

# PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM RESOURCES

## Arkansas



Updated August 9, 2024

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## **Introduction to Arkansas**

Arkansas (pronounced as AR-ken-saw) is located in the Southern region of the U.S. Its name is an Algonquian Quapaw Indian word (“Akakaze”) meaning “land of the downriver people”. The early French explorers then pronounced it as “Arcansas”. Arkansas is called “The Natural State” because of the abundance of beautiful lakes and rivers, hills and mountains, forests and delta areas. It is a diverse landscape from the flat farmland of the Mississippi River Delta in the East to the Ozark and Ouachita mountains in the west. Arkansas is also known for its dense forests in the southwest. Arkansas is also known for its hunting and fishing. Arkansas is a “well-kept secret” in its ability to create a down-home atmosphere and a cosmopolitan focus for the arts as well as the medical and business realm.

Little Rock, the capital and largest city of Arkansas, is a small city of approximately 200,000 people. The naming of Little Rock is said to have occurred in 1722 when a French explorer, Benard de la Harpe, was leading a group up the Arkansas River from New Orleans on the Mississippi River and came upon two rock outcroppings - one large and one small - on opposite sides of the River. De la Harpe presumably picked up the name 'little rock' from local Indians to contrast with the 'big rock' two miles further on the other side of the River. It was said the inhabitants of the side of the “little rock” were very hospitable...a fact that remains today!

Arkansas was originally part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. What is now part of 15 U.S. states were included in the purchase from France. The total area of Arkansas was part of that 15-million-dollar purchase. President Thomas Jefferson wanted this territory, especially access to the Mississippi river and the port of New Orleans. The territory of Arkansas was admitted to the Union as the 25<sup>th</sup> state on June 15, 1836. Arkansas joined the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.

In 1957, world attention was drawn to the Arkansas capital city when Governor Orval E. Faubus and the Arkansas National Guard forcibly tried to prevent the integration of Little Rock Central High School. Integration was mandated by federal law according to a Supreme Court case called Brown vs. the Board of Education. President Dwight D. Eisenhower responded by sending U.S. (Federal) troops to the city with orders to enforce the integration and protect the students. This was one of the first events of the Civil Rights Movement. The 9 brave African American students who were the first to enter Central High were called “The Little Rock Nine”

The state of Arkansas is primarily a rural and agricultural state and the nation’s largest producer of rice. Arkansas is also the only place in the U.S. that has a Diamond mine!

Little Rock is also the center of the state's historic, cultural, and economic activity, including hundreds of nonprofit organizations which include Heifer International and Winrock International. Little Rock is the home office or U.S. base for many internationally recognized companies such as Welspun Gujarat Rohren and LM Windpower and Dassault Falcon Jets.

Northwest Arkansas is also home to the world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, and many national and international industries such as Tyson Foods, and JB Hunt Trucking. The renowned American Art Museum, Crystal Bridges, is also located in the Northwest part of the state. Northwest Arkansas boasts the home of University of Arkansas main campus in Fayetteville, large international companies and the amazing scenery of the Ozarks.

Arkansas is the home state of former President Bill Clinton, Senator J. William Fulbright, the founder of the Fulbright Scholars Program, noted author Maya Angelou, Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, and many notable entertainers, sports icons, politicians and military figures.

Arkansas is a culturally diverse state. The Capital City is home to not only Caucasians and African Americans but also Asian, Middle Eastern and a large and growing number of Latinos from Central America and especially Mexico. The University of Arkansas Little Rock, an urban public University of about 13,000 students, enrolls a large number of International Students and offers International Studies and foreign language programs, as well as a renowned Engineering, Medical and new Cybersecurity program. Little Rock is also home to a Mexican Consulate that serves Mexicans living in the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Western Tennessee. The Clinton Presidential Center, the Clinton Foundation and the Clinton School of Public Service have helped make great strides in establishing Little Rock as a city with not only a colorful history but a favorable future.

## Weather

Arkansas generally has a humid subtropical climate in spring and summer. While not bordering the Gulf of Mexico, Arkansas is still close enough to this warm, large body of water for it to influence the weather in the state. Generally, Arkansas has hot, humid summers and cold, slightly drier winters. In Little Rock, the daily high temperatures average around 93 degrees Fahrenheit (34 degrees Celsius) with lows around 73 degrees F (23 degrees C) in July. In January highs average around 51 degrees F (11 degrees C) and lows around 32 degrees F (0 degrees C). The annual precipitation throughout the state averages between about 40 and 60 inches (1,000 and 1,500 mm). Snowfall is infrequent and the area surrounding Little Rock is more apt to see ice storms. Northwest Arkansas experiences both ice and snow fall during the winter.

## A FEW FAMOUS ARKANSANS

Bill Clinton (president)	William J. Fulbright (senator, Fulbright programs)
Maya Angelou (poet)	John Grisham (author)
Johnny Cash (singer)	
Mary Steenburgen (actress)	Billy Bob Thornton (actor)
Scottie Pippen (basketball)	
Glen Campbell (singer)	Douglas MacArthur (general)
Dizzy Dean (baseball)	
Mark Martin (race car driver)	Al Green (singer)
Jerry Jones (Dallas Cowboys owner)	
Sonny Liston (boxer)	
Fay Jones (architect)	Winthrop Rockefeller (governor)
Sam Walton (Walmart)	Don Tyson (Tyson Foods)
J.B. Hunt (trucking)	
William Dillard (department store)	

## Fun facts About Arkansas

Entered the Union: June 15, 1836 (25th State)    Capital: Little Rock

Origin of Name: French interpretation of the Algonquin Indian word "ookansa," (referring to the Quapaw Tribe who lived in Arkansas) meaning "south wind"

State Motto: Regnat populus (The people rule)    State Bird: Mockingbird

State Nickname: The Natural State    State Tree: Loblolly Pine

State Flower: Apple Blossom

State Insect: Honeybee

State Mammal: White-tailed Deer

State Beverage: Milk

State Instrument: Fiddle

State Gem: Diamond

Fruit/Vegetable: Vine Ripe Pink Tomato

State Book: The Holy Bible

State Mineral: Quartz Crystal

State Song: "Arkansas"

National Parks: 1 • National Forests: 2 • State Parks: 51

Famous for: America's only Diamond Mine, Hot Springs National Park

### **About Global Ties Arkansas**

Global Ties Arkansas is a nonprofit organization specializing in International Visitor Leadership Programs, Open World Programs, Youth Programs and Fee-For-Service projects such as YSEALI and Professional Fellows, YTILI, US Ukraine and YLAI.

It was incorporated as a 501(c) (3) in 1981 and has enjoyed a long history of community support. As the only community-based member (CBM) in the state, we can arrange programs anywhere in Arkansas. Please visit our Encyclopedia of Arkansas entry for more information about our history.

We are a small but efficient staff complemented by a host of community volunteers and presenters. Our staff work part-time and work remotely.

Generally, at least one staff person attends professional appointments and all cultural events with our international groups. We feel that this close contact with the delegates helps provide continuity, efficiency, and enables us to make adjustments quickly to better serve our visitors.

For a history of our organization, please visit our [Encyclopedia of Arkansas](#) entry.

## Meet the Staff



**Toni Carr:** the Executive Director, is originally from Dallas Texas and attended Ursuline Academy in High School and the University of Oklahoma holding a BS in Elementary Education, MEd in Educational Psychology and an MS in Early Childhood Education. She has been a teacher, public school administrator in early childhood special education, a consultant through Arkansas State University for the Arkansas State Department of Education and college professor in Ohio and Arkansas in Early Childhood Education. She has lived in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Ohio and Arkansas. She is married to Jim Carr, a former home builder and current Professor of Construction Management and Civil and Construction Engineering at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. She has two grown daughters and two grandchildren. Toni likes to walk in the woods with her dogs (Boomer and Bailey), read, garden, snow ski, and travel. Toni and her husband have been to over 30 countries and every continent but one! She has made it to all but one of the 50 US states. Toni began her tenure with Global Ties Arkansas as a volunteer host and, although she became the Executive Director over 12 years ago, she and her husband continue to be home hosts and dinner/party hosts for many of the program visitors. They love to travel to their visitors' (or their "kids", as she calls them) countries to visit them!



**Tommy Priakos:** Chief Program Officer and Assistant to the Director. Financial reports, program proposals and development and IT, was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and attended Southwestern at Memphis (currently called Rhodes College) in the mid-1970s, and then Southeast Arkansas Technical College, and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has been with Global Ties Arkansas for over 20 years, first serving as an intern for the organization when it was known as the Arkansas Council for International Visitors at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. While he was there, he majored in International Studies and minored in Information Technology. Both of those studies have served him well in his interaction with the many cultures that come to Arkansas via the various international visitor programs. He has traveled to Argentina, Australia, Greece, Japan, and Mexico; and spent 5 years in the U.K. performing and writing music. He is an accomplished keyboard player in several bands, and usually performs in various cities in Arkansas and beyond.

Always fascinated by foreign languages, he is somewhat fluent in Spanish and Greek, and enjoys practicing his Japanese when we have visitors from that country. With his IT background, he is usually called on to troubleshoot technical issues that crop up at the

office. He also develops software programs for a pioneering human bioacoustics company in Ohio. He also freelances as a mentor/tutor for this company, teaching software to clients. International visitors love to visit the annual Greek Food festival in May to watch Tommy dance traditional Greek folk dances!



**Vicki Adams:** Program Officer: IVLP Coordinator, proposals and programming and in the field with groups. Vicki has been an active volunteer with Global Ties for several years as a homestay volunteer. She was born in Little Rock and has lived in the area her entire adult life. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Vicki's work background is largely in merchandising and restaurant ownership. She recently retired as the owner and chief chef at Kris & Sam's Cookie and Box Lunch Store. She has four grown children that she takes great pride in and enjoys spending quality time with them and her grandchildren. Vicki is an avid Nascar fan! Her dog, Lyndy, is her precious constant companion.



**Bliss Krucas:** Cultural Escort. Proposal writing and program development is a native of the Philippines, and moved to the US when she was 25 years old. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications from Trinity University of ASIA, Philippines. Bliss has more than 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry, with 15 of those spent in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There, she served in multiple roles of catering manager, sales manager, director of catering and convention services and director of sales and marketing. She worked for several hotel Brands including Embassy Suites, Doubletree by Hilton, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Hilton Hotel, Wyndham Grand Hotel, Cheyenne Mountain Resort and Garden of the Gods Club and Resort. She also worked with Carver Hotel Group and Strategic Planning Solutions. There she served on the sales and marketing task force as interim director of sales. Bliss currently works full time at the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau as a Sales Director. Prior to moving to Arkansas, she has also lived in Vallejo, California, San Diego California and Colorado Springs Colorado. Bliss loves to travel and has visited Italy, Australia, Tinian Marianas Islands, Saipan, London, France and Netherlands. It is her goal to visit all 50 states in the US, and she has already been to 41. Bliss loves to hike and will continue to be a fourteener for as long as she can. Her husband, David, was career U.S. Navy as a Data System Technician. They have two grown daughters, one in New York and one in



California! She and her husband live with their dog Coco! Bliss joined Global Ties Arkansas because she enjoys meeting people from different countries and learning about their culture. She is also a member of the Arkansas Asian Business Association. Bliss believes when you do something that you love to do, the success of what you do becomes effortless.



