



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

At AEDC, we know economic advancement doesn't happen by accident. We work strategically with businesses and communities to create strong economic opportunities, making Arkansas the natural choice for success.





CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

State of Arkansas	4
Letter from Clint O'Neal, Executive Director	5
About the Arkansas Economic Development Commission	6
Our Team	7

AEDC MILESTONES FOR 2022	8
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LEGISLATION	10
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SUMMARY BY DIVISION

Marketing	11
Business Development	12
Business Finance	13
Existing Business	14
Community Development	15
Grants	16
Rural Services	17
Arkansas NSF EPSCoR	18
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development	19
Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise	20
Film	21
Military Affairs	22

LOOKING AHEAD	23
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STATE OF ARKANSAS



GOVERNOR SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, Sarah Huckabee Sanders was elected Governor by the people of Arkansas. She became the 47th Governor and the first woman elected to lead the State of Arkansas.



“The reason we started this journey nearly two years ago is because I absolutely love Arkansas. I love everything about it.”

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders

McDONALD NAMED COMMERCE SECRETARY

On December 27, 2022, Governor-elect Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced her nomination of Hugh McDonald as the Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

McDonald served as president and chief executive officer of Entergy Arkansas, Inc. from 2000 until 2016.



“I am honored that Governor-elect Sanders has tapped me to lead the Department of Commerce and confident that her economic reforms will take our state to new heights. Together, we will foster a business-friendly environment with a strong workforce development pipeline that allows businesses to recruit and retain highly skilled workers. I’m proud to stand with Governor-elect Sanders as we champion our Arkansas economy.”

Hugh McDonald, *Secretary of Commerce*



Dear Fellow Arkansans:

Each year, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission prepares an Annual Report to highlight our team's work toward improving people's lives and increasing prosperity in Arkansas. I am proud to share our 2022 report that includes updates on our agency and some of the recent significant accomplishments in economic development across Arkansas.

Throughout 2022, the AEDC team led a wide range of projects and initiatives. In this report, each division has highlighted their work and achievements. From working alongside community leaders and entrepreneurship support organizations to supporting existing businesses and working to recruit new companies, 2022 was a year that we can all be proud of.

In 2022, AEDC kicked off projects with 129 companies that considered Arkansas as the best location for their business to grow. These companies represent a range of industries that speaks to the diversity of our economy, including Technology, Metals, Food & Beverage, Timber & Forest Products, and Energy among others. Many of these projects are still in the pipeline and some have located in other states. Thirty of these companies have announced their intention to create a projected 5,359 jobs that will positively impact our citizens and communities. The total announced investment from

these companies is almost \$6 billion with an average announced wage just over \$29 per hour. This includes the announcement of U.S. Steel's \$3 billion project, the largest economic development announcement by capital investment in the state's history.

In January 2023, I was honored to be named executive director of AEDC by Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders. This year, AEDC will create a strategic plan for economic development that will cast a vision for success in The Natural State. As we look to maximize opportunities that help all Arkansans reach their potential, we will focus our efforts on adding more and better-paying jobs by supporting entrepreneurs and existing businesses as well as through ongoing recruitment of new companies. We'll also continue to collaborate with our partners on workforce development and talent recruitment initiatives.

Economic development is a team sport. Thank you for your partnership and support. When we work together, we can accomplish great things.

