



ARKANSAS TECH
UNIVERSITY



VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Board of Trustees of Arkansas Tech University and President Dr. Robin E. Bowen invite nominations and expressions of interest for the position of vice president for academic affairs. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will take office on or before July 1, 2019.

ACADEMICSEARCH

The University

The Russellville campus of Arkansas Tech University is nestled in the heart of the Arkansas River Valley, between the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains. It is about 75 miles from Little Rock and very close to beautiful Lake Dardanelle State Park. With a population of 27,920, according to the 2010 Census, it is home to both Arkansas Tech University and Arkansas Nuclear One, Arkansas' only nuclear power plant.



Arkansas Tech (originally the Second District Agricultural School) was founded by Act 100 of the 37th Arkansas General Assembly. The act was signed into law by Gov. George Donaghey on April 1, 1909. The action created four agricultural schools to be placed around the state. A.K. Short was named the school's first president and construction began on the Main Building on April 21, 1910. The first day of classes at the Second District Agricultural School was Oct. 26, 1910. The fledgling school had nine faculty members and 186 students.

After four presidents in the first eight years, the Second District Agricultural School hired Hugh Critz as president in 1918. Critz began transforming the school from a high school curriculum to a college curriculum. By the fall of 1922, the Second District Agricultural School was offering college-level classes.

The changing mission of the institution led to a new name for the Russellville campus. Governor Thomas J. Terral signed a bill on Feb. 10, 1925, that changed the name to Arkansas Polytechnic College. Twenty students earned bachelor's degrees from Arkansas Polytechnic College in the spring of 1925, but the four-year curriculum was soon phased out and the campus offered two-year associate degrees until after World War II. High school classes were offered on the campus until 1930.

One of the most significant events in Tech history occurred in January 1932 when Joseph W. Hull took office as the school's eighth president. Hull served for 35 years and helped usher the campus forward to gain status as a modern college.

In May 1948, the Tech Board of Trustees approved a recommendation that Arkansas Polytechnic College should become a four-year, degree-granting institution. The third year of college work was offered for the first time since the 1920s in 1948-49, and the fourth year of college work was offered in 1949-50. The first four-year college graduating class of the post-World War II era received degrees in May 1950, and the four-year college program at Arkansas Tech was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in March 1951.



In 1976, Arkansas Polytechnic College began offering work toward a master's degree. In accordance with the evolving mission of the College, the name was changed to Arkansas Tech University on July 1, 1976.

Dr. Robert C. Brown took office as president of ATU on July 1, 1993, and continued in that role through June 30, 2014. During his administration, the university invested more than \$250 million in infrastructure, including the construction of leading educational facilities, such as Rothwell Hall and the Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center. More than 50 new academic programs were developed.

Dr. Robin E. Bowen has served as president at ATU since July 1, 2014. Her presidency has included the adoption of a new strategic plan that was formulated through a highly participatory process that engaged faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. The strategic planning process led to the first comprehensive campus master plan in university history. ATU has also created and implemented new mission and vision statements during the Bowen administration. Significant progress has been made toward greater salary equity for employees, increased numbers of faculty and staff members and a greater sense of "one university" between the Russellville campus and the Ozark campus. Grit and distributed leadership are themes of the Bowen administration, and professional development for faculty and staff through the Leadership Tech program is a point of emphasis.

Arkansas Tech-Ozark Campus, located 40 miles to the west, offers more than 25 academic programs and serves students seeking workforce education and associate's degrees. The 26-acre campus is located on Highway 23 North. Partnerships with local industry are among the strengths of the Ozark campus. The campus also hosts Leadership Franklin County, a non-profit organization that serves the residents of Franklin County. Enrollment now tops 2,000 students, a 585 percent growth since it joined the Arkansas Tech system. Arkansas Tech-Ozark also has oversight of the Arkansas Tech Career Center in Russellville and its satellite locations in Clarksville, Danville, Ozark and Paris.



Arkansas Tech University is the top performing institution of higher education in the Natural State when it comes to providing access to a better life after graduation.

ATU has been ranked No. 1 in Arkansas on CollegeNET's Social Mobility Index five consecutive years through 2018. In the most recent data, ATU ranks among the top 10.5 percent of all colleges and universities in the United States in providing graduates with a pathway to an enhanced economic standing.

What's the secret? ATU offers a small school atmosphere with big school opportunities. As a result, our more than 12,000 students gain educational and co-curricular experiences that help them discover and pursue the interests that become their careers.