**Courtney Curry:** Proposals and Programming

Courtney was born in Waldo, AR. She attended college at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she obtained her BS in Biology and minor in Chemistry. While in school, she started work in hospitality as a front desk agent. She enjoyed conversing with the global travelers that stayed at the hotel. Meeting new people grew to be one of her passions. She worked in hospitality for some time until Covid impacted the world in 2020. Because there were so few hospitality jobs at the time, she started work in competitive sales at Firestone Complete Auto Care. She developed a love for sales, and she now works full time in hospitality sales as a sales manager for Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau. Outside of work, she enjoys painting, writing stories, and making music. She also enjoys traveling, visiting museums, and trying new restaurants. Courtney joined Global Ties Arkansas because she enjoys talking to people, and she welcomes any opportunity to learn about other cultures.



**Ra'phael Davis:** Program proposals and development, virtual programming support and Media Specialist, was born in Newport, AR the oldest of 7 children. He attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and majored in Philosophy and International Studies, before moving on to pursue his Ph.D. in political science. He is currently a Ph.D. student at The Ohio State University. He has traveled to Morocco, Spain, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and soon plans to spend time in Nigeria, Liberia, and Sierra Leone doing peacebuilding research. He speaks several languages: fluent in English, intermediate in Spanish, is formally learning French and is teaching himself Igbo language. He is an accomplished musician and songwriter. He has served as a church musician since he was 12 years old, and just published a song called "Friendless" as the 2021 New Year's Day rolled in. Ra'phael has been with Global Ties Arkansas for three years and focuses his time on writing proposals, maintaining the company website, forging new relationships with our greater Arkansas community and national partners, and making sure all virtual programs run smoothly. He is also employed at RAMA Consulting of Columbus Ohio.



**Sarah Wambura:** Intern and Capstone, Clinton School of Public Service hailing from Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, holds a degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Centre for Foreign Relations. Currently, she is collaborating with Teach For America (TFA) – Greater Delta to conduct research titled “Determining the best use for a community building” in Helena-West Helena, as part of her requirements for obtaining her master’s degree from the Clinton School of Public Service. Previously, she served as a business development manager at Kifaru Group and worked as a researcher for the National Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (NaCoNGO). Sarah’s public service interests encompass public health, international relations, community sustainable economic development, and education. She dedicates her time as a volunteer at the William J. Clinton Library and Museum and engaging in community service activities. Sarah is characterized by her adventurous and explorative spirit, finding joy in fostering new friendships and immersing herself in different cultures.

## Professional Resources for Little Rock and Arkansas

### AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry, adding around \$16 billion to the state's economy annually. The Natural State's diverse landscape and climate produce a wide variety of Arkansas agricultural products. Arkansas is a major exporter of rice, soybeans, cotton, poultry, and feed grains. There are 49,346 farms statewide and 97 percent of Arkansas' farms are family-owned. A mere 16 percent of Arkansas' farms account for a whopping 92 percent of production. Arkansas' Top Retailers, Producers and Processors are Walmart - Largest food retailer in the world; Tyson Food – largest poultry and meat processor in the US and Riceland Foods: Largest rice exporter in the US. <https://www.arfb.com/pages/education/ag-facts>

#### ARKANSAS FARM BUREAU

Rob Anderson, Director of Public Relations. [Rob.anderson@afb.com](mailto:Rob.anderson@afb.com) 501/228-1535

Farm Bureau is an independent, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, social advancement and promote national well-being. Farm Bureau is county, state, national and international in its scope and influence. Farm Bureau is nonpartisan, nonsectarian, nongovernmental and nonsecret in character. Farm Bureau strives to be the voice of agricultural producers at all levels.

#### ARKANSAS WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Donette Spann, Promotion Director  
[donette.spann@arfb.com](mailto:donette.spann@arfb.com) 501/228-1222

Arkansas Women in Agriculture, Inc. is a private non-profit whose main goals are to provide educational programming and a network of support for women involved in agriculture throughout the state of Arkansas.

#### ARKANSAS CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Cody Burkham, Executive Vice President  
[cody@arkansasbeef.com](mailto:cody@arkansasbeef.com) 501-224-2114

The Arkansas Beef Cattlemen Association is focused on four pillars: Legislation, Advocacy, and Development. ACA hosts several events and programs throughout the year to better serve and educate its members: Young Cattlemen Leadership Class, Arkansas State Fair, Area Conferences, and Annual Convention and Tradeshow.

#### ARKANSAS CATFISH FARMERS

Bo Collins, Executive Director  
[cfarkansas@sbsglobal.net](mailto:cfarkansas@sbsglobal.net) 870/672-1716

An Association made up of catfish producers, suppliers/industry related businesses, research/extension/education personnel involved in promoting, producing, and marketing Arkansas farm-raised catfish.

## [STATE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE](#)

[Wes Ward](#)

501/225-1598 [wes.ward@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:wes.ward@agriculture.arkansas.gov)

Often speaks to our international visitors

## [AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF ARKANSAS](#)

Andrew Grobmyer, Executive Director

501-376-0445

A non-profit trade association advocating on behalf of row-crop farmers and agricultural businesses to the state government.

## [ARKANSAS RICE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER](#)

[University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. r](#)

Karen Moldenhauer, Interim Director

870-673-2661 [Kmolden@uark.edu](mailto:Kmolden@uark.edu)

The Center's mission is to investigate, validate and disseminate the best practices for sustainable rice production for Arkansas farmers. The research conducted at the RREC is primarily field-oriented, problem-solving, and applied. Rice breeding efforts for cultivar development are aided by DNA marker-assisted analysis to identify traits associated with rice blast resistance genes, cooking quality, plant height, bran color, leaf texture, aroma, male sterility, fertility restoration, and herbicide tolerance. While rice is the core of the Center's activity, the RREC is also the site for important research on soybeans, corn, grain sorghum, and wheat. Research and extension initiatives are determined by the needs of the Arkansas agricultural industry. The scientists work as a team to conduct research to meet those needs

## [Heifer International Corporate Office](#)

Peter Goldstein, Vice President of Communications

[media@heifer.org](mailto:media@heifer.org) 202-826-7648

The mission is to end poverty and hunger throughout the world, by training people in sustainable farming, helping farmers gain access to the market, and empowering women. It begins with a seed of investment in livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets. Tour and presentation can be arranged.

## [Cornerstone Partnership](#)

Davis Bell- Owner 501-516-5230

The partnership includes fourth and fifth generation farmers. The farm is positioned on the north edge of the Grand Prairie region, which is noted for its rich soils and abundant wildlife habitat. Its location is well suited for not only the local mills and warehouses but is also close to the Mississippi River markets as well as northwest Arkansas feed mills. The operation specializes in corn, rice, soybeans and occasionally some winter wheat. Many of the crops raised on the farm are for seed production for private companies as well as some public varieties. All of the production on the farm is irrigated to assure top quality grain is produced as well as to maximize yield.

## [Agricultural Council of Arkansas](#)

[Andrew Grobmyer](#)      [andrew.grobmyer@agcouncil.net](mailto:andrew.grobmyer@agcouncil.net) The Agricultural Council of Arkansas is a non-profit trade association that was established in 1939 to promote row crop agriculture in Arkansas. Mr. Grobmyer serves as the executive vice president of the Agriculture Council of Arkansas after spending over eight years in Washington D.C. There he worked on Capitol Hill for Senator Mark Pryor and Congressman Marion Berry.

## [RICELAND FOODS](#)

Riceland provides marketing services for rice and soybeans grown by its 5,500 farmer-members in Arkansas and Missouri. Each year, its 1,500 employees receive, store, transport, process and market more than 125 million bushels (2.5 million metric tons) of grain. Riceland is the world's largest miller and marketer of rice and one of the Mid-South's major soybean processors. A major rice exporter, Riceland markets rice products under the Riceland label, private labels, as ingredients, and in bulk. Riceland products are sold across the nation and to more than 75 foreign destinations. More than two-thirds of Riceland's business is delivering, milling, storing, marketing, and distributing rice.

## [UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION STATE OFFICE](#)

(501) 686-2540

With offices in all 75 counties, the Ph.D. level faculty and staff headquartered in Little Rock provide educational programs and research-based information to the people of Arkansas. From agricultural programs to family financial management to youth education, they offer educational programs that have immediate and practical applications.

## [Winrock International Corporate Office](#)

Chris Hancock, Media Relations

501-280-3080 [chris.hancock@winrock.org](mailto:chris.hancock@winrock.org)

Its mission is to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity and sustain natural resources. Winrock manages a portfolio of more than 100 agriculture, environment and social development projects in over 40 countries.

## [Letchworth Rice Farm](#)

This is a working rice farm that has been this family for decades. Donald Morton is the primary at this farm. This farm belongs to the family of GTA's former director, Walter Nunn.

## BROADCAST AND JOURNALISM

The Arkansas Broadcasters Association (ABA) <https://www.arkbroadcasters.org/ark/>

The Arkansas Broadcasters Association exists to promote and protect a favorable economic and regulatory climate for broadcasting, and to educate members and the public about the opportunities available through the efforts of free, over-the-air broadcast operations. Most member services are funded by stations' participation in the NCSA program, in which non-profit and governmental agencies partner with the ABA to extend the reach of on-air public education messages.

Arkansas Press Association (APA) <https://www.arkansaspress.org/>

Ashley Wimberley, Executive Director

501/374-1500 [ashley@arkansaspress.org](mailto:ashley@arkansaspress.org)

The APA, whose motto is "Free Press, Free People," is the oldest professional association in the state. APA has two subsidiaries, Arkansas Press Services, Inc. (APS) and the Arkansas Newspaper Foundation (ANF). APS offers numerous advertising services to the public and newspapers. The Foundation provides funds for scholarships, internships, other educational programs and the Arkansas Newspaper Museum.

ARKANSAS BUSINESS WEEKLY JOURNAL <https://www.arkansasbusiness.com>

Kyle Massey, Assistant Editor

501 455-9278 [kmassey@abpg.com](mailto:kmassey@abpg.com)

Arkansas Business Publishing Group specializes in niche magazine publishing, which brings together targeted audiences and advertisers that want to reach them. Mission is to profitably disseminate a variety of high-quality information in a model work environment that has a positive effect on the community.

Arkansas Democrat Gazette <https://www.arkansasonline.com>

Amanda Copley Marketing and Events Director

Frank Fellone, Deputy Editor, Authority on Freedom of Information

501- 378-3400

daily newspaper of record with online version, distributed all over the state, and the oldest continuously published newspaper west of the Mississippi.

Arkansas Educational Television Network (PBS) <https://www.myarkansaspbs.org/>

Julie Thomas, Marketing & Engagement Director

501-682-2386 [management@myarkansaspbs.org](mailto:management@myarkansaspbs.org)

Arkansas PBS is a state network of Public Broadcasting Service member television stations serving the U.S. state of Arkansas. It is operated by the Arkansas Educational Television Commission, an agency of the state government which holds the licenses for all the PBS member stations licensed in the state.

Arkansas Nonprofit News Network <https://arknews.org>

Lindsey Millar, Editor in-chief, volunteer

The Arkansas Nonprofit News Network is an independent, nonpartisan news effort dedicated to producing journalism that matters to Arkansans. It was founded in December 2016 by longtime Arkansas Times editor, Lindsey Millar.

