



As I enter my fifth year as your chancellor at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith, I am blessed and humbled by your continued support of our university and its incredible students. Looking back over the 2022-23 academic year, I am astounded by the ways your generosity has inspired growth in every facet of this campus.

*Chancellor Terisa Riley*

This year, we charted a new course for our university through a five-year strategic plan that prioritizes thoughtful and effective service to our community. This year, empowerment became more than a product of the work we've been doing on this campus since we were founded. This year, empowering the social mobility of our students and the growth of the River Valley became our mission.

And what could be a more extraordinary demonstration of that mission of empowerment than breaking every institutional fundraising record this year? Because of you, we have achieved our largest fundraising year in university history, secured the largest single gift in university history, and, most importantly, served our students and our community in remarkable ways.

More than two million dollars in scholarship support has brought education to the ambitious students who defy the odds to seek it. It has empowered future nurses and scientists, programmers and artists to focus on innovation and research when they would otherwise be working two or three jobs to pay their tuition. It has made the journey possible for students who faced homelessness and poverty and brought the next step into view for meticulous planners who know the danger of debt.

Beyond scholarships, endowed funds have supported programs that enable students and faculty to present at international conferences, perform on incredible stages, and publish in acclaimed journals. These experiences that many students don't have until their doctoral programs are available to our students in their first year of undergraduate study because of the endowment support of holistic, experiential learning.

Many of you have heard me say that this university can no longer hide its light under a bushel – and as I watch nearly 7 percent more first-year students walk our campus green this year than last, I know that our light is beginning to shine as brightly as it should.

Thank you for the care and dedication you have shown this university and the region we serve. I cannot overstate the impact your support has on our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and the profound ways your gifts are changing lives in the River Valley.

With all my gratitude,

*Terisa C. Riley*

Terisa Riley



We are proud to celebrate an incredible year on campus, thanks in large part to supporters like you. During fiscal year 23, UAFS and the UAFS Foundation, Inc. achieved a number of institutional records, demonstrating your commitment to our vision of higher education model that is truly transformative. With the Windgate Foundation's commitment of \$18.7M, we celebrated the largest gift in the history of our institution, and one that will shape the future of our campus and the way we serve the entire River Valley. Our university development team has been inspired by the new direction set by our five-year strategic plan and their remarkable work led to a fiscal year record for fundraising production. With more than \$27M in commitments, this has been the most successful year of fundraising in the 95-year history of UAFS - but that's not all. Internally, a record number of faculty and staff gave back to the institution this year, and externally our university advancement team set records in total number of unique donors and unique gifts.

**Blake Rickman**

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Accomplishments like this simply wouldn't be possible without supporters like you. This institution thrives when our community understands and believes in our mission, moving to act in the incredible ways you have demonstrated. We know it is our duty to serve the entirety of this region, empowering the students, residents, and industries of the River Valley. The incredible results outlined in this report are the natural result of our fulfillment of that duty.

## UAFS FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

The start of the fiscal year was met with volatility due to geopolitical uncertainties, slow demand, and supply-chain pressures, which added to the bear market that started the previous year. 2023 began with positive returns for equity and fixed-income markets as the Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC) ensured their commitment to taming inflation. Consumer resilience amid a mild winter in many regions, the rise of artificial intelligence, and optimism around the path of inflation and interests were key drivers to the market rally.

Overall, the portfolio's equity outperformed global equities by returning 17.97% vs a 16.53% benchmark. Fixed income outperformed the BC Aggregate, returning 1.51% versus -0.94%. Alternatives were positive on the Fiscal year, gaining 4.72%, with more muted returns as valuations are largely held at prior period balances. The portfolio appreciated 7.21% during fiscal year 2023.

Asset Class	Allocation	Return
US Equity - Large Cap	12.28%	16.99%
US Equity - Small / Mid Cap	6.45%	16.99%
International Equity	6.38%	23.95%
Emerging Markets	1.46%	5.55%
Private Equity / Real Estate	16.71%	2.64%
Hedge Funds / Real Assets	18.79%	6.11%
Core Bonds	17.12%	-0.31%
Short Term Bonds	3.70%	2.49%
Cash / Cash Equivalents	8.82%	--
Liquid Alternatives	2.28%	5.50%
High Yield	2.94%	7.57%
Floating Rate	3.07%	6.38%
Endowment	100%	7.21%

We will continue to work every day to earn your trust and support, living out our mission to empower our students and our community. I hope you feel the momentum building, and, as Dr. Riley said, see our light burning brighter than ever before. Your university is on the precipice of its next great phase, and we are extremely grateful that you have joined us on this journey.

