

2017 ACC Outstanding Staff

Arkansas Northeastern College

Marlene Banks

Administrative Specialist II

Marlene Banks has served Arkansas Northeastern College since 2003 and has always been a dependable, hard-working, and conscientious employee. She is an example of dedication and professionalism, someone who cares about every person who enters her office. She works quietly and methodically to keep the operation functioning smoothly. Not only is she an exceptional employee, she is an exceptional lady. She is involved in community events and with her church where she freely gives of her time and effort to improve the quality of life for others.

Arkansas State University Beebe

Linda Yelder

Associate Director of Financial Aid

Linda Yelder, Associate Director of Financial Aid, began her career at ASU Beebe in 1999 as a Financial Aid Officer I, later moving to an Officer II, and then to the Assistant Director position before promoting into her current position. Over the course of the last 18 years, Linda's commitment to enhancing the understanding of the financial aid process has benefited many. She goes above and beyond to help the students, faculty, and staff of ASUB. One of the most rewarding pieces of her job is seeing someone she has helped in previous years become successful.

Arkansas State University Mid-South

Brenda Pannell

Equipment Mechanic

The impressive facilities of ASU Mid-South were designed by talented architects, but their sustainable beauty is largely due to the diligent and conscientious efforts of Brenda Pannell. Rain or shine, she is steadily working to see that doors are unlocked, light bulbs are replaced, and that the college continues to be a clean, safe and attractive place for our students and staff. Brenda is an electrician, plumber, and jack-of-all trades who consistently applies attention to every detail. And despite the fact that her job is often laborious and thankless – she does it with a genuine smile on her face – always friendly, always helpful.

Arkansas State University Mountain Home

Kimberlee Booth

Information Technology Project Specialist

Kimberlee Booth has been interested in programming and information technology since high school, and had worked in the tech field for many years before graduating from ASU Mountain Home with an Associate of Applied Science in Information Technology. Kimberlee continued her education and graduated from South University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology. Six years ago, she joined ASUMH as a programmer and has moved up to Project/Program Specialist. Additionally, in 2013, she was recognized at ACC as ASUMH's Outstanding Alumna of the Year.

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Arkansas State University Newport Mary Williams Career Facilitator

Mary Williams has spent the last seven years inspiring both youth and adults to pursue education and training that will allow them to achieve economically self-sufficient careers. Mary has always gone the extra mile to ensure that the students in her care are successful. Referred to by her coworkers as a “cheerleader,” she is accessible, responsive, and emotionally invested in her job. Mary understands that to inspire a student to succeed, she must herself be passionate about success – and she exhibits that passion every day, both in the office and across the ASU Newport campus.

Black River Technical College Amber Green Human Resources Assistant

Amber Green is extremely conscientious and endeavors to serve faculty and staff in her role as Human Resources Assistant each and every day. She is always pleasant, even in the most difficult situation. Her positive attitude brightens the day of those she encounters on a regular basis.

College of the Ouachitas Josh Holiman Academic Advisor/Testing Coordinator/Veterans Affairs

Josh Holiman is an Academic Advisor, Testing Coordinator, and Veterans Affairs officer at College of the Ouachitas. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Henderson State University. During his ten years at COTO, Josh has made a positive impact not only on students but on his co-workers as well. He is constantly seeking ways to help students feel welcome and to provide them with information they need to be successful. He understands that college can be overwhelming and it is good to have a helping hand. Josh’s mantra is to always be kind and stay humble.

East Arkansas Community College Bob Fowler Computer Lab Assistant

Bob Fowler is always willing to lend a hand and provide assistance to instructors, students, and staff members at East Arkansas Community College. He gladly assists both students and employees of the College whenever there is a computer-related problem. Working to eliminate or alleviate student frustration with technology is integral to student success and student retention, and he does an excellent job in this area. Anytime Bob is asked to perform updates or provide assistance, he does so willingly and without complaint. He is always patient and can explain computer and technology related problems on a level that is understandable.

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National Park College

Bill Ritter

Director of Adult Education

Under Bill Ritter's leadership as Director of Adult Education, the GED diplomas earned by National Park College students ranked second in the state and the enrolled student population and students served has increased significantly. Bill established a partnership with the Garland County Sherriff's office in the Garland County Detention Center to offer inmates the opportunity to further their education. He currently serves as the President of the Arkansas Association of Administrators of Adult Education and Chair of the Arkansas Adult Education and Literacy Council Advisory Committee. Bill stated, "My passion lies in service to others, and as such, I seek or create opportunities to serve."

North Arkansas College

Davina Hefley

Program Manager, Northark Technical Center

Davina Hefley puts her whole-heart into student success. She has worked for North Arkansas College for three years. Her life's goal is for students to leave Northark's Tech Center with either a certificate or industry certification. Last year, Davina updated the Programs of Study to ensure students achieve eligibility for a Northark Certificate of Proficiency. Thanks to her efforts, some students can now achieve a Technical Certificate as well. Davina says, "The desire to help this generation thrive is what motivates me and I hope they leave the Tech Center understanding the value of accountability, honesty, integrity and hard work!"

NorthWest Arkansas Community College

Erin Hollingsworth

Director of Career Services

Erin Hollingsworth has grown from a student worker to Administrative Assistant, to Recruiter, to Academic Advisor, and now to her current role as Director of Career Services. She provides additional guidance and support to students involved with the Single Parent Scholarship Organization of Benton County and those involved in NorthWest Arkansas Community College's LIFE program. Additionally, Erin volunteers at the NWA Children's Shelter, Odyssey of the Mind, and Saving Grace. She truly cares about helping people reach their goals and goes above and beyond in her assistance with them.

