LEADING CHANGE
One student at a time
MISSION

The University of Arkansas is determined to build a better world by providing transformational opportunities and skills, promoting an inclusive and diverse culture, nurturing creativity, and solving problems through research and discovery, all in service to Arkansas.

Since 1871, our fundamental purpose as a land-grant institution and state flagship remains unchanged — to serve the state of Arkansas as a partner, resource and catalyst by:

• Providing access to a comprehensive and internationally competitive public education, and fostering student success across a wide spectrum of disciplines.
• Utilizing research, discovery and creative activity to improve the quality of life, develop solutions to the challenges we face and drive the state’s economy.
• Contributing service and expertise through outreach, engagement and collaboration.

VISION

The University of Arkansas represents the best of public higher education, advancing Arkansas while building a better world.
MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR:

December 2018 marked the completion of my third year as chancellor of the University of Arkansas. It’s been fulfilling, invigorating, and I think a very productive three years. While I’m astonished at how fast the time has passed, I’m extremely pleased with what we have accomplished – and what has been put in place so that we can do so much more in the years ahead.

Perhaps the most important thing we did was establish our eight Guiding Priorities, which confirmed Advancing Student Success as our top priority. These priorities are the fountain from which everything else has flowed, enabling us to plan, prioritize and organize resources accordingly.

Major initiatives have included the Chancellor’s Innovation Fund, Advance Arkansas Scholarship program, establishment of an interim Student Success Center, and a reorganization of the provost’s office to better support research, innovation, economic development and diversity and inclusion. Much of this was made possible by a reallocation of 3 percent of our budget to support our priorities and to focus on improving efficiency and the use of resources. Additionally, we identified three signature research areas where we will be making strategic investments: harnessing the data revolution, enriching health and communities, and promoting a resilient and sustainable future.

Campaign Arkansas also received transformational gifts from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation and the Windgate Charitable Foundation. This campaign has been so successful our steering committee decided to revise our initial goal of $1 billion up to $1.25 billion by 2020.

These are just some of the recent developments from campus you’ll find in the pages ahead. I think you’ll be pleased with what we’ve accomplished and where we’re heading as an institution. I know I am incredibly proud of what our campus community has accomplished these last few years.

Thank you so much for your support and dedication to the University of Arkansas.

Joe Steinmetz, Chancellor, University of Arkansas
WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO AND WHY IT MATTERS

One of the first steps Joe Steinmetz took as chancellor was to begin work on an academic strategic plan. This collaborative, campus-wide process took more than a year and out of it came the eight Guiding Priorities that form the roadmap for the U of A’s future. They were the framework for updated Vision and Mission statements and are articulated to audiences through unifying themes that describe who we are, what we do and why it matters.

GUIDING PRIORITIES

ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS
We work to maximize the success of our students—with special attention to first-generation, college-going Arkansans—by increasing financial assistance for those who need it, easing the transition into the university, improving retention and graduation rates, and providing career planning and career transition assistance.

BUILDING A COLLABORATIVE AND INNOVATIVE CAMPUS
As higher education becomes increasingly more interdisciplinary and collaborative, reflecting the world around us, we foster a university environment that embraces collaboration and interdisciplinary pursuits to stimulate innovation in our approaches to teaching and learning.

ENHANCING OUR RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY MISSION
We work to increase and enhance our research activity across the broad spectrum of areas that make up this comprehensive university and define signature areas where we can excel as an institution.

ENRICHING CAMPUS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
We work to diversify along many dimensions our faculty, staff and students and at the same time continue to foster a culture that is welcoming to all.

INVESTING IN FACULTY EXCELLENCE
We work to provide competitive salaries for faculty and staff; enhance support for teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and engagement; and provide a supportive environment for academic pursuits.
PROMOTING INNOVATION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING
We work to maintain a high level of teaching and learning and at the same time promote the creation of timely and innovative academic programs and learning experiences, domestically and internationally.

