UACCH CELEBRATES NEW RECORD ENROLLMENT

The University of Arkansas Community College at Hope is pleased to announce that it has set a new enrollment benchmark with Spring Enrollment at 1507. This is the first time in the College’s 45 year history to overcome the 1500 enrollment number. The College, which started in 1965 as the Red River Vocational-Technical School, has been and continues to be dedicated to enhancing the education of residents in the surrounding communities. This open access, two-year College has worked to bring down the walls that have excluded people from pursuing a higher education.

UACCH Chancellor, Chris Thomason said, “This is a great day for UACCH and every community in the UACCH service area. The type of growth UACCH has experienced is remarkable and certainly there are several contributing factors. I appreciate each of our students. They show dedication and perseverance to overcome many obstacles to obtain their dreams. I am glad they have chosen to let UACCH be a bridge to a brighter future and I look forward to celebrating with each of them the completion of this portion of their journey at graduation.”

The College is focused on a student-first approach. This approach keeps the focus on helping students be successful. A student is so much more than just an occupant of a desk. Students are friends and neighbors, future business owners and employees. They are the future of our community and stand to play an important role in the economic engine of our community.

Many factors contribute to the success of this approach and include a dedicated faculty and staff who are driven to see students succeed. Another key factor is keeping down the cost of an education. UACCH is proud to currently be the most affordable two- or four-year College in the state of Arkansas. But the hard work doesn’t stop there. The UACCH Foundation has worked with the support of the community to raise funds for scholarships and to expand opportunities for students.

The success of this approach has been evident through the 2009 Spring Enrollment of 1336, the 50% increased enrollment in Summer I and Summer II sessions, and a healthy 2009 fall enrollment of 1486. But the 1507 enrollment puts this semester over the top. There are other exciting numbers leading up to this announcement. They include the $76,858 the Foundation has awarded in scholarships, as well as the 68.5% Spring to Spring retention rate, which indicates that students are sticking with the pursuit of their education. UACCH is pleased to be a part of this community and a bridge to the future for each of its students.

Strategic Goal: Increase overall enrollment.
BEADS, BAGS, & THE BIG APPLE

The UACCH Foundation held its annual Beads, Bags and Bangles Bazaar fund-raiser recently benefiting the 2010 Kids’ College program. THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this event a success. This year’s theme was Beads, Bags and the Big Apple and over 200 ladies attended the event. The money raised will provide scholarships and classroom supplies for over 300 kids.

Dates for Kids’ College 2010 are June 14 - 17 and June 21 - 24 for 1st through 4th grade and June 28 - July 1 for 5th and 6th grade. This year, Kids’ College will expand to include 7th-8th grade students in “Camp Scrubs,” a program designed to introduce boys and girls to health professions.

Special thanks go to the ladies who served on the 2010 Beads, Bags and Bangles committee. This year’s committee included Debbie Malek, Kathy Struckman, Jennifer Methvin, Tonja Hays, Betty Jo Hays, Kim Hollis, Bonnie Routon, Charlotte Bradley, Lindy Franks, Bitsy Carter, Penny Thomason, Dolly Henley, and Twyla Pruden. For more information about Kids’ College, please contact Nancy Kenworthy at 870-722-8102.

Strategic Goal: Improve services that aid students’ understanding and appreciation of higher education and expand funding sources.
J.W. & JANIS BRIAN ROWE ENDOWMENT

UACCH is pleased to announce the establishment of the J.W. and Janis Brian Rowe Endowed Scholarship. The Rowe family are no strangers to the College. In fact, J.W. Rowe is considered the founding father of the institution. On July 1, 1965, Hope was named the site for the Red River Vocational Technical School with J.W. Rowe as the director.

Today, the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope is once again celebrating with J.W. Rowe and his family as they establish the J.W. and Janis Brian Rowe Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship, which will carry the family name, will provide financial assistance each year to a student enrolled in the medical field at UACCH.

