LEADERSHIP DESERVES RECOGNITION

Mitchell Williams is proud to support our attorneys and their pursuit of professional excellence and leadership. Congratulations to our own Karen Freeman, graduate of Leadership Arkansas Class XI.

Karen Freeman
Member

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Randy Zook
State Chamber of Commerce
President & CEO

The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas is the
leading advocate for Arkansas business on
both the state and national level.

Our mission is to promote a pro-business,
free-enterprise agenda and contest anti-business
legislation, regulations and rules. Now more than
ever, business matters to our nation’s future. In the global economy, our competitive capacity must
be all it can possibly be — and the State Chamber/AIA works every day to make that happen.

For more than 80 years, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce has worked to make
Arkansas a better place to do business by giving private sector employers a voice in state politics
and providing a full range of Arkansas-specific products and services. The Arkansas State
Chamber’s active Governmental Affairs staff works in tandem with business leaders throughout
the state to promote policies providing greater certainty for employers. In addition to representing
employers to legislators and regulatory agencies, we:

- Manage a targeted political action network for both the Arkansas State Chamber and
  the Associated Industries of Arkansas. Our non-partisan, pro-business State Chamber and
  AIA Political Action Committees help elect pro-business legislators.
- Take a leadership role on statewide initiative campaigns to fight for a strong jobs climate.
- Go to court, