

About the College

A Historical Summary

South Arkansas Community College, known locally as SouthArk, is a public, comprehensive community college with an open-door policy, providing educational programs, workforce development, civic and cultural enrichment, and support services to students and residents in its service area. Formed from a merger of Southern Arkansas University, El Dorado Branch (SAU-EB), and Oil Belt Technical College (OBTC), South Arkansas Community College was approved by a 62 percent majority vote in Union County in March 1992. Then-Governor Bill Clinton appointed a nine-member Board of Trustees, and all assets and liabilities of Oil Belt and SAU-EB were transferred by June 30, 1992, to SouthArk. The former OBTC became known as the East Campus and SAU-EB the West Campus.

Mission Statement

South Arkansas Community College promotes excellence in learning, teaching, and service; provides lifelong educational opportunities; and serves as a cultural, intellectual, and economic resource for the community.

College Vision

South Arkansas Community College will be a regional leader in education, workforce development and lifelong learning. Collectively, we will build and maintain an accessible, inclusive and attractive environment that provides leading-edge technology and dynamic service to a diverse student body on campus, in our communities and at a distance. We will convey enthusiasm for our mission and continuously endeavor to increase opportunities for learning, teaching, mentoring and service, in an atmosphere which fosters academic freedom. Through systematic analysis, ongoing communication and outreach, we will address unmet needs in our service area; provide academic, professional and occupational curricula, as well as opportunities for cultural enrichment and maintain rigorous standards of excellence.

Purposes of the College

- To provide an environment that fosters excellence in learning and teaching.
- To provide a university transfer program of high academic quality for students who plan to continue their education.
- To offer degree and certificate programs to develop or enhance occupational skills that prepare learners for a changing global economy.
- To provide developmental courses to prepare students to do college level work.
- To provide adult education and workforce development.
- To provide comprehensive student services to enhance students' success.
- To promote the civic and cultural life and the economic development of the community.
- To make education accessible through innovative instructional methods.

Values

The college has identified six values statements that serve as guiding principles in fulfilling the Mission Statement.

Excellence in Education

We are committed to providing students access to a highly competent, innovative, and supportive faculty and staff; modern facilities equipped with current technology; and high-quality academic and occupational programs.

Student Learning

We are committed to providing support, respect, and encouragement, thereby enabling students to achieve their educational goals and develop skills for lifelong learning.

Contribution to the Community

We strive to serve the academic, occupational, and enrichment needs of the community; enhance its quality of life; and support economic development in South Arkansas.

Quality of Work Environment

Recognizing that everyone contributes to the learning process, we value each member of our college community; foster respect, trust, and support among faculty, staff, and students; encourage responsible, creative risk-taking and innovation; and recognize and reward exceptional performance and integrity.

Respect for Diversity

Believing that everyone should have an opportunity to learn and succeed, we value intellectual and cultural diversity in the classroom, in the workplace, and in the community.

Commitment to Accountability

We are committed to continuous evaluation of our institution to address the needs of the present and to meet the challenges of the future.

Board of Trustees

A nine-member Board of Trustees governs the college. The Governor appoints each member for a six-year term. The college's Board members and the expiration dates of their terms are shown below.

Mr. Steve Cameron	12-31-2016
Ms. Patty Cardin	12-31-2019
Mr. Steve Cousins, Chair	12-31-2014
Ms. Veronica Creer, Vice-chair	12-31-2018
Ms. Vicki de Yampert.....	12-31-2014
Mr. Gary Griffis	12-31-2020
Dr. Marc Parnell, Secretary.....	12-31-2014
Mr. David Ross	12-31-2016
Mr. Charles E. Thomas	12-31-2018

South Arkansas Community College Foundation, Inc.

The South Arkansas Community College Foundation exists to build leadership, scholarship, and partnership by increasing donor support, rewarding excellence, and elevating the stature and importance of the college locally, regionally, and nationally. The Foundation, a private, non-profit corporation organized under a tax exempt 501(c)(3) status, secures funds—above and beyond state and local appropriations—to further enhance the efforts of the college. A listing of scholarships is available in the scholarship section of the catalog, and online at www.southark.edu/foundation.

Accreditation and Affiliations

South Arkansas Community College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools [North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504; phone (312) 263-0456; www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org]. The institution is approved by the Arkansas State Department of Higher Education and the Veterans Approval Agency of the Arkansas Department of Education. The college also holds institutional membership in the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and is a sustaining member of the American Technical Education Association. The nursing programs are approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing. Other health-sciences programs are accredited by their respective accrediting organizations: The Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Medical Services Office of Long-Term Care approves the certified nursing assistant program; the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) accredits the occupational therapy assistant program; the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredits the physical therapist assistant program; the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology accredits the radiologic technology program; the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP), through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), accredits the emergency medical technician programs; and the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology (ARC-ST), through CAAHEP, accredits the surgical technology program. The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence accredits the automotive service technology program. The programs of Automotive Service Technology, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Health Science Technology (non-credit) and Welding Technology are jointly approved by the Arkansas Department of Education – Arkansas Department of Career Education. The Cosmetology program is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health/Board of Cosmetology.

Equal Opportunity-Affirmative Action Statement

South Arkansas Community College does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, creed, gender, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation in making decisions regarding employment, student admission, or other functions, operations, or activities.

The college is in compliance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

Those having questions or seeking information regarding the college's compliance with and implementation of the aforementioned regulations should contact:

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer
c/o Personnel Office
South Arkansas Community College
300 South West Ave.
El Dorado, AR 71730
(870) 862-8131, 1-800-955-2289

Sexual Harassment

The college community is considered to be a place of work and study free of harassment, which includes sexual harassment and all forms of sexual intimidation and exploitation. The determination of sexual harassment will vary with the particular circumstances, but may be described generally as inappropriate or unwanted sexual behavior such as physical contact, verbal comments, or suggestions which adversely affect the working or learning environment of others. Anyone who is subjected to offensive sexual behavior is encouraged to contact the Human Resource Department.

Complaints from the Public

Members of the public may meet with college administration to informally discuss a concern or issue, or may file a written complaint, as they deem necessary. The complaint may be against an employee, organization, or student. Complaints or suggestions should be presented informally to the Vice President for Learning. An appointment can be made by phoning (870) 864-7127 or (870) 864-7155. Notification of a complaint should occur as soon as possible after an incident or within 10 working days.

During the appointment, members of the public can informally express their concerns, provide suggestions, or discuss a complaint. Members of the public are advised that if action on a complaint is called for, it may not be possible to maintain confidentiality. Also, college administrators may be required to take action on a complaint as required by law and for the good of the college.

The Vice President for Learning may respond to the complaint, refer the complaint to another vice president, or assign an investigator to gather facts and provide them to the correct vice president. The appropriate vice president will contact the complainant to describe action taken within 10 working days or identify a date when an investigation will be completed and a decision made. If the action taken or decision rendered by the vice president is unacceptable to the member(s) of the public, he/she may file a written appeal to the college president. The appeal should be in letter format describing the complaint or issue and explaining why the action or decision of the vice president should be overturned. The president will render a decision within 10 working days after the written complaint is delivered.

Drug-Free Campus and Workplace

South Arkansas Community College is committed to providing a drug-free campus and workplace and will assist authorities in enforcing all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for unlawful possession, use, or distribution of drugs and alcohol. Arkansas state law prohibits the use of any tobacco products on campus. Offenders will be expelled from college and be subject to prosecution.

Statement of Compliance

South Arkansas Community College endeavors to be in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws in regard to fire, building, sanitation, and safety codes.