

2025

Annual Report

Advancing and protecting the business climate in Arkansas



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In Arkansas, we invested **more than \$1.2 billion** **in our network infrastructure** from 2020-2024 to connect more people to greater possibility.

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A Message from the President and CEO



As we look back on 2025, the State Chamber/AIA is proud to share a year defined by meaningful progress, renewed momentum, and major steps forward for Arkansas's business climate. This year brought some of the most significant economic and workforce development reforms in decades, and your partnership made those achievements possible.

In the 95th General Assembly, lawmakers advanced a wide range of pro-growth policies that will strengthen Arkansas for years to come. The State Chamber/AIA helped secure passage of major energy and infrastructure policies, including the referral of a new local economic development tool to the 2026 statewide ballot. We successfully supported the first tort reform measure in years and defeated a package of workers' compensation proposals that would have increased employer costs. From streamlining incentives to enhancing career and technical education opportunities, legislators took major steps to strengthen the state's skilled workforce pipeline and improve Arkansas's long-term economic outlook.

Beyond the Capitol, we strengthened Arkansas's workforce pipeline through key talent-development initiatives. We graduated another Leadership Arkansas class—bringing alumni to more than 1,000—launched our Frontline Leader Development Series with two successful cohorts, and participated in the National Civics Bee for the second year. We also hosted a record number of attendees at the 65th Annual Washington Fly-In and cohosted the first-ever Arkansas Manufacturing Showcase, a two-day event that attracted 450 participants and 85 exhibitors.

This year brought some of the most significant economic and workforce development reforms in decades, and your partnership made those achievements possible.

We expanded our statewide outreach and communications to keep members informed and connected. From redesigned publications and updated resources to increased digital engagement, we remain committed to delivering timely, practical information for employers. This year, we presented the Arkansas Ahead Tour to 23 communities statewide, garnered support from 165 sponsors across events, programs, and publications, and welcomed 90 new members, including 23 new Pinnacle Members.

We are proud of the progress made in 2025—but we know the work continues. With your support, the State Chamber/AIA will keep advocating for a competitive business environment, a strong workforce, and policies that allow Arkansas to grow, innovate, and lead.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to a stronger Arkansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Zook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" being more prominent than the last name "Zook".

Randy Zook
President & CEO
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and
Associated Industries of Arkansas

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At Summit Utilities, we're committed to more than delivering energy—we're dedicated to the safety, comfort, and strength of our communities.

From delivering the reliable energy you depend on to supporting the places we call home, we're proud to serve Arkansas.

Because for us, service means more than energy—it's about showing up for our neighbors, year after year.

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2025 Leadership

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - STATE CHAMBER



Laura Landreaux
Entergy Arkansas
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Gary Head
Signature Bank of Arkansas
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN



Ronald Dedman
AT&T Arkansas (retired)
PAST CHAIRMAN



Curtis Barnett
Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield
VICE CHAIRMAN



John Burgess
Mainstream Technologies, Inc.
VICE CHAIRMAN



Raymond Burns
Rogers Lowell Chamber
VICE CHAIRMAN



Joe Carter
EverBranch Capital Group
VICE CHAIRMAN



Eddie Lee Herndon
OG+E
VICE CHAIRMAN



Michael Lindsey
Walmart
VICE CHAIRMAN



Mark McHale
Ritter Communications
VICE CHAIRMAN



Andy Miller
Flywheel Energy
VICE CHAIRMAN



Nelson Peacock
Northwest Arkansas Council
VICE CHAIRMAN



Len Pitcock
Cox Communications
VICE CHAIRMAN



Larry Shackelford
Washington Regional Medical Center
VICE CHAIRMAN



Reggie Rose
Simmons Bank
TREASURER

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF ARKANSAS



Brad Hegeman
Nabholz Corporation
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Chris Hart
Central Moloney
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN



Grady Harvell
W&WJAFCO Steel LLC
PAST CHAIRMAN



Michael Callan
Stephens Production Company
VICE CHAIRMAN



Steve Card
Albemarle
VICE CHAIRMAN



Thomas Dickinson
McGeorge Contracting Company, Inc.
VICE CHAIRMAN



Ray Dillon
Deltic Timber (retired)
VICE CHAIRMAN



Stanley Hill
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
VICE CHAIRMAN



Dean Hoover
Koontz Electric Company Inc.
VICE CHAIRMAN



Kevin McGilton
Riceland Foods, Inc.
VICE CHAIRMAN



Kristi Prince
Maxwell Hardwood, Inc.
VICE CHAIRMAN



Lenore Trammell
U.S. Steel/Big River Steel
VICE CHAIRMAN



Jeffrey Wood
Tyson Foods, Inc.
VICE CHAIRMAN



Reggie Rose
Simmons Bank
TREASURER

2025 STATE CHAMBER BOARD

Blair Allen
Beechwood Pinnacle
Hotels, LLC

Tim Allen
Fort Smith Regional
Chamber of Commerce

Elizabeth Anderson
Farmers Bank & Trust

David Avery
Windstream

Curtis Barnett
Arkansas Blue Cross
Blue Shield

Mark Beach
CDI Contractors LLC

Mark Biggers
E.C. Barton & Company

Jessica Breaux
Amazon

Daryl Brown
MISO

Darlene Brugnoli
Verizon Wireless

John Burgess
Mainstream Technologies,
Inc.

Raymond Burns
Rogers Lowell Chamber

Jim Carr
Highland Home Holdings

Bret Carroll
Conway Corporation

Josh Carson
Rausch Coleman Homes

Davy Carter
Centennial Bank

Joe Carter
EverBranch Capital Group

Jay Chesshir
Little Rock Regional
Chamber

Marvin Childers
The Poultry Federation

R. Andrew Clyde
Murphy USA Inc.

Mel Coleman
North Arkansas Electric
Cooperative

Steven Collier
ARcare

Matt Crafton
Crafton Tull

Brad Crain
Arvest Bank

Melissa Curry
Methodist Village Senior
Living

Houston Davis
University of Central
Arkansas

Bryan Day
Little Rock Port Authority

Ronald Dedman
AT&T Arkansas (retired)

Steve Edwards
Edwards Food Giant

Martin Eggensperger
Black River Technical
College

Ron Ekstrand
Easterseals Arkansas

Marc Eyre
Black Hills Energy

Buddy Hasten
Arkansas Electric
Cooperatives, Inc.

Adam Head
CARTI

Gary Head
Signature Bank of Arkansas

Daniel Heard
Uniti Group Inc.

Eddie Lee Herndon
OG+E

Jerry Holder
Garver

Osi Imomoh
Southland Casino Hotel

Todd Jacobs
Summit Utilities

Crystal Johnson
Batesville Area Chamber of
Commerce

Kurt Knickrehm
McGriff Insurance

George Knollmeyer
Ben E. Keith Company

Benny Koontz
Koontz Electric
Company Inc.

Brad Lacy
Conway Area Chamber of
Commerce

Lisa Lake
AT&T Arkansas

Laura Landreaux
Entergy Arkansas

Michael Lindsey
Walmart

Richard Macy
USABLE Life

Randy Massanelli
University of Arkansas

Mark McHale
Ritter Communications

Kevin McKenzie
Farm Bureau Mutual
Insurance Company of
Arkansas, Inc.

Kristin Merlo
Delta Dental of
Arkansas, Inc.

Andy Miller
Flywheel Energy

Michael Moore
Friday Eldredge & Clark LLP

Charles Morgan
First Orion Corp.

Alan Morse
Ritter Communications

Eric Nelson
Nelson Intelligence
Solutions, LLC

Gary Newton
Arkansas Learns

Michael Parker
Wright Lindsey Jennings LLP

Cam Patterson
UAMS

Nelson Peacock
Northwest Arkansas Council

Len Pitcock
Cox Communications

Matt Reddin
Simmons Bank

Vu Ritchie
Stephens Inc.

Reggie Rose
Simmons Bank

Mike Ross
Southwest Power Pool

Reynie Rutledge
First Security Bank

Carlton Saffa
Saracen Casino Resort

David Sanders
Winrock International

John Schaffitzel
Highland Industrial Park

Larry Shackelford
Washington Regional
Medical Center

Sam Sicard
First National Bank of Fort
Smith

Wayne Smith
Oaklawn Racing Casino
Resort

Greg Thompson
MEMS - Metropolitan
Emergency Medical
Services

Lorrie Trogden
Arkansas Bankers
Association

Gary Troutman
Greater Hot Springs
Chamber of Commerce

Jamie Vernon
Waste Management of
Arkansas

Sam Walls
Arkansas Capital
Corporation

Drew Weber
US Pizza Co. Inc.

Troy Wells
Baptist Health

Sherece West
The Winthrop Rockefeller
Foundation

Gordon Wilbourn
Kutak Rock LLP

Andy Williams
FORVIS

Larry Wilson
First Arkansas Bank & Trust

Jarrod Yates
Arkansas Farm Bureau
Federation

Mark Young
Jonesboro Regional
Chamber of Commerce

2025 ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF ARKANSAS BOARD

James Adams
Gar-Bro Manufacturing
Company

Richard Anderson
Arkansas Steel
Associates

Jennifer Anglin
Pernod Ricard-USA

Steven Anthony
Anthony Timberlands, Inc.

Adam Bailey
Lockheed Martin Missiles
& Fire Control

Scotty Bell
Virco Manufacturing
Corporation

Michael Callan
Stephens Production
Company

Steve Card
Albemarle

Chris Chandler
Chandler Equipment

Tom Cullins
Cooper Tire & Rubber
Company

Mark Day
Lanxess Corporation

Haskell Dickinson
McGeorge Contracting
Co., Inc.