Arkansas Tech is the statewide leader in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. Over the past five years, more Arkansas high school graduates have chosen to major in the STEM fields at ATU than at any other institution of higher learning in the state.

Challenging classes and engaged faculty enhance the value of an ATU degree. Here, students can explore intersecting career paths made possible by more than 120 undergraduate degree programs at the associate's and bachelor's levels, more than 25 graduate degree options and a Doctor of Education degree in school leadership --- all focused on student success.

Headcount enrollment at ATU for fall 2018 is 12,101, which is a new institution record. Arkansas Tech serves 11,151 undergraduate students and 950 graduate students. ATU is the third-largest university in Arkansas, and 93 percent of its students are Arkansans.

Seventy-seven percent of the more than 300 full-time faculty members at the Russellville campus have a doctorate or terminal degree in their field. With an 18.8-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, students enjoy the mentoring of a committed and highly qualified faculty.

**Degrees are offered in the following colleges
(departments listed below each college):**

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences:

- Agriculture
- Computer and Information Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Emergency Management
- Parks, Recreation, and Hospitality Administration

College of Arts & Humanities:

- Art
- Behavioral Sciences
- English and World Languages
- History and Political Science
- Music
- Communication and Journalism

College of Business

- Accounting and Economics
- Management and Marketing

College of Education:

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Health and Physical Education
- College Student Personnel
- Center for Leadership & Learning

College of Natural & Health Sciences:

- Biological Sciences
- Mathematics
- Nursing
- Physical Sciences

College of eTech:

- Professional Studies

The Graduate College offers the following:

- Ed.D School Leadership
- Ed.S Educational Leadership
- M.A English
- M.A Teaching English as a Second Language
- M.A History
- M.A Multi-Media Journalism
- M.A Teaching
- M.A TESOL
- M.B.A Business Administration
- M.E Electrical Engineering
- M.E Mechanical Engineering
- M.Ed Educational Leadership
- M.Ed Instructional Technology, Library Media K-12
- M.Ed Instructional Technology: Instructional Design
- M.Ed School Counseling & Leadership
- M.Ed Special Education K-12
- M.Ed Teaching, Learning, & Leadership
- M.L.A Liberal Arts
- M.S Applied Sociology
- M.S College Student Personnel
- M.S Emergency Management & Homeland Security
- M.S Fisheries & Wildlife Science
- M.S Health Informatics
- M.S Information Technology
- M.S Psychology
- M.S Strength & Conditioning Studies
- M.S.N Nursing Administration & Emergency Management

ATU has continued a wave of academic innovation with several new degree programs in recent years. These include cultural and geospatial studies, cybersecurity, game and interactive media design, environmental science, electrical engineering biomedical option, computer science education, chemistry education and physics education. Debuting in 2018-19 are a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and criminology, a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering and an Associate of Business degree that is stackable in pursuit of the existing Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree.

All programs that have an accreditation available have been or are in the process of being accredited.

Tech has ABET accredited programs in electrical and mechanical engineering and an AACSB accredited business program that includes departments in Accounting and Economics and Management and Marketing.

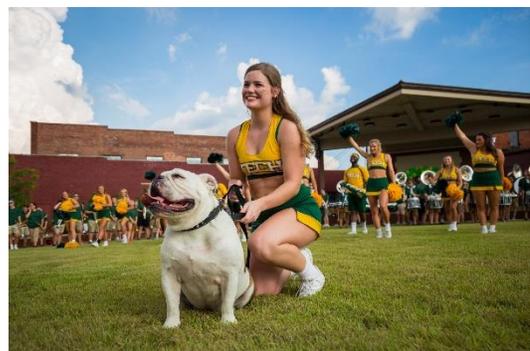
The world's first accredited emergency management program was created at Arkansas Tech. Chemistry, computer science, health informatics and information management, hospitality administration, music, nursing, recreation and park administration and teacher education are additional disciplines in which ATU holds program level accreditations.



Vibrant Student Life

While academic achievement leading to graduation is the reason for attending Arkansas Tech University, the experiences that students have outside the classroom prove to have a lifelong impact. Experiences offered through the ATU Division of Student Affairs enhance maturity, leadership, time management, friendship, career development and civic engagement, along with many other essential life skills. Tech offers more than 170 social and professional organizations for students.

Arkansas Tech offers a robust NCAA Division II athletic program and is a founding member of the Great American Conference. Tech has won the GAC All-Sports Trophy as the top overall program in the conference six of the last seven years, and ATU has ranked top two in the nation in student-athlete volunteer service hours for two consecutive years.