Sincerely,

CLINT O'NEAL, CEcD

Executive Director
Arkansas Economic Development Commission



CLINT O'NEAL, CEcD

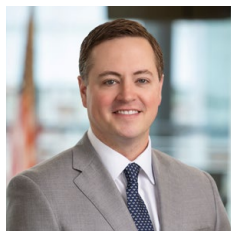
Executive Director

ABOUT THE ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

AEDC COMMISSIONERS



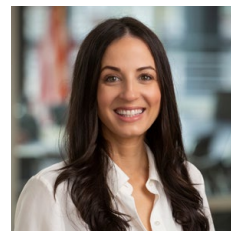
JAY BUNYARD
DeQueen



CHRIS GOSNELL
Little Rock



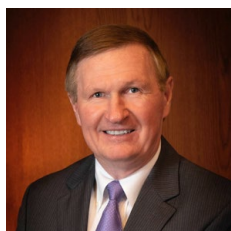
SHASH GOYAL
Little Rock



ANNEMARIE DILLARD JAZIC
Little Rock



GLEN JOHNSON
Little Rock



VANCE LAWSON
Wynne



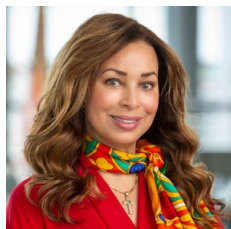
STEVE LUX
Hot Springs Village



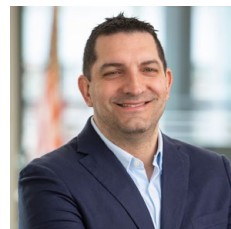
JOHNNY MITCHUM
Maumelle



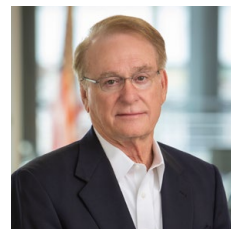
JOHN NEWCOMB
Osceola



TRACEY RANCIFER
Little Rock



JOHN SCHMELZLE
Rogers



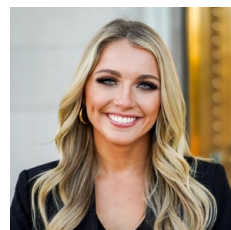
GARY SEWELL
El Dorado



JIM SMITH
Fayetteville



JON WICKLIFFE
Little Rock



LINDSEY WINGO
Rector



LANG ZIMMERMAN
Mountain Home

OUR TEAM

The Arkansas Economic Development Commission is a division of the Arkansas Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce is the umbrella organization for workforce and economic development drivers in the State of Arkansas.



CLINT O'NEAL, CE&D
Executive Director



JENNIFER EMERSON, EDFP
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SHARED SERVICES

BUDGET

Tammy Williams

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Clark Cogbill

POLICY

Renee Doty

AEDC DIVISIONS

ARKANSAS NSF EPSCoR

Jennifer Fowler

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Olivia Womack

BUSINESS FINANCE

Jennifer Emerson

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Matt Twyford

EXISTING BUSINESS

Justin Majors

FILM

Christopher Crane

GRANTS

Jean Noble

HUMAN RESOURCES

Grace Rodriguez

INFORMATICS

Andy Capel

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Scott Gann

MANUFACTURING SOLUTIONS

Keith Gammill

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Rob Ator

OFFICE MANAGER

Christy Wilson

RURAL SERVICES

Becca Caldwell

**SMALL BUSINESS &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Esperanza Massana Crane

AEDC MILESTONES FOR 2022



U. S. Steel Selects Osceola, Arkansas as Location for Most Advanced Steelmaking Facility in North America



Hostess Brands to Add New Bakery in Arkadelphia, Ark., to Meet Increased Demand



Tractor Supply Company Announces New Distribution Center in Arkansas



New Leadership Announcements:
Jim Hudson, Bob Kucheravy, Jennifer Emerson



More Than 150 Entrepreneurs, 30 Buyers Participate in AEDC 'Matchmaker' Event



Arkansas Ranked #1 State for Inbound Movers in 2021

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

AEDC Awards \$502,838.41 to Support Wildlife Education, Improve School Conservation Programs



Texarkana Earns AEDC 'Competitive Community' Designation



Independent Stave Company to Open New American Oak Stave Mill in Independence County



Arkansas Signs MOU with Israel's National Technological Innovation Authority



Dark Threat Fabrication to Add 75 New Jobs, Invest \$7.65 Million in Heber Springs Facility



Canfor Investing \$130 Million to Modernize Urbana Facility





Arkansas Ranks First Among EPSCoR States in National Science Foundation I-Corps Program, Outpaces Alabama, Louisiana



AEDC Division Directors Jean Noble and Esperanza Massana Crane Honored with National, State Awards



Wynne Earns AEDC 'Competitive Community' Designation



Arkana Laboratories to Expand Little Rock Operations, Create 74 New Jobs



Fiocchi USA Selects Little Rock, Arkansas for New Primer Manufacturing Facility



AEDC Releases 2022-23 Arkansas Economic Development Guide



Albemarle Corporation Invests Up To \$540 Million in Arkansas Facility Expansion

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

Sequaretek, a Global Cybersecurity Company and FIS Fintech Accelerator Alum, Names Little Rock for U.S. Headquarters