REAFFIRMING OUR LAND GRANT AND FLAGSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES
With the unique status of being a land-grant institution and the state’s flagship university comes a responsibility to engage, collaborate and provide outreach to the citizens, businesses, governmental and civic entities of the state to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

STRENGTHENING GRADUATE EDUCATION
We work to enhance and improve graduate education by intensifying the recruitment and boosting support of graduate students as well as making sure that our programs are preparing graduate students for a variety of productive careers.

“These priorities are the fountain from which everything else has flowed, enabling us to plan, prioritize and organize resources accordingly.”

Joe Steinmetz, Chancellor
ADVANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

Student success is the highest priority for the U of A, starting with recruitment of students from all areas of Arkansas and ending with their graduation and transition into the workplace.

Key to these efforts are Jim Coleman, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, who joined the U of A in 2017, and Charles Robinson, who became vice chancellor for student affairs in 2016.

The first step in improving the success of students was to improve access to higher education for first-generation students and students from underrepresented areas through the Advance Arkansas Scholarship and the Accelerate Student Achievement Program, or ASAP.

Established in 2016 with a $2.4 million gift from the Walton Family Foundation, ASAP serves first-generation or low-income students from the 26 counties of eastern Arkansas. ASAP begins with a summer bridge program for roughly 100 incoming freshmen. There they meet their new U of A peers, learn to navigate the college environment with the help of peer mentors and professional advisors, and begin settling into campus life in Fayetteville. Those who stay engaged and make progress academically are rewarded with stipends for the next two years.

There is more to student success than financial stability, though. Other factors include a student’s academic success, their sense of belonging and engagement with the university community, and their health and wellness.

With that in mind, the university took several steps to address these factors and reorganize campuswide efforts to align with this priority. One of them was creation of the Office of Student Success with plans to break ground in the summer of 2019 on a stand-alone student success facility in the heart of campus. This $45 million multistory facility will bring together all of the university’s student success efforts under one roof.
An interim student success center opened in mid-2018 on Garland Avenue. This center is host to proactive programs like ASAP and reactive programs like Bounce Back, which gives students facing academic suspension the opportunity to stay enrolled and get back on track to graduation.

The center is also home to four full-time 360 advisors who provide holistic advising for first-generation students and students who are less academically prepared. Staff at the success center are designing programs for every phase of the collegiate journey, from pre-enrollment, transitioning to college, semester-to-semester retention, on-time graduation, and post-graduation careers.

Preliminary data suggest these efforts are already paying off, as the university reported its highest freshman retention rate for the 2017 class, **83.8 PERCENT**. The university also recorded its **HIGHEST 6-YEAR GRADUATION RATE** ever, as the 2012 class reached **65.5 PERCENT**. Over the last two and half years, the university has increased its scholarship base by more than $1.7 million. Now 87 percent of the money distributed by the Academic Scholarship Office goes to Arkansas students.

To strengthen graduate education, the university created the Office of Graduate Student Support to enrich the graduate student experience. This included the new Razorgrad Institute for Success and Engagement program to better support underrepresented students as they begin graduate school. The university also increased graduate assistant stipend rates and created the Graduate Recruitment Assistance Fund to help departments recruit targeted students. Efforts like this have helped increase the number of doctoral students by 7.4 percent since 2016.
The Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative was created to ensure hardworking Arkansans have the ability to earn a degree at the state’s flagship university. Financial need is the largest obstacle students face in achieving their degree. Often, a gap of a few thousand dollars between what a student has and what is needed to continue their education determines whether or not they achieve their degree. The Advance Arkansas initiative was created to help bridge that gap.

Advance Arkansas scholarships emphasize the following areas: (1) First Generation, which is awarded to new freshmen who aspire to be first in their families to earn a four-year college degree, (2) Community Leader, which is awarded to new freshmen who demonstrate significant acts of service within their communities, (3) Resilient Razorback, which is awarded to U of A students who have persisted in maintaining a compelling academic record, and (4) Talented Transfer, which is awarded to incoming transfer students with a strong academic record.