Arkansas Times <https://arktimes.com/>

Alan Leveritt, Publisher

501- 375-2985 [alanleveritt@arktimes.com](mailto:alanleveritt@arktimes.com)

Weekly newspaper with a decidedly liberal slant, along with online blogs, podcasts and videos,

National Public Radio--Five stations in Arkansas, including two in Little Rock: KARK, KATV, and KHTV--Productions of both local and national news.

## **BUSINESSES**

Acxiom Corporation <https://www.acxiom.com/>

Debbie Uekman, Project Manager

501-342-1416 [debbie.uekman@acxiom.com](mailto:debbie.uekman@acxiom.com)

301 E Dave Ward Dr, Conway, AR 72032

A leading provider of data used for customer relationship management, with offices in Little Rock and Conway

Mainstream Technologies <https://www.mainstream-tech.com>

Grant Downer, Business Development

501-801-6700

325 W Capitol Ave ste. 200, Little Rock, AR 72201

Custom software solutions, managed IT services, and compliance centric hosting and colocation for corporations of all sizes

Windstream

Cathy Jarrett , Executive Corporate Assistant

501-748-7157 [cathy.jarrett@windstream.com](mailto:cathy.jarrett@windstream.com)

Leading provider of advanced network communications and technology solutions for consumers, small businesses, enterprise organizations and carrier partners across the U.S.

Euronet Worldwide <https://euronetsoftware.com/>

Nancy Griebel, Marketing Director

501-912-2485

Global leader in processing secure electronic financial transactions, processing payment and transaction processing solutions to financial institutions, retailers, service providers and individual consumers.

## CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Arkansas Community Organization <https://arkansascomm.org/>

501-376-5101 [aco@arkansascomm.org](mailto:aco@arkansascomm.org)

Grassroots non-profit that organizes low-income and working families across the state to enable them to fight for social and economic justice on a variety of issues.

Arkansas Panel for Public Policy <https://arpanel.org/about>

Curtis Mangrum, Chair

501-376-7913 [panel@arpanel.org](mailto:panel@arpanel.org)

Organizes communities to create infrastructure, set goals and develop action plans for better schools, safer neighborhoods, accountable government, and more. They help residents develop the tools to realize their vision of social justice, economic prosperity, accountable government, and improved quality of life. They currently work with groups in fifteen communities in South Arkansas and counties in the Fayetteville Shale.

Catholic Charities <https://www.dolr.org/catholic-charities>

Dianne Brady, Director Stewardship and Development Office

501-664-0340, ext. 391 [dbrady@dolr.org](mailto:dbrady@dolr.org)

Provides an adoption service, small grants for anti-poverty work, immigration services, prison ministry, and a free medical clinic.

The Confess Project, Little Rock Office HQ

800- 804-4057 [ec@lj-empowerment.com](mailto:ec@lj-empowerment.com)

Nonprofit committed to building a culture of mental health for boys and men of color through capacity building, advocacy, organizing and movement building.

El Zócalo Immigrant Resource Center <http://www.zocalocenter.com>

Douglas Ponce, Executive Director

501- 301-4652 [team@zocalocenter.org](mailto:team@zocalocenter.org)

Connects individuals and families with services (legal and/or health, basic needs assistance) and fostering community-wide understanding through education.

Just Communities of Arkansas <http://www.arkansasjustcommunities.org>

Clarice Abdul-Bey - Senior Facilitator, Lead Community Consultant

501.372.5129 [cabdul-bey@justcommunities.org](mailto:cabdul-bey@justcommunities.org)

JCA's purpose is to transform Arkansas into the nation's most inclusive, equitable and upwardly mobile place for all who live, work or play here. With roots dating back over half a century, JCA builds capacity for systematic change so all people in Arkansas are treated like human beings and can have the opportunity to reach their full potential. JCA designs and delivers programs and experiences that amplify human potential and relationships, connect diverse groups of people, co-create sustainable paths to inclusive systems, and train individuals to lead that systematic change in their workplace and communities



League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

[https://lulac.org/members/directory/little\\_rock\\_lulac\\_council\\_750](https://lulac.org/members/directory/little_rock_lulac_council_750)

Ben Acupa, Treasurer

870-820-1820

Advances the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States.

Little Rock Police Domestic Violence Division--special division of the local police to educate and increase visibility in order to help especially in domestic violence.

Racial and Cultural Diversity Commission for City of Little Rock

<https://www.littlerock.gov/city-administration/city-departments/community-programs/racial-and-cultural-diversity-commission/about-us/>

Ericka Benedicto - Diversity Program Manager Office:

(501) 244-5483 [ebenedicto@littlerock.gov](mailto:ebenedicto@littlerock.gov)

Ensures that all the residents of the City and all persons subject to its jurisdiction enjoy equal freedom to pursue their aspirations without discrimination because of race, ethnicity, color or national origin.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

School of Social Work MidSOUTH- <https://ualr.edu/socialwork/midsouth/>

Mary Atkins, Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Program Coordinator

501-916-5821, [maatkins@ualr.edu](mailto:maatkins@ualr.edu)

Provides leadership, training, and product support in the areas of addiction, child welfare, technology, distance learning, and organizational development, in 5 locations across Arkansas.

Willie Hinton Neighborhood Resource Center,

<https://www.littlerock.gov/city-administration/city-departments/housing-and-neighborhood/willie-l-hinton-neighborhood-resource-center/> 3805 W 12th St, Little Rock, AR 72204

(501) 379-1500

Committed to capacity-building in Little Rock, the staff studies issues, develops problem-solving strategies, and tests new, creative solutions proposed by residents.

Partners:

Neighborhood Resource Center Office (501) 379-1511

Community Oriented Policing Program (501) 379-1516

Little Rock Police Department Internal Affairs Division (501) 379-4275

Arkansas Community Dispute Resolution Centers, Inc (501) 379-1501

Urban League of Arkansas (501) 379-1597

Better Community Developers (501) 379-1538

City of Little Rock Small Business Development Office (501) 379-1505

Sequoyah Research Center— <https://ualr.edu/sequoyah/>

Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr., PhD., Director

(501) 569-8336 [dflittlefiel@ualr.edu](mailto:dflittlefiel@ualr.edu)

The collections of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Sequoyah National Research Center constitute the largest assemblage of Native American expression in the world. Its mission, to acquire and preserve the writings and ideas of Native North Americans, is accomplished through collecting the written word and art of Native Americans and creating a research atmosphere that invites indigenous peoples to make the Center an archival home for their creative work.

### Little Rock Mounted Police Operations Sergeant Sean Ragan

Little Rock police can be seen riding horses around certain parts of the city. It's a part of the job that's not as well known to people. It's the LRPD Mounted Patrol Unit. Five horses are a part of the division, including Punch, Jay, and Clem. Sergeant Ragan will show us around the ranch where the horses are kept and explain their purpose.

## **COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION**

These programs encompass community policing which involves collaboration of law enforcement officers with members of the community, neighborhood watch programs, youth programs such as mentorship, and environmental designing that can improve lighting and installation of security cameras.

### Chief of Police, Little Rock

Chief Heath Helton is a 27 year veteran of the Little Rock Police Department. He began his career in 1996 as a Police Officer. The chief is a military veteran having served 8 years in the US Army Reserve. Chief Helton can speak with the visitors about administering a police department, leadership skills, and effective recruitment.

### Community Cooking

This is a youth program partnership between a local restaurant and the Little Rock Police Department. Community Cooking is a program designed to provide positive role models for today's youth ages thirteen through eighteen. The overall goal of Community Cooking is to bring the community, law enforcement, and local businesses and chefs together to prepare our youth for a future of success.

The Crime Prevention Unit works to develop and promote positive community relations and interaction through proactive policing techniques. They implement new programs to help identify problems and seek solutions; they host and attend community meetings, acting as a liaison for community agencies, and conducting special events to foster and increase community relations. The focus is to educate the community on proactive measures of preventing criminal activity to property, and equipping citizens on measures of protecting themselves.

LR Mounted Patrol is a community outreach program that is committed to building positive relationships between law enforcement and the public. You can see the mounted patrol in the downtown area, local schools, concerts, and many more places in the Little Rock area.

Neighborhood Watch Program, and partnerships with businesses and organizations has proven benefits for the City of Little Rock. Below are the most notable community outreach projects.

- Coffee with a Cop
- National Night Out
- Prescription Drug drop-off locations
- Home and Business security surveys
- Personal Safety
- Citizen's Police Academy

Residential HOAs, neighborhood policing meetings attended by police

#### LRPD Social Worker

A newly created position to lead crisis intervention within the Little Rock Police Department has been created, Funding for the position comes from the annual Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The Little Rock Police Department continues to prioritize crisis intervention and violence prevention as a 21st century police force guided by principles of service to residents

#### Special Operations LR Police Department.

The Special Operations Division is a specialized unit within the LRPD that is responsible for handling various high-risk situations that require a specialized tactical response. It is composed of several units, including the SWAT team, Bomb Squad, Crisis Negotiation Team, and Canine Unit. The department is trained to handle situations such as hostage situations, barricaded suspects, high-risk warrant service, dignitary protection, and other critical incidents that require specialized tactics and equipment. The team is highly trained and equipped with specialized weapons and equipment to carry out their duties. They also work closely with other law enforcement agencies in the region to provide support and assistance when needed.

#### Domestic Violence

Little Rock Police Department has a Domestic Violence Unit that is responsible for investigating and responding to domestic violence incidents within their jurisdiction. The specific functions of this unit may include: responding to calls for service, providing resources such as obtaining protective orders for victims, conducting community outreach programs, and much more.

FBI, Federal Bureau of Investigation, is a national law enforcement agency with an area office in Little Rock. The primary function is to investigate and enforce federal criminal laws, including those related to terrorism, organized crime, cybercrime, public corruption, civil rights violations, and white collar crime.

FBI Community Outreach is responsible for building and maintaining positive relationships between the FBI and the communities it serves. This division works to improve communication and understanding between the FBI and community groups, such as civic organizations, religious groups, and minority groups.

Arkansas State Police is the primary law enforcement agency in the state. Its main function is to enforce state laws and regulations, maintain public safety and order, and investigate and solve crimes.

Tour Regional Detention Facility is also known as the Pulaski County jail. This correctional institution is located in Little Rock. Its primary function is to hold individuals who have been arrested and are awaiting trial or sentencing, or have committed a crime and are serving a sentence of less than one year.

#### Attorney General's office K9 unit

There is a new addition to the Arkansas attorney general's K-9 unit named Lucy! This is a highly trained dog that will be used to assist in various law enforcement tasks, such as detecting illegal substances or tracking missing persons. K-9 units are a valuable asset to law enforcement agencies, and their specially trained dogs play an important role in keeping communities safe.

Pulaski County Sheriff's Department's role typically includes maintaining law and order within their jurisdiction, enforcing state and local laws, investigating crimes, providing security and support during emergencies, and operating and maintaining county jails or detention facilities. Sheriff's Offices may also have specialized units for traffic enforcement, search and rescue operations, and community outreach programs. It is important to note that the specific duties of a Sheriff's Office may vary depending on the size of the jurisdiction, the resources available, and the needs of the community.

