



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

Faculty Affairs Newsletter

Message from the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Welcome Message from the Vice Provost!

Dear Colleagues,

Although we are a few weeks into the semester, I would still like to extend a warm welcome! Whether you are a new faculty member or returning to campus, the Office for Faculty Affairs is excited you are here. We hope the summer months have provided you with a blend of scholarly and creative endeavors, relaxation, and inspiration, preparing you for the exciting academic year ahead.

This coming year, we will continue supporting you and your success. With the leadership and support of Provost Indrajeet Chaubey, we will further elevate our efforts to provide you with professional development and leadership opportunities, including the Bridge Mentoring Program, Peer Mentoring Circles, Mentoring Graduate Students, and Leadership Exploration Program.

We are also fortunate to benefit from the leadership of our Provost's Fellows: Ana Bridges, Provost Fellow for Faculty Resources; Fiona Goggin, Provost Fellow for Mentoring; and Becca Muenich, Provost Fellow for Honorific Awards. Their expertise and commitment help strengthen faculty support, recognition, mentoring, and professional growth across the university.

In collaboration with the Division of Research and Innovation, colleges and schools, Human Resources, and the Teaching and Faculty Support Center, we will continue to nurture an environment that fosters growth, creativity, and transformative learning experiences for our students.

Once again, welcome back to the fold. Wishing you an enriching, productive, and fulfilling semester ahead!

Warm regards,

Anna Zajicek, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs



Teaching Camp Recap

The Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center (TFSC) organized its annual Teaching Camp for 2026, held August 3rd and 4th at the Jones Center in Springdale, Arkansas. More than 160 faculty members and staff attended the event! The camp's theme was high-impact practices (HIPs) and their role in enhancing student learning, engagement, and success.

The camp featured a pair of keynote presentations by Jillian Kinzie from Indiana University Bloomington, a nationally recognized expert on high-impact educational practices. Dr. Kinzie's sessions explored strategies for improving student learning outcomes, expanding access to quality learning experiences, and advancing career-connected HIPs that strengthen post-graduation success and demonstrate the value of higher education.

Complimenting Dr. Kinzie's keynotes, over the two days faculty and staff from the University of Arkansas presented a diverse range of interactive workshops on HIPs. Sessions included experiential learning, mentorship, study abroad, service learning, capstone experiences, internships, ePortfolios, and student well-being initiatives, among others. Presenters shared practical strategies for creating engaging and career-relevant learning experiences that support student achievement both inside and outside the classroom.

Participants also had opportunities to explore campus resources during a resource fair, consult with support staff from Teaching Innovation and Pedagogical Support (TIPS), and engage with colleagues from across disciplines to exchange collaborative ideas and share best practices.

The camp was a great success! Thanks to the outgoing TFSC Co-Director Hope Ballentine and TFSC Program Coordinator Lori Libbert for their work in organizing and managing the conference. Teaching Camp 2026 helped educators at the University of Arkansas identify ways to incorporate high-impact practices that promote student success, persistence, and career readiness.

National PostDoctoral Appreciation Week



National Postdoc Appreciation Week is September 21-25, 2026. In collaboration with the Postdoc Employee and Colleague Resource Group (PECRG), the Office for Faculty Affairs is hosting 2 events.

Celebration Lunch - Monday, September 21st from 1:00-2:30 pm in the Multicultural Center Classroom.

Meet & Greet - Wednesday September 23rd from 2:00-4:00 pm in Mullins Library Room 453.

Please encourage them to stop by!

2027 Ferritor Award

Application is Now Open

The Office of the Provost and the U of A Teaching Academy are pleased to issue the call for proposals for the 2026 Daniel E. Ferritor Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching. The award is named in honor of Daniel E. Ferritor, who served as chancellor of the U of A from 1986 to 1997 and as interim chancellor in 2015. He also founded the Teaching Academy in 1988. The Award is sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor.

The annual award honors the academic unit that best exemplifies a sustained, department-wide commitment to teaching excellence for all students. The winning department receives \$10,000 and a trophy, and has the unit's name placed on a traveling university plaque housed in that department for one year.

Applications will be submitted in two phases.

The first phase should include five-page responses to criteria 1 and 2 and supporting documentation. The deadline for this submission is October 31, 2026. Applications can be uploaded using the online [form](#). Please upload materials in one pdf document.

The second phase should include five-page responses to criteria 3 and 4, supporting documentation, and a one-page executive summary. The deadline for this submission is January 30, 2027. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Recent winners of the Ferritor Departmental Award are the School of Human Environmental Science (2023), Department of Curriculum and Instruction (2024), School of Journalism & Strategic Media (2025), and Civil Engineering (2026).

SEC ALDP 2026-2027 FELLOWS



Four U of A faculty members have been named fellows of the 2026 Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program (SEC ALDP). The fellows are:

- Matthew Clay, associate dean for academic affairs and professor of mathematical sciences in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences;
- Carrie M. McDermott, executive director and George M. and Boyce W. Billingsley Endowed Chair in Nursing in the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing;
- Carl A. Smith, associate dean for faculty development and professor of landscape architecture in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design; and
- Daniel Villanova, associate professor, Tyson Chair in Food and Consumer Products Retailing, and doctoral program director in the Department of Marketing in the Sam M. Walton College of Business.

"The SEC Academic Leadership Development Program gives outstanding faculty members the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills, learn from colleagues across the conference and bring new ideas back to our campus," said Provost Indrajeet Chaubey. "Matt, Carrie, Carl and Daniel are accomplished scholars and leaders, and I'm excited to see how their participation in the program shapes their continued contributions to the U of A."

The SEC ALDP identifies academic leaders and provides opportunities to advance their leadership skills and roles within their universities and the SEC. The program includes a university-level development program housed within the Office for Faculty Affairs and designed by each institution for its fellows; two SEC-wide workshops for all program participants; and a competitive alumni fellowship that provides former fellows with additional development opportunities.

Please nominate a 2026/2027 Outstanding Faculty 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](#).



We want to congratulate and acknowledge the recently appointed Department Heads and Chairs, including acting chairs. We wish you much success in your new role!

Top row (left to right): **Craig Bacon** - FDSC, **Norm Hord** - HES, **Paolo Mantero** (Interim) - MASC, & **Susan Marren** (Interim) - ENGL.

Middle row (left to right) - **Ryan Neville-Shepard** (Interim) - COMM, **Brendon McDermott** - HHPR, **Bob Beitle** - CHEG, & **Ethel Goodstein** (Interim) - IARD

Bottom row (left to right): **Ariane Breton** - MULL, **Mary Gilberston** - MULL, **Jennifer Day** - MULL, & **Cory Cassell** - ACCT

Librarian Liaisons and Lattes

Join us for a relaxed, drop-in event for faculty to connect with your liaison librarian and explore how we can support your teaching, research, and resource needs. We'll also be showcasing the library's newly renovated spaces—come see what's

new and how these updates can support your work and enhance the student experience. Liaison librarians are collaborative partners in helping you and your students succeed. Whether you're curious about library resources, interested in collaborating on a class, or just want to say hello, we'd love to see you!

Light refreshments will be provided!

On Thursday October 1, 2026 drop in from 2:30-4:30 pm in MULN 217. Click [here](#) to RSVP.



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."

Other resources and upcoming webinars and events can be found on the [NCFDD site here](#).

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.

See their summer workshop schedule below!

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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Faculty Affairs, University of Arkansas
ADMN 421
1125 West Maple Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701
[Email](#)
[Website](#)

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