Thomas Dickinson
McGeorge Contracting
Co., Inc.

Ray Dillon
Deltic Timber (retired)

Mark Donovan
S&H Systems

Chester Fort
West Fraser, Inc.

Bobby Freeman
Bridgestone Americas Tube
Business

Robert George
George's Inc.

Clay Gordon
Kinco Constructors, LLC

Jason Green
ABB

Chris Harris
Tokai Carbon GE LLC

Chris Hart
Central Moloney

Grady Harvell
W&W | AFCO Steel LLC

Brad Harville
Green Bay Packaging Inc.
Arkansas Kraft Division

Brad Hegeman
Nabholz Corporation

Chris Heitzman
Caterpillar Inc.

Stanley Hill
Arkansas Farm Bureau
Federation

Justin Holmes
Martin Sprocket & Gear Inc.

Dean Hoover
Koontz Electric Company Inc.

John Kelleher
Gerdau Special Steel

Kyle Landrum
FedMet Arkansas LLC

Robert Langston
Langston Companies Inc.

Brent Leopard
Arauco

Mike Lyles
Pactiv Evergreen

Gary McChesney
FutureFuel Chemical
Company

Theresa McGaha
Clearwater Paper
Corporation

Scott McGeorge
Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel
Company

Kevin McGilton
Riceland Foods Inc.

Zach Moon
Nucor-Yamato Steel
Company

Dustin Morphis
Bridgestone Americas Tube
Business

Ben Noble
Riceland Foods Inc.

Kristi Prince
Maxwell Hardwood, Inc.

Kimmie Provost
Simmons Foods, Inc.

Gina Radke
Galley Support Innovations

Michael Reed
Delek - El Dorado Refinery

Reggie Rose
Simmons Bank

Mike Simpson
TCPrint Solutions

Melissa Smith
McKee Foods Corporation

Howard Stevens
El Dorado Chemical
Company

Shannon Sullivan
American Greetings
Corporation

Van Tilbury
East Harding Construction

Lenore Trammell
U.S. Steel/Big River Steel

Ernie Walker
Rineco Chemical Industries

Bill Ward
American Kraft Paper
Industries LLC

Tammy Waters
Domtar Ashdown Mill

Jim Watson
Aerojet Rocketdyne
Corporation

Don Weaver
Weaver-Bailey Contractors, Inc.

Chris Weiser
J V Manufacturing Inc.

Wesley Welch
Dassault Falcon Jet

Adam White
Remington

Joe Wilson
ConAgra Brands

Jeffrey Wood
Tyson Foods, Inc.

Chris Yarberry
Gerdau Special Steel

OUR MISSION

To serve as the voice of business while seeking to continually enhance the state's economic climate by promoting a pro-business, free-enterprise agenda and preventing anti-business legislation, regulations, and rules.



Political Action Committees

2025 PAC STATS

\$155k +

We raised \$155,683.75 into our PACs (State Chamber PAC, AIA PAC, and Businesses for Justice PAC) to prepare for the election cycle.

BALANCES AS OF 12/31/2025

Year-end Balances

\$185,561.94
State Chamber PAC

\$87,352.11
AIA PAC

\$28,676.21
Businesses for Justice PAC

PARTNER WITH US

2025

We hope your company will partner with us in 2026. PAC donors at any amount are invited to meetings with candidates/elected officials when we present them with campaign donations and are listed on signage throughout the year.

As a reminder - the limit to PACs has been raised to \$10k per calendar year and your corporation CAN donate to a PAC but not directly to a candidate.

PAC FAQs

What Is State Chamber PAC?

Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee (State Chamber PAC) serves as a vehicle that allows the State Chamber/AIA to help communicate the business community's goal of economic prosperity in Arkansas to candidates and elected officials.

What is AIA PAC?

Associated Industries of Arkansas Political Action Committee (AIA PAC) serves as the vehicle to support candidates and elected officials who stand up for the needs of manufacturing businesses and industrial businesses.

What is Businesses for Justice PAC?

Businesses for Justice PAC supports judicial races in Arkansas, contributing to the development of a fair and just legal system in the state.

Who funds the PACs?

Per Arkansas law, any individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, company, corporation, or association may contribute to a state PAC. The donation limit is \$10,000 per calendar year.

What happens with the money raised?

1. It supports candidates and elected officials who share our vision to grow the economic prosperity of our state, whether by fighting for an issue that helps business, or against one that hurts our interests.
2. It helps members stay informed about various issues during election season by allowing them to meet candidates and learn more about their platforms.
3. State Chamber/AIA may call on its members to engage with their representatives regarding issues that impact business.

Will all of the money raised stay in Arkansas?

Yes. Our PACs are solely focused on making a difference in Arkansas and do not participate on a federal level. These PACs operate exclusively at the state level.

Do the PACs or the State Chamber/AIA have a particular party affiliation?

No. Neither the State Chamber/AIA nor its PACs have loyalty to any specific political party. The allocation of funds will depend solely on a candidate's position concerning matters important to the business community.

Who decides who will receive a donation?

We have a PAC committee of appointed State Chamber/AIA members that decides which candidates or elected officials will receive donations. Candidates must meet certain criteria to gain the support of our organization. The PAC committee is always open to membership feedback.

How can I make a donation?

1. Make a check payable to State Chamber PAC, AIA PAC, and/or Businesses for Justice PAC and mail to PO Box 3645, Little Rock, AR 72203.
2. Give a percentage of your dues to a PAC when you renew your membership each year.
3. Make a donation online to State Chamber PAC and/or to AIA PAC by scanning the QR codes below.



State Chamber PAC



AIA PAC

Governmental Affairs

95th General Assembly

The Arkansas General Assembly convened its 95th General Assembly on January 13, 2025, meeting for 94 days before recessing on April 16 and adjourning sine die on May 5, 2025. During the session, lawmakers filed 1,652 bills, with more than 1,000 ultimately becoming law.

Throughout the session, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce / Associated Industries of Arkansas worked alongside legislators and state leaders to advance policies that strengthen Arkansas's business climate, support workforce development, and position the state for long-term economic growth. Key priorities included modernizing tax policy, expanding economic development tools, investing in workforce training, and protecting employers from policies that would increase costs or create unnecessary regulatory burdens.



Legislators walk the halls of the Arkansas State Capitol on March 11,



Rep Tracy Steele returns to his seat from the well in the House Chamber on April 7, 2025



Sen. Pro Tempore Bart Hester and Sen. Steve Crowell chat in the Senate Chamber. Photo courtesy of the Arkansas Senate



2025. Photo by Will Newton, Arkansas House of Representatives



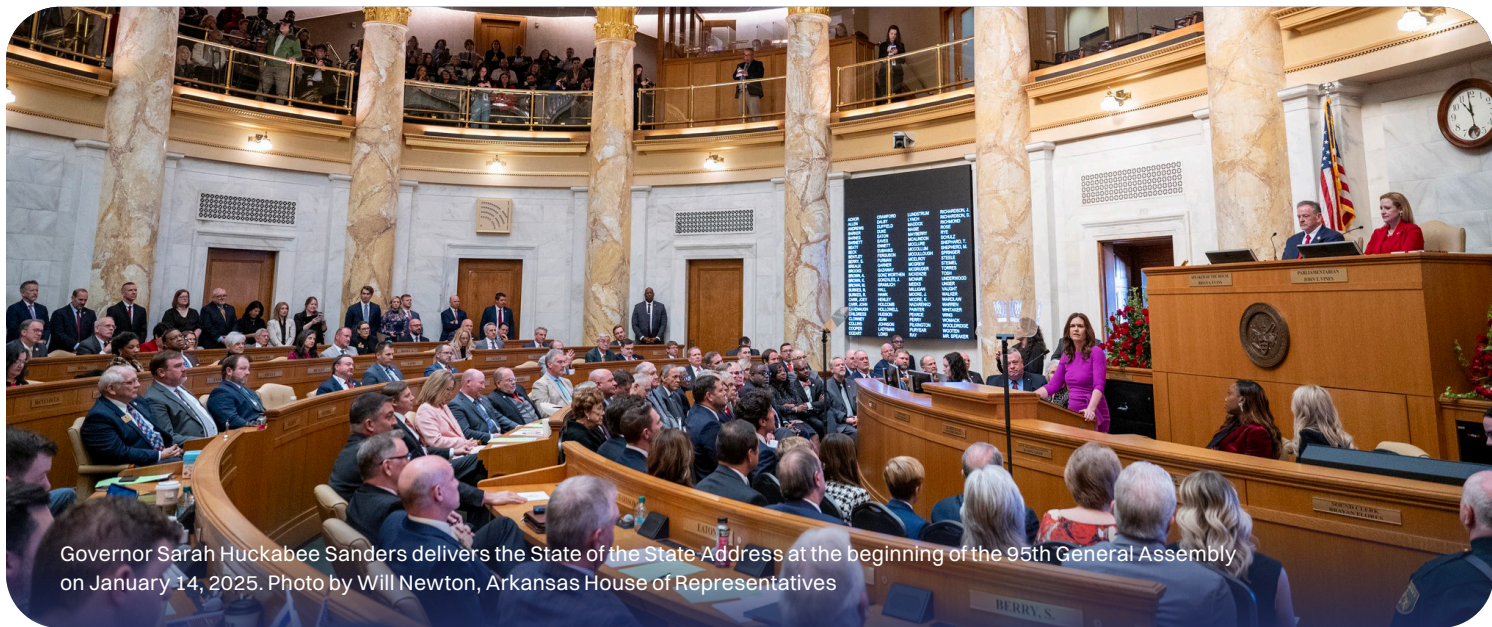
Sen. Dave Wallace prepares for the Senate Chamber Session to begin (Photo courtesy of the Arkansas Senate)



Sen. Jonathan Dismang prepares for business in the Senate Chamber. Photo courtesy of the Arkansas Senate



Rep. DeAnn Vaught chats with other members of the House of Representatives on February 10, 2025. Photo by Will Newton, Arkansas House of Representatives



Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders delivers the State of the State Address at the beginning of the 95th General Assembly on January 14, 2025. Photo by Will Newton, Arkansas House of Representatives

Pro-Business Legislative Victories

TORT REFORM

Medical Damages Recovery Reforms

Act 28 / HB 1204: This legislation reforms how damages are calculated in personal injury lawsuits by allowing juries to consider only the amounts actually paid for medical care rather than the higher amounts billed. The reform aligns Arkansas with 28 other states and helps reduce excessive litigation.

Economic Development Districts Ballot Referral

Issue 3 / SJR 15: Issue 3 is a constitutional amendment referral that will appear on the November 2026 ballot. If approved by voters, it will allow the creation of economic development districts with bonding and incentive authority, providing communities new tools to attract major projects.

Industrial Development Authorities Expansion Act

Act 576 / SB 361: This law expands the ability of communities to create industrial development authorities that can finance and support industrial development projects across the state.

Generating Jobs Act of 2025

Act 373 / SB 307: This legislation modernizes how electric utilities in Arkansas finance and build new generation and infrastructure, with the goal of ensuring the state has enough reliable electricity to support economic growth and attract new employers.

This is a major energy and economic-development law designed to help Arkansas build new power generation and infrastructure to support industrial growth and large energy users.

TAX LEGISLATION

The General Assembly approved several measures modernizing Arkansas's tax structure and supporting business investment, including reforms to multistate corporate income taxation through Act 719 / SB 567, the Multistate Income Apportionment Modernization, and targeted incentives designed to attract new industries and encourage capital investment, such as Act 881 / HB 1922, the Corporate Headquarters Relocation Incentive, and Act 1012 / SB 568, the Lithium Industry Incentive, which supports the development of Arkansas's emerging lithium industry.



Legislators meet on the House floor during the first week of the general session on January 15, 2025. Photo by Will Newton, Arkansas House of Representatives



Sens. Missy Irvin, Jimmy Hickey Jr., and Ricky Hill pose together. Photo courtesy of the Arkansas Senate



Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signs the Healthy Moms, Healthy Photo by Randall Lee, Office of Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders



Sen. English presides over the Senate Education Committee. Photo courtesy of the Arkansas Senate



Lawmakers prepare for committee on February 27, 2025. Photo by Will Newton, Arkansas House of Representatives



Babies Act on February 13, 2025.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATION

Skilled Workforce Unemployment Insurance Funding Reform

Act 740 / SB 560: This legislation redirects existing unemployment insurance resources to support workforce training programs while maintaining employer cost neutrality. The policy strengthens the Department of Workforce Services Training Trust Fund and supports Arkansas's talent pipeline.

State Apprenticeship Agency

Act 695 / SB 390: This legislation establishes the State Apprenticeship Agency to expand and coordinate apprenticeship programs across Arkansas.

Adult Diploma Program Amendment

Act 502 / HB 1571: This measure strengthens the Arkansas Adult Diploma Program to help more Arkansans complete high school credentials and enter the workforce.

Northwest Technical Institute Presidential Appointment Authorization

Act 10 / HB 1133: This law allows the Northwest Technical Institute to appoint a president with an industry background to strengthen connections between education and workforce needs.

Anti-Business Legislation Successfully Defeated

The State Chamber/AIA also worked to defeat several measures that would have significantly increased workers' compensation costs and litigation risks for Arkansas employers.

Proposals included increases to indemnity benefits, higher attorney fee caps, and expanded opportunities to change physicians within the workers' compensation system. These changes would have increased system costs and created additional litigation risk for Arkansas businesses. Through strong advocacy and coalition engagement, these measures were ultimately defeated.

Events & Outreach

State Chamber/AIA 97th Annual Meeting

The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas hosted its 97th Annual Meeting on November 19 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Presented by U. S. Steel, the event welcomed the largest audience in the organization's 97-year history, bringing together business leaders, policymakers, and community stakeholders from across the state.

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders opened the program, underscoring the importance of a strong business climate to Arkansas's continued growth. Attendees also heard featured remarks from David Burritt, President and CEO of U. S. Steel, who highlighted the role of people, workforce, and industry in making Arkansas a great place to do business.

The program also celebrated innovation and manufacturing excellence through the Coolest Thing Made in Arkansas competition, presented in partnership with Arkansas Business Publishing Group. Voters selected Huggies® Wipes, produced by Kimberly-Clark in Maumelle, as the 2025 winner.

With a proud tradition spanning nearly a century, the State Chamber/AIA Annual Meeting remains the premier gathering for Arkansas's business community.





Events & Outreach

2025 Annual Legislative Reception

The State Chamber/AIA hosted its Annual Legislative Reception on January 21, welcoming guests under the big tent at the State Chamber/AIA offices. The event once again served as a cornerstone of the organization's efforts to connect Arkansas's business community with state policymakers.

Held during the fiscal session of the 95th General Assembly, the reception brought together legislators, constitutional officers, and business leaders from across the state for an evening of conversation and collaboration.

Each year, the Annual Legislative Reception reinforces the State Chamber/AIA's mission to strengthen relationships between the private and public sectors—ensuring that business perspectives remain central to policy discussions that impact Arkansas's future.

Sponsors

TITLE SPONSOR

AGC Arkansas

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Cox Communications

PREMIER SPONSORS

Coca-Cola Consolidated
Energy
Tyson Foods
United States Steel Corporation

HOST SPONSORS

AT&T Arkansas
Arkansas Electric
Cooperatives, Inc.
Black Hills Energy
Central Moloney
Farm Credit of Arkansas
Flywheel Energy
Gerdau Special Steel
Nabholz Construction
Nucor Steel
Southwest Power Pool
The Stephens Group
Windstream





Events & Outreach

2025 National Civics Bee Arkansas

The Arkansas State Chamber/AIA proudly hosted the 2025 National Civics Bee® Arkansas State Finals on May 14 at the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, marking the second year we have brought this competition to Arkansas to encourage civic engagement among young Arkansans.

Twelve middle school students from across the state took the stage to demonstrate their civics knowledge and present innovative solutions to community challenges. After an impressive competition, **seventh-grader Maddie Stokes of Lincoln Junior High School in Bentonville** earned first place, a \$1,000 cash prize, and the opportunity to represent Arkansas at the National Civics Bee® in Washington, D.C., in November.

Judges included Brigadier General Chad Bridges, Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard; State Senator Jamie Scott; Gretchen Conger, Chief of Staff for the Office of Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders; Jacob Garrett of AT&T Arkansas; and Ebony Mitchell of the Arkansas Advanced Energy Association. Roby Brock, host of *Talk Business & Politics* and CEO of Natural State Media, served as emcee.

The State Chamber/AIA thanks Walmart, AT&T, Civic Arkansas (a Winthrop Rockefeller Institute program), Cox, Entergy Arkansas, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and Economics Arkansas for sponsoring this year's event, along with the families, educators, local chambers, and community leaders who supported the twelve finalists.





Events & Outreach

Arkansas Ahead Tour

The Arkansas State Chamber/AIA kicked off the 2025 Arkansas Ahead Tour, visiting over a dozen communities to share insights on the issues shaping Arkansas's business climate and economic future. Building on the success of last year's Progress & Outlook Tour, the series connected business and community leaders with critical information and resources to help their organizations thrive.

The tour highlighted topics including workforce development, tax competitiveness, infrastructure priorities, and other key challenges facing Arkansas employers. In addition to presenting research and statewide data, the Chamber engaged attendees in discussions to gather input and ensure its advocacy efforts address the issues that matter most to Arkansas businesses.

Sponsored statewide by Arkansas Learns, with strong support from regional partners, the free events brought together State Chamber/AIA members, local chamber members, and business leaders in each community, fostering collaboration and dialogue to help move Arkansas forward.





Events & Outreach

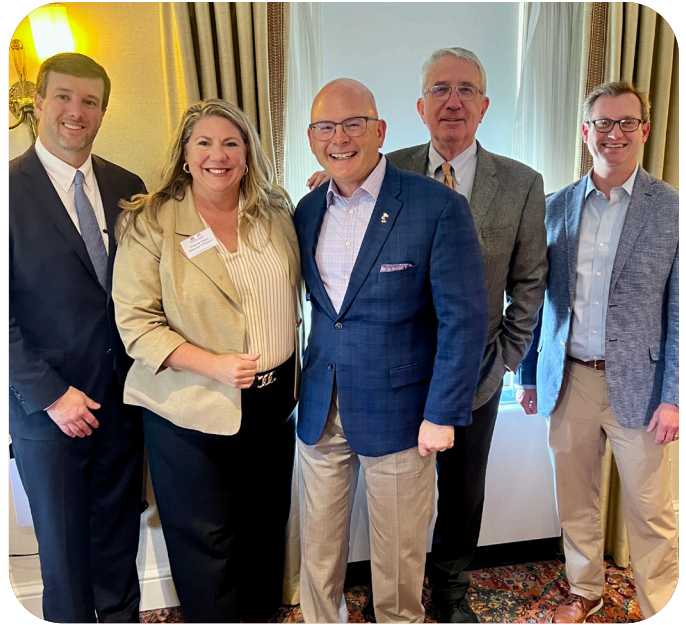
65th Annual Washington Fly-In

The State Chamber/AIA hosted its 65th Annual Washington Fly-In and Congressional Reception, presented by U. S. Steel, on April 29 - May 1 in Washington, D.C. Now in its 65th year, this signature event continues to strengthen relationships between Arkansas business leaders and federal policymakers.

Participants spent three days in the nation's capital engaging directly with Arkansas's congressional delegation, U.S. Chamber of Commerce executives, and national policy experts. The agenda featured policy briefings, working meals with members of Congress, and exclusive networking opportunities designed to foster discussion around issues most critical to Arkansas employers.

The event kicked off with the Arkansas Delegation Leadership Reception—honoring chiefs of staff, legislative directors, and schedulers—and a private night tour of the U.S. Capitol hosted by Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR-4). Other highlights included a working breakfast with Congressmen Rick Crawford (AR-1), French Hill (AR-2), Steve Womack (AR-3), and Westerman; policy briefings led by U.S. Chamber of Commerce executives; and a working lunch with Senators John Boozman and Tom Cotton. Attendees also participated in a panel discussion on tariffs and trade and enjoyed the Congressional Delegation Reception, which offered a relaxed setting to connect with members of Arkansas's congressional delegation.

The Fly-In concluded with the Arkansas Leadership Breakfast, featuring special guest Jonathan Martin, Politics Bureau Chief at POLITICO. Each year, the Washington Fly-In underscores the State Chamber/AIA's role as the leading voice for Arkansas's business community in Washington, D.C.—ensuring our state's priorities are heard, understood, and represented at the federal level.





Events & Outreach

Business Lobbyist Luncheons

Each legislative session, the State Chamber/AIA hosts a weekly Business Lobbyist Luncheon Series, giving business advocates from across Arkansas the opportunity to hear directly from key decision-makers and engage in meaningful dialogue with state policymakers. This year's speakers included top legislative leaders, agency heads, and executive branch officials who shared updates and insights on the session's most pressing issues.



“The tools and frameworks presented in this course are going straight into my desk for future use!”

“I appreciated having a plan and toolbox to consult when facing difficult situations—I don’t have to start from scratch.”

“This program provided great information for leadership and is something I will be able to take into my role immediately.”

Frontline Leader Development Series

In 2025, the State Chamber/AIA launched the Frontline Leader Development Series to meet a clear need from Arkansas employers: new supervisors often excel technically but lack leadership training. The program equips emerging leaders with practical skills in communication, emotional intelligence, conflict management, and team leadership.

We hosted two cohorts in its inaugural year, each limited to 25 participants to encourage collaboration and peer learning. Through a partnership with Black River Technical College, we offered full-tuition scholarships to participants in healthcare, manufacturing, and information technology.

By investing in frontline leaders, the Chamber is helping Arkansas businesses develop stronger teams and build the next generation of leadership.

Communications & Outreach

Effective communication continues to be central to the State Chamber/AIA's mission to inform, engage, and empower Arkansas's business community. In 2025, the State Chamber/AIA continued to inform and engage members through clear, consistent communication across digital platforms, publications, and advocacy tools.

Our website — arkansasstatechamber.com — remained a key hub for news, event details, legislative updates, marketing resources, and publications. It was updated continuously to ensure members had real-time access to the information they need.

Member Newsletters

We delivered timely updates to members through targeted e-newsletters, including:

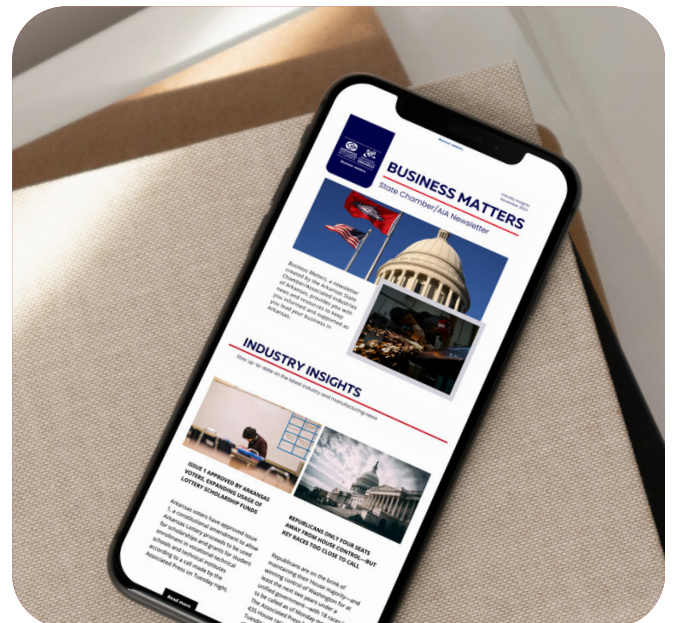
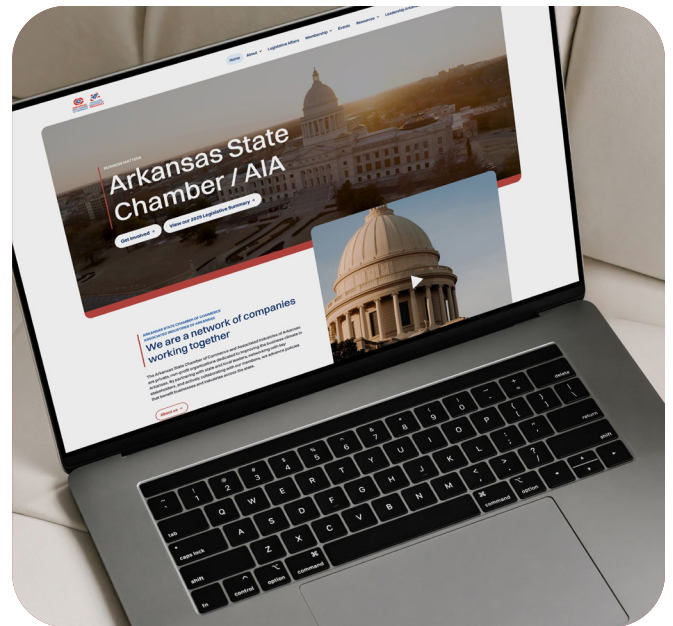
- Business Beat - Event announcements and opportunities for businesses and communities
- State Chamber/AIA Resources - Monthly organizational news, updates, and event details
- Industry Insights - Monthly roundup of key business and industry headlines
- Daily Legislative Update - Real-time legislative news during regular, fiscal, and special sessions

Publications

Among the most widely circulated resources we published in 2025 were:

- **Competitiveness Redbook** - Published in 2025, this annual report offered more than 50 data points comparing Arkansas to other states, helping guide economic and policy decisions.
- **Legislative Summary** - Released after the 2025 legislative session, detailing pro-business victories, legislative actions, key votes, and award recipients.
- **2025 Legislative Agenda** - Published at the start of the year to outline policy priorities focused on workforce development, tax competitiveness, infrastructure, and business growth.

Through these platforms, the State Chamber/AIA ensured members stayed informed, connected, and equipped to advocate for Arkansas business.



Advisory Committees

Advisory Committees Play Major Role in State Chamber/ AIA Success

Committees play a major role in the success of the State Chamber/AIA. Consisting of business leaders and subject matter experts from member companies across the state, issue committees meet as needed throughout the year to help identify and develop key issues that are critical to the future of Arkansas.

The committees provide the State Chamber/AIA governmental affairs team guidance in understanding complex topics that often require a great deal of specific expertise. This equips our lobbyists with insights and knowledge about an issue's potential impact on our member companies and our state.

The State Chamber/AIA Committees and their leaders include:

The State Chamber/AIA invites our members to become involved by having any relevant employee serve on one or more committees.

If you are interested, please contact Kenny Hall at khall@arkansasstatechamber.com.

Workforce Excellence

Chairman: Ken Calhoun, Altec

Recognizing that the workforce of tomorrow is in the schools of today, the Workforce Excellence Committee proactively advocates the interests of business and industry as the State Chamber/AIA strives to improve education in Arkansas. The committee examines issues in K-12 education, higher education, and workforce development. This committee identifies projects and tracks their successful implementation, as well as identifying and recommending policy changes and positions that will make Arkansas school systems more successful.

Governmental Affairs

Co-Chairs: Angela DeLille, Cox Communications; Tom Kennedy, Entergy Arkansas, Inc.

The Governmental Affairs Committee is comprised of governmental affairs representatives who work for our member companies, business associations and business-related lobbying organizations. A large group of business lobbyists meet weekly during legislative sessions to hear from legislative leaders, monitor pending legislation and discuss other issues of importance to the business community with the goal of developing a consistent lobbying strategy on business issues. This group also participates in Candidate Forums that review candidates for open seats. The Committee contributes to the development of the State Chamber/AIA's Legislative Agenda and provides support to the State Chamber/AIA lobbying team on a variety of issues.

Health Care

Chairman: Kurt Knickrehm, McGriff Insurance

The Health Care Committee provides guidance in the development of healthcare-related issues. Many times, the committee has played the role of facilitating a consensus between employers and health-care providers as the State Chamber/AIA endeavors to maintain and improve quality health care and find practical means of providing benefits and containing costs.

National Affairs

Co-Chairs: Connie Vaughan, McKee Foods Corporation; Kevin McGilton, Riceland Foods Inc.