SEQUIRETEK
SIMPLY SECURITY

Owens Corning Embarks on Second Expansion in Two Years, Creates 50 New Jobs



New Lockheed Martin Facility to Support Increased PAC-3 Production



Gränges Breaks Ground on Battery Cathode Foil Expansion in Newport, Arkansas



LEGISLATION

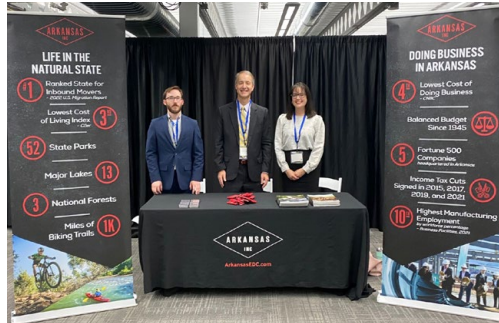


In August of 2022, the third special session of the 93rd General Assembly met and passed legislation that made Arkansas's tax climate more competitive to businesses.

The third session of the 93rd General Assembly passed legislation that accelerated the implementation of a reduction to the corporate income tax rate from 5.9% to 5.3% by January 1, 2023. The legislation changed Arkansas law regarding how companies claim depreciation and exempting of property by aligning the law with federal tax laws. This provides relief to companies by accelerating the depreciation of assets.

MARKETING

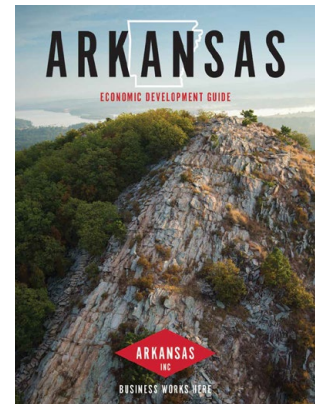
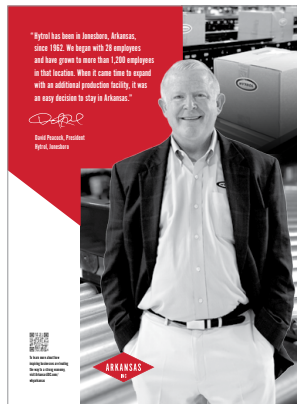
The AEDC Marketing team continued to showcase Arkansas-based executives and the companies they lead in 2022 by building upon the “Executive Voice” campaign. Sébastien Deltheil, Senior Vice President and General Manager - Dassault Falcon Jet, was featured in a new video. Campaign print ads were redesigned to be more unique, recognizable, and consistent. In June, the marketing team represented AEDC at Walmart’s Open Call event in Bentonville, Arkansas. The team helped coordinate multiple events and sponsorships throughout the year. AEDC Marketing also spearheaded the



creation and distribution of the 2022-23 Arkansas Economic Development Guide in partnership with Conway Publishing. In December, Feedspot named the AEDC Blog as one of the top 10 economic development blogs to follow in 2022.

“One of the primary goals of the AEDC Marketing Team is to tell the Arkansas story... to company executives, site selection consultants, and to a talented and willing workforce in and outside the state. It is such a compelling story to tell! Arkansas is a beautiful and affordable place to live and work, and companies large and small, from the Fortune #1 to startups, continue to find success here.”

Clark Cogbill,
Director of Marketing



- Produced and distributed the 2022-23 Arkansas Economic Development Guide
- Published **45 blogs posts**
- Created **28 landing pages** for events, prospects, and campaigns
- Published **10 podcasts**
- 28 email newsletters sent to **6,800 subscribers**
- Key industry reports redesigned and updated, including Timber & Forest Products, Aerospace & Defense, Food & Beverage
- 4 LinkedIn executive articles
- Social Media: **28% increase** in LinkedIn followers; **47% increase** in LinkedIn engagements; **19% increase** in social media followers (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)



PHOTOS

(top to bottom)

- 1/11 US Steel
- 2/24 Dark Threat Fabrications
- 3/7 Hostess
- 4/14 Independent Stave
- 4/20 W&W AFco Steel
- 9/7 Arkana Labs

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

2022 was a record-breaking year for economic development in the State of Arkansas. We began the year with the announcement of the largest single project in state history: the expansion of U.S. Steel in Osceola. With this investment, the Osceola facility will become the most technologically advanced steel mill in North America. The theme of future-focused investment in innovative technology continued throughout the year with jobs announcements from companies like Hostess, Gränges, Arkana Laboratories, Wachter Inc., and Phoenix Innovations. By investing in state-of-the-art technology in their Arkansas facilities,

companies will be better prepared to meet the increasing demands of their customers while improving efficiency and upskilling their workforce.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022



ANNOUNCEMENT TOTALS FOR 2022

5,359
PROJECTED JOBS FROM
30 COMPANIES

TOTAL ANNOUNCED INVESTMENT FOR THE YEAR IS
\$5,975,630,990

AVERAGE ANNOUNCED
WAGE FOR THE YEAR
\$29.01

*The numbers above represent the aggregated totals for announced won projects for 2022.