THE LEADERSHIP AGENDA

The successful candidate will assume membership on the ATU Executive Council. It will be necessary for the new vice president for academic affairs to champion initiatives that support the existing strategic plan for the university and assist ATU in reaching the five-year targets in the plan. In addition, the successful candidate will practice a distributed leadership model that supports faculty, students and the larger community while aiding the university in preparations for its 2020-21 Higher Learning Commission site visit and evaluation. Also of importance will be an understanding that student success and retention are the No. 1 goals of the institution and a demonstrated track record of support for diversity and inclusion in higher education.

2016-21 STRATEGIC PLAN

The next VPAA will be expected to continue progress and make logistical adjustments to the 2016-21 strategic plan. Below is the recently published two-year progress report on some highlights of the four goals:

GOAL ONE: HUMAN CORE

- Increased graduation rate by 6 percentage points (35% in 2015-16 to 39% in 2016-17 to 41% in 2017-18)
- No. 2 ranking in State of Arkansas higher education productivity formula during initial year
- Conferred more than 3,200 academic credentials during the 2017-18 academic year
- Created Center for Civic Engagement and Academic Outreach to promote service learning
- Increased faculty and non-classified staff compensation to 93.1 percent of the median of the CUPA regional comparison
- 30 percent increase in grant submissions over previous year
- More than \$10.2 million in external grant awards in 2017-18

GOAL TWO: ACADEMIC COHERENCE

- Began operations for new Office of Student Success
- Master of Arts in TESOL and new Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice/criminology fully online, bringing total of fully online programs to more than 25
- Achieved a 5 percent increase in the overall success rates for remedial/general education math courses
- Implemented Bachelor of Science and Associate of Applied Science degrees in cybersecurity
- Began offering courses toward the Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture business on the Ozark campus

GOAL THREE: OPERATIONS EXCELLENCE

- New gifts and pledges increased by 30 percent over previous year to \$4.5 million
- Received approval of campus master plan from ATU Board of Trustees
- Refinanced bond debt to save more than \$3 million in net debt service payments
- Completed energy audit and received funding approval for phase I efficiency projects from the ATU Board of Trustees

GOAL FOUR: CITIZENS OF THE REGION, STATE AND WORLD

- Established Green and Gold Pantry in partnership with Tyson Foods
- Joined the International Town and Gown Association
- Initiated Mayoral Advisory Council as a means of fostering a dialogue between students and city leaders
- Dedicated the River Valley Child Advocacy Center

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Required Qualifications:

- An earned doctorate from an accredited institution with a record of achievement as a university teacher-scholar (candidate should qualify for appointment at the rank of full professor in one of the academic disciplines of the University).
- A successful academic leader in higher education with at least three years' experience at the level of Dean, Director, or an equivalent higher level senior academic leadership position.

Strongly Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience in leading and advocating for the academic division of the university
- A commitment to implementing student success initiatives
- Evidence of experience in development and/or implementing a strategic plan
- Experience in advancing research at a comprehensive teaching university
- Experience advancing diversity from historically underrepresented groups with a record of fostering an inclusive environment
- Financial, personnel management, and budget development experience
- A successful record of collegial/shared governance and distributed leadership
- Demonstration of current HR knowledge, processes
- A background in developing and implementing program development and other academic initiatives
- Willingness to integrate within the local, regional and state communities
- An understanding of and appreciation for the evolving role of technology in higher education
- Excellent communication skills, strong interpersonal skills, and a history of working effectively with colleagues across and beyond the campus; demonstration of service excellence
- A high level of professional integrity

Recruitment services are being provided by Academic Search. Applicants should electronically submit to ATUVPAA@academic-search.com. A complete application must include a curriculum vitae, a list of five references with full contact information (including email and telephone numbers) and a cover letter demonstrating how the applicant meets the required and preferred qualifications described above. While the search remains open until closed, only applications received by January 11, 2019 can be assured full consideration. Confidential conversations about the position may be held with Senior Consultant Jessica Kozloff at jsk@academic-search.com. More information about the university and this position can be found at www.atu.edu or at <https://academic-search.com/current-searches>.

This position is subject to a pre-employment criminal background check. A criminal conviction or arrest pending adjudication alone shall not disqualify an applicant in the absence of a relationship to the requirements of the position. Background check information will be used in a confidential, non-discriminatory manner consistent with state and federal law. AA/EOE.