Ozarka College

Amber Rush

Business Manager

Amber Rush is an exceptional business manager for Ozarka College. She is meticulous in her work and always maintains a caring, supportive perspective for her colleagues.

Phillips Community College of the UA
Theresa Dupuy
STEM/Advising Specialist

As the Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Advising Specialist for the DeWitt and Stuttgart campuses of Phillips Community College of the UA, Theresa Dupuy coordinates the STEM Summer Academy programs for Arkansas County PCCUA students. She says, “I enjoy working in the Learning Center on the DeWitt campus and showing students how careers in STEM fields can be great choices for them.” Theresa also serves as a Phi Theta Kappa honor society advisor and loves to tell PCCUA students how proud we are of their academic accomplishments.

South Arkansas Community College
Tim Johnson
College and Career/Transfer Advisor

As a College and Career Coach, Tim Johnson works with school districts in Union County to help facilitate college readiness activities, such as concurrent enrollment, ACT prep, and summer bridge programs. He oversees a CRP which begins working with students in the 7th grade. Tim also assists college students who are planning to transfer to 4-year universities with regard to degree programs and scholarship information. He has participated in various leadership programs, which have assisted in him becoming a great leader. He is professional, diligent, and goes out of his way to ensure students receive the tools needed to be successful.

Southeast Arkansas College
Gene White
Director of Distance Learning

Gene White is Southeast Arkansas College’s Director of Distance Learning. He handles his responsibilities very well and has a great rapport with his peers and students. You can count on him to meet his commitments and work in a professional matter. He has a positive attitude, is very personable and conscientious. His involvement in the local community provides an excellent example of his dedication. Gene’s helpful and enthusiastic nature, along with his strong moral character and excellent communication skills help prove that he is an asset to Southeast Arkansas College.

Southern Arkansas University Tech
Connie Riley
Financial Aid Analyst

Connie Riley is a Financial Aid Analyst at SAU Tech. The institution was once required to complete a Default Management Plan. Within this plan, SAU Tech implemented many institutional changes in the processing of student loans in order to help educate students concerning the loans issued to them and the consequences they could suffer if they did not repay their loans. Connie was a vital part of this process and has continued to be extremely creative and resourceful in finding material in which to educate students about the loan programs.

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UA Community College at Batesville

Casey Bromley

Career Service Facilitator, Career Pathways Initiative

Casey Bromley exemplifies UA Community College at Batesville's commitment to helping students succeed and the importance of lifelong learning. She is a UACCB alumna and went on to earn a Bachelor of Applied Science through UACCB's 2+2 agreement with UA Fort Smith. Her peers describe her as approaching every task presented to her with integrity, confidence and a positive attitude. Casey frequently goes the extra mile to help students and colleagues even when it falls outside the realm of her required duties.

UA Community College at Morrilton

Cande Jaramillo (Posthumous)

Coordinator of Instructional Technology

Cande Jaramillo dedicated himself to the goals of UA Community College at Morrilton as a member of the IT staff for nearly 20 years. He stood out among his peers because of his work ethic, eagerness to serve others, and his kindness to all faculty, staff, and students. Cande was awarded staff of the year just a few short weeks before he passed away. UACCM lost not only a stellar employee, but also a stellar friend, and he will be dearly missed. Here to accept his award is his wife, Linda Jaramillo.

University of Arkansas Cossatot

Tony Hargrove

Director of Information Technology

Tony Hargrove is a 2012 graduate of the University of Arkansas and an employee at UA Cossatot since 1998. Tony works long hours each day and most every weekend to ensure the technology at the college is properly operating. He is truly a valuable member of the UA Cossatot team! In his spare time, Tony enjoys playing golf and watching the Hogs. He also enjoys playing drums and guitar.

University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana

Bernice McDonald

Administrative Specialist for the Office of Admissions

Bernice McDonald has served UA Hope-Texarkana for 15 years. In addition to her daily duties, she takes the time to help with the annual UAHT Fish Fry scholarship fundraiser, volunteers at the watermelon festival, and at graduation. Bernice's nomination letter stated, "She is a hard worker who helps students with a variety of needs. Despite always being tied up with other duties, she is always there to help. She is always up to completing any task that is asked of her, and she keeps everything and everyone in line, even on the craziest of days."

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University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College

Rebecca Castleberry

Director – Little Learners Academy

Rebecca Castleberry is Director of the Little Learners Academy Early Childhood Lab School at UA Pulaski Technical College and has worked at the college for six years. She has shown determination and dedication in her leadership role at the college and is a source of inspiration for the staff and faculty with whom she works. Rebecca supplements the curriculum at the Academy with creative opportunities for learning. The students, children, and the parents at Little Learners are extremely grateful for her willingness to go the extra mile for them.

University of Arkansas Rich Mountain

Audra Titsworth

Registrar's Assistant

As Student Affairs Secretary, Audra Titsworth is the first person someone meets when they walk through the campus's main entrance. She has never met a stranger and always has a contagious smile to share with everyone. Her colleagues state, "Audra is always friendly and helpful to students, staff, and community members. She is courteous and professional in her role as she welcomes students and patrons to the College. Audra is the first point of contact in the registration process and an asset in supporting first time students by her welcoming and reassuring presence."