With inspired gratitude,

**Blake B. Rickman**

# College of Arts and Sciences

## Arts and Sciences at a Glance

**23**

Bachelor's Degrees

**24**

Minors

**8**

Certificates

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHT

**\$225,868.26**

Total scholarship amount

The College of Arts and Sciences offers opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, co-curricular activities, and hands-on learning. Students participate in projects like the literary magazines *Applause* and *Azahares*; civic organizations like the American Democracy Project; course-related groups like the Biology Club and the Art and Design Club; and faculty-mentored experiences like attendance at professional conferences. Student interns work in over 100 local agencies, firms, and non-governmental organizations. Many also participate in field research abroad, as students have traveled to Belize, Chile, Bulgaria, France, Britain, South Korea, Canada, Ireland, and Scotland in recent years.



**1,650**

Total students enrolled



## SUCCESS MEANS HARD WORK AND HELP

Junior biology major Jasmine Rosa loves working both sides of her brain; the future OBGYN physician's assistant plays the clarinet in the UAHS Wind Ensemble. Spending even a few minutes daily on music allows her “to disassociate from all my rigorous academic work,” she said. Success is sweet in either area, whether it’s a “standing-ovation performance (or) getting my titration in chemistry the RIGHT shade of light pink.”

As a first-generation Latina college student, Jasmine knew she would need help. “My parents taught me to work hard, but without my scholarships, this would not be possible.” These “blessings to her journey” helped more than she imagined. In paying her tuition, scholarships allowed her to “perform better on exams, class work, and even concerts.”

*-Jasmine Rosa*

# College of Business and Industry

## Business and Industry at a Glance

4

Bachelor's Degrees

5

Associate Degrees

29

Certificates

*25 Certificates of Proficiency*

*4 Technical Certificate*

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHT

**\$357,972.02**

Total scholarship amount

The College of Business and Industry, which is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, a blue-chip accreditation only 6 percent of the world's business schools have earned, connects students with community employers through apprenticeships and internships, allowing students to apply academic concepts to real-world challenges, demonstrating the "how" and the "why" of their choices. It is part of the university's commitment to energize the regional economy. The UAFS Center for Economic Development at The Bakery District is another part. Since the beginning of 2023, more than 1,000 professional leaders, hopeful entrepreneurs, and other businesspeople have attended events and classes at the CED.

The CED also generates The Compass Report, the only independent economic analysis of Arkansas' top four metro areas. The report is published quarterly in Talk Business and Politics. CED Executive Director Kendall Ross is behind the report, which is based on an analysis by junior Business Administration major Troy Rodriguez.



**1,066**

Total students enrolled



### USING A COMPASS TO FIND HIS WAY

Troy Rodriguez came to the CED in 2023 to earn real-world experience as a student worker. Soon, he found himself immersed in economic data from the state and tasked with putting together The Compass Report. "We're in the process of revitalizing this report, making it better suited to fit the needs of the area, making sure all indicators are correct," Troy said. His class work prepared him for the "economic analysis and to be able to really look at an economic report and measure how accurate it is or how well put together it was. I took those skills and translated them to The Compass Report." Troy attended UAFS in 2018-2019 but said he wasn't ready. He returned in 2022 on an academic second opportunity, supported by a scholarship. "If I had not gotten that scholarship, I wouldn't be working on The Compass Report right now," he said.

*- Troy Rodriguez*

# College of Health, Education, and Human Sciences

## Health, Education, and Human Sciences at a Glance

**17**

Degree Programs

**4**

Certificates

*2 Certificates of Proficiency  
2 Technical Certificates*

**6**

Accreditations

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHT

**\$483,211.98**

Total scholarship amount

Students in the College of Health, Education, and Human Sciences work in their fields of study in area hospitals, schools, clinics, and community agencies. Degree programs incorporate professional field and clinical experiences and teach students about state and national regulations set by accrediting agencies. The jobs filled by UAHS graduates are in high demand, and some programs can boast of perfect clinical pass rates or all students employed. Since the Radiography program was created in 1999, more than 400 students have graduated. Upon completing the program, UAHS students have a 98.7 percent first-time pass rate and a 100 percent job placement rate. An education in radiography is one of the most technologically advanced study in health care, allowing students to specialize in CT, MRI, Interventional Radiography, Sonography, Mammography, Radiation Therapy, Nuclear Medicine, or work in the Cath Lab.



**1,355**

Total students enrolled



### HANDS-ON WORK EXPERIENCE MEANS BETTER JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Sarah Lee, a junior sonography major, transferred to UAHS in 2021 and has already completed the necessary coursework to become a registered technologist in radiography. At the suggestion of her professors, she decided to continue her studies to become a sonographer, saying, "I was comfortable in the environment already, and I knew that it would be a good opportunity for jobs in the future." Sarah said she heard good things about the program, saying, "people know that UAHS students are really good at what they do." She received the Neal Pendergraft and Mollie Wilson Women's Series scholarships. The awards helped her afford to gain experience at Washington Regional and Arkansas Children's Northwest hospitals while continuing to be successful in the classroom. "It took the weight off my shoulders," she said.

*-Sarah Lee*