The National Issues Committee helps identify issues that the State Chamber/AIA should address at the federal level. Given the myriad of national issues, this is an ambitious task. But we also rely on strong partnerships with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of State Chambers, Council on State Taxation, The Tax Foundation, and the Arkansas Congressional Delegation. The committee's priority issues are health care, the farm bill, education and workforce development, unions, climate change, energy policy, economic stimulus, taxes, and immigration.

Tax

Chairman: Marvin Childers, The Poultry Federation
Co-Chair: Tammy Waters, Domtar

The Tax Committee works to ensure a favorable business climate in Arkansas through analyzing tax issues, recommending positions and testifying at legislative and regulatory hearings on tax matters. It also accomplishes this goal through educating, coordinating, and working actively with taxing entities to ensure the fair and equitable administration of taxes. The Committee meets often during legislative sessions to review bills and develop positions and recommendations to make the Arkansas tax climate more competitive. In the off-season, it meets to address regulatory issues and tax policy.

Unemployment Insurance/HR

Chairman: Michael S. Moore, Friday Eldredge & Clark LLP
Co-Chair: Chris Hart, Central Moloney

The Unemployment Insurance/HR Committee helps the State Chamber/AIA lead the business community on important cost of doing business issues. It plays a vital role in identifying and reviewing issues that impact employers' unemployment insurance costs and other human resource issues. Broad business representation on this committee enhances our understanding of how issues impact all segments of business, which helps the State Chamber/AIA governmental affairs team.

Workers' Compensation

Chairman: Guy Wade, Friday Eldredge & Clark, LLP.

The State Chamber/AIA serves as employers' watch dog on workers' compensation issues. The Committee keeps a close eye on the state's workers' compensation laws, rules and regulations, and related Court of Appeals decisions. It also develops legislation as needed to keep Arkansas workers' compensation costs in the top five lowest in the country. The Committee's evaluation of issues is greatly enhanced when there is a broad range of business types active in this committee.

PAC

Co-Chairmen: Ray Dillon, Deltic Timber Corp. (retired) and past State Chamber and AIA chairman; Andy Miller, Flywheel Energy

The State Chamber/AIA PAC Committee manages three Political Action Committees and an Independent Expenditures Committee, as defined by Arkansas Rules of Ethics. PAC Committee members are selected by our leadership and meet as needed to review election races, generate revenue, and determine which candidates to support and the amount of support. Our PACs provide an opportunity to communicate the goals of employers to those individuals running for selected political offices in Arkansas. The Arkansas State Chamber PAC and the AIA PAC focus on state legislative races and, if needed, Arkansas Supreme Court races. Our Businesses for Justice PAC is available for Court of Appeals races, other judicial races, and potential ballot issues. The Independent Expenditures Committee is available to help selected candidates, independent of the candidates' campaign. Per Arkansas law, any individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, company, corporation, or association may contribute to a state PAC. The limit is \$5,000 per year per entity per PAC. There are no limitations on contributions to our Independent Expenditures Committee.

Manufacturing & Workforce Development

Inaugural Arkansas Manufacturing Showcase

In October 2025, the State Chamber/AIA cohosted the inaugural Arkansas Manufacturing Showcase, a first-of-its-kind, two-day event designed to strengthen and elevate Arkansas's manufacturing sector. Held at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, the Showcase brought together 450 participants and 85 exhibitors, including manufacturers, suppliers, educators, and industry leaders from across the state.

Developed in partnership with Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions, the event focused on practical strategies and emerging technologies shaping the future of manufacturing. Programming addressed critical topics such as workforce development, supply chain resilience, automation, additive manufacturing, IoT, and artificial intelligence—providing attendees with actionable insights they could apply directly within their operations.

The Showcase featured keynote speakers, interactive sessions, and peer-to-peer engagement opportunities that emphasized real-world solutions and collaboration. By convening manufacturers of all sizes alongside policymakers and workforce partners, the event created new connections and reinforced manufacturing's role as a cornerstone of Arkansas's economy.

The success of the inaugural Arkansas Manufacturing Showcase reflects the State Chamber/AIA's continued commitment to supporting innovation, workforce readiness, and long-term competitiveness for Arkansas manufacturers—and sets the stage for future growth of this premier industry event.





Manufacturing & Workforce Development

Be Pro Be Proud Is Scaling Impact

Since launching in 2016 with a single mobile workshop, Be Pro Be Proud has grown into a multi-state movement, changing how students think about careers in technical professions.

What started in Arkansas now reaches students across the country, with two mobile workshops operating in-state and additional tours in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, New Mexico, Alabama, and Texas.

Through interactive VR experiences, students explore high-demand careers in construction, manufacturing, transportation, and utilities, often for the first time.

More than 98,393 students have “Joined the Movement,” opting in to learn more about skilled technical professions and available training pathways. Demand continues to climb, with a growing waitlist of schools and communities eager to participate.

BE PRO BE PROUD

BEPROBEPROUD.ORG



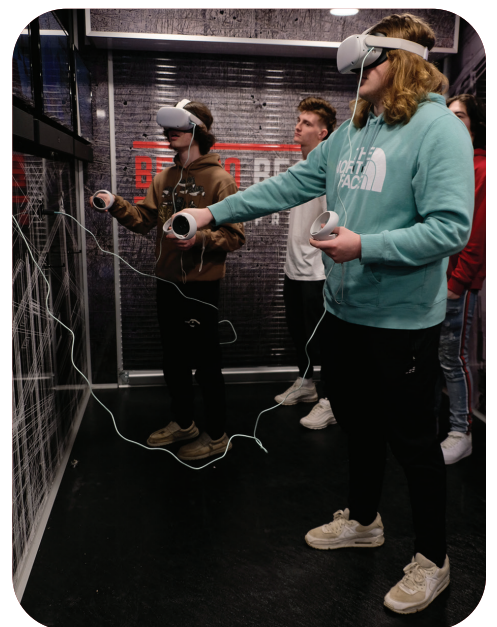
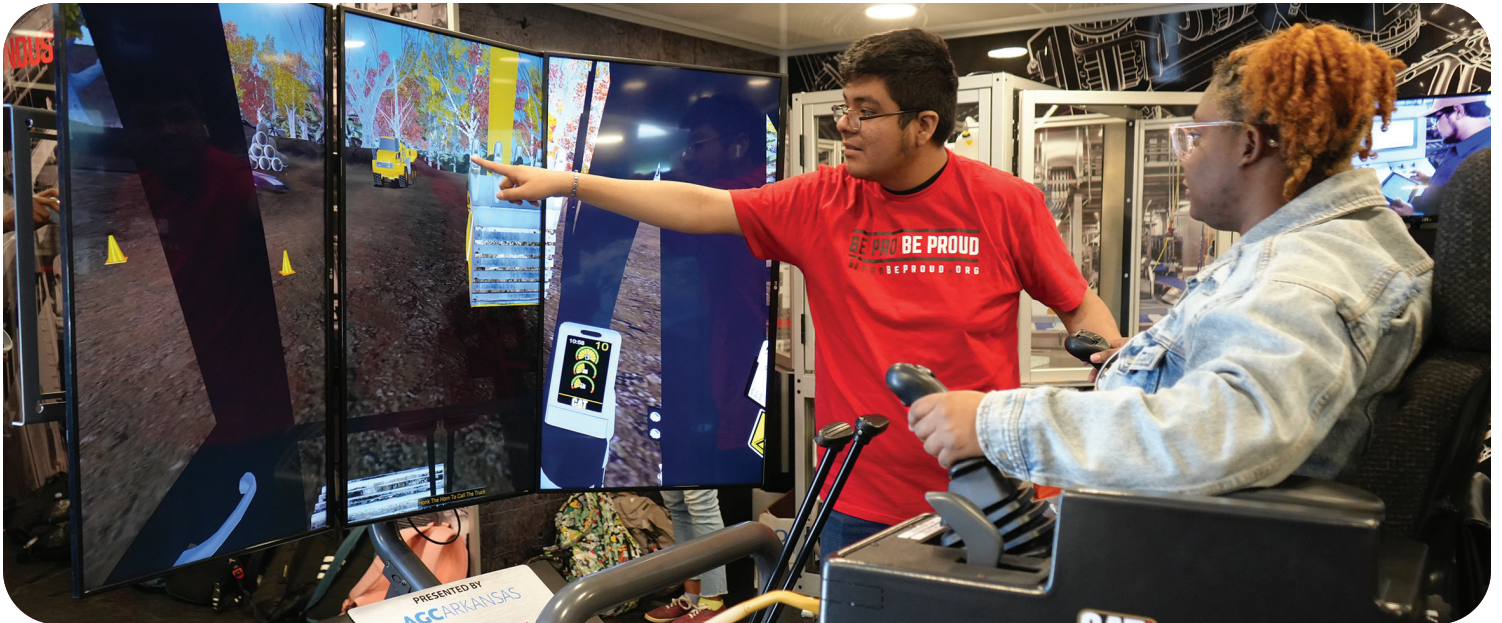
422,573
Visitors



2,717
Tour Stops



1389
Cities Visited



Manufacturing & Workforce Development

Draft Day 2025: Connecting Talent to Opportunity

Across nine regions of Arkansas, Be Pro Be Proud Draft Day events are turning career interest into real opportunity.

High school seniors are matched directly with employers based on their skills and career goals, then prepared to succeed through resume workshops, interview training, and mock interviews in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education and local educators.

More than 1,160 seniors entered the process ready to compete for jobs in transportation, utilities, manufacturing, construction, and healthcare. 82% of the seniors who interviewed were invited to a second interview or offered a job. Draft Day also reached more than 5,800 students through Career Expos, building early awareness and strengthening the future workforce pipeline.