The U of A set aside $2.5 million to match the earnings of the scholarship endowments so that every Advance Arkansas scholarship endowment is eligible for match funding to significantly increase the number and amount of student awards.

The University of Arkansas raised more than $4.6 million toward the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative through fiscal year 2018. Ten students were named Advance Arkansas scholars in the inaugural class of 2017, with 15 more following in the fall 2018 semester, and 76 expected to be awarded in fall 2019.

“When I found out I was receiving this scholarship, it was a relief to me and my family. I felt like the U of A was where I needed to be, because it felt like home.” Peyton Perry, 2018 recipient

“I’m looking forward to what will change with my life. I probably wouldn’t have come to the U of A without this scholarship. I’m really glad I transferred here, and I couldn’t imagine being anywhere else.” Faaiza Bhatti, 2018 recipient

RECIPIENT HOMETOWNS

Armorel  Cabot  DeQueen  El Dorado  Elkins  Farmington  Fort Smith  Gilmore  Jonesboro  Lincoln  Little Rock  Magazine  Mountain Home  Pangburn  Pearcy  Rogers  Springdale  Star City
SCHOOL OF ART

It’s been an incredible time of growth since the generous $120 million gift from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation transformed the former art department at the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences into the School of Art.

The first year as a new school has been historic. In addition to the unprecedented $120 million gift, the school received a $40 million gift from the Windgate Charitable Foundation to create a new art and design district in the heart of south Fayetteville.

With school enrollment on the rise, the development of the Windgate Art and Design District will provide the classroom and studio space needed to accommodate future growth and create a hub for creative activity in the region.

In fall 2018, the school also awarded a record $149,350 in scholarships to incoming, transfer and current undergraduate students – a dramatic increase over last year’s awards of $12,550.

The graduate program also grew 28 percent in enrollment, and now offers all admitted graduate students full tuition waivers, a $15,000 stipend and a $4,000 fellowship renewable for up to three years. This unique funding opportunity also allows the School of Art to attract the best students to its program.

Along with substantial growth in undergraduate and graduate programs, the school is welcoming seven new faculty members in art history, ceramics, graphic design, photography and time-based media.

Last year’s gifts have also further enhanced new collaborations and outreach projects; new projects in partnership with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art; enabled more planned visits and lectures from some of the country’s best artists, historians and designers; and increased support for faculty-driven research.

“The School of Art is in motion,” said Todd Shields, dean of Fulbright College. “Ambitious goals lie ahead, but as the new year arrives, the School of Art is hard at work and ready to do what needs to be done to continue building a bright future.”
Governmental agencies, communities, state leaders and top industries alike turn to the University of Arkansas to solve problems, advance technology and build a better world. A Tier One research institution recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as one of only 2.7 percent of U.S. universities with the highest research activity, the U of A has seen both research expenditures and funding more than double over the last decade. The Guiding Priorities established corridors for growing cross-disciplinary research and a $23.7 million grant from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation in 2018 provided an essential investment to further strengthen the U of A’s research engine and promote innovation and commercialization of new technologies that will ultimately enhance economic activity across Arkansas.

The Office of Economic Development was created in February 2018 to foster entrepreneurship, connect industry and communities with researchers and accelerate the transition of new technology into the marketplace to improve lives. With former Law School dean Stacy Leeds as vice chancellor for economic development, the office works closely with the Office of Research and Innovation that supports funding and resources for all research on campus.

Dan Sui joined the U of A in October 2018 as vice chancellor for research and innovation. He previously served as division director for the Social and Economic Sciences Division at the National Science Foundation and as an Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor at The Ohio State University.
• **ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH** — What if there were a limitless energy source? Paul Thibado, a professor of physics, has invented a device that uses the natural motion of graphene to turn heat from the atmosphere into energy. His patent-pending invention could power medical implants and household devices in perpetuity.

