Higher Ed Enrollment Sets Overall Record

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education released the preliminary headcount and full-time equivalent enrollment at public and independent Arkansas colleges and universities for the fall 2007 semester with another record-setting headcount enrollment of nearly 150,000 students.

Full-time equivalent enrollment at the public higher education institutions is also an all-time high with just over 100,000 students. “We can see from these numbers that the message from Governor Beebe that education and economic development are inextricably tied together is getting through,” said Dr. Steve Floyd, interim director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. “Economic development begins with the individual. When the individual receives the economic dividends that come from higher education, the family benefits, the state benefits, and the overall economy benefits.”

Non-credit students are not counted in the following preliminary headcount enrollment summary for fall 2007:

**Four colleges experienced one year enrollment increases greater than ten percent:**
- NWACC, Ozarka College, UACCB, and UACCH.

**Public Two-Year Colleges:** Eighteen of the 22 public two-year colleges experienced enrollment increases. Headcount enrollment at the colleges also set a record with 51,028 students, which is a one-year increase of four percent. Since 2003, enrollment in this sector has increased 15.2 percent.

Four colleges experienced one-year enrollment increases greater than 10 percent: Northwest Arkansas Community College, Ozarka College, University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville, and University of Arkansas Community College at Hope. Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas, Rich Mountain Community College, and South Arkansas Community College experienced one-year enrollment increases of over five percent.

Dr. Floyd added that while total fall headcount enrollment is an important measure of the effectiveness of higher education, it is just one of many measures that are tracked. For example, most Arkansas institutions of higher education offer a wide range of for-credit workforce education operating on a different schedule than the traditional fall semester; this headcount is not included in traditional fall headcount enrollment statistics.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Enrollment: FTE enrollment measures the total number of credit hours in which full- and part-time students enroll. Statewide FTE enrollment at public colleges and universities is also at an all-time high with 100,007 students.

For more information about the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, visit www.arkansashighered.com.
Coffee @ the College Set in Mountain View

Ozarka College Mountain View will host Coffee at the College on September 28 from 7:00 – 8:30 AM. According to Advancement Director, Karla Rush, “In a continuing effort to involve the community with Ozarka College, Ozarka President, Dusty R. Johnston and the Advancement Department began hosting Coffee at the College last month at the main campus in Melbourne.

“So far we have been pleased with the response from community members and hope to continue to build relationships through this forum in all the communities we serve,” said Rush. There was a similar event at the campus in Ash Flat earlier this month.

Everyone is invited to come by the Mountain View campus on Friday the 28th for a cup of coffee and a pastry and to visit with Dr. Johnston, other administrators and staff. Another Coffee event will take place October 19th in Melbourne. For more information contact the Advancement Office at 870-368-7371.

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-Karla Rush
Advancement Director

Calico Rock Autumn Festival 5K

The Calico Rock Chamber of Commerce is hosting is annual Autumn Festival which features the White River 5K on October 6 beginning at 9AM.

This race is open to anyone including those who want to walk instead of run the course. The entry fee is $20 or $10 for those students in grades 12 and under. Fee includes a long-sleeved t-shirt, goody bag and snacks.

Check in begins at 8:15AM at Rand Park. Water will be provided at the turnaround point and finish of the race.

The group or business with the most participants will be recognized. Anyone who would like to participate in this event may contact Ozarka instructor, Tamra Bevill at tbevill@ozarka.edu, or call her office at 368-2079 to obtain an entry form.

AHA Awards Scholarships to OC Culinary Students

Four students enrolled in Culinary Arts at Ozarka College have been awarded scholarships by the Arkansas Hospitality Association. Pictured left to right: Melonie Gregory of Batesville, Danielle Vickers of Marshall, and Kimberly Brown of Melbourne are recipients of $1,000 scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year. Aaron Stiles of Batesville (not pictured) is the fourth recipient.

The Arkansas Hospitality Association assists outstanding students pursuing an education in hospitality-related fields. The Association represents the Arkansas Restaurant Association, Arkansas Lodging Association and the Arkansas Travel Council.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be enrolled fulltime in a restaurant/hospitality related program and maintain a grade point average of 2.75.

These students were recognized at the recent Scholarship Reception held on September 6, honoring all Ozarka scholarship recipients.
Stone County Abuse Prevention, Inc. will be exhibiting the Clothesline Project sponsored by the Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence on September 20th, which is open to the public and admission is free. The clothesline will be on display during the day as well as a booth that will allow you to decorate a t-shirt in memory of a murdered victim of domestic violence, just bring your t-shirt and we will provide the decorating materials. Starting at 6:30 pm there will be music provided by the group Harmony and afterwards there will be a candlelight vigil at 7:00 pm. This event gives a visual awareness of the violence against women. The purpose of the event is to bear witness to murdered victims of domestic violence, to help in the healing process of people who have lost loved ones to violence or to those who have survived, to educate and raise a conscious awareness of the extent of the problem of violence against women, and to provide a network of support. There will be approximately three-hundred shirts on display representing murdered victims over the last ten years in the state of Arkansas. If you would like to volunteer/support Stone County Abuse Prevention, Inc. you can contact them during business hours at (870) 269-9941. The Ozarka College Department of Justice Grant to Reduce Violence Against Women will be participating in the event.

This was another successful tournament for the Foundation! According to Development officer, Suellen Davidson, “This was another successful tournament for the Foundation! The weather was beautiful and the support from the Ozarka Foundation board members and college employees was fantastic. We have had overwhelming support from all the sponsors once again.”

