



Faculty Affairs Newsletter

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM FACULTY AFFAIRS

Season's Greetings from the Office for Faculty Affairs

During this holiday season, we in the Office for Faculty Affairs would like to extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. Over the past year, your dedication, expertise, and passion have continued to foster a vibrant and enriching academic environment. Your leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service have not only supported student success but have also strengthened the reputation and impact of our institution.

We hope this season brings you peace, joy, and time for rest and restoration. May you enjoy moments of celebration and connection with family and friends.
We look forward to continuing our collaboration and supporting your work in the coming year.

Anna Zajicek, Stephanie Adams, Eva Cordero, Christie Craig



We Are Accepting Applications for Provost Award for Mentoring Excellence

The Office for Faculty Affairs is accepting proposals for the Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring through Feb. 28, 2026.

The Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring recognizes an academic department/unit on campus that has a strong faculty mentoring program, including professional development opportunities, for tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty. Faculty can nominate their department/unit and [submit a proposal](#) to be considered for this award.

Departments interested in applying are encouraged to submit a one-page proposal by Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, by emailing it to Anna Zajicek, vice provost for faculty affairs, at azajicek@uark.edu.

The winning department will receive \$10,000 and a university plaque recognizing their achievement. The winning department/unit will also be asked to share and showcase its mentoring program with other units on campus.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, 2026, on the [Faculty Affairs website](#).

Nominate an Outstanding Mentor

To promote excellence in mentoring and recognize outstanding faculty mentors, we encourage non-tenure track, pre-tenure, and mid-career faculty members on our campus to consider acknowledging their faculty mentors.

Outstanding faculty-to-faculty mentors cultivate career advancement and assist their mentees with building excellence in teaching, research, and/or service while encouraging a healthy balance of work and home life. Outstanding mentors assist mentees in building their professional networks, advocate for their mentees, and create avenues for mentee recognition. For more information on the nomination process or to nominate, please visit our [website](#).

Chairs/Department Heads SAVE THE DATE

The Office for Faculty Affairs will host the 3rd Winter Chairs Institute on Friday, January 9. As part of the university's commitment to supporting department chairs in their leadership roles, the institute is designed to provide department chairs and heads with opportunities to meet with university leadership, hear important institutional updates, and provide department chairs and heads with opportunities to network and hear about practical leadership tools.

Winter Teaching Symposium

The Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center (TFSC) is excited to announce the 2026 Winter Teaching Symposium, scheduled for Thursday, January 8th from 9:30am-4:20pm.

This year, the Symposium will be held at the Leflar Law Center.

The morning will include a keynote session with Dr. Deb Korth, the 2025 winner of

the Ro DiBrezza Service to Teaching Award. This talk will be followed by lunch and a number of breakout sessions in the afternoon. Please see the schedule below. More information about breakout sessions will be forthcoming to those who sign up to attend.

[Click here](#) to sign up to attend. We would be thrilled to have you join us to kick off the Spring 2026 semester talking about teaching!

2026 Winter Teaching Symposium Schedule

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Coffee and gathering, with remarks from Provost Indrajeet Chaubey

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM: Keynote, Deb Korth, “Building Pathways to Student Success”

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM: Pre-lunch activity

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Lunch

12:30 PM - 1:20 PM: Concurrent Breakout Session 1

- Artificial Intelligence for Teaching Track: *Helping Students Feel Like They Matter in the Age of AI* (Carole Shook, Information Systems, Walton College of Business)
- Teaching Resources Track: *What Now? Guided Reflection for Mid-Career Faculty* (Annie Smith, School of Law)
- Technology in the Classroom Track: *Level Up Your Ultra: Tips, Tricks & Title II Triumphs* (Christine Rickabaugh, University Libraries and Camie Wood, Global Campus)

1:30 PM - 2:20 PM: Concurrent Breakout Session 2

- Artificial Intelligence for Teaching Track: *AI in Action: Managing Your Classroom and Your Chaos, Part I* (Jacob Yates, Information Systems, Walton College of Business)
- Teaching Resources Track: *Implementing a Hybrid System of Alternative Grading Practice for Promoting Authentic Learning and Student Engagement* (Anup K C, Recreation and Sports Management, College of Education and Health Professions)
- Technology in the Classroom Track: *Accessibility in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint* (James Martin, Global Campus)

2:30 PM - 3:20 PM: Breakout Session 3

- Artificial Intelligence for Teaching Track: *AI in Action: Managing Your Classroom and Your Chaos, Part II* (Zach Steelman, Information Systems, Walton College of Business)
- Teaching Resources Track: *Share Smarter: Easy Wins for Copyright, Collaboration, and Course Materials* (Christine Rickabaugh and Melody Herr, University Libraries)
- Technology in the Classroom Track: *Blackboard Gradebook Analytics and AI to Support Instruction* (Jacob McCullough, Global Campus)

3:30 PM - 4:20 PM: Breakout Session 4

- AI/Technology in the Classroom Tracks: *Emerging Issues in Teaching with AI* (Deirdre Slavik, IT Services)
- Teaching Resources Track: *Taking Student Feedback to Enhance Student Engagement: Small Shifts, Big Impact* (Abdullah Aurko, Michael Harris, and Stephanie Ringgold, Mathematical Sciences)
- Grant symposium featuring recent TFSC grantees



The University of Arkansas is an institutional member of the Faculty Success Program by **NCFDD**. The mission of the NCFDD is “Empowering faculty for lasting success with programs, coaching, and on-demand support.”

Our faculty, postdocs, and graduate students can access professional development webinars, courses, mentoring tools, and workshops focused on strategic planning, writing, work-life balance, and more. Please [sign up](#) TODAY for your free membership using your uark email address.

14-Day Writing Challenge

The University of Arkansas is Partnering with the NCFDD to host a private 14 Day Writing Challenge!

This challenge is open to academics at all stages, looking to experiment with daily writing and find joy in the process. Commit to writing for at least 30 minutes a day for two weeks

Login to our online community, start the timer, complete your writing, and post your progress at the end

Take 5 minutes to support other writers in your group by commenting on their progress

“Writing” refers to any scholarly activity ranging from the spark of a new idea to polishing a near-complete project (article, grant proposal, exhibit, book chapter, etc.).

The average participant writes for 350 minutes over the two weeks and 98% of recent participants agreed that “the 14- Day Writing Challenge was helpful in making progress on your scholarly work.”

Monday, February 2 - Sunday, February 15, 2026
Registration ends Sunday, January 25, 2026

COEHP Faculty Make Pizza!

The College of Education and Health Professions continued to support faculty development last month. Associate Deans Matt Ganio and Paul Calleja and Professor RJ Elbin held a pizza-making course for new faculty members in the Teaching Kitchen at the Fayetteville Public Library. This is the third year of the event, which has become a signature part of the college's First-Year Faculty Engagement and Networking Series. The college also held a well-attended session on writing literature reviews, scoping reviews, and meta-analyses that was led by Education Librarian Megan York. Attendees learned about best practices and university resources to produce these important scholarly publications. Collectively, these two events promoted the Caring Culture and Impactful Research priorities of the college's WE CARE Strategic Plan.



If your college or department is interested in highlighting a professional development opportunity please submit your article for consideration by the 1st Friday of every month.



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The University of Arkansas and the Arkansas Alumni Association have transitioned to a new email communication platform. Together, we share university and alumni news, events, and updates through newsletters and topic-specific emails.

To update your preferences or unsubscribe, click [Unsubscribe](#).