• **SAVING LIVES** — Engineers, chemists and biomedical researchers are working on solutions to fight disease and improve lives. From developing innovative imaging systems to detect and measure tumors to investigating new treatment methods, researchers are on the front lines of the fight against lung and breast cancer. They are looking at better treatment methods for skin ulcers and developing more effective hip prosthetics using surface engineering technologies.

• **PROTECTING OUR WORLD** — Researchers in electrical engineering are leading an effort to protect the nation’s power grid from cyberattack while the National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission works to modernize the aging system. At the same time, the U.S. Department of Justice relies on the Terrorism Research Center to track trends in domestic terrorism and help prevent future attacks. And researchers in geology, engineering, food science and agriculture are working to keep water and food supplies safe and more sustainable.

• **IMPROVING INDUSTRY** — The U of A works closely with industry across Arkansas and the nation to solve problems and advance technology. As a leader in supply chain management, U of A engineers and business researchers partner with Fortune 500 companies like J.B. Hunt and Walmart to improve the supply chain and increase efficiency in business.

• **IN THE FIELD** — U of A faculty travel the globe to help build a better world. Anthropologists helped discover a new human ancestor. Researchers have studied climate change in Greenland and South America and the effects of natural disasters in India and Mexico. A music researcher found a lost symphony by the first female African American composer. And a philosophy researcher uncovered in France a previously unknown draft of Descartes’ *Meditations on First Philosophy*.
In 2019 the Office of Research and Innovation identified three key research areas that represent core research strengths encompassing multiple disciplines. On the basis of these strengths the university will build partnerships with stakeholders in both the private and public sectors to find innovative solutions that improve our world.

HARNESSING THE DATA REVOLUTION
- Data analytics, data science, data visualization.

PROMOTING A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
- Food science and systems, energy infrastructure, community design, environmental and ecological resiliency, material development and resilient commerce through supply chain management and transportation systems.

ENRICHING HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES
- Nutrition, wellness and human performance, social justice, biomedicine, arts and creative endeavors, human social and cultural systems and education.

ACADEMIC MILESTONES
As its research mission grows, the U of A continues to develop new academic initiatives, partnerships, multidisciplinary programs and degrees, including:

- A new multidisciplinary B.S. in Data Science that incorporates curriculum from the Sam M. Walton College of Business, the College of Engineering and the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences.

- A new occupational therapy doctoral program created as a joint offering by the U of A’s College of Education and Health Professions and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

- A joint Transition Academic Program between the U of A and NorthWest Arkansas Community College to enable eligible students to simultaneously pursue an associate degree at NWACC and a bachelor’s degree at the U of A.
The Chancellor’s Innovation and Collaboration Fund was established in 2016 to encourage collaboration and to promote faculty research that addresses several of the U of A’s guiding priorities. Funding supports bold, collaborative thinking that will lead to new academic directions and increase the competitiveness of the university or may have a strong potential for commercialization.

By December 2018, 168 proposals by hundreds of faculty collaborators had been reviewed and 20 grants totaling roughly $2 million had been awarded. Winning grants have focused on:

1. New cancer treatments: Researchers in biological sciences and biomedical engineering are studying triple negative breast cancer. This cancer is rare but particularly aggressive, and resistant to radiation therapy.

2. Improvements in technology: A team of researchers from physics and engineering is working on a project that could expand the applications for terahertz radiation. This type of radiation could be used to make technological advances in many different fields, including medical imaging, security and communication.

3. Advances in medicine: Non-healing skin ulcers are a deadly, billion-dollar problem in the U.S., and there is a great need for new therapies and improved diagnostic technologies. Researchers in biomedical engineering and chemistry are developing novel wound-healing therapies and diagnostics to address this problem.

