



LEADERSHIP ARKANSAS CLASS XI
SESSION II: WORKFORCE
OCTOBER 27-28, 2016
SPEAKERS & GUESTS



Dr. Paul Beran was appointed the seventh chancellor of the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith on July 1, 2006.

Distinctive accomplishments achieved on Dr. Beran's watch include a near doubling of baccalaureate degree programs on campus; growth in both number and strength of faculty; and the export of bachelor degree programs to nine community college campuses that meets the needs of place bound Arkansans. Dr. Beran's vision and persistence led to creation and expansion of international education and exchanges and the Chancellor's Coalition for the Visual Arts. He actively works with the Chamber of Commerce and Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Under his leadership, UAFS successfully completed a \$50 million capital gifts campaign. The footprint of the campus was expanded with targeted, systematic property acquisitions and a number of capital construction projects that tripled student housing capacity, added much needed parking, and expanded the library from 30,000 to more than 70,000 square feet. Beran

also led UAFS athletics from junior college sports to NCAA Division II athletics and advanced student life through expansion of Greek organizations and residential life. Following in Joel Stubblefield's footsteps, Dr. Beran has continued to lead UAFS into becoming a model regional university that "prepares students to succeed in an ever-changing global world while advancing economic development and quality of place."

Beran's honors are extensive. He received designation as an outstanding alumnus by Texas A&M University's College of Education and has been recently recognized as a distinguished graduate at Stephen F. Austin State University. He was awarded the Golden Hands Award by the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Committee and was presented the 2010 Leadership Fort Smith Community Leadership Award for Education. An Eagle Scout, Beran remains active in the scouting program including two years as the President of the Westark Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. He is the 2012 recipient of the esteemed Boy Scout Silver Beaver Award and is the 2013 Golden Eagle honoree.

Dr. Beran received his B.A. in English and Political Science and his M.A. in English at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He completed his Ph.D. in higher education curriculum and instruction at Texas A&M University. He and his wife, Janice, have two sons and two grandchildren.

Crandall Street is a Leadership Arkansas Class X Graduate, 35-year old banker and life-long Arkansan. Born and raised in the small town of Yellville in North Central Arkansas, family, education and hard work have long been central themes in her life. Crandall graduated with honors from Yellville High School and was also a full-time varsity athlete. She received the Presidential Academic Scholarship at the University of Central Arkansas and graduated with honors with a degree in Public Relations and Speed Communication four years later. While attending UCA, Crandall maintained her athletic involvement through various intermural sports leagues. She also participated in Lamda Pi Eta, the National Honors Society for Speech Communication, local Boys and Girls Club, as well as many other volunteer opportunities with the university.



Upon graduation, Crandall moved to Northwest Arkansas to pursue her career. She has been with Signature Bank of Arkansas in Springdale for nearly nine years. Beginning her career as a loan processor, in one short year she was moved to processing manager. Two years later, Streett was promoted to Risk Management Officer and assisted with loan review. While in this position, one of her main responsibilities was working directly with the State Bank Department and FDIC Examiners throughout the year to maintain positive relationships and clear communication regarding the status of our bank. Her next promotion came four years later and has been serving as Vice President of Lending. "I discovered that working with and helping customers is both challenging and satisfying and something I enjoy very much. I look forward to my future here at this bank and the role I will play in this state in the future!" says Streett.



Russell Carey is a Program Associate with the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation in Little Rock, Arkansas. In that role, Russell supports the Foundation by conducting research, writing and editing materials, assessing grantee outcomes, planning meetings and events, and overseeing external communications. He is broadly responsible for ensuring an ongoing connection between WRF's strategic plan and all program-related activities of the Foundation.

Prior to joining WRF in July 2013, Russell was an assistant buyer for Dillard's Inc., a Fortune 500 company based in Little Rock, Arkansas that is one of the nation's largest retailers. During his time at Dillard's, Russell oversaw millions of dollars in purchase orders, developed electronic reporting tools, and helped to manage corporate inventory levels. He also previously held an internship with Heifer International and consulted for the Schedler Honors College at the University of Central Arkansas and the Desmond Tutu Peace Centre in Cape Town, South Africa.

Russell earned his BBA in Business Administration from the University of Central Arkansas and MPS in Public Service from the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.

Christie Turner is a Leadership Arkansas Class X Graduate, native of Russellville, AR and married her high school sweetheart in 2008. The pair have a 6 year old daughter, Addyson Grace Turner, and a 4 year old son, Banks Alexander Turner. In 2012, they returned to Northwest Arkansas and currently reside in Fayetteville, AR. Family and community are of great importance to the Turners.