“

The State of Arkansas, Mississippi County, the City of Osceola, Entergy, BNSF, and other parties have all worked to make this the clear choice for a path to the future without roadblocks. With its extraordinarily low-cost structure, energy efficient production equipment, and advanced capabilities, this \$3 billion project will yield significant benefits to our customers, stockholder, communities, employees, and contribute to a more sustainable world.

”

David Burritt, *US Steel President and CEO*

BUSINESS FINANCE

Business Finance is tasked with servicing economic development loans; disbursing, tracking and auditing grant and incentive agreements; collecting reimbursement of grant funds in the event of underperformance; underwriting various incentive and financing programs; and managing the Bond Guaranty Program portfolio and investments.

2022 presented several economic challenges across most, if not all, industries such as, inflation, rising interest rates, supply chain disruptions and labor shortages. The ability to provide support through various incentive and financing programs while continuing to uphold strict standards and being good stewards of taxpayer dollars is something the Business Finance Team takes pride in.

INCENTIVE PAYMENTS DISBURSED

\$34,441,943

GRANT PAYMENTS DISBURSED

\$60,609,718



Arkansas Economic Development Council visited the Big River Steel facility in Osceola, Mississippi County in October 2022

- Incented **\$21,850,000** in private investment into early-stage Arkansas based companies projecting **168 new jobs with average wages of \$47.50/hour.**
- Approved **\$15 million** in new Bond Guaranty projects totaling over **\$86 million in capital expenditures and 170 Arkansas jobs.**

EXISTING BUSINESS



Future Fit Training

IMPACTS REPORTED TO NIST MEP BY AMS CLIENTS DURING 2022

3,058

CREATED AND RETAINED JOBS

\$398M

IN NEW AND RETAINED SALES

\$46M

IN NEW INVESTMENT

\$13M

IN COST SAVINGS

The Existing Business team at AEDC is comprised of two groups that collaborate to meet the needs of manufacturers. **Business Managers** conduct outreach to industry to identify areas of opportunity and serve as trusted advisors for companies by delivering services such as ACT

Job Profiling, Governor's Quality Award, and workforce training via Future Fit. **Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions** is an affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and delivers world-class training to companies in areas such as Advanced Manufacturing, Operational Excellence, Family Business Services, and Organizational Excellence.



“

Our years-long relationship with AEDC Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions is one of the most important assets we have at SMA. They have helped us tremendously in high concept areas like mission, vision, purpose, and strategic planning, as well as the nuts-and-bolts of continuous improvement, employee engagement and leadership training. We are a much better company for having AEDC AMS on our team.

”

Blant Hurt, General Manager, SMA, Inc., Jonesboro, AR



2022 saw the launch of our Workplace Resilience Assessment (WRA). WRA assists companies in identifying the root cause of operational issues such as employee turnover and quality concerns while providing a detailed report/plan to address these areas.

- Business Managers conducted over **400 in-person visits** with manufacturers in 2022.
- AMS delivered leadership consulting and training to **93 manufacturers** throughout Arkansas.
- AMS staff and Business Managers completed **4 Workplace Resilience assessments** for manufacturers.
- Business Managers completed **6 ACT Job Profile Reports**.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**Matt Twyford gives remarks
at Compass Cold Storage
groundbreaking ceremony.**

April 2022

In 2022, the Community Development division welcomed two staff members - Emily Cooper-Yates and Dana Poindexter as Regional Managers for Northwest and South Arkansas, respectively. With these additions, along with Northeast Arkansas Regional Manager Amy Williams and Division Director Matt Twyford, the team is fully staffed. With a combined 25+ years of experience in community and economic development, the team went to work to establish a presence in communities across the state, connect

Arkansans to resources, and expand support networks.