At Risk Youth Programs: [Coach Larry with Life Skills Youth](#). The goal of LSY is to create a positive alternative for youth in the community while offering mentorship and skills development that will aid them into adulthood. Since 2007 LSY has earned numerous awards for its commitment to the youth in the local community. Since its inception LSY has helped over 3,800 Youth, served over 1,562,100 million healthy meals and snacks and touched the lives of countless families. The core of LSY is programs that mentor, teach and train youth. LSY is known nationally for its cutting edge ATM (Anger, Time and Money) Management that teaches youth how to manage emotions, plan time and handle money responsibly. [PARK \(Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids\)](#) is another great organization run by former pro football player Keith Jackson.

The Mexican Consulate located in Little Rock provides a range of services to Mexican citizens in the area, as well as to individuals seeking to visit or do business in Mexico.

LRPD Hispanic Police Units are specialized units within police departments that are made up of officers who are fluent in Spanish and are trained to work with the Hispanic community. These units are typically formed in areas where there is a large Hispanic population or where there is a need for Spanish speaking officers to better serve the community.

## **CYBERSECURITY**

Cybersecurity expert, Chris Wright Chris graduated with a Computer Engineering degree from the University of Arkansas but aspired to be a pilot in the US Air Force. He quickly realized the pilot's seat would not give him the satisfaction of solving difficult engineering problems and making a real difference in the world, so he transferred into the Engineering and IT career field. Since he first learned to code in the 3rd grade, Chris somehow knew he'd make a difference with technology. After a few years, he found himself working in cybersecurity, securing systems vital to Air Force Space Command, Medicare and Medicaid, Homeland Security, and other government agencies. After traveling the world for 13 years, he came back home to Arkansas and continued his cyber security work with FIS, a global financial technology company. After a few years, he saw a new need and went into business for himself to use his expertise for the benefit of small businesses.

In addition to his bachelor's degree in Engineering, Chris also holds a master's degree in Management Information Systems. He is also a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH).

### University of Arkansas, Little Rock Cybersecurity Department

UA Little Rock works with the U.S. Cyber Command and the Department of Defense to provide research, educational and partnership opportunities in the field of cybersecurity. UALR is one of 84 universities chosen for the Cyber Command's newly formed Academic Engagement Network (AEN). This is an alliance of public and private academic institutions collaborating to support and enhance four US Cyber Command lines of efforts: future workforce, applied cyber research, applied analytics and strategic issues. UALR also manages the Cyber Arena which provides cloud-based cybersecurity workouts.

Sandra Leiterman and Dr. Philip Huff

Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center Located on the campus of UALR, this center offers to small businesses, the NSA Cybersecurity Workforce

Certificate program. ASBTDC provides programming to help small business owners manage and mitigate the risks of cyber threats and the NSA sponsored summer camp for junior high and high school students.

Lee Watson, CEO of Forge Institute Forge Institute began as a think-tank designed to enable private-public collaborations. It is now an outstanding cybersecurity specialist who has, among other programs, launched ACDC, Arkansas Cyber Defense Center which is a dedicated hotline that connects small and mid-sized businesses directly with an institute volunteer. Their mission is: mission is to empower their partners with cutting-edge technologies and new capabilities that advance cyber operational .

## **DISABILITY ADVOCACY & ISSUES**

Disability Rights Arkansas(DRA) <https://disabilityrightsar.org/>

Kerri Michael, Communications and Outreach Manager  
501-296-1775, 400 W Capitol Ave #1200, Little Rock, AR 72201

Arkansas's protection and advocacy organization who helps people with disabilities. Sometimes clients need legal advice or representation. Sometimes they need information, or referral to another agency for services. DRA provides information about voting rights, self-advocacy, and laws and policies that affect the lives of people with disabilities. DRA can intervene in cases of abuse or neglect, monitor facilities to ensure that they are accessible, and provide appropriate services. DRA partners with people with disabilities to create an inclusive Arkansas.

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD or Council)

Assiah Lewellen Program and Outreach Manager  
501-682-4431 [assiah.lewellen@dfa.arkansas.gov](mailto:assiah.lewellen@dfa.arkansas.gov)

Promotes integration, inclusion and independence for Arkansans with developmental disabilities (DD). The Council's purpose is to connect people with developmental disabilities to the resources and programs they need to be independent, be productive and be integrated and included in all parts of community life. GCDD, along with our network partners, oversees the implementation of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act in Arkansas to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of community services that allow increased opportunities to live and work locally.

[.https://gcdd.arkansas.gov/about](https://gcdd.arkansas.gov/about)

The Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities (AGCPD)

<https://arcareereducation.org/services/arkansas-rehabilitation-services/access-accommodations/governor-s-commission-on-people-with-disabilities>

Trina Harris 501-296-1637, [trina.harris@arkansas.gov](mailto:trina.harris@arkansas.gov).

Commission members are appointed by the Governor with a majority made up of individuals with disabilities. Some of the duties of the AGCPD include advising and assisting the Governor in developing policies that are designed to address the needs of Arkansans with disabilities; working with state agencies and private providers to develop services and supports that assist Arkansans with disabilities; and providing information and referral services to Arkansans with disabilities who are in need of assistance.

Arkansas Legal Services-The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

<http://www.arlegalservices.org/node/895/disability-discrimination>

Center for Arkansas Legal Services 1300 West 6th Street Little Rock, AR 72201

501-376-3423

Prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of an employee's physical or mental disability. The ADA also prohibits the employer from asking job applicants questions about their past or current disability conditions. The ADA limits the extent to which an employer can require job applicants and existing employees to take medical exams. The ADA could also require the employer to create or maintain worksites that are accessible and usable for people with disabilities. Protections The ADA's protections extend to qualified disabled workers regardless of whether they work part time, full time, or have not yet become permanent employees.

Arkansas Disability Coalition (ADC)

Lynne McAllester, Executive Director

501/614/7020 [lynne@ardisabilitycoalition.org](mailto:lynne@ardisabilitycoalition.org)

is a statewide organization that assists families and individuals with all types of disabilities, providing health-related support, information, resources and training. ADC works to ensure that all persons with disabilities are empowered with the knowledge and assistance they require to make informed decisions, through advocating the value and power of partnerships between families, health care professionals, service providers, lawmakers and the community. ADC is an alliance of organizations and individuals joined to promote full and equal participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life.

Arkansas Division of Workforce Services The Arkansas State Rehabilitation Council

(SRC) <https://arcareereducation.org/services/arkansas-rehabilitation-services/state-rehabilitation-council>

Charisse Childers, Ph.D., Director

501-683-5961

An important partner with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) in assisting Arkansans with disabilities in going to work or remaining at work. Consistent with Section 105 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, the SRC reviews, analyzes and advises ARS regarding program goals as outlined in its state plan, consumer needs, eligibility and service delivery policies and procedures, and consumer satisfaction. SRC members are Governor appointed and include individuals with disabilities, representatives from disability advocacy groups, educators, employers, and rehabilitation professionals. The SRC meets quarterly and annually submits a report to the Governor and the Rehabilitation Services Administration

The Crossing at Angel Court <http://www.thecrossingatangelcourt.org>

1040 Angel Court Little Rock, AR 72206

501-888-4140 | [julie@icanarkansas.com](mailto:julie@icanarkansas.com)

Fully accessible public park and playground was inspired by Katie Mayberry, who was born in 2001 with spina bifida and mobile through the use of a wheelchair. Two of the four acres were donated to Saline County to build the "I CAN! Arts and Resource Center." The center was built through a grant from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission in a unique partnership with Saline County and the non-profit organization, Community Connections. The center offers extra-curricular activities for children with disabilities, including dance, art, cooking and music.

Arkansas School for the Blind <https://www.arkansaschoolfortheblind.org/>

Teresa Doan, Lead Principal

501-296-1810 [teresa.doan@asb.k12.ar.us](mailto:teresa.doan@asb.k12.ar.us)

State-run public school, serving blind and vision impaired students of kindergarten through high school grades through residential, day school, and part-time enrollment programs.

Arkansas School for the Deaf- <https://www.arschoolforthe deaf.org/>

Founded in 1850, the Arkansas School for the Deaf is a state-run public school in Little Rock, serving deaf and hearing-impaired students through residential, day school, and part-time enrollment programs.

Autism Resource Center of Arkansas <https://aaroc.org/>

Dianna Varady, [501-454-8542](tel:501-454-8542) [ddvarady@uark.edu](mailto:ddvarady@uark.edu)

Provides parent consultations, summer camp, young adult social group, resource guides, and educational training to affected families.

Community Connections <http://www.communityconnectionsar.org/>

Courtney Leach, Executive Director

501-733-1627 [Courtney@CommunityConnectionsAR.org](mailto:Courtney@CommunityConnectionsAR.org)

Non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children with disabilities and their families by providing sports activities.

Camp Aldersgate <https://www.campaldersgate.net>

Sonya S. Murphy, Chief Executive Officer

501.225.1444 [smurphy@campaldersgate.net](mailto:smurphy@campaldersgate.net)

Arkansas' only non-profit organization uniquely dedicated to serving children and youth with special needs and senior adults in a camp environment.

Easter Seals <https://www.easterseals.com/arkansas>

Mac Bell, VP of Development & Communication 501-227-3600

Provides a variety of home and community-based services, affording opportunities for children with disabilities, developmental delay, special needs and autism to live, learn, work and play in their community.



Goodwill Industries <https://www.goodwillar.org/>

Leslie Heizman, Vice President of Community Engagement

501-372-5100 [lheizman@GoodwillAR.org](mailto:lheizman@GoodwillAR.org)

Little Rock Goodwill has recently implemented an Adult Charter School to help people complete their GED along with their traditional work program.

The Lewis Group <https://thelewisgroupar.com/>

Lorenzo Lewis, Founder, 501-424-5920

Specializes in providing quality employment, transportation, and social services to disadvantaged individuals. They offer career placement and coaching while also equipping individuals with the necessary tools for success to enhance their overall quality of life.

Lions World Services for the Blind <https://www.wsblind.org/>

501-664-7100

Allows clients to receive services tailored specifically to their needs, from essential skills such as orientation & mobility, assistive technology and cooking, to technology based career-path programs like Assistive Technology Instructor and VoiceOver @ Work.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology <https://ualr.edu/audiospeech/#content>

- [Speech and Hearing Clinic](#)--Supervised by certified speech-language pathologists and audiologists, and the only diagnostic and rehabilitative training program in audiology in Arkansas.
- [School of Counseling, Human Performance, & Rehabilitation](#) (CHPR)--offers degrees in sign language and rehabilitation for the blind.

## **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM): ADEM is the state's agency for homeland security and preparedness, serving as the state's coordination center to prevent, protect against, and mitigate the effects of security threats. ADEM also houses the State's Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), which coordinates representatives from various state agencies to deliver assistance. You will visit ADEM to gain an understanding of the state's emergency plans and roles; the session will also highlight the types of emergencies for which the state prepares.

Special attention will be paid to efforts to reach rural communities with services and information.

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH): The ADH Emergency Response and Preparedness program coordinates training and exercises tailored for public health emergency response. These training and exercise programs are designed to enhance the capacity of the health and medical systems to respond to and recover from catastrophic health emergencies which could include incidents of terrorism, pandemic outbreaks, or a large-scale evacuation. ADH representatives will detail their approach to

training and exercises for public health professionals and discuss efforts to prepare for health emergencies.

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock College of Engineering: working on hazard mitigation and earthquake preparedness.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS): UAMS is the premier medical teaching and research hospital in the state. Its Office of Emergency Preparedness assists all parts of the UAMS community in planning for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies and disasters. To accomplish this, UAMS collaborates with local, state and federal partners.