Draft Day 2024 Results from all Eight Events*

176 Participating Schools	244 Participating Organizations	4,644 Career Expo Attendees
1,161 Interviewed Seniors	82% Advanced to Next Step or Job Offer**	

*Northeast Arkansas, Northwest Arkansas, North Central Arkansas, River Valley East, Southeast Arkansas, Arkansas Grand Prairie, Arkansas River Valley, Central Arkansas, and Golden Triangle

** This reflects the number of seniors who interviewed and received a job offer or have been invited to continue in the hiring process



Leadership Arkansas

Become a Part of Arkansas's Future Network of Business Leaders

WHO WE ARE

Leadership Arkansas is a unique program designed to take a comprehensive view of the economic and political challenges that face this state. First introduced in 2005 by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas, Leadership Arkansas allows individuals to experience first-hand the dynamic interactions between cities, industries, governmental units and the people they serve. Leadership Arkansas is grounded in the belief that real progress is achieved by bringing diverse interests and backgrounds together. Through shared experiences and frequent interactions, Leadership Arkansas participants, facilitators and alumni learn and grow as they advance through an innovative nine-month program designed to expose class members to the challenges and opportunities of our local communities and their impact on the state.

WHAT WE OFFER

Leadership Arkansas has helped more than 950 graduates deepen their background and understanding of issues facing the state and provided them with effective tools to develop initiatives to improve the quality of life in Arkansas. We have also helped create a statewide community to generate dialogue on those issues, setting the stage for progress throughout the state. Participants have been developing, strengthening and connecting with emerging leaders in Arkansas for several years. Many of our program graduates become well established political, business and community leaders.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The mission of Leadership Arkansas is to build a strong, diverse, statewide network of leaders with a shared commitment to connect our communities and to make Arkansas a better place in which to live and prosper.

Leadership Arkansas sessions include:

- Annual educational, issues-oriented, nine-month class program held in various communities throughout the state.
- Arkansas leaders who represent a wide geographic base and who have diverse backgrounds and vocations.
- Exposure to the many social and environmental complexities of the state.
- On-site demonstrations and tours.
- Diverse geographical and cultural experiences.
- Insight into the people, places and history that influence public policies.
- Fun and casual settings that foster new relationships and camaraderie.

Class members gain:

- An inclusive network of colleagues and resources.
- A broad understanding of state issues and developments.
- A better sense of personal leadership potential and enhanced leadership skills.

Employers and sponsoring organizations gain:

- Employees who are connected to a diverse network of dynamic leaders.
- Individuals with knowledge to discuss a variety of issues at the state and community levels.
- Energized staff members who are motivated to apply program information to organization situations.
- Leaders prepared to address issues and keep companies in action.

For more information on the Leadership Arkansas program, contact:

Toni Lindsey

Leadership Arkansas Program Director
tlindsey@arkansasstatechamber.com
(479) 409-4389





Leadership Arkansas

Leadership Arkansas Class XIX completes the 2024-2025 program

Leadership Arkansas Class XIX wrapped up the 2024-2025 program after traveling across the state for sessions in Fairfield Bay, Fort Smith, Stuttgart, Little Rock, South Arkansas, Northeast Arkansas, Hot Springs, and Northwest Arkansas. The program concluded in May 2025 with a graduation ceremony in Little Rock, where 53 participants were recognized for their achievements and commitment to advancing Arkansas.

Central Moloney served as the Underwriting Sponsor for the 2024-2025 program. ARcare, Nucor Steel Arkansas/Nucor-Yamato Steel, Southwest Power Pool, and Walmart supported the program as Presenting Sponsors, while Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas, Entergy Arkansas, Farm Credit of Arkansas and Summit Utilities served as Statewide Program Sponsors.



Leadership Arkansas Class XIX

Catherine Beasley
University of Arkansas

Grant Brewer
University of Arkansas

Malcolm K. Briggs
Wells Fargo Advisors

C.J. Brown
Southwest Power Pool

Jeremy W. Brown
Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield

Lt. Col. Erin Burns
Arkansas National Guard

Alyssa Carter
Russellville Chamber of Commerce

Nicholas Colclough
Riceland Foods

Chris Cook
Entergy Arkansas

Toni Cook
Walmart

Mallory Darby
Mississippi County Economic
Development

Justin Davis
Wright's BBQ

Jessica Feltz
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Daron Frederick
Arkansas Electric Cooperative
Corporation

Tina Gabbard
Cox Communications

Kyle Gaither
FutureFuel Chemical Company

Lane Gammel
Goodwill Industries of Arkansas

Keith Gammill
AEDC-Manufacturing Solutions

Jacob Garrett
AT&T

Marq Golden
UAMS

Joe Gould
Citizens Bank

Jessica Gray
Signature Bank of Arkansas

Monty Harrington
Farmers Bank & Trust

Allison Hatfield
Arkansas Department of Commerce

Melissa Hendricks
UA Pulaski Technical College

Zack Hill
Few

Marcus Hopkins
W&W|AFCO Steel

Stephen Houserman
City of Clarksville

Shanda Hunter
Southwestern Electric Power Company

Dr. Russell Jones
Arkansas Tech University

Steve Jones
Dassault Falcon Jet

T.J. Lawhon
Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP

Mark McHale
Ritter Communications

Robin Mizell
Black Hills Energy

Garrett Morgan
ARcare

Travis Mosler
Central Moloney

Andrew Norman
Nabholz Construction

Anna Oberste
Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort

Christian O'Neal
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Kylie Parker
ECCI

Steven Person
University of Arkansas Clinton School of
Public Service

Jennifer M. Quezada
Walmart

Sammy A. Sanchez
Nucor

Col. Anthony Sanders
Arkansas National Guard

Hana Settles
Saracen Casino Resort

Stephanie Sharp
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce

Dustin Tackett
Garver

Lindsey Vechik
Tyson Foods Inc.

Amy Whitehead
University of Central Arkansas

Josh Wilson
Ozarka College

Crenisha Wright
Arkansas Foodbank

Tim Wright
Lockheed Martin

Alison Wynne
Crafton Tull



Leadership Arkansas

Leadership Arkansas Class XX Welcomes 53 Members

The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/ Associated Industries of Arkansas (State Chamber/ AIA) proudly welcomed 53 accomplished professionals from across the state to Leadership Arkansas Class XX.

“These leaders represent the best of Arkansas— innovative, passionate, and committed to building a stronger state,” said Toni Lindsey, Director of Leadership Arkansas. “This year’s class brings a dynamic mix of backgrounds and expertise, and I look forward to seeing how their perspectives evolve as they explore the challenges and opportunities shaping Arkansas.”

The 2025–2026 Leadership Arkansas program is supported by Simmons Bank as the Underwriting Sponsor. ARcare, Nucor, Southwest Power Pool, and Walmart serve as Presenting Sponsors, with additional support from Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation, Entergy Arkansas, Farm Credit Services of Arkansas, and Summit Utilities as Statewide Program Sponsors.

Class XX began its journey in September with an orientation at the Fairfield Bay Conference Center. In October, members explored infrastructure and economic development in Russellville. The class continued to Stuttgart in November to study agriculture, conservation, and outdoor life, then concluded the year in Little Rock, examining government, education, and workforce development.



Leadership Arkansas Class XX

Louis Alderman

Goodwill Industries of Arkansas

Sonya Archer

General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems

Suzie Barham

Pafford Medical Services

Col. Sonny Baxter

Arkansas Air National Guard

Dr. Brian Berry

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Lindsey Bowman

Craighead Electric Cooperative Corporation

Tucker Brackins

ARcare

Brooke Brewer

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Jason Chacko

Morgan Stanley

Kandi Chitman Hughes

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

Amber Crawford

Arkansas Department of Commerce

Kristin N. Daniel

Parity Financial Group, LLC

Sam Evans

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Bryan Fisher

Arkansas Tech University

Erin Franks

Arkansas Children's

Arrianna George

Walmart

Brad Hall

Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort

Jonathan Hamner

Crafton Tull

Sean Hoagand

PotlatchDeltic Real Estate LLC

Heath Hooker

Nucor-Yamato Steel

Jason Hudnell

The Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts

Col. (Retired) Erica L. Ingram

Arkansas National Guard

Dallas Johnson

Summit Utilities

Karen Kitchens-Witt

JPMorgan Chase

Will LaRue

TFC Inc.

Lieutenant Col. Richard Lavery V

Arkansas Air Guard

Clark Lewis

Lockheed Martin

Justin McCarty

Simmons Bank

Daniela Medina

Walmart

David Mitchell

Ozarka College

Kerry Moody

Arkansas Ambulance Association

Rebekka Nickols

JCD Consulting

Dr. Jeffery Norfleet

Shorter College

Connor Olsen

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

Adam Osweiler

McClelland Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Scott Provencher

Wright Lindsey Jennings

Brooke Pryor

CARTI

Eddie Ramos

Signature Bank of Arkansas | Banco Si

Beverly Roberson

Garver

David Robinson

W&W-AFCO Steel LLC

Tim Roswell

Glen Sain Chevrolet Buick GMC

David Scoggin

Black Hills Energy

Charles Smith

Dassault Falcon Jet

Bentley Story

Entergy Arkansas

Sharon Strong

Arkansas Scholarship Lottery

Alison Taylor

University of Central Arkansas

Zeynep Vural

Southwest Power Pool

Dr. Connie Wilson

Southern Arkansas University

Tricia Wilson

Simmons Bank

Lucy Witherow

Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment

Caroline Woods

Learfield | Red Wolves Sports Properties

Chad Young

WDD Architects



Pinnacle Members

The Pinnacle Program recognizes the state's outstanding corporate citizens – State Chamber/AIA members who desire to make a significant statement about their participation in Arkansas's future. These leading companies are helping make the state a better place to live, work, and conduct business by supplying the leadership and financial support necessary for the State Chamber/AIA to effectively represent the Arkansas business community.