4. New timber and wood technologies: Cross-laminated timber panels are environmentally friendly, as well as being lighter and thinner than steel or concrete, while equally safe and strong. A multi-disciplinary team of researchers is exploring these new technologies, which could have a major economic impact on Arkansas because of the state’s abundant forest resources.
Campaign Arkansas kicked off July 1, 2012 with a goal of raising $1 billion by June 30, 2020 to improve student success and strengthen resources to support teaching, research innovation and collaborative programs. In April 2018, under the leadership of Mark Power, who was named vice chancellor for advancement in 2017, a new goal of $1.25 billion was established and by December of that year the initial goal of $1 billion had been reached with 18 months remaining in the campaign.

Fiscal year 2018 was the second highest fundraising year in the history of the university and the best year for Campaign Arkansas, with $292.7 million raised. The five largest gifts announced so far during the campaign include:

• An unprecedented $120 million gift from the WALTON FAMILY CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOUNDATION established the School of Art. The gift was the largest ever given to a U.S. university to support or establish a school of art and created the first and only accredited, collegiate school of art in the state of Arkansas.

• A $40 million gift from the WINDGATE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION created the Windgate Art and Design District in south Fayetteville and expanded on the School of Art’s Hill Avenue sculpture complex that opened in 2016. The district will feature several new buildings for art and design classrooms, labs, studios and potentially a public gallery space.

• A $23.7 million grant from the WALTON FAMILY CHARITABLE SUPPORT FOUNDATION strengthened the U of A’s research and economic development infrastructure.

• JERRY AND GENE JONES contributed $10.65 million for a new Student-Athlete Success Center in 2015.

• JOHN ED AND ISABEL ANTHONY contributed $7.5 million to support the construction of a new $15 million materials innovation center in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design. The Anthony Timberlands Center for Design and Materials Innovation will foster innovation in wood design and product development.

Student success will be a priority for the remainder of the campaign, including program support for both a new $45 million building in the heart of campus and the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative.
“The opportunity to see the places and meet the people that make Arkansas unique was invaluable to me last year as a newcomer to the U of A. The best way for our new faculty to learn about Arkansas is to get out and see the state, meet Arkansans, see some of our students’ hometowns and see some of the work the U of A does across our state.” Jim Coleman, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Established in 2018, the Office of Economic Development reflects the university’s commitment to creating a more prosperous and innovative Arkansas. Recognizing the U of A’s important role as an economic engine for the state, Chancellor Steinmetz created the office to expand the university’s **MORE THAN $2 BILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE STATE** by more efficiently moving new discoveries and technologies into the marketplace, forging partnerships with industry, supporting job growth in Arkansas and bolstering small businesses. The office created a comprehensive database to track U of A service projects throughout the state and look for new opportunities for outreach.

The U of A’s licensing and patent office, Technology Ventures, as well as the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, U of A Small Business and Technology Development Center, Arkansas Research and Technology Park and World Trade Center Arkansas now fall under the purview of the Office of Economic Development. Additionally, the Office of Industry Partnerships, Corporate and Foundation Relations, and the Tribal Governance and Economic Empowerment Consortium are part of the Economic Development portfolio.

Technology Ventures works with U of A researchers to transfer university-developed technologies into real-world applications with economic and social benefits through patenting and licensing. In 2018, the university saw six patents and 20 provisional patents issued, while innovative professors disclosed 32 new technologies to Technology Ventures.

The Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation supports Arkansas entrepreneurs by providing the skills and knowledge needed to launch new businesses. Based out of the Brewer Family Hub for Entrepreneurship just off the Fayetteville Square, the office develops community-centered education and training programs for individuals and businesses alike.

The university’s New Venture Development program, which teaches entrepreneurship skills and business plan development, has won more business plan competitions than any other university in the country. These students have gone on to launch more than 50 companies and raise more than $75 million in funding since 2009.