Representatives will discuss emergency preparedness plans and the role that the university plays in responding to emergencies both on campus and across the state.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a mission to deliver vital public and military engineering services, including reducing risks from disasters. The Corps has played an important role in addressing levee safety and floodplain management and in responding to recent flooding in Arkansas.

Local News and Weather: Local broadcasting station where meteorologists will share their processes for presenting natural disaster information and keeping the community informed in emergencies.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Jill Gray 501-682-5625 [jill.gray@arkansas.gov](mailto:jill.gray@arkansas.gov)

Contains several programs that are specialized for meeting the needs of job seekers, employers, and the general public. These programs are: Career Readiness Certification, Governor's Dislocated Workers Task Force, Migrant Farm Labor Center, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Unemployment Services, and Veteran Services.

Arkansas Economic Development Commission <https://www.arkansasedc.com/>

Bentley Story Director - Business Development  
(501) 682-7384 [BSTORY@ARKANSASEDC.COM](mailto:BSTORY@ARKANSASEDC.COM)

Works to create economic opportunity by attracting higher paying jobs, expanding and diversifying our state and local economies, increasing incomes and investment, and generating positive growth throughout Arkansas.

Arkansas Economic Development Institute--provides research, technical assistance, and training to the state's leaders, public and private, that supports and enhances the economic development of the state.

Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub--a “maker-space” dedicated to educating and inspiring the community of Creatives, Technologists and Entrepreneurs to be the Makers of our future.

Nia McConnell of Think Rubix at the Venture Center and Little Rock Tech Park to get another perspective of Social Entrepreneurship, focusing on success stories in the local community. The Venture Center is a business-focused nonprofit organization that serves as an engine for economic growth in Central Arkansas and around the world. The Venture Center leverages the expertise of a world-class Mentor Network, intensive programming and introductions to the investor community to help start-ups become viable, high-growth businesses.

Chauncey Pettis.

Ms. Pettis is the Director of Arkansas Women’s Business Center at WinRock International in Little Rock and is a remarkable entrepreneur who started her own greeting card business when she was still in high school at the age of 15. You will hear how she realized her market and followed through with spin-off ideas.

Arkansas World Trade Center--headquartered in Rogers, but also has a branch in Little Rock, focusing on business, government and diplomatic contacts, as well as development programs and international trade education.

Center for Community and Economic Development at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA)---equips leaders with economic tools and resources, builds consensus to achieve community goals, and brings UCA resources and communities together.

Chambers of Commerce (State of Arkansas, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway)--the principal business-driven leadership organization responsible for fostering the economic growth and development of their territories.

Job Corps <https://littlerock.jobcorps.gov/>

6800 Scott Hamilton Dr Little Rock 72209 501-618-2500

Job Corps is a no-cost education and career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 to 24 improve the quality of their lives through career technical and academic training. The Job Corps program is authorized by Title I-C of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (supersedes WIA 1998).

Little Rock Workforce Development Board <https://www.lrworkforce.com/>

W.J. Monagle Executive Director

Phone: (501) 683-3843 [w.j.monagle@arkansas.gov](mailto:w.j.monagle@arkansas.gov)

The Little Rock workforce system, as envisioned under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), is quality focused, employer-driven, customer-centered, and customized to meet the needs of the local and regional economy. It aligns workforce

development, education, and economic development programs to meet the needs of local and regional employers. It is designed to increase access to, and opportunities for, employment, education, training, and support services by job seekers, particularly those with barriers to employment.

#### The Rock It Lab!

Rock It! Lab (RIL) is a place where under-resourced entrepreneurs are given the tools, guidance, and training necessary to start, grow, and scale their businesses. A partnership of the Central Arkansas Library System (CALs) and Advancing Black Entrepreneurship (ABE), the Rock It! Lab provides resources and services, including technical assistance, mentorship, marketing and promotion, networking opportunities, business education, one-on-one instruction, and more to assist entrepreneurs in creating successful businesses.

#### The Conductor <https://www.arconductor.org/>

Jeff Standridge, Managing Director

[JeffS@ARConductor.org](mailto:JeffS@ARConductor.org)

Public-private partnership with the University of Central Arkansas and Startup Junkie Consulting driving innovation, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in Central Arkansas.

#### The Venture Center<https://www.venturecenter.co/>

Mimi San Pedro, Chief Strategy Officer

501-766-0532 [mimi.sanpedro@venturecenter.co](mailto:mimi.sanpedro@venturecenter.co)

Helps startups obtain customer validation and reach viability through systematic programming, premium mentorship that leverages best practices in lean methodology, and strategic acceleration with an eye on reaching scale and creating measurable economic impact.

#### University of Arkansas, Little Rock College of Arts, Letters and Sciences

Windgate Center for Art + Design--Completed in 2017, this Center includes a fine arts foundry, as well as areas for art history and education, blacksmithing, ceramics, digital fabrication, graphic design, illustration, metal fabrication, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpting and woodworking.

#### University of Arkansas at Little Rock, College of Business

- [Arkansas Economic Development Institute](#)--offers assistance in data and analysis; economic forecast and impact, and community economic development assistance.
- [Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center](#)--university-based economic development program that assists entrepreneurs, both new and seasoned, with every aspect of business creation, management, and operation.

### U.S. Small Business Administration, Arkansas District Office

Jerry Talbert, Director Provides management training and consulting to thousands of entrepreneurs, helps small business owners pursue contracts from the federal government and prime federal contractors.

Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) <https://littlerock.score.org/>  
501-324-7379 [littlerockscore@sbcglobal.net](mailto:littlerockscore@sbcglobal.net)

Train mentors who provide counseling to small business owners as well as workshops.

## **EDUCATION/LIBRARIES**

Arkansas Department of Education--regulates and supports all K-12 public school teachers and programs.

Arkansas Department of Human Services, Early Childhood Division--Program development, evaluation system, grant funding, technical assistance, teacher training.

### Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) and The Butler Center

With its headquarters at the Little Rock Main Library, CALS serves a local population of 402,947 and is the largest public Arkansas library system. Its fourteen libraries are located in the City of Little Rock (Main Little Rock Library and eight branches), Pulaski County (Wrightsville, Jacksonville, Sherwood, and Maumelle, AR), and Perry County (Perryville, AR).

### Little Rock School District (LRSD)

- [International Magnet Schools: Gibbs Elementary, Dunbar Middle, Central High](#)
- [Central High School, landmark public high school with strong AP curriculum](#)
- [Fair Park Early Childhood Center \(one of several EC buildings\)](#)
- [Roberts Elementary School \(newest\)](#)
- [Two STEM schools \(Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics\)](#)
- [Metropolitan Career Technical Center](#)

### Little Rock Central High National Historic Site and school

Learn about the Little Rock Crisis and the civil rights movement. You will learn about the strife nine black students endured during the 1957 Little Rock Crisis, when federal troops were called in to protect and enforce the integration of nine black students into the then all-white high school. The museum includes a civil rights timeline and a video showing television's importance in protecting the lives of the "Little Rock Nine". Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site is part of the National Park Service, within the Department of the Interior. This park, established in 1998, interprets the heroic story of the Little Rock Nine, the struggle in Little Rock to maintain segregation, and the surging tide of the civil rights movement.

### Gibbs International Magnet Elementary School

GTA has an official partnership with Gibbs to present to the students and be involved in special events.

Office for Innovation in Education, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville --collaborates with public schools, districts and educators across the state, exploring, investigating, and designing ideas and opportunities for innovation that improve outcomes for every student.

### Private Schools, Little Rock

- Pulaski Academy
- The Anthony School
- Mount St. Mary's Girls Catholic High School
- Catholic High School for Boys
- Episcopal Collegiate School

### Publicly Funded Charter Schools, Little Rock

- E Stem Elementary & Middle Schools located downtown
- E-Stem High School located on the campus of UA Little Rock
- Quest Middle School

### University of Arkansas at Little Rock, College of Education and Health Professions, School of Education

- Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education, uniquely poised to offer training and guidance to Arkansas residents who are a part of our high-achieving community of thinkers, doers, and learners.
- Center for Literacy, dedicated to providing premier professional development to educators and to conducting research in literacy-related areas.
- STEM Education Center, a vehicle to coordinate and organize activities with partners in K-12 schools

University of Central Arkansas, College of Education, Conway--Arkansas' premier educator preparation college, with programs in teacher preparation, educational leadership, school counseling, library media, instructional technologies, and higher education administration, as well as community outreach programs.

## **ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY**

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality--protects the air, water and land from the threat of pollution, striving for environmental quality through programs of regulation, education and assistance.

Arkansas Forestry Commission--protects Arkansas's forests, and those who enjoy them, from wildland fire and natural hazards while promoting rural and urban forest health, stewardship, development and conservation for all generations of Arkansans.

Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission--regulates and monitors drilling in the state, especially fracking, which can lead to earthquakes.

Central Arkansas Water Utility--we can take tours of the dam of the Arkansas River and water treatment plants

Highland Pellets--high-level provider of sustainable wood pellets to Europe and Japan.

River Rock Builders--custom home builders, specializing in high end energy efficient homes. Premier green building

Southwest Power Pool--U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) designated Regional Transmission Organization that manages the electric grid, operates the wholesale electric market, and plans transmission for all or part of 14 states from their west Little Rock campus.

Scenic Hill Solar Company--operates a 1.2MW array that is the third largest commercial solar array and the fourth largest solar project in Arkansas at the L'Oreal cosmetics factory.

Stuttgart Solar Energy Center-- a 475-acre site with 350,000 photovoltaic panels, owned by Entergy Arkansas and NextEra Energy Resources.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Construction Management and Engineering – accredited BS and MS programs meet the highly specialized demands of the modern architecture, engineering, and construction industry, especially for sustainable building.

U.S. Green Building Council, Arkansas--nonprofit organization with more than 300 members and more than 200 LEED certified buildings in the state. They present over 30 monthly Educational Programs, offer LEED exam prep courses, organize energy code training classes, present the annual Sustainable Arkansas Conference and Green Tie Awards Dinner. We can hire a speaker and tour LEED certified buildings in Little Rock.

## GOVERNMENT/POLITICS/FOREIGN POLICY

Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration--tax collection of all kinds and state budgeting.

Arkansas Elections Commission--managed by the Secretary of State, each county has its own election commission, where we can discuss how elections are run and see the voting machines.

Meet the former director of the Pulaski County Election Commission, Joshua Price. You will learn about the voting process in the US and Arkansas. The Pulaski County Election Commission is an independent, bi-partisan government entity operating under state and federal election laws to promote accurate, efficient, accessible and secure elections to the citizens of Pulaski County.

Arkansas Ethics Commission--serves as the compliance and enforcement agency under Arkansas' standards of conduct and disclosure laws concerning candidates for public office, state and local public officials, lobbyists and committees, and individuals involved with initiatives, referenda and other matters referred to the voters.

Arkansas Legislature--we can view the House of Representatives and Senate when in session, and ask for appointments with specific legislators

Special Capitol Tour with Lobbyist, Randy Thurman. Mr. Randy Thurman is currently a Lobbyist working for clients such as Arkansas Hospital Association and Exxonmobil. He served in the Arkansas State house of Representatives from 1989-1994, while Bill Clinton was Governor of Arkansas. He then joined the Arkansas Environmental Federation, a non-profit association of industries with environmental concerns. As a legislator, Mr. Thurman served on the Transportation, Education, Public Health, Labor & Welfare, Aging & Legislative Affairs, and Agriculture and Economic Development Committees.