Christie is a graduate of Russellville High School at Arkansas Tech University. She graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration with a major in Econ/Finance in 2005. Turner worked for First State Bank in Russellville throughout college and after graduating from ATU, she went to work for Metropolitan National Bank as a Personal Banker. She worked her way to a Branch Manager/Bank Officer before moving to US Bank five years later and continued her banking career as an AVP/Branch Manager and Small Business Loan Officer.



From there, Turner moved to Arvest Bank as an AVP/Private Banking Officer and was there one year before taking her career in another direction, landing at Tyson Foods as a Food Service Deductions Manager. It took only one year for her to realize her true interest was banking. In March, 2014, Turner was brought onto the Signature Bank of Arkansas team as a VP/Commercial Lender and she believes she's finally found her niche.



Senator Jane English represents Senate District 34, which comprises part of Pulaski County. She is the chair-woman of the Senate Education Committee, co-chairman of the Legislative Task Force to Study the Realignment of Higher Education and vice chairman of Joint Performance Review.

During the current 90th General Assembly, she holds membership on the following committees: Senate Insurance and Commerce, Senate Children and Youth, Legislative Joint Auditing, ALC-PEER, ALC-Administrative Rules and Regulations, ALC-Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee, ALC-Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee, Desegregation Litigation Oversight Subcommittee, Rural Fire Departments Study Committee, Legislative Joint Auditing-Educational Institutions, and Academic Facilities Oversight Committee.

Nationally, Senator English works with legislators from across the United States as a member of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC), the Council of State Governments, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). She serves on SLC's Energy and Environment Committee, CSG's Education Policy/Public Policy Committee, NCSL's Education Committee and ALEC's Education Committee.

Senator English was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2008 to serve House District 42. She served two consecutive terms. Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, Senator English is retired. She and husband Don have one son and one daughter.

Dr. Charisse Childers is the Director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education and a lifelong educator.

Having spent all of her life in Arkansas, raised in Blytheville and now living in Little Rock, Dr. Charisse Childers is always working to make a difference in the lives of others. Her experiences, knowledge, and unwavering enthusiasm are demonstrated in everything that she does. With 30 years of work and personal experience in business, law enforcement, education, and economic development, she has built friendships and has contacts in all parts of the state.

A graduate of Blytheville High School, Dr. Childers worked her way through college at Arkansas State University earning a Business Degree in 1988. Realizing that she wanted to continue her education and that additional education and training would open up greater opportunities, she later earned master's and specialist's degrees from ASU. Then at the age of 42, she graduated from the University of Arkansas with a Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Policy.



Dr. Childers' career began in secondary and postsecondary education – giving her an opportunity to work with students and demonstrate the importance of an education. In addition to serving on a national education board and being recognized for her exemplary work in postsecondary education, she has written and administered federal, state, and local grants and has been a federal grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education.

In January of 2015, she was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson to serve as the director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education. The first woman to lead this agency, she continues working with leaders around the state on education and economic development policy and career and educational services that prepare Arkansas's youth and adults for jobs while meeting the needs of Arkansas businesses.

Prior to her appointment, she served from 2006–2014 as the executive director of Accelerate Arkansas, an 80-member statewide group of business and education leaders dedicated to knowledge-based economic development in the state of Arkansas. Most recently, Dr. Childers was recognized by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation as one of 40 non-profit leaders in the state and is featured in the publications that celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Foundation and The Year of the Nonprofit Leader. The Foundation honors those whose accomplishments and strong leadership exemplify the legacy of Governor Rockefeller and who are contributing to moving the needle in Arkansas.

Dr. Childers served on the Arkansas State Police Commission for seven years and currently is the vice-chairman of the Arkansas State Police Foundation. She has been a finalist and received two nominations as non-profit executive of the year by Arkansas Business. She is currently vice president of the Arkansas State Alumni Association, a member of the EAST® (Environment and Spatial Technology) Initiative Advisory Council, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce.



Daryl Bassett is the Director for the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services. Appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson and taking office on January 13, 2015, Bassett's focus is on refining ADWS' strategies and fostering existing and new partnerships to respond effectively and efficiently to changing skills and training needs in order to yield a stronger workforce for Arkansas. Bassett oversees all areas of the multi-faceted Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, which has 39 locations throughout the state.

Bassett is the former director of business and commercial services for the Arkansas Secretary of State, serving from 2012 through 2014. His responsibilities included oversight of a staff of 33 employees in the management and daily workflow of online and in-house transactions. Under his guidance, new business and commercial services programs were developed and managed.

The Arkansas Department of Workforce Services is not "new" to Bassett—preceding his career with the Secretary of State's office, during 2009-2012, Bassett served as ADWS' finance division chief.