The U of A’s Arkansas Research and Technology Park in south Fayetteville is home to 31 businesses and nonprofits, many of which are tech companies with roots at the university. This past year saw the expansion of the National Center for Reliable Electric Power Transmission and the opening of J.B. Hunt On The Hill, a satellite office of J.B. Hunt that will provide 60 internships each semester.

The U of A Small Business and Technology Development Center is part of a national network of more than 1,000 small business centers that provide professional training seminars, free market research and business consulting services to existing small business owners.
BUILDING A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

The university has never been more diverse, with 20 percent of the student body comprised of students from underrepresented minority groups. The College of Engineering has done particularly well, with more than half of this year’s incoming freshmen class comprised of underrepresented minorities. There is still work to be done, especially in regard to the diversity of staff and faculty, and the overall inclusivity of campus to meet the goals of having a truly inclusive and diverse campus community that reflects the diversity of our state.

Toward that end, Chancellor Steinmetz named Yvette Murphy-Erby vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion in September 2017 to expand diversity and inclusion efforts across campus. In the year that followed, Murphy-Erby expanded her office, assembled a team of fellows, and put together several committees that touch all areas of campus. She also created two volunteer teams, Student Diversity Ambassadors and Staff and Faculty Champions, to energize efforts to build a more inclusive campus community.

“There is an urgency for our campus to move forward in the area of diversity and inclusion,” Murphy-Erby said. “To make real and meaningful progress will require total campus engagement.”

After board approval, Murphy-Erby will launch the Ideals Institute aimed at supporting research and statewide programs on inclusion, diversity, equity, access, leadership development and strategic supports.

In 2018, Murphy-Erby and her team established a mission and vision for diversity efforts and developed campuswide goals as a foundation from which all colleges, schools and units could build their diversity and inclusion plans.
Online education has grown with the U of A over the years, with the number of students enrolled in online classes more than doubling over the last six years. U of A Online is an integral part of campus, supporting academic colleges in the development and delivery of online education through its instructional-design, media-production, learning-technology, marketing, recruiting and logistical-support teams. Classes are taught by U of A faculty and thousands of on-campus students take online classes in addition to their campus classes.

Online class offerings have grown substantially over the last six years as well, with additional degrees added at both the bachelor and graduate level of study. Students from 49 states and 68 out of Arkansas’ 75 counties take U of A classes exclusively online. Additionally, the U of A offers robust professional development and skills-based training for working professionals throughout the year.

These efforts advance student success and further the university’s land-grant mission through access to academic degrees and professional training and certification programs that have the flexibility to help hard-working students and professionals thrive.

The U of A keeps pace with national trends through a dedication to make higher education more accessible for people across Arkansas and beyond. As a result, more people are earning degrees at the U of A both online and on campus and having their names etched on Senior Walk.

Online education benefits Arkansas and first-generation families. In 2018, the largest proportion of exclusively online undergraduate students continues to be from Arkansas (70.6 percent), a substantial number of whom (37.8 percent) are the first in their families to attend college.
THE CHANGING FACE OF CAMPUS

The U of A campus on The Hill has grown in recent years to meet the current and future needs of both the growing student body and expanded research, academic and outreach missions. From 2016 through 2018, more than half a million square feet of new facilities have been constructed to meet the academic needs of students and faculty. The construction of an additional quarter million square feet in academic space began in 2019 as well.

But it’s not the amount of construction that’s important – it’s what is built. And the results have been impressive. Take the modern new SCULPTURE STUDIO, for example, the first step in creating the ambitious WINDGATE ART AND DESIGN DISTRICT in south Fayetteville for the U of A’s School of Art. Near the studio is the new LIBRARY STORAGE BUILDING, which has space for up to 1.8 million volumes, with easy access for students and researchers, and clearing the way to bring MULLINS LIBRARY fully into the 21st century.

