



# Arkansas State University

## Points of Pride<sup>1</sup>

August 15, 2011

- ASU moved from a tier III institution to tier I institution as selected by the editors of *U.S. News & World Report* in *America's Best Colleges* for 2011.
- Enrollment at ASU in the fall of 2010 was at an all-time high of 13,415 (including English as a Second Language) and is predicted to be more than 14,000 in the fall of 2011.
- ASU has moved from the fourth largest institution of higher education in the state to the second largest (only behind the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville).
- ASU is enrolling more Arkansans than ever before, with more than 10,760 Arkansans enrolled and being prepared for the knowledge-based economy.
- ASU is enrolling more international students than ever before (increasing from 127 students from approximately 45 countries in the spring of 2008, to 1,080 students in the spring of 2011) from more than 65 countries.
- Enrollment in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program has grown from 3 students in spring 2008, to more than 400 students today.
- In 2008, ASU did not have any students enrolled in academic programs delivered online — today, there are more than 2,000 students (primarily teachers) enrolled in master's degree programs delivered by distance learning — with 1,340 who have graduated from these programs, and 303 registered to graduate in December, for a total of more than 1,640. These teachers in turn will influence positively many thousands of students over their careers and help these students prepare for challenges they will face in the ever increasing globally competitive marketplace.
- ASU had the largest December graduating class, with 960 graduating.
- It is expected that approximately 1,500 will graduate in December 2011, which will require ASU to hold two commencement ceremonies as we do in May.

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<sup>1</sup> N.B.: Prepared by: Dr. G. Daniel Howard, CGFM, CFRE, Interim Chancellor



## Arkansas State University



- Almost 2,000 students graduated in May 2011, which is the largest graduating class in the history of ASU, representing more than 570 students above the previous highest level at any ASU commencement.
- Overall, in the 2010-11 fiscal year, 3,549 students [combined summer 2010 (592), fall 2010 (960), and spring 2011 (1,997)] will have graduated from ASU.
- ASU is producing more academic degrees at the Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters, Educational Specialist, and Doctoral levels than ever before.
- ASU is producing more semester credit hours than ever before — Academic Year 2010-2011 produced 354,724 semester credit hours which is 32.5% more credit hours than academic year 2006-07 and 10.9% more than academic year 2009-10.
- ASU is raising undergraduate admission standards (in three phases) which will lead to increased student retention and graduation rates, help ASU recruit better students, and will place ASU in the perfect trajectory for performance-based funding that has been mandated by state law.
- Undergraduate ACT scores at ASU are increasing with an average ACT score expected to increase from 22.1 in fall 2010 to 23.0 in fall 2011, which should be higher than state and national averages.
- The percentage of students at ASU requiring remedial math (30%), English (19.9%), and reading (16.8%) is declining and is now the lowest since data have been collected at ASU on this parameter.
- The freshman retention rate improved from 67.9% in Fall 2008 to 70.8% in Fall 2009.
- ASU has more students enrolled in the Honors Program than any time previously, with 629 enrolled as of fall 2010, and more than 750 expected to be enrolled for fall 2011.



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- ASU has the largest freshman Honors Class in its history, with 191 enrolled in 2010 and more than 240 expected to enroll in fall 2011 (despite the fact that requirements for admission to Honors were raised in fall 2009, from a 24 ACT or 3.5 high school GPA, to a 27 ACT and a 3.5 high school GPA). In actuality, the average ACT score for entering freshmen to Honors for fall 2011 is estimated to be 28.39 and the average high school GPA is expected to be 3.84.
- ASU has more alumni contributing funds than ever before; currently, the percentage of alumni donors is 9.6%, which is one of the top percentages among the institutions comprising the Sun Belt Conference.
- ASU has been named among the top 10 most veteran-friendly campuses in the nation by *Military Times EDGE* magazine.
- ASU has been named as one of the most military-friendly campuses by the editors of *Military Advanced Education* in the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Guide to Military Friendly Colleges and Universities**.
- ASU has been named as one of the most military-friendly schools by the editors of *G.I. Jobs* in the **2012 Guide to Military Friendly Schools**.
- ASU has virtually 100 percent occupancy in its residence halls and apartments, with nearly 3,000 students living in on-campus student housing.
- Despite the worst recession since the Great Depression, ASU has been able to award salary increases for all employees, provide raises associated with faculty promotions, and make faculty equity adjustments—this has occurred primarily as a consequence of tuition and fees paid by an expanding pool of international students and a growing number of students in distance learning in association with Academic Partnerships.
- Simply put, ASU is transforming positively and is doing exceedingly well on virtually all performance measures due to the excellent support of the Board of Trustees, the strong support of the alumni and other donors, and the hard work and dedication of the faculty and support staff of the University.