His distinguished career also includes six years as commissioner with the Arkansas Public Service Commission; three years as chief economic advisor to former Governor Mike Huckabee; four years as coordinator of institutional finance with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education; ten years working in international and domestic securities as an investment banker with Merrill Lynch; and six years as business manager of the Urban League of Arkansas.

Bassett is past president of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and has served as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission Diversity Committee. He was also appointed by the FCC to the Federal-State Joint Conference on Accounting Issues. Past memberships also include the Financial Research Institute for Columbia College of Business Board of Directors at the University of Missouri, Columbia, as well as having served on the boards for Arkansans for Drug Free Youths; the Little Rock Downtown Partnership; the Arkansas Arts Center; and Arkansas Baptist College.

Bassett is the recipient of the Davey Award Silver Winner for the public service and activism web video "Dream for a Living," as well as the recipient of the Davey Award Silver Winner for the government website DreamItDoltArkansas.com, both produced during his tenure as director of the Arkansas Secretary of State Business and Commercial Services division. Bassett is also a National Center for Digital Government Achievement Award Winner for his development of the "Government to Business, Arkansas Secretary of State Corporation Filings Automation Project."

Bassett and his family live in Sherwood.

Trish Flanagan is the Founder and Superintendent of Future School of Fort Smith. She has spent the past 14 years as an educator working with communities around the United States and abroad. She is the co-founder of Noble Impact, a K-12 education initiative integrating public service with an entrepreneurial mindset. While completing a concurrent master's degree at the Clinton School of Public Service and the Walton MBA Program, she co-founded Picasolar, an award-winning solar company. At age 19, Trish led vocational training for itinerant teens in Limerick, Ireland and after a stint teaching high school with Teach for America on the US-Mexican border, she pioneered a K-12 school in the Honduran Bay Islands. She was named one of Arkansas Times' Visionaries of 2013.



Dr. Benny Gooden retired as superintendent of schools in Fort Smith, Arkansas, after 30 years in that position. He has served in public education for 50 years as a teacher, building administrator, central office administrator and for 41 years as a school superintendent. Gooden has served as President of his state administrators association, and as President of the American Association of School Administrators Association (AASA) in 2012-2013. He was named Arkansas Superintendent of the Year in 1992, recipient of the Dr. Dan Pilkington Award by the Arkansas School Boards Association in 2000 and the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award by the National PTA in 1999. He was presented the Citation of Merit by the University of Missouri College of Education Alumni Association in 2010 and the Distinguished Service Award by the American Association of School Administrators in 2014. In 2014 he was named Administrator of the Year by the Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association and he received the Educational Excellence Award from AdvancED in 2015. The Arkansas Teachers for National Board Certification presented Gooden with its Advocate for Education Award in 2014.

Gooden is a visiting assistant professor in educational leadership at the University of Arkansas. He is a frequent lecturer on educational leadership issues dealing with legislation, governance, and finance. Gooden has served on numerous AASA committees and was director of the AASA Singing Superintendents for more than 20 years. He has been involved with legislative issues affecting public education at the state and national levels for many years.

Dr. Gooden and his wife, Martha, are the parents of three children. Charles M. is a general surgeon practicing in Fort Smith with Sparks Health System; Marcus is a product/package designer in Loma Linda, CA and LeighAnn is an emergency room physician with Mayo Clinic's Lacrosse, WI facility. The Goodens have nine grandchildren..

Joe Quinn is Senior Director, Public Affairs and Government Relations. In this role Quinn helps build national Walmart relationships with elected officials, suppliers, customers, communities, and associates. Quinn is currently focused on the major Walmart effort to bring manufacturing and jobs back to the United States. The company has committed to buying an additional \$250 billion in American products during the next ten years.

Walmart is the largest retail store in the United States, serving 140 million customers weekly with more than 200 million transactions. From its start in a modest building in Rogers, Arkansas in 1962 Walmart has grown to operate under 69 banners in 27 countries.

During his time at Walmart Quinn has helped manage the company commitment to hire 250,000 veterans by 2020, has worked in the Walmart Benefits Division that makes company benefits available to 1.3 million associates, and has helped lead the company effort to make healthier food more accessible and affordable for all families.

In 2006 Quinn was part of the Walmart team that rolled out the innovative \$4 generic drug program that changed the national healthcare landscape by saving customers billions of dollars. For that work Quinn was a co-winner of the 2007 Walmart Sam Walton Entrepreneurial Award.