Arkansas National Guard--Comprised of both Army and Air National Guard troops, their mission is to provide trained and disciplined forces for domestic emergencies or as otherwise provided by state law.

Arkansas State Capitol Tour--Tour the capitol with a Lobbyist who will tell us about the history and politics of Arkansas and the US with humor

Arkansas Supreme Court--we can sit in on trials and hearings, as well as meet judges, with appropriate notice.

Attorney General--serves as Arkansas's lawyer, chief law enforcement officer and chief consumer advocate.



Bureau of Legislative Research- provides research of all kinds, drafting of bills, committee staffing, review of state agency rules, codification of laws, and maintenance of the computer services for the entire Capitol.

Consulate of Mexico--provides many legal services for Mexican citizens in Little Rock

Governor's Office--we can request an appointment with the Governor Sarah Sanders and/or staff.

Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission--investigates and may take disciplinary action or, in the most serious cases, recommend to the Arkansas Supreme Court that it impose discipline upon a judge whose actions are found to be a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Little Rock Air Force Base (LRAFB)--Actually in Jacksonville, 15 miles north, LRAFB is home of the 19th Airlift Wing. Two tenant units, the 314th Airlift Wing and the 189th Airlift Wing (Arkansas Air National Guard) report to Air Education and Training Command. A third tenant unit, the U.S. Air Mobility Weapons School reports to Air Combat Command.

Local Offices of US Senators and Representatives--both Senators have offices in Little Rock, as well as the Representative from the 2nd District

State Representative Denise Ennett ( D )

Representative Ennett will give an overview of Democratic priorities/top issues in the state. Rep. Denise Jones Ennett is serving her third term in the Arkansas House of Representatives. She represents District 80 which includes a portion of Little Rock and Pulaski County. For the 94th General Assembly, Rep. Ennett serves on the House Public Transportation Committee, the House Insurance and Commerce Committee, and the House.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

NARA appointed Jay Barth as the Director of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum. Barth brings to this position nearly three decades of experience teaching and researching various aspects of American politics, along with work enhancing civic engagement programming in higher education settings. He began his career as a member of the Department of Politics at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. In addition to his 26 years as a faculty member at Hendrix, Barth was a member of the inaugural faculty for the University of Arkansas's Clinton School of Public Service and has taught at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law. Since taking emeritus status at Hendrix in late 2019, Barth has been the Chief Education Officer for the City of Little Rock, where he has coordinated the city's work to support education from birth through higher education. From 2012 to 2019, Barth was a member of the Arkansas State Board of Education, chairing that body for two years.

### Center for Racial Justice and Criminal Justice Reform

The UA Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law Center for Racial Justice and Criminal Justice Reform was launched in September 2021 to advance racial equity, access to justice, and fairness in Arkansas and the region through academic legal research. The mission of the Center aligns with Bowen's core values of access to justice, public service, and professionalism.

### Amnesty International at Pulaski Academy

This organization is made up of high school students from a private school in Little Rock. They are students who want to make a difference in the world with a goal to raise awareness and money in order to improve human rights for people around the world.

Meet with Students at this local private school to discover some of the activities they are involved in.

### Young Democrats and Young Republicans

The Young Republicans (YRs) are the oldest political youth organization in the United States. Important to the growth of the Republican Party, the YRs reach out to registered Republicans, 18 to 40 years of age, and provide them with better political knowledge and understanding of current issues.

The Young Democrats of Arkansas is a youth coalition of High School Democrats, College Democrats, and Democrats under 35 across the state of Arkansas. Our statewide officers, elected chapter leaders, and at-large delegates give our membership roster the distinction of being the largest statewide organization for young people in politics

Arkansas Supreme Court. A representative or the Chief Justice himself will speak with the delegates and explain the relationship between the Supreme Court, the principles of justice found in the U.S. American law, and how they provide measures of accountability.

Arkansas Teenage Republicans: Arkansas Teenage Republicans is a group of teenagers active in politics through the Republican Party of Arkansas (RPA).

Roby Brock, Political Analyst Roby Brock is the CEO of Natural State Media, the parent company for Talk Business & Politics and The Northwest Arkansas Business Journal. Brock is the host and executive producer of Talk Business & Politics, a 19-year-old multi-media news organization reporting on business and politics in Arkansas. Brock also moderates radio programs on NPR affiliates statewide and a daily digital newscast at TalkBusiness.net. In partnership with Hendrix College, Talk Business & Politics conducts statewide polling on political and business issues throughout the year. Roby

can discuss citizen rights, grassroots movements, levels of participation with young people and more.

## HEALTHCARE

Arkansas Children's Hospital--pediatric hospital with a Level I trauma center, among the largest in the United States, serving children from birth to age 2. In addition to the Little Rock hospital, they have three community clinics and a new hospital in Springdale. They are closely allied with UAMS as a teaching hospital for pediatrics.

Arkansas Department of Health--the primary arm of public health outreach in the state, they hold a weekly Grand Rounds seminar.

Arkansas Minority Health Commission--focuses on addressing existing disparities in minority communities, educating these communities on healthier lifestyles, promoting awareness of services and accessibility within the healthcare system, and making recommendations to relevant agencies, the Governor and to the state legislature.

Arkansas State Board of Health--makes the necessary rules and regulations for public health in Arkansas

Arkansas State Medical Board -oversees the practices of Medical Doctors, Osteopathic Medical Doctors, Physician Assistants, Medical Corporations, Respiratory Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, Radiology Practitioner Assistants and Radiologist Assistants.

Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System-- maintains the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans Hospital in Little Rock, as well as community health clinics around the state. Appropriate staff are available for discussions and tours on a variety of issues.

Community Health Centers of Arkansas--advocates for and facilitates the success of health centers and promotes access to healthcare in Arkansas, by supporting various community health clinics.

Harmony Health Clinic--serves the health and wellness needs of the medically uninsured and underserved who live in Pulaski County, by providing access to quality medical care at no cost to these patients in a private, community-based clinic, staffed by medical professional volunteers and marked by a unique atmosphere of caring, compassion, respect, dignity, and diversity.

Pulaski County Health Unit Facilities--provide various services, such as family planning, STD testing, and support for pregnant women and their infants; available for tours.

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)

- Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Health Professions, Pharmacy and Public Health

- Eight Regional Centers and a comprehensive Rural Hospital Program
- Seven research institutes, including Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, Myeloma Institute, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, Psychiatric Research Institute and Translational Research Institute
- Total research funding more than \$170 million
- Office of Telemedicine, used especially in antenatal and neonatal cases, as well as emergency support for stroke victims
- Simulation Center--provides high quality simulation of clinical skills for healthcare students
- Women's Health Clinics--three sites in Little Rock, available for tours

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Department of Nursing--state of the art facility offering AAS(RN) and BSN degrees.

## **HUMAN & CIVIL RIGHTS**

### Peter Shults, Human Rights Lawyer

Before moving back to family and a law practice here in Little Rock, Peter Shults practiced law, mainly public international law, in Boston, Massachusetts, and his department was headquartered in Washington DC, representing foreign governments, either in US courts or international courts and tribunals, such as The International Court of Justice (the judicial organ of the United Nations). He has had connections with international affairs and foreign policy there. Currently half of his practice in Arkansas is commercial litigation, with the other half still working with his old firm doing international legal work. He is also an adjunct professor at Bowen School of Law, in Little Rock, teaching international law and international human rights law. He will talk to you about the rule of law, human rights law and his experience of cases. (Peter is also a member of the Global Ties Arkansas Board of Directors.)

### Arkansas United

Arkansas United aims to be the leading voice for immigration reform in the State. As they have already done with many partners across Arkansas, they continue to strive towards the goal of strong coalition building for immigrant advocacy nationwide. Mireya Reith, is Executive Director of Arkansas United. She has extensive work within the peace corps, the UN, with DREAMers and Latino-Marshallese populations.

Center for Arkansas Legal Services CALS <https://www.arkansaslegal.org/>

Jean Turner, Executive Director

Sarah Logan, Outreach Inquiries,

501-376-3423 [slogan@arkansaslegalservices.org](mailto:slogan@arkansaslegalservices.org)

Nonprofit organization that provides free legal services to low-income individuals residing in the state of Arkansas in civil (non-criminal) cases.

Court Appointed Special Advocates <https://pulaskicountycasa.org/>

Darryl L. Capps, Executive Director

501-340-6761 [dcapps@pulaskicountycasa.org](mailto:dcapps@pulaskicountycasa.org)

Volunteers speak up and advocate for abused and neglected children in the courtroom and other settings.

Disability Rights Center of Arkansas, <https://disabilityrightsar.org/>

Tom Masseau, Executive Director

501) 296-1775

-private, non-profit agency which provides an independent Protection and Advocacy system for persons with disabilities in Arkansas.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law

<https://ualr.edu/law/>

Tina Medlock, Director of Communications

501-916-3434 [tmmedlock@ualr.edu](mailto:tmmedlock@ualr.edu)

Top 5 Law School for African American and Latino students with its first female Dean, Theresa Beiner. Professors can speak about their particular areas of interest.

## **LGBTQ RIGHTS**

AIDS Foundation--Provides HIV/AIDS services for eligible people living with HIV/AIDS and to promote HIV education, intervention, prevention, and HIV testing/screenings.

Center for Artistic Revolution--inclusive, intergenerational LGBTQ centric organization, sponsor of Diverse Youth for Social Change (DYSC) and the Lucille Marie Hamilton Youth Drop-In Center.

Human Rights Campaign Arkansas--fights for LGBTQ rights

Living Affected Corporation--non-profit organization focusing on holistic health through prevention, education and advocacy for LGBTQ people.

Lucie's Place--drop-in center in the heart of downtown Little Rock, where LGBT young adults receive assistance with bus passes, cell phones & minutes, toiletries, clothes, referrals to other programs and case management.

Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gay (PFLAG)--a support group for relatives of LGBTQ youth.

## **LOCAL/CITY GOVERNMENT**

Mayor's Office and City Hall--we can request a visit with the Mayor of Little Rock or North Little Rock, attend a Board of Directors meeting, etc.

City Departments--the Mayor's staff can coordinate meetings with Department Heads as desired, i.e. Police, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, etc.

Metropolitan Housing Alliance--administers federal subsidized housing and housing assistance to low-income persons and families within the city of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Neighborhood Resource Centers--we can visit with the staff and attend neighborhood meetings.

Pulaski County Circuit Courts--we can observe trials and meet judges.

Arkansas Municipal League--serves as the official representative of Arkansas cities and towns before the state and federal governments, provides a clearinghouse for information and answers, offers a forum for discussion and sharing of mutual concerns.

## **NON-PROFIT MANAGEMENT**

Arkansas Community Foundation--nonprofit organization that promotes smart giving to improve communities across the state, by making grants and sharing knowledge.

### Clinton School of Public Service

The first school in the nation to offer a Master of Public Service (MPS) degree, the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service gives students the knowledge and experience to further their careers in the areas of nonprofit, governmental, volunteer or private sector service. While learning valuable lessons in the classroom, Clinton School students also complete "hands-on" public service projects, ranging from local work in Arkansas communities, to international projects on all of the world's six inhabited continents.