In 2023, the Community Development Division is excited to collaborate with our partners to provide a living Resource Guide to help communities across the state identify resources to address their needs. We look forward to providing economic and community development training to newly elected officials and working with more communities in the Competitive Communities Initiative.



The team celebrated several major accomplishments, including announcing CCI designations for Texarkana and Wynne.



GRANTS

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Grants Management selected 20 additional CDBG-CV projects totaling over \$5.6 million for public service and public facility projects which prevent, prepare for and/or respond to the outbreak of coronavirus in the state.

An additional \$733,000 was added to the amount AEDC has made available to the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, the only statewide anti-hunger organization in the state, to distribute pre-packaged boxes of food to Arkansas's six regional Feeding America food banks and continue assistance with the Beef Project.

In 2022, the Grants Division awarded **over \$21.6 million** in State CDBG and CDBG-CV funds, which primarily benefit persons of low- to moderate-income in non-entitlement small cities and communities throughout the state:

- 34 General Assistance projects totaling **over \$10 million** for a variety of public facility and public infrastructure projects, benefitting **over 63,200 persons**.
- Three economic development projects totaling **\$5.5 million**, which will result in the creation of **237 jobs**.
- Seven Rural Services Block Grants totaling **\$475,000** through a partnership with the AEDC Division of Rural Services for the renovation of community centers and expanded fire protection in communities under 3,000

“It is hard to overstate the impact that the CDBG program has had throughout the state since AEDC began administering the program in 1983. Through these investments, local governing officials are able to address major quality of life issues and have a tangible impact on people's lives.”

Jean Noble,
Director, Grants Management



The Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSCDA) announced Jean Noble as the recipient of the 2022 James Reeves Member Contribution Award.

CDBG has been appropriated level funding at \$3.3 billion annually in recent years including FY23; of this amount, The Arkansas State Small Cities Program is expected to receive over \$18.4 million.

Looking ahead, the Grants Division anticipates developing policies and procedures to address the demolition of blighted areas in rural communities, as well as how to use CDBG to address food deserts.

Members of the AEDC Grants Division represent AEDC on the Governor's Food Desert Task Force, which released its report and recommendations in December 2022.

RURAL SERVICES

The Division of Rural Services was able to fund all grant programs and host a one-day event, in place of the Rural Development Conference in May of 2022. This Rural Development Summit was a smaller event but still drew over 250 attendees, vendors, and sponsors. We funded the Rural Community Grant Program, the Rural Services Block Grant Program, the Arkansas Game and Fish Wildlife Grant Program and the Arkansas Spay and Neuter Grant Program totaling \$1,404,848.92 awarded in 2022.



Our Rural Services Department is looking forward to the Rural Development Conference, which will be held in Hot Springs in 2023. Moving back to our three-day conference, we will resume our normally scheduled conference agenda hosting two luncheons, six sessions and three legislative committee meetings.



Students from the local library's summer reading program learning the difference between different animals by looking at tracks, hides, and skulls.



WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Education Program) Teams practicing and preparing.

GRANT FUNDS ALLOCATED BY THE DIVISION OF RURAL SERVICES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022

RURAL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

\$405,590

RURAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

\$472,420

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH WILDLIFE GRANT PROGRAM

\$502,838

ARKANSAS SPAY AND NEUTER GRANT PROGRAM

\$24,000

ARKANSAS NSF EPSCoR



A group photo from the AI Workshop Showcase at the Clinton Center in April 2022.



Jennifer Fowler demonstrates a game that teaches data science concepts to a group of students at the 2022 EAST Conference.

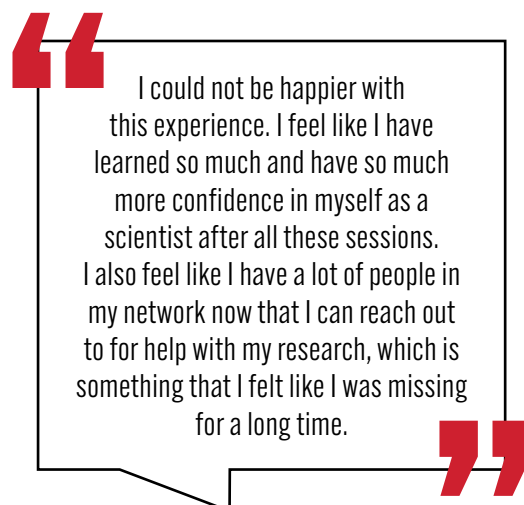
SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDING PROVIDED TO CAMPUSES IN 2022