Through the involvement and leadership of senior representatives of their firms, Pinnacle members actively participate in our grassroots action network, work on policy committees and lead the State Chamber/AIA on the board of directors. In doing so, these Pinnacle members provide resources necessary for our organization to achieve success while helping to shape the future of Arkansas and enhance its economic climate.

Levels of investment include \$5,000 (Crown), \$10,000 (Peak), \$25,000 (Summit) and \$35,000 and up (Apex). Benefits of Pinnacle membership include recognition in State Chamber/AIA printed publications, online publications and on our website; special recognition at all State Chamber/AIA events; preferred seating at State Chamber/AIA events and networking opportunities with other high-level Arkansas business and industry leaders.

Apex



Summit

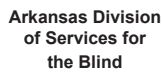


Peak



Pinnacle Members

Crown



Pinnacle Members

Crown *Continued*



New and Upgraded Members

1st Choice Tax and Business Solutions, LLC	Carroll Electric Cooperative Corporation	EVO Business Environments	Precise
Academy Bank	Center for Toxicology & Environmental Health, LLC	EverBranch Capital Group	Primetals Technologies USA, LLC
Advanced Monitoring Services	Chartwells Higher Learning - Compass - USA	Experitec, Inc.	Pritchard Industries LLC
All Storage Products, Inc.	Chevron	Focus Commercial Real Estate	Rockline Arkansas
Alma School District	Cigna Healthcare	Frances Flower Shop	S.C. Seasoning Company, Inc.
American Tubing Arkansas LLC	Clear View Enterprises, LLC.	Friedman Industries, Inc.	Saline Health System
AR Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	Constellation Energy	Harrison Water & Sewer	Sealed Air Corporation
AR Center for Data Sciences, dba Apprenticely	Controlled Automation, Inc.	Helena-West Helena School District	Segra
AR Mechanical LLC	Crain Automotive Holdings, LLC	Hutton Corporation	SGL Carbon, Inc.
Arkansas Baptist College	Creative Design Concepts, Inc.	Inteliblu LLC	Stracener Brothers Construction
Arkansas Cryptomining Association	CVS Health	JMS Russel Metals Corp	T and S Delivery LLC
Arkansas Nuclear Voice	DailyPay, Inc.	Mena Intermountain Municipal Airport	TAGGART Architects
Arkansas Railroad Assoc.	DBG Arkansas	Merrill Iron & Steel, Inc. dba Merrill Steel	TechNet
Arkansas Wood Solutions, Inc.	Delek US - El Dorado Refinery	Mike Malone	Triple Oak Power
ASU Mid-South	Delta Asphalt of Arkansas, Inc.	Moss & Associates, LLC.	UA Community College Hope-Texarkana
ASU System	Delta Systems and Automation LLC	Murphree Family Investments, Inc. d/b/a Wade's Heating	Union Bank
Ashdown School District	DPI Staffing	National Apprenticeship Training Foundation	United Initiators, Inc.
Aunt Susie's Granola	Ducommun LaBarge Technologies, Inc.	National Federation of the Blind of Arkansas	United States Marshals Museum
Baker Refrigeration Systems, Inc.	Eagan Manufacturing Company, Inc.	NWA Food Bank	UnitedHealth Group
Bearden Public Schools	East End School District	O.J.'s Service Two, Inc.	Uniti Group Inc.
Benchmark Group, Inc.	Ernst & Young LLP	Olsson	University of AR at Monticello
Bentley Plastics		ONEOK, Inc.	US Beacon LLC
Beverly's Construction		OrthoArkansas	Vermeer Midsouth
Boyd Metals		Paragould Municipal Utilities	WGU (Western Governors University)
Capital CDC		Parker Post Boutique	Watson Chapel School District
Capstone Wellness, LLC			

2025 Sponsors and Advertisers

- AGC Arkansas
- Agricultural Council of Arkansas
- Alcoa
- AR Manufactured Housing Association
- AR Rice Federation
- AR School for Math Sciences & the Arts
- ARcare
- Arkadelphia Regional EDA & Area Chamber of Commerce
- Arkansas Air National Guard
- Arkansas Army National Guard
- Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association
- Arkansas Athletic Department
- Arkansas Automobile Dealers Association
- Arkansas Bankers Association
- Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Arkansas Business Publishing Group
- Arkansas Capital Corporation
- Arkansas Children's
- Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corp
- Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
- Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation
- Arkansas Hospital Association
- Arkansas Learns
- Arkansas Municipal League
- Arkansas State University
- Arkansas Tech University
- Arkansas Timber Producers Association
- Arkansas Transit Association Inc.
- Arnold, Ritter
- Arvest Bank
- ASU System
- Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas
- Association of Arkansas Counties
- AT&T Arkansas
- Bank 1889
- Bank OZK
- Baptist Health
- Ben E. Keith Foods
- Billy Ray
- Black Hills Energy
- Black River Technical College
- Broadband Association of Arkansas
- Broadview Strategies
- Brightwater: A Center for the Study of Food
- CARTI
- Caterpillar Inc.
- CDI Contractors LLC
- Central Moloney
- Chambers Bank
- Chevron
- Cigna Healthcare
- Citizens Bank
- City Corporation - Russelville Water & Sewer
- Coca-Cola Consolidated
- Cox Communications
- Crafton Tull
- Crossbuck Creative
- CVS Health
- Dassault Falcon Jet
- DBH Management Consultants
- Delta Dental of Arkansas
- Edwards Food Giant
- Energy Transfer Partners
- Entergy
- FARCO
- Farmers Bank & Trust
- Few
- First Community Bank
- First National Bank of Fort Smith
- First Orion Corp.
- Flywheel Energy
- Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
- Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Forvis Mazars
- Fuller Enterprises
- FutureFuel Chemical Company
- Futrell Marine
- Garvan Woodland Gardens
- Garver
- Gerdau Special Steel
- Goodwill Industries of Arkansas
- Government Solutions, LLC
- Hargraves Consulting LLC
- Highland Industrial Park
- Impact Management Group Inc.
- inVeritas
- Jonesboro, Arkansas
- Kutak Rock LLP
- Lanxess
- Lapis Carbon Solutions
- Lexicon Inc.
- Little Rock Regional Chamber
- Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control
- Magnolia, Arkansas
- Mainstream Technologies, Inc.
- Majestic Steel USA
- Martin Sprocket & Gear Inc.
- McGeorge Contracting Co., Inc.
- MEMS - Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services
- mhp.si
- Mullenix & Associates, LLC
- Nabholz Construction
- NorthWest Arkansas Community College
- Nucor-Yamato Steel
- Oaklawn Racing Casino Resort
- OG+E
- Olsson
- Origami Sake
- Pafford Medical Services, Inc.
- Pain Treatment Centers of America
- Perimeter Group, The
- PotlatchDeltic
- Rausch Companies
- Riceland Foods Inc.
- Ritter Arnold
- Ritter Communications
- Rittwood Farms
- Rogers Lowell Chamber
- Rose Law Firm
- Russellville Chamber of Commerce
- Saracen Casino Resort
- Senator Steve & Laura Crowell
- Shorter College
- Signature Bank of Arkansas
- Simmons Bank
- Snyder Environmental
- South Central Arkansas Electric Coop. Inc.
- Southern Arkansas University
- Southern Bancorp Bank
- Southland Casino Hotel
- St. Bernards Healthcare
- State of Arkansas
- Stephens Inc.
- Summit Utilities
- Suzano Packaging
- The Poultry Federation
- The Stephens Group, LLC
- Tyson Foods
- U.S. Bank
- U.S. Steel/Big River Steel
- UA Little Rock
- UA Pulaski Technical College
- University of Arkansas
- University of Central Arkansas
- US Chamber of Commerce
- W&W|AFCO Steel LLC
- Walmart
- Wholesale Beer Distributors of Arkansas, Inc.
- Windstream
- Winthrop Rockefeller Institute/Petit Jean Mountain
- Wright Lindsey Jennings
- Wright's BBQ

Data Driving Arkansas

CHECK OUT ARKANSTATS

Scan the QR code and stay informed about economic trends in Arkansas.



The State Chamber/AIA has partnered with the Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) to bring you *ArkanStats*. This online resource has been created and designed to keep you and your business informed about economic trends throughout the state.

ArkanStats' interactive visualization tools allow users to explore in-depth data about Arkansas's economy, infrastructure, education and human capital, quality of life, and demographics.

statechamber.arkanstats.com

ECONOMY

Data and analysis about average weekly wage rates, labor force participation rates, median household income, real GDP, and more.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Data and analysis about housing costs, internet access, electricity prices, and commute time.