William J. Clinton Foundation International Headquarters--building on President Clinton's lifetime of public service, established separate initiatives to alleviate poverty, improve global health, strengthen economies and protect the environment.

Rotary International Club 99 Foundation--Organized in 1913, it is the oldest and largest civic organization in the State of Arkansas, whose mission is to fund diverse projects that better the world, the Little Rock community and the individuals involved.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, College of Social Sciences and Communications, School of Public Affairs--academic, applied research, and training units that share a focus on government, politics, nonprofit organizations, and public service.

Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation--Their mission is to improve the lives of Arkansans in three interrelated areas: education, economic development, and economic, racial, and social justice.

## RELIGION

Arkansas Baptist College -- Founded in 1884 as the Minister's Institute, a private, historically black liberal arts college.

Dr. Rebecca Glazier -- Dr. Glazier is a Professor in the School of Public Affairs at UA Little Rock and the Coordinator of the Middle Eastern Studies Program. Dr. Glazier's research agenda is focused on issues of religion, community engagement, framing, and U.S. foreign policy. She has published articles and book chapters on political Islam, religiously-motivated violence in Iraq, and just war theory. Her latest book, "**Faith and Community**" is a long-term community-based research project involving diverse religious traditions. Dr. Glazier teaches courses on global terrorism, religious freedom, interfaith work, and religion and politics.

Arkansas Family Council – Conservative advocate for religious values

Family Life Ministries – provides radio broadcasts, books and videos aimed at strengthening marriages and families to people around the world.

Institute for Theological Studies at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church – classical theological education for lay people

Ouachita Baptist College, Arkadelphia – Founded in 1888 by the Arkansas Baptist State Association as a liberal arts college.

Sophia Said- Executive Chairwoman of Medina Institute and Mosque

Rev. Patricia Matthews, Executive Director of the Interfaith Center of Arkansas.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Apptegy, Inc. [www.apptegy.com](http://www.apptegy.com)

Jeston George, CEO and Founder

501/613-0370 2201 Brookwood Dr # 115 Little Rock, AR, 72202-1774

Provides technology for school leaders to build a strong digital brand, such as custom mobile apps, school websites, alerts, ADA compliance.

Global Technology Deployment Initiative <http://deployglobaltech.com/>

Accelerates deployment of proven technology solutions to address resource shortages in the areas of energy, water, clean air, food, and medical services in third world countries.

The EAST® Initiative <https://www.eastinitiative.org/>

Melanie Ridlon, Sr. Director of Operations

501-371-5016, [eastinfo@eaststaff.org](mailto:eastinfo@eaststaff.org)

EAST is education accelerated by service and technology, transforming schools and communities by empowering people with technology, by encouraging critical thinking and creative problem-solving, and by engaging them in positive, real-world experiences. EAST Initiative advocates lifelong learning and community service.

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Doneghey College of Engineering and Information Technology <https://ualr.edu/provost/eit/> 501-916-3333

- [Emerging Analytics Center](#) -- innovative research in technology, infrastructure and applications for virtual reality, visualization, and interactive technologies.
- [Institute of Chief Data Officers](#) -- educational curricula and training courses to meet the needs of the growing community of CDOs in government and industry
- [Information Technology](#) – ranked 27th in US for online graduate programs in Information Science and Information Quality
- [Center for Integrative Nanotechnology Services](#) – One of the premier nanotechnology research laboratories in the region, focusing on nanomedicine and nanotoxicology.

## **TOURISM**

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism – Arkansas is known as the Natural State for its tremendous natural beauty and wide variety of outdoor adventure vacation possibilities all over the state. The Director is available for speaking engagements.

Arkansas Fish and Game Commission – mission is to conserve and enhance Arkansas's fish and wildlife and their habitats while promoting sustainable use, public understanding and support. Staff are available for speaking engagements.

State Parks--Several available within a two hour drive of Little Rock, providing hiking, kayaking, canoeing, and rock climbing activities. Northwest Arkansas provides even more possibilities in the Ozark Mountains.

The Nature Conservancy--mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends and yet co-exist with tourism activities.

Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau



## **WOMEN'S SERVICES & EMPOWERMENT**

ABBA House--established by the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock in 1981 to offer a home to pregnant women and their children who have no place to go. It also serves as an emergency shelter for homeless women.

Center for Women in Transition--Life Skills Education to women and teen girls who are incarcerated, and Transitional Reentry Services to adult women who have recently been released from prison or jail.

Dorcas House--provides a safe, Christian environment for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.

Esse Purse Museum--honors and celebrates the progression of the 20th-century American woman – decade by decade – through the lens of her handbag and the contents within.

Women and Children First--provides crisis hotline, emergency shelter, full support services for in-house clients, court advocacy, a children's program, and community outreach for women suffering domestic violence.

Women's Foundation of Arkansas--dedicated to improving the economic viability of women and girls through focused philanthropic efforts in the areas of education, including the Girls of Promise camp, which encourages 8th grade girls to enter STEM fields.

## **YOUTH SERVICES**

The Little Rock Workforce Development Board (LRWDB) seeks to provide a variety of training and educational opportunities for youth that lead to positive job experiences and career prospects. Services to develop career readiness, occupational skills, and work experience are available at no charge for individuals who meet income and eligibility requirements. WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) Youth Services for ages 14 – 21, focus primarily on: Tutoring, mentoring, and leadership development services; career counseling and occupational skills training; and paid and unpaid work experiences.

<https://www.lrworkforce.com/youth-services/overview-youth-services/>

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is a national construction industry trade association representing more than 21,000 members. ACTA is the official school affiliated with the Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas. It provides a formal apprenticeship training program for the Electrical and Plumbing trades that is registered with the United States Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship (OA). This program meets all federal and state requirements for formal classroom instruction. Apprenticeship training combines work and academics in a formal program leading to journeyman consideration.

ABC is the merit shop construction industry's voice with the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the federal government and with state and local governments, as well as with the news media. <http://www.abcark.org/ACTA-Apprenticeship>.

Bill Roachell, Chapter President.

Arkansas Construction Education Foundation: Community AGC Arkansas and the Arkansas Construction Education Foundation (ACEF) have entered into a partnership to provide superior training and education opportunities for both apprentices and contractors. Programs offered are: Licensed -Electrical and Plumbing Program and Non-Licensed - HVAC: Heating, Ventilation & AC Program, Electronic Systems Technician Program, Sprinkler Fitting Program and Carpentry Program.

<http://myacef.org/apprentices/>

#### The City of Little Rock's Summer Youth Employment

Michael Sanders, Community Resources Manager for the City of Little Rock

501-399-3442 [masanders@littlerock.gov](mailto:masanders@littlerock.gov)

Mr. Sanders oversees the Summer Youth Employment program. This program gives youth opportunities to learn about careers while earning wages during the summer.

Community business partners offer summer positions as a partner with the City of Little Rock, New Futures for Youth, and community stakeholders to develop the critical skills necessary to be successful members of the workforce. As a business partner, businesses are asked to teach youth the value of earning a salary which encourages them to build employability skills and work ethic leading down a pathway to productive employment.

Arkansas Division of Workforce Services The Arkansas Career Development Center (formerly the Arkansas Career Training Institute) provides vocational training and services that lead to employment opportunities for students served by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS).

Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge Internship Program. College students have the opportunity to learn about public service and gain valuable, real-world experience by participating in the Attorney General's internship program.

SkillsUSA Arkansas <https://www.arskillsusa.org/>

Keith Mcknight, AR State director

501-682-1125 [keith.mcknight@arkansas.gov](mailto:keith.mcknight@arkansas.gov)

A partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. We help each student excel. A nonprofit national education association, SkillsUSA serves middle-school, high-school and college/postsecondary students preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service (including health) occupations.

#### Arkansas Department of Education- Division of Career and Technical Education

Youth Apprenticeship A paid work experience designed to assist students in grades 11 - 12 in their specific Career and Technical Education (CTE) career pathway.

Pre-Apprenticeship Designed to prepare students for entry into a Department of Labor registered apprenticeship program. It is a paid Pre-Apprenticeship.

#### Related Legislation

The “Arkansas Youth Apprenticeship/Work-Based Learning Act of 1991” ( A.C.A. 6 50-501 to 6-50-505) establishes the state’s youth apprenticeship program. The program begins in the 11th grade and lasts three to four years. It ends with the attainment of a postsecondary associate degree, certificate and/or completion of a traditional apprenticeship. Programs must be approved by the State Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee. Two Arkansas laws provide tax incentives for employers hiring a youth apprentice in a program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor and/or in a program approved by the Arkansas Department of Career Education.

#### Arkansas Department of Education- Occupational Areas

Trade and Industry Group of instructional programs that prepare students to apply technical knowledge and skills in one or more trade, technical, and/or professional occupations. Students will engage in activities and instruction enabling them to use, create, problem and control various technology resources; people, tools, machines, information, materials, energy, capital, and time.

Family and Consumer Sciences Prepares students to make informed choices regarding consumer education, food and nutrition, relationships, housing, and textiles and provides skills for careers in the Hospitality and Tourism, Education and Training, and Human Services career clusters.

Agricultural Education Prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems. Students are provided opportunities for leadership development, personal growth, and career success. Agricultural Education instruction is delivered through three major components: 1) Classroom/laboratory instruction (contextual learning), 2) supervised agricultural experience programs (work-based learning), and 3) student leadership opportunities and organizations (National FFA Organization).

The Business and Marketing Department Administers a variety of programs and courses to help prepare students for college degrees and career fields in the business arena. Career and Technical Student Organizations FBLA and DECA offer a differentiated and application-based curriculum for students pursuing a career focus in a business program, bringing relevance and real-world connections to the classroom. The department is working to increase the number of industry certifications achieved by Arkansas students. It is the mission of the Business and Marketing Department that every student who completes a business program of study has the skills and credentials to achieve a successful career in their chosen field.

Arkansas 4-H. Premier youth development program conducted by the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service. Through non-formal, science-based, experiential education activities, 4-H participants gain knowledge and enhance life skills enabling them to become positive, productive, capable and compassionate members of society.

For over 100 years, 4-H has engaged young people in cutting-edge science learning, including areas such as animal science, food science, welding, electricity, and

plant/crop science. More recent project areas include aerospace, robotics, geospatial technologies, computer science, and multimedia.

Clinton School of Public Service The first school in the nation to offer a Master of Public Service (MPS) degree, the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service gives students the knowledge and experience to further their careers in the areas of nonprofit, governmental, volunteer or private sector service. While learning valuable lessons in the classroom, Clinton School students also complete “hands-on” public service projects, ranging from local work in Arkansas communities, to international projects on all of the world’s six inhabited continents.

EAST Education Accelerated by Service and Technology. Transforms schools and communities by empowering people with technology, by encouraging critical thinking and creative problem-solving, and by engaging them in positive, real-world experiences; and advocates lifelong learning and community service. In addition to establishing unique environments in schools and offering technical support, EAST also provides powerful technology training both to students and educators, including professional development focusing on integrating technology into any classroom, regardless of subject.

Project Lead the Way Administered by Arkansas State University, this special educational program works in K-12 grade schools to develop interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields and provide practical experiences for students in Computer Science and Engineering.