Before joining Walmart in 2006 Quinn was Director of Policy for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. In 2002 Quinn was Director of Communications for the successful Huckabee reelection campaign. Quinn previously was Director of Communications for the Arkansas Department of Human Services and a television journalist with the CBS TV affiliate in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Quinn is a member of the Bentonville School Board. In 2010 Quinn co-chaired a successful community millage campaign to approve \$70 million in funding for new schools. Quinn is also a former member of the boards at Goodwill of Arkansas and the Northwest Arkansas Lacrosse Program.

Quinn and his wife Shannon live in Rogers, Arkansas. Their son Jimmy is a student in the business program at The University of Arkansas. Their daughter Ava is a junior at Bentonville High School.





Eric Simpson is a Leadership Arkansas Class X Graduate and a life-long Fort Smith native. He received his Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Arkansas Tech University in 1995. He began his career as a pediatric staff nurse before transitioning into a leadership role within the medical community.

As Chief Operating Officer for IMWell Health he currently directs, supervises and coordinates the overall clinical and business operations for the company. IMWell Health is a leader in the development of on-site and near site medical clinics which provide convenient high quality health care. He additionally serves as the trustee chair for River Valley Community Church and assisted as troop leader in the local Boy Scouts of America.

Eric lives with his wife and two sons in Fort Smith, where he is an avid teacher, explorer, and adventurer of the vast outdoor opportunities this great state offers.

Tim Allen is the President and CEO of the Fort Smith Regional Chamber of Commerce. He joined the Chamber staff in November 2011. Prior to becoming Chamber President in 2014, Tim served as the Chief Operating Officer. He is responsible for Economic Development for the Fort Smith MSA, overseeing Chamber staff and functions, and working with community leaders to improve the regional quality of place.



Kyle Parker, J.D., President and CEO of the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education, possesses a nationally recognized presence in the fields of law, technology, business, and higher education. Beginning as a private practice attorney, Kyle wrote the first artificial intelligence software (CLARA) ever granted a registered copyright for the legal profession while he was still in law school. He then created a word search engine, and in 1989 digitized the Arkansas legal case opinions, and statutory and regulatory laws to release the first legal CD-ROM in history (CaseBase). His efforts were subsequently recognized by the Arkansas Bar Association with the Lawyer-Pioneer Award, the first and only time this award has been granted. Kyle was also recognized by the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas State Senate, and was later awarded the Technology Award by the National Center for State Courts. And, in 1994, Kyle conceived and created the first searchable legal information internet site (loislaw.com).



Kyle directed Law Office Information Systems, (LOIS), a 700-employee company, taking the company “public” in 1999, where its stock was traded on NASDAQ. During his tenure of LOIS, Kyle was recognized by numerous state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court for revolutionizing legal research throughout America and making it affordable. He received the Ernst & Young, Southwest Finalist, Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2000, was recognized as one of the Top 10 most influential graduates of Franklin Pierce Law Center, as well as being named in the top 200 CEO Entrepreneur Companies in America. Most recently, Kyle was inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Computing. He has also had numerous articles written about his entrepreneurial works, and he has appeared on Bloomberg, CNN, and CNNfn.

In 2001, Kyle directed the sale of LOIS to Wolters Kluwer NA, an Amsterdam-based world publishing company. At the time of the acquisition, LOIS had over 23,000 law firms, every accredited law school in the U.S., and every State appellate court including the U.S. Supreme Court as its customer. After the acquisition in 2001, Kyle directed the traditional print publishing units of Wolters Kluwer toward digitally available products and services. As Executive Vice President of Business Development and Strategic Planning, his responsibilities included the merging of various business units’ products and services from a traditional transaction model to a recurring revenue model for more than 300 digital offerings.

In 2009, Kyle was employed by the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith as Vice Chancellor of Technology. Responsible for the technology needs of 8,000 students and 1,000 staff and faculty, he directed the changing of technology that led to increased speed and reliability from 84% to 99.98% uptime, full redundancy, and complete disaster recovery, while reducing energy expenditures by 80%. Collaborating with faculty and students, he directed the creation of study labs, web site redesign and architecture, a 24-hour technology enabled study zone, and a complete update of the PCs for all faculty and administration. He also directed the creation of a new service department help system for technology, building and grounds, and human resources.

Throughout his professional career, Kyle has partnered with private banking firms to acquire and manage various “turn around” and growth businesses. He has worked directly with the CEOs of various companies to create new executive management, operation structures, sales, and technology solutions to control expenditures and increase revenue, while also serving on each company’s respective Board of Directors.

Kyle is also active in his community as he serves as a volunteer Board member for various civic, charitable, and educational institutions and organizations. Kyle and his wife, Renee, are the parents of two sons, Marshall and Christian, and reside in Fort Smith, Arkansas.