EDUCATION & HUMAN CAPITAL

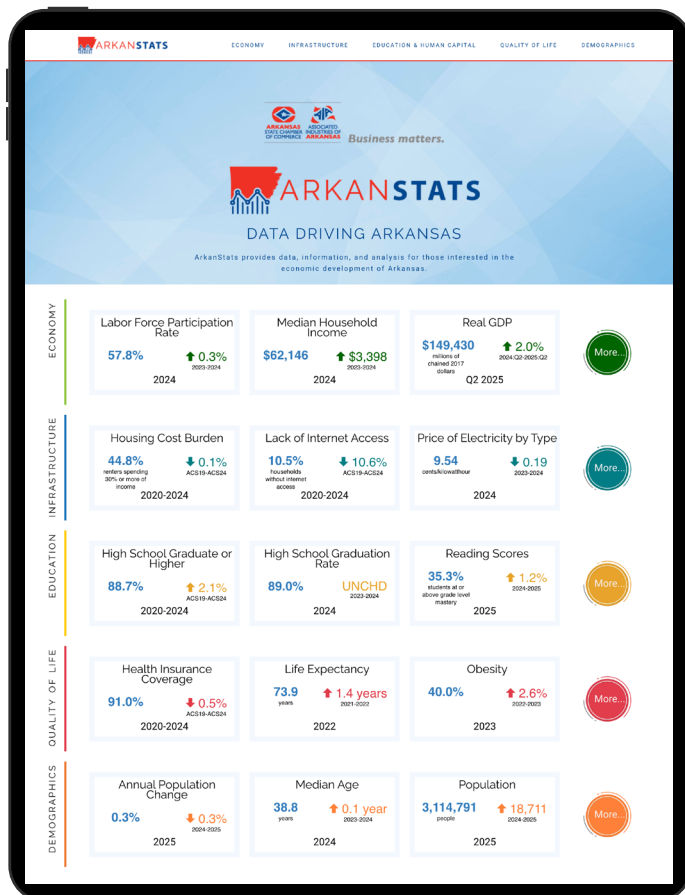
Data and analysis about educational attainment, reading scores, and more.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Data and analysis about health insurance, life expectancy, access to care, and more.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Data and analysis about age demographics, racial demographics, population, and more.



Arkansas Economic Developers & Chamber Executives (AEDCE)

Arkansas Economic Developers and Chamber Executives (AEDCE) is the statewide professional association representing economic developers, chamber executives, entrepreneurial support professionals, and community leaders working to strengthen Arkansas's economy. As an affiliate organization of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas, AEDCE provides professional development, networking opportunities, and resources that help local leaders support business growth and community development across the state.

AEDCE's mission is to enhance the professional development of our membership and to advocate for community and economic development to benefit the citizens of Arkansas.

Through conferences, training programs, and peer collaboration, AEDCE equips chamber professionals, economic developers, and entrepreneurial support leaders with the knowledge and connections needed to advance economic opportunity in communities of all sizes. The organization serves as a statewide network where members share best practices, build partnerships, and strengthen Arkansas's economic development ecosystem.

Through its professional development programs, AEDCE also invests directly in its members. In 2025, the organization awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to support professional development opportunities for chamber and economic development professionals across Arkansas.

Today, AEDCE includes 709 members representing 181 organizations across Arkansas, reflecting a broad network of leaders dedicated to improving the business climate and quality of life in communities throughout the state.



Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders proclaimed
October 13-17, 2025 to be Chamber of
Commerce Week in Arkansas



2025 AEDCE Award Winners Left to Right: Darryl Treat,
Raymond Burns, CCE, Gary Troutman, CCE, IOM, and
Danny Games, CEcD, EDFP



The 2025 Mid-South Basic Economic Development
Course provided certificates to 37 participants from
seven states across the nation

Developing Leaders for Arkansas Communities

AEDCE delivers year-round professional development programs designed to strengthen the effectiveness of chamber professionals and economic developers.

AEDCE by the Numbers

709

Members Statewide

181

Organizations Represented

221

Attendees at the AEDCE Annual Conference

37

Participants

From seven states at the Mid-South Basic Economic Development Course

32

Participants at the New Chamber Professional Boot Camp

\$10,000

Awarded in Professional Development Scholarships

AEDCE Annual Conference

The 2025 AEDCE Annual Conference, Charting North, was held August 24-26 in Rogers, Arkansas, bringing together 221 attendees from across the state and beyond. As the premier gathering of Arkansas chamber and economic development professionals, the conference featured high-impact educational sessions, peer networking, and in-depth discussions on key issues shaping the state's economic future, including a focused session on Issue 3 and its potential impact on Arkansas communities.

A highlight of the annual conference each year is the AEDCE Awards, which recognizes outstanding leadership and impact across Arkansas's chamber and economic development community. These awards celebrate individuals and organizations that are driving meaningful progress in their communities.

The 2025 award recipients included:

- Volunteer of the Year – Darryl Treat
- Outstanding Economic Developer – Danny Games, CEcD, EDFP
- Outstanding Chamber Executive – Gary Troutman, CCE, IOM
- Maria Haley Lifetime Leadership for Economic Development – Raymond Burns, CCE

Mid-South Basic Economic Development Course

The Mid-South Basic Economic Development Course, presented in partnership with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and Entergy Arkansas, is accredited by the International Economic Development Council and serves as a foundational course for professionals entering the economic development field. The course prepares participants for future professional certification and provides training in the core principles of economic development practice. In 2025, 37 participants from seven states attended the program in Little Rock.

New Chamber Professional Boot Camp

AEDCE also hosted the New Chamber Professional Boot Camp on October 21-22, providing hands-on training for professionals new to chamber leadership roles. The program welcomed 32 participants and focused on chamber operations, membership development, community engagement, and leadership skills.

Together, these programs strengthen Arkansas's network of community and economic development professionals while equipping them with the tools needed to support business growth and workforce development throughout the state.

LEARN MORE

AEDCE continues to serve as the professional home for Arkansas's chamber and economic development leaders, providing resources, training, and connections that help communities grow and thrive.

To learn more about AEDCE membership opportunities, contact candice@aedce.org.

Staff



Randy Zook
President & CEO



Kenneth R. Hall, J.D.
Executive Vice President



Candice Lawrence
Vice President of Programs & Partnerships; Executive Director of AEDCE



Marcus Turley
Vice President of Membership Development



Andrew Parker
Director of Governmental Affairs; Executive Director of Associated Industries of Arkansas Foundation, Inc.; Executive Director of Be Pro Be Proud



Toni Lindsey
Director of Governmental Affairs; Leadership Arkansas Program Director



Trish Villines
Executive Director, Industry Engagement/Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence



Chelsea O'Kelley
Director of Communications



Tori Barry
Administrative Manager



Bill Watson
Event Sponsorship Manager



Carol Mugerdichian
Executive Assistant/Facilities Manager



Jeanette Sanderlin
Executive Assistant

Staff Recognitions

TONI LINDSEY

Toni Lindsey was selected for Arkansas Money & Politics *Achievers in Their Forties*, recognizing her professional excellence and influence statewide. Congratulations, Toni!

KENNY HALL

Kenny retired from after 27 years of service to the State Chamber/AIA! For nearly three decades, Kenny's leadership and commitment have strengthened this organization's advocacy efforts and support for Arkansas employers. Congratulations on your retirement, Kenny!"

CANDICE LAWRENCE

Candice Lawrence was named one of AMP's *Top 100 Professionals* in October, recognizing her leadership and impact within Arkansas's business community. Congratulations, Candice!

RANDY ZOOK

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders appointed Randy Zook to serve on the 2030 Complete Count Committee, a key group charged with preparing Arkansas for the next U.S. Census. This appointment is especially significant, as the State Chamber/AIA strongly advocated for the legislation creating the committee to help ensure Arkansas receives its full share of federal revenue in the next decade. Due to the 2020 undercount, Arkansas was shorted an estimated \$5.6 billion—making accurate preparation for 2030 essential.



2025 Wins

State Chamber / AIA

Presented the Arkansas Ahead Tour to **23 communities** statewide

Hosted the inaugural Arkansas Manufacturing Showcase, a two-day event that attracted **450 participants and 85 exhibitors**

Graduated **53 professionals** from Leadership Arkansas Class XIX, bringing alumni to **over 1,000**

Welcomed **90 new members**, including **23 new Pinnacle Members**

Garnered support from **165 sponsors** across events, programs, and publications

Distributed **key member resources** including the *Daily Legislative Update*, *Competitiveness Redbook*, and *Legislative Summary*

Tracked **618** bills and resolutions during the 2025 Regular Session of the 95th General Assembly

Hosted **58%** of the General Assembly at our annual legislative reception and convened **nine** Business Lobbyist Luncheons featuring key state leaders

Helped secure passage of major **energy and infrastructure** policies, including the referral of a new **local economic development tool** to the 2026 statewide ballot

Helped pass the first tort reform measure in years and defeated **six** workers' compensation bills that would have increased employer costs

Hosted record attendance at our **65th Annual Washington Fly-In** for meetings with Arkansas's entire federal delegation

Hosted **Arkansas's National Civics Bee**, sending Maddie S. of Bentonville to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Partnered with Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership and Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield to relaunch **Together Arkansas**

Launched the **Frontline Leader Development Series**, which equipped **111** emerging state leaders from various industries with essential skills for success

AIPE

Recognized **12 organizations** with a Governor's Quality Award and trained over **30 professionals** to assess key operational processes

AEDCE

Hosted **221 economic developers and chamber executives** at the annual AEDCE conference in Rogers

Graduated **35** participants from the IEDC-accredited Mid-South Basic Economic Development Course

Welcomed **32 new chamber professionals** at the New Chamber Professionals Boot Camp

Be Pro Be Proud

Connected students with employers at **nine** Draft Day events, where **82%** of interviews led to next employment steps

Launched its **tenth** Mobile Workshop, expanding the movement into Alabama

Completed a 248-day Arkansas Tour, engaging **30,280 visitors** and inspiring **2,589 students** to Join the Movement toward technical professions



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