Individual hole contest winners included Retha Miller, Nathan Circle, Kermit Blevins, Joe Cooper, Rusty Campbell, Abby Cooper, Billy Hames, and Dannie Lafferty. According to Development officer, Suellen Davidson, “This was another successful tournament for the Foundation! The weather was beautiful and the support from the Ozarka Foundation board members and college employees was fantastic. We have had overwhelming support from all the sponsors once again.”

First Flight winners were: 1st - Dennis Curtis Jr., Clay Moser, Harlan Hames, Harvey Moody; 2nd - John Dan Kemp, Mike Mowery, Steve Singleton, John Fogleman; 3rd - Jerry Estes, Terry Harris, Andy McCandlis, Ronny Richmond.

Second Flight winners were: 1st - Shannon Smith, Stephanie Sharp, Patrick Bray, John Patrick McShane; 2nd - Fred Lamb, Janet Lamb, Brooke Conway, Joe Conway; 3rd - John Thurman, John Robert Thurman, Garrett Fiscus, Dan Boyd.

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Chrysler Corporation, along with Paul Miller Motor Co., also supported the event with their Drive for Chrysler program. Golfers had the opportunity to win a 2008 Chrysler Sebring with a hole-in-one and there were vehicles on the grounds to examine and test drive. For each test drive Chrysler made a cash donation to the foundation and provided a gift to each driver.

Other event sponsors for the tournament were Centurytel and former board member, Gwenn Lea of Horseshoe Bend. Further tournament sponsors included: Automotive Unlimited, B&B Supply, Bank of Salem, Skeeter Beene’s Car Care Center, Calico Rock Pirate Booster Club, Campbell’s Auto Sales, Cone Realty, Counce Collision, Mathew Dellinger-Attorney-At-Law, Eddie’s Family Funeral Home, First National Bank of Izard County, Freedom Ford, Home Sweet Home, Hunt Insurance Agency, Inc. - Farmer’s Insurance, Izard County Abstract, McClain Chiropractic Clinic, Quality Flooring, Pizza Inn, Red Mule, Sears of Ash Flat, Sentinel Industries of Calico Rock, Sharp Realty, John Teague Sales, Unimin Corporation, United Country Realty, Bradley Wheels DDS, White River Housing Authority, Watson-Dillard Inc. and Dillard & Fowlkes Motor Company, Sonya Wiles Dental Clinic, and Zook’s Popsus Trot.

Ozarka was well represented in the tourney.

This was another successful tournament for the Foundation! - Suellen Davidson

Development Officer

Saturday, September 15th, The Ozarka College Foundation held its annual fall golf tournament. Twenty-eight teams of golfers played at the beautiful Coopers Hawk Golf Club in Melbourne to play an 18-hole scramble with proceeds benefiting the Ozarka Foundation. Once again, First National Banking Company served as corporate sponsor for the event.

The Championship Flight winners were: 1st - Ben Cooper, Joe Cooper, Abby Cooper, Justin Burns; 2nd - John Thornton, Aaron Circle, Nathan Circle, Dan Dennis; 3rd - Steve Miller, Dave Sharp, Steve Scherrey, Phil Blackwell.

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“First National Banking Company has supported the college through this event as our corporate sponsor for over five consecutive years and the Foundation is grateful for their continued support. Cooper’s Hawk Golf Course provides a spectacular venue for this tournament. Their cooperation and help is remarkable,” added Davidson.

Chrysler Corporation, along with Paul Miller Motor Co., also supported the event with their Drive for Chrysler program. Golfers had the opportunity to win a 2008 Chrysler Sebring with a hole-in-one and there were vehicles on the grounds to examine and test drive. For each test drive Chrysler made a cash donation to the foundation and provided a gift to each driver.

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Trio Offers Support for Students at Ozarka

Through a federally funded grant program, Ozarka College offers services for many of its students. TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) provides academic, financial and personal support to eligible students at Ozarka College to assist them with their educational endeavors.

The services offered by Ozarka’s SSS program include: academic advising; financial or supportive counseling referrals; information on chosen educational major and career choices; aptitude and interest inventories; transfer scholarship information; tours of four-year colleges and universities; help with admissions, financial aid and faculty advisors at other institutions; individual and group peer tutoring; technology training; informational workshops; and cultural events and trips.

Eligibility for SSS is established through the U.S. Department of Education. Students applying for the program must meet one of the following qualifications: meet low income guidelines, be a first generation college student, or be an individual with a documented disability. Program participants must also be pursuing an associates degree or working toward eventual four-year degree and be a U.S. citizen or meet residency requirements.

Ozarka College has five staff members in the SSS Department. Deltha Shell is the Program Director, Karin Brown, is the Academic Services Coordinator, John Petersen is the Transfer Specialist, Ronda McLelland is Tutoring Coordinator and Shelia Titus is the Administrative Assistant.

The SSS department has several activities planned for this semester including new student workshops, student career assessments, goals and skill assessments, several transfer trips in September and October, and an upcoming cultural event.

Currently, SSS is processing new applicants. Any Ozarka College student who meets the eligibility requirements is encouraged to apply. For more information call TRiO SSS at 870-368-2036 or 870-368-2034.

Ozarka College’s TRiO Student Support Services program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Federal TRiO Programs. The 2007-2008 funded award is $265,045. All activities and services offered to the students in SSS are made possible through these grant funds. Announcement made in accordance with Public Law 105-78 Sec. 508.