Chancellor Chris Thomason said, “The commitment and leadership that Mr. Rowe provided this campus for our first two decades is celebrated everyday through UACCH’s continued dedication to providing educational and career opportunities to Southwest Arkansas residents. UACCH’s student successes of today and tomorrow are fully supported by the foundation that Mr. Rowe and his team prepared beginning in 1966. The J.W. and Janis Brian Rowe Endowed Scholarship will serve as another permanent example of a man and a family who are and have always been committed to the growth of the institution and prosperity of her individual students.”

Due to the sustainable nature of an endowed scholarship, an unknown number of students will be positively impacted and encouraged to pursue an education that otherwise might not have been possible without the financial assistance provided through this scholarship. Therefore the number of lives impacted by the Rowe family in Southwest Arkansas will continue for generations.

Strategic Goal: Expand funding sources.

VIRTUAL I.V. SIMULATOR

UACCH is pleased to announce the recent addition of a Virtual I.V. Simulator to the nursing department lab at the College. This comprehensive and fully interactive self-directed learning system aids in training intravenous catheterization. The Virtual I.V. guides students through a course that allows them to learn, practice, and refresh skills of I.V. access while progressively challenging their level of performance.

UACCH has purchased this equipment through Economic Incentive Funding. These funds provide for the development of the Nursing Simulation Lab which in turn allows the College to expand the student capacity in the practical nursing program.

Strategic Goal: Improve services that aid students’ understanding and appreciation of higher education.

UACCH is proud to announce that Valerie Klipsch (right) has established an endowed scholarship for a student pursuing a technical degree at UACCH. Klipsch, who has been a supporter of the UACCH Foundation through an annual scholarship since 2006, visited with Dolly Henley (left), Assistant to the Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, to express her desire to increase her support to the endowed level.

Valerie Klipsch, a proponent of higher education, has helped numerous students pursue a higher education through generous gifts to institutions. Mrs. Klipsch reminisced about the value she and her late husband, Paul Wilbur Klipsch, shared for education during her recent visit with the College. The late Paul Klipsch is remembered worldwide for his innovative design of loud speakers as well as being remembered locally as an employer for many throughout the years at the speaker factory he began here in Hope.

The Valerie and Paul W. Klipsch Endowed Scholarship will provide financial assistance to full-time students enrolled in an associate’s degree program with the intent to pursue a bachelor’s degree in a technical field such as math, computer science, or engineering. The selection of the scholarship recipient will be made by the UACCH Scholarship Committee.

Strategic Goal: Expand funding sources.
Bridge Builders are faculty and staff who participate in the Bridge Builders program on campus by contributing a portion of their paycheck to be donated to the UACCH Foundation. The College is pleased to have experienced a 77% increase in faculty and staff participation during this year's open season for employees to make changes to their payroll deductions.

Of the 109 employees at UACCH, 86 of them are enrolled as a Bridge Builder. In a year's time these contributions will provide over $14,000 to the Foundation. The success of this program is another example of the dedication of the faculty and staff at UACCH.

Strategic Goal: Expand funding sources.

RESPIRATORY AWARD

The UACCH Respiratory students recently participated in a quiz bowl competition at the Arkansas Society of Respiratory Care Annual Meeting and Education Seminar. The exceptional performance of the group at the local competition has qualified them to advance to the national level competition which will be held in San Antonio, Texas.

Strategic Goal: Improve services that aid students’ understanding and appreciation of higher education.

SGA VISITS STATE CAPITOL

During the visit SGA students toured the State Capitol, met with Arkansas Constitutional Officers, visited with Governor Mike Beebe and had lunch with Representative David “Bubba” Powers and Senator Larry Teague.

WII TOURNAMENT

Jordan Massey of McCaskill was the overall champion as well as the Wii golf winner of the First Annual UACCH Wii Tournament. Jurnee Lockett was the winner in the Wii tennis competition and Dontrell Richard was the Wii winner in the bowling competition.

Strategic Goal: Increase community outreach and cultural awareness programs.