A-State	\$5,400
ATU	\$8,000
PSC	\$16,000
UARK	\$23,260
UCA	\$5,400
TOTAL	\$58,060

In 2022, the EPSCoR department hosted two major events that were supported by National Science Foundation workshop grants. One was the EPSCoR Workshop on Artificial Intelligence which included a student showcase at the Clinton Center and collaborative presentations from AI researchers across the country. The second was the SSTI National Conference. Our department awarded more than \$500,000 in research grants to early career faculty at four Arkansas universities, hosted a booth at the EAST Initiative Annual Conference where we shared data science and information science concepts and resources with hundreds of K12 students and educators, and worked with the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts to provide hands-on data science training to 70 students from three states.

RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED IN 2022

PROJECT TITLE	INSTITUTION	INVESTIGATOR(S)	TOTAL AWARD
MoDaCoM-TL: Model and Data Compatibility Metric for Transfer Learning	A-State	Jason Causey	\$92,686
Smart curation and deep learning-based enhancement of social risk data	UAMS & A-State	Melody Greer & Sudeepa Bhattacharyya	\$118,190
AI-Supported Cyberinfrastructure for Scalable Flood Resilience Assessment	UARK	Xiao Huang	\$95,459
Machine Learning Approaches for Remote Pathological Speech Assessment for Parkinson's Disease	UAMS	Yasir Rahmatallah	\$100,000
Developing Machine Learning Models to Improve the Effectiveness of Automated Data Curation Processes	UALR	Ahmed Abu Halimeh	\$99,414



Student Participants, 2022 Arkansas Summer Research Institute

Program hosted annually in collaboration with the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

SBED collaborated with organizations across the state to help small businesses and entrepreneurs to understand AEDC incentives, locate funding opportunities, and better navigate application processes. SBED participated in two statewide Entrepreneurial Support Organization summits, supported the

Northwest Arkansas Technology Summit with more than 1,700 registrants from 27 states, and assisted with the annual Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWOBE) Matchmaking Event with more than 150 attending entrepreneurs.



Our division works hard to champion and promote small business, to identify and implement best practices and to support our business community more efficiently as a valued and trusted partner. We are striving to change the future for Arkansans.

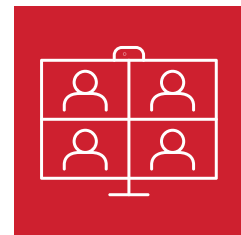


Bob Kucheravy, *Director of Science and Technology*

- After working with five Arkansas-based small businesses, **\$300,000 in Royalty Investments** were approved through the Seed Capital Investment and Technology Development Programs
- Awarded **\$1,750,000** through the Arkansas Business and Technology Accelerator Grant Program to six organizations to stimulate growth and innovation among the state's technology businesses
- Awarded more than **\$550,000** in Small Business Innovation Matching Grant Program funds to seven different companies
- Awarded more than **\$58,000** in Technology Transfer Assistance Grants to assist 14 different companies in their commercialization efforts and/or applications for even larger federal Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer grants



Staff conducted more than **30 in-person meetings** throughout the state discussing program incentives with small business owners, entrepreneurs, stakeholders, and other partners



A similar number conference of calls and Zoom meetings were held with various parties to explain division incentives designed to create high paying jobs and economic opportunities in entrepreneurial innovation.

MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE



2022
MATCHMAKING EVENT

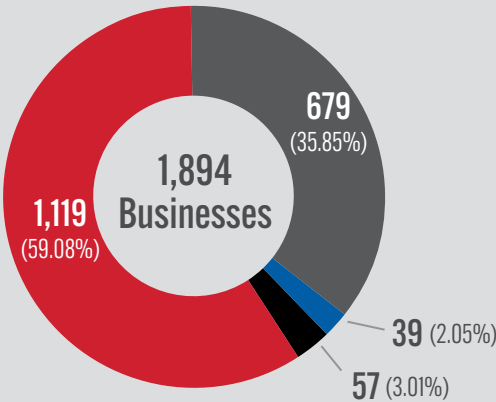
The Minority and Women-Owned Business Division strengthened our relationships with resource partners in 2022 that resulted in more strategic collaborations. We held a variety of certification trainings, both in person and virtually. We are especially grateful for the great turnout we had for our 2022 Matchmaking Event and the positive feedback we received as several vendors established good relationships with buyers from state, federal and local government, as well as the private sector. Finally, we have been fortunate to participate in several speaking engagements throughout the state that



have allowed us to create awareness and exposure for the division. Some of these include Soiree’s Women’s Leadership Symposium, Arkansas Rural Development Conference, Women’s Foundation of Arkansas Power of the Purse, and the Arkansas Veteran Small Business Summit.

