our move to cut energy costs. We have implemented many suggestions. Please contact Mr. Tucker, our VPFA, or Mr. Small, our Physical Plant Manager, if you have any other ideas or changes.

Advanced Manufacturing Training Center: The College has received additional General Improvement Funds for the AMTC. We hope to rebid in the next few months

Master Plan: The College architects have completed the master plan for our campuses. The architects will present the plan to the Board of Trustees this spring. This information will be provided to faculty and staff.

Jenzabar update: On March 18th, data entry will stop on the POISE (Jenzabar PX) system. IT staff will extract our data and make it available to the Jenzabar conversion team. They, in turn, will run processes on our data during the week of March 21st to import it into Jenzabar EX (SouthArk's new POISE). Starting on Monday, March 28th, the module managers and their staff will begin verifying the converted data. Jenzabar staff working on site and remotely will reconvert data as necessary. Data entry in Jenzabar PX will begin after data verification is complete. Thank you to all involved in this major conversion endeavor! You are an AWESOME TEAM!

~from Academic Affairs

TAACCCT (Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training) Grant: We just completed a \$125,000 renovation of our welding building and have partnered with the Systems Group to sponsor the first

annual welding competition for high school students. We have purchased equipment for the mechatronics lab and facilitated tours for industry and high school teachers/administration. We also hosted the South Arkansas Human Resource Association's monthly meeting in February gaining valuable insight into what employers value in our graduates. Donald Lee, formerly with Therma-flite, has joined SouthArk as an Advanced Manufacturing Training Instructor (non-credit).

RAMP: Regional Advanced Manufacturing Pipeline:

An inaugural meeting was held in Hope (late 2015) to gather committee members and outline project goals; a curriculum meeting was hosted at SouthArk in February to discuss curriculum among the 4 participating colleges and a recruiting meeting is scheduled for mid-March at SAU Tech-Camden. Committees have been formed to focus on curriculum, equipment, professional development and recruitment. We will submit an implementation grant proposal in June.

Futures in Information Technology (FIT) grant: The goal of this grant is to design a grant proposal and plan that will improve the IT workforce skills gap in Union County. It involves our county school districts and area businesses and industries. Consultants will be identifying skills gaps and curricular changes to be made to assure our graduates are competitive in the workplace. We will submit an implementation grant proposal in June.

~from SouthArk Foundation:

Gala: A dinner and dance will be among the festivities as the SouthArk Foundation hosts An Evening with the Stars, honoring a special Friend of the College and Distinguished Alumni. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. on April 2, 2016 at the ECC. The SouthArk Foundation board of directors is honored to celebrate the support and accomplishments of our "Stars", important figures who have helped make this educational institution vibrant and solid. We invite the community to join us for a delicious meal and dance to wonderful music. Tickets are \$125/person **PURCHASE TICKETS from Cynthia Reyna by Friday, March 18.**

The Employee Annual Fund drive will kick-off off in March!



President

SouthArk Coming Events			
Date	Description	Location	Time
Friday, March 4, 2016	West Campus Conversations	El Dorado Conference Center, Cypress & Oak Rooms	8:30 a.m.
Saturday, March 5, 2016	Upward Bound GospelFest	St. John Missionary Baptist Church	6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 7, 2016	Student Music Recital	El Dorado Conference Center	12:15 p.m.
Wednesday, March 9, 2016	East Campus Conversations	East Campus, WFD Rm 121	10:45 a.m.
Thursday, March 10, 2016	Lecture Series: P. Allen Smith	El Dorado Conference Center	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 15, 2016	Board of Trustees Meeting	Administration Building Board Room	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16, 2016	Foundation Board Meeting	El Dorado Conference Center	Noon
Thursday, March 17, 2016	Senior Day	Gym	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 17, 2016	Spring Fling	El Dorado Conference Center South Lawn	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday, March 21-Friday, March 25, 2016	Spring Break for Students		
Friday, March 25, 2016	College Closed – Spring Break		
Saturday, April 2, 2016	Evening With the Stars	El Dorado Conference Center	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 7, 2016	Campus Conversations	East Campus, WFD Rm 121	10:45 a.m.
Thursday, April 7, 2016	Phi Theta Kappa Spring Induction Ceremony	El Dorado Conference Center Murphy Hall	6:00 p.m.
Friday, April 8, 2016	Campus Conversations	West Campus, WHT Rm 108	8:30 a.m.
Sunday, April 17, 2016	SouthArk Choral Presentation – Gilbert & Sullivan’s “The Pirates of Penzance”	South Arkansas Arts Center	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19, 2016	Board of Trustees Meeting	Administration Building Board Room	3:45 p.m.
Thursday, April 21, 2016	Student Recognition Ceremony	El Dorado Conference Center	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 24, 2016	18 th Writers’ Ink Awards Ceremony	El Dorado Conference Center Murphy Hall	2:00 p.m.
April 25-28, 2016	Student Art Exhibit and Sale	El Dorado Conference Center	
Thursday, April 28, 2016	Foundation Annual Donor/Scholar Lunch	El Dorado Conference Center, Murphy I	Noon
Thursday, May 12, 2016	Employee Recognition Ceremony	El Dorado Conference Center	9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Friday, May 13, 2016	Spring Commencement	El Dorado Conference Center	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17, 2016	Board of Trustees Meeting	Administration Building Board Room	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday, May 25, 2016	Foundation Board Meeting	El Dorado Conference Center	Noon