Arkansas Farm Bureau Education Provides two key programs for youth:

Ag Youth Leadership Seminar Provides participants with an in-depth look at agricultural degrees and careers, as well as an introduction to the policy development process and issues affecting agriculture and rural Arkansas. AYLS participants will be given the chance to tour and learn about several aspects of the agricultural industry such as; agriculture agencies and companies, on-farm tours, a look into agricultural technologies, and a tour of the Arkansas State Capitol. The seminar will give participants a look at career opportunities in agriculture and what educational path is needed for those careers.

M\*A\*S\*H (Medical Applications of Science for Health) is a program designed for students interested in a career in the medical field. The two-week camps are free, and take place at various locations around the state. Students who attend the camps are given a unique look into the healthcare industry while shadowing medical professionals.

FACTS About Arkansas Farm Bureau: Ranks 1st in the nation in rice production, producing close to 50 percent of the nation’s rice. More than 60 percent of the rice produced in Arkansas is exported.  
<https://www.arfb.com/pages/education/ag-facts/>

Women’s Foundation of Arkansas Dedicated to improving the economic viability of women and girls through focused philanthropic efforts in the areas of education,

including the [Girls of Promise](#) camp, which encourages 8th grade girls to enter STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields

Pulaski County Youth Services Works in collaboration with schools, nonprofits, and community partners to encourage academic achievement, build character, inspire leadership, develop life skills, and nurture healthy habits in the youth of Pulaski County. Two of their many programs are:

Vision 2025 is an innovative program identifying young women in the 9th through 12th grades with extraordinary potential and empowers them as leaders. The yearlong program focuses on empowerment, building leadership skills, mentoring, community service, academic enrichment, and academic & career advising. Young women engage in activities including tutoring, college tours, leadership conferences, service-learning, ACT prep, cultural enrichment, health and nutrition education, physical fitness, professional development workshops, self-esteem building opportunities, etiquette coaching dinners, college readiness workshops, and much more!

The Suit to Success program's goal was simple – provide a suit to young men from underserved areas of Pulaski County. Youth Services collects donations of new or gently worn suits and business wear accessories for those youth trying to interview for employment.

The Innovation Hub is a non profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of Arkansans by inspiring innovation and expanding opportunities. The state-of-the-art facilities have provided tools and training to entrepreneurs, students and other makers, preparing them to join and grow Arkansas's economic ecosystem. The Innovation Hub uses tools, skills, and expertise to inspire innovators and entrepreneurs who expand the range of educational and economic opportunities for themselves, for their communities, for the state and throughout the world.

Children International at UALR. CI is located in 11 countries worldwide. The program in Little Rock is the only US based program. The aim for the partnership is to empower families to raise healthy, educated, self-reliant children. To achieve this, UA Little Rock CI has partnered with schools in the Little Rock School District serving the neighborhoods of Central and Southwest Little Rock. Of the 10 countries that Children International serves, the UA Little Rock Children International location is the only U.S. site. Each year, the site serves approximately 2,600 children and youth with the help of 30+ partner organizations and more than 10,000 individual sponsors from around the world. Programs focus on four key outcomes: for CI kids to graduate healthy, educated, empowered, and employed. Why these four? Because they're all interconnected and essential to achieving the big goal: helping to break the cycle of poverty.

The Arkansas Commitment Program is a nonprofit organization created to identify academically talented African-American high school students throughout central Arkansas and guide them to become leaders in Arkansas. Arkansas Commitment works to ensure future diversity in every aspect of the Arkansas community and to retain talented young Arkansans.

Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge--established by the National Guard in 1993 to turn around the lives of young men and women between the ages of 16 and 18 who are experiencing difficulty in completing traditional high school.

Arkansas 4-H Center (Vines Center)--nestled in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains just 10 miles west of Little Rock, the Vines Center provides lodging, a dining hall serving breakfast lunch and dinner, and fully customizable programs providing valuable and challenging team building for both youth and adults.

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central Arkansas--provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported 1-to-1 mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever. They have both school tutoring and community programs.

Boys and Girls Club of Central Arkansas--provide activities in character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, and sports/fitness/recreation as well as summer STEM camps.

Center for Youth and Family--provides specialized prevention, treatment and intervention services that promote emotional and social wellness for children and families in Arkansas, including a treatment center for human trafficking victims.

City Year--deploys highly trained AmeriCorps members to tutor and mentor at-risk students, reclaim public spaces, and organize important after-school programs in six Little Rock public schools.

Juvenile Detention Center--provides a safe and secure environment that meets or exceeds standards and delivers meaningful rehabilitative programs for detained juveniles.

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Youth Leadership Academy--involves young leaders at the Historic Site to promote volunteerism, nonviolence, youth empowerment and stewardship for the National Park Service.

Pulaski County Youth Services--works in collaboration with schools, nonprofits, and community partners to encourage academic achievement, build character, inspire leadership, develop life skills, and nurture healthy habits in the youth of Pulaski County.

STEP Ministries--a Christian organization which provides mentors for at-risk school age children and youth in Pulaski County.

#### PARK. Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids

Twenty-five years ago, Keith Jackson put P.A.R.K. – Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids – in motion. The nonprofit organization based in southwest Little Rock provides after-school and summer programming to keep kids engaged in activities and off the

streets. It also emphasizes homework and doing well in school. Over the last quarter-century, there have been 540 kids that have graduated from the program, but Jackson said the real legacy will stretch far beyond those numbers.

Keith Jackson was born on April 19, 1965, in Little Rock, Arkansas. He began playing football at the age of 9 with the Sunset Tigers at Parkview High School. Keith attended and was graduated with academic honors and a B.A. in Communications in three and a half years from the University of Oklahoma (1984-1988). He attended school on a football scholarship as a tight end where he assisted the Sooners to a 42-5-1 record and a national championship in 1985.

#### Life Skills for Youth, Coach Larry Clark Sr.

The goal of LSY is to create a positive alternative for youth in the community while offering mentorship and skills development that will aid them into adulthood. Since 2007 LSY has earned numerous awards for its commitment to the youth in the local community. Since its inception LSY has helped over 3,800 Youth, served over 1,562,100 million healthy meals and snacks and touched the lives of countless families. The core of LSY is programs that mentor, teach and train youth. LSY is known nationally for its cutting-edge ATM (Anger, Time and Money) Management that teaches youth how to manage emotions, plan time and handle money responsibly.

## **Cultural Resources**

### **SPORTS**

UALR sports (Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis, Soccer, Golf, Track, Baseball)  
Travelers AA Baseball games  
Sporting events at Verizon Arena (wrestling, boxing, etc. )  
Arkansas Baptist College Sports  
Philander Smith College Sports  
High School sporting events  
Ice Skating and Roller Rink for individual use  
Biking, hiking trails, boating

### **FESTIVALS**

World Fest  
Easter egg hunt and activities at Clinton Center  
Asian Festival  
Film Festival  
Wildwood Center for the Arts Lanterns Festival (held the month of April)

Arkansas Literary Festival--Local authors  
Greek Food Festival (held the month of May)  
Jewish Food Festival (held the month of May)  
Turkish Food Festival (held the latter part of April)  
Cinco de Mayo Food Festival  
Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival (Spring only)

## **MUSEUMS**

William J. Clinton Presidential Center  
Historic Arkansas Museum  
Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts  
MacArthur Museum of Military History  
Old Statehouse Museum  
Mosaic Templars Cultural Center (African American Culture)  
Museum of Discovery (Science Center for Children of all ages)  
Central High Museum  
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art (Bentonville)  
Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum and USS Razorback Submarine (WWII)  
Stephens, Arkansas Nature Center  
United States Marshals Museum, Fort Smith

## **RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES**

Islamic Center of Little Rock  
Black Churches with Gospel Music  
Jewish Synagogues  
Catholic Churches  
Buddhist Temple  
Non-Denominational Protestant Churches  
Denominational Protestant Churches

## **PARKS**

Little Rock Zoo  
Wet and Wild Water Park (summer only)  
Magic Springs Amusement Park and Water Park in Hot Springs (one hour drive)  
Old Mill Park (scene from Gone with the Wind filmed here)  
Murray Park, including Paws in the Park dog park (on the Arkansas River)  
Riverfront Park, North Little Rock  
Pinnacle Mountain (hiking, picnic, nature talks, astronomy)  
MacArthur Park (includes MacArthur Military Museum, Korean War Memorial, children's fishing pond, small dog park)  
Allsopp Park



## **THEATER**

Arkansas Repertory Theater  
Robinson Center (Broadway Shows, Symphony, Concerts, Musicals...)  
Murry's Dinner Theater  
UA Little Rock drama and music presentations  
Weekend Theater  
Opera in the Park  
Ballet Arkansas  
Argenta Community Theater  
Wildwood Park for the Arts  
West Little Rock Performing Arts Academy

## **RESTAURANTS**

The River Market Entertainment District  
Cafe 42 at Clinton Library (lunch and afternoon only)  
Taj Mahal (Indian, Pakistani cuisine)  
Layla's (Middle Eastern)  
Star of India  
Bruno's (Italian)  
Three Fold Noodle (downtown and west LR)  
The Terrace - Mediterranean Kitchen  
Irish Pubs  
MANY other ethnic cuisines  
Flying Fish  
Frankie's Cafeteria (southern food)  
Cotham's southern food  
South on Main  
Jerky's (barbeque)  
Burge's (catfish)  
Van Lang (Vietnamese, Korean)  
Mr. Chen's (Chinese)  
MANY MORE restaurants and entertainment spots

## **MISC. ATTRACTIONS**

River Market Trolley  
Innovative Children's Playground Downtown and near the Zoo  
Arkansas River Walk(both sides of the Arkansas river)  
Multiple Pedestrian Bridges across the Arkansas River  
Race for the Cure  
Little Rock Marathon (early March)  
Concerts etc. at Verizon Arena  
Clinton Museum Gift Shop  
Big Dam Bridge (pedestrian and biking, working ship locks)  
River trail (biking and walking trails)

Mississippi River Delta  
Ozark Mountains in Fayetteville area  
Buffalo River Rafting

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Canvas Church, feed the Homeless and sometimes prepare the meal.  
Arkansas Food Bank--Sort and organize food donations  
Children International--speak to students in after-school program  
Gibbs International Magnet Elementary School--speak to students  
Our House Shelter--Family shelter  
Salvation Army--Serve meals  
Compassion Center--Homeless lodging and meals

## **ROAD TRIPS**

### **MEMPHIS**

Graceland (Home of Elvis Presley)(Costly)  
Rock and Soul Museum  
Civil Rights Museum  
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art  
Sun Records  
Beale Street (for Jazz clubs and food)

### **HOT SPRINGS**

Magic Springs (water and amusement parks)  
Alligator Farm  
Observation Tower  
Horse Racing (in season only; January –April)  
Gangster Museum  
Bathhouse Row  
Origami Sake' tour  
Garvan Woodland Gardens  
Three recreational lakes  
Downtown rehabilitation efforts  
Arlington Hotel  
Art Galleries  
Clinton boyhood home and high school (from the outside only)  
Mid America Science Museum  
Garvan Woodland Gardens

### **NORTHWEST ARKANSAS**

Cooper Chapel

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art  
Native American Museum Bentonville

Walton's 5 & 10 Museum

Eureka Springs, AR

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Native American Museum

The Amazeum Children's Museum

*This Resource Guide is always a work in progress. These are some of the MANY topics and ideas that Global Ties Arkansas can cover for international programming. This list of specific resources is just a sampling of what our city has to offer.*