Probably the most stunning new construction is the STADIUM DRIVE RESIDENCE HALLS, due to open in fall 2019. These feature innovative cross-laminated timber construction, also used in the Library Storage Building. The innovation doesn’t stop there – these residence halls are designed to be a living learning community for more than 700 students. The expansion and renovation projects are just as remarkable.
KIMPEL HALL, one of the university’s busiest academic buildings, received a bottom-to-top makeover and added the state of the art SUE WALK BURNETT JOURNALISM AND STUDENT MEDIA CENTER.

The NATIONAL CENTER FOR RELIABLE ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION grew to accommodate three highly successful national research centers that work to improve and protect the nation’s electric power grid.

Renovation at the GLOBAL CAMPUS, home to the U of A’s online programs, made room for the latest in educational technology, while also adding a new Black Box Theatre to support the U of A Theater Department.

Health and wellness are crucial to everyone’s success, which is why the PAT WALKER HEALTH CENTER added 20,000 square feet of space to meet the needs of students, faculty and staff.

And of course everyone needs to eat – and almost everyone on campus has enjoyed a meal in the newly remodeled ARKANSAS UNION FOOD COURT.

Play is important too, and students welcomed the greatly improved MITCHELL FIELDS COMPLEX, 9 acres dedicated to intramural sports.

Still on the horizon: the WINDGATE ART AND DESIGN DISTRICT, which will transform the role of art at the U of A, and in Fayetteville as well. The name of the all new STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER speaks to its purpose, and will be equally transformative. Construction on both are due to start in 2019.
With a vision – To Be the Best – and a mission of Building Champions and Razorbacks for Life, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics ranks among the nation’s most successful athletics programs. Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Hunter Yurachek, hired by Chancellor Steinmetz in 2017, the U of A annually meets the needs of more than 460 student-athletes in 19 sports enabling them to succeed in athletic competition, in the classroom and in the community. One of only a handful of financially self-sustaining athletics programs in the nation, Razorback Athletics receives zero state and taxpayer funding and annually contributes more than $3.5 million back to academic programs on campus.

Razorback student-athletes are achieving at a high level in the classroom, earning a program record 3.25 CUMULATIVE GPA in two out of the last three years and a combined department GPA of 3.0 or better in 18 consecutive semesters. The most dramatic growth has come in graduation rates. In 2017-18, 90 percent of Razorback student-athletes who exhausted their athletics eligibility graduated. A program record 131 student-athletes graduated in 2017-18, almost double the number from just a decade ago.

A pair of national championship runner-up finishes (baseball, women’s indoor track & field) helped propel the Razorbacks to a program record No. 16 finish in the final 2017-18 Learfield Sports Directors Cup Standings. In addition,
the Razorbacks captured four NCAA individual national championships and four Southeastern Conference team championships, including its first SEC title in women's golf. Arkansas finished first in the nation in the rankings among schools with 19 or fewer sports. Arkansas has finished in the top 25 of the Directors’ Cup nine times in the past 11 years, including in each of the past three years.

DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM RENOVATION AND NORTH END ZONE ADDITION
In fall 2018, Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium opened its gates to fans following a north end zone addition and stadium renovation. With numerous enhancements to benefit every fan, including stadium-wide concourses, north stadium entries, additional elevators and historical displays, the project greatly enhanced all aspects of the gameday experience. Suites, loge boxes and clubs in the north end zone also provided new premium seating options for Razorback fans.

NEW FACILITIES COMING SOON
After getting Board approval, the university will be moving forward on three important projects to better support our student athletes. An approximately 20,000 square foot Track and Field High Performance Center will be constructed just south of the track at John McDonnell Field and a 40,000 square foot Baseball Performance Center will be built beyond the right field wall on the southwest corner of Baum Stadium.

Finally, the Randal Tyson Track Center will undergo an extensive renovation and expansion. The projects will be funded entirely by athletic revenues, gifts, and bond proceeds from a future bond issue. No public funds will be required to complete the projects.