Minority and Women-Owned Business Directory by Business Designation

- Minority Business Enterprise
- Women-Owned Business Enterprise
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Enterprise
- Other - Businesses that fall into multiple categories



Our Online Directory has 1,894 businesses from all over the state. In 2022, we grew our Online Directory by 211 entries. The Online Directory was also gated to obtain intelligence about who is accessing the directory.

37
BUSINESSES
CERTIFIED
IN 2022

12
CERTIFICATION TRAININGS
CONDUCTED WITH A TOTAL OF
492 ATTENDEES

“ One in four Arkansas small businesses are women-owned, which means about 80,000 women-owned businesses contribute \$10 billion in revenue to Arkansas. Supporting these entrepreneurs is paramount to our economic development efforts and our partnership with AEDC’s Minority and Women-Owned Business Division is one of the important cogs in the wheel that makes the Woman Achieve statewide mentorship program a success. ”

Mimi San Pedro, Chief Strategy Officer, The Venture Center

FILM

2022 was another banner year for the Arkansas film industry. We launched a new comprehensive database for locations, crew, and vendors; serviced many independent feature films, a faith-based series, commercials, documentaries, and reality series; concluded with a final independent production of *What Happens Later*, starring Meg Ryan and David Duchovny. It's an exciting time to be a part of the film industry in Arkansas.



“

In Arkansas we have found world-class crew and facilities, terrific locations, strong support from the Film Commission and the state, and a warm welcome everywhere we go. It's become our favorite filming location.

”

Rick Benattar and Nigel Thomas,
Los Angeles-based producers





\$765M

FORT SMITH/ EBBING ANGB
DEVELOPMENT COST

\$28.3M

FY 23 CONGRESSIONAL ADDS
FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN
OF THE EBBING CAMPUS

\$43M

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL WORK
ADDS FOR FY22/23

\$250M

LRAFB - RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION

MILITARY AFFAIRS

2022 was marked by a significant effort to secure the F-35 Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Pilot Training Center (PTC). This is a first of its kind training center in that the Air Force and State Department are building a base rather than place the PTC at an existing Air Force installation. In June, we traveled to the Farnborough Airshow and established a partnership with the Republic of Germany that has the potential to make Ebbing the Global F-35 Training Center of Excellence with an even larger economic impact. We have made strides in understanding the cyberinfrastructure in Arkansas through studies with the Forge Institute and the Arkansas Cyber Initiative. We are nearing the implementation phase of the Compatible Use Studies for the Pine Bluff Arsenal and LRAFB. A significant impact is that these efforts have led



to the counties and municipalities surrounding these installations to work collaboratively.

2023 will be very busy as we expect a final decision and then action to build and stand up the F-35 FMS PTC at Ebbing ANGB and Fort Smith. The first aircraft begin arriving in 2024 along with our strategic partners of the Royal Singapore Air Force and Poland set to lead the list of new Arkansans.



“

We have made significant progress on preparing for a new military mission in Arkansas and providing Arkansas recognition for being a place where military missions will succeed. Due to our willingness to partner, build legislative priorities and work collaboratively, Arkansas is globally becoming a military Center of Excellence and a strategic destination to all our allies. We are hosting the most advanced aircraft ever built, welcoming strategic partners from around the globe and welcoming an economic impact beyond anything the State has ever seen.

”

Colonel Robert Ator, *Director of Military Affairs*

LOOKING AHEAD

2022 was a successful year for Arkansas's economic development efforts. Our team worked hard, played hard, and continued to drive the mission of generating positive growth throughout the Natural State.

On behalf of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, we would like to express our gratitude for your ongoing support, active partnership, and commitment to building a legacy in economic development for the state of Arkansas!



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

 @ArkansasInc

 @ArkansasEDC

 @ArkansasEDC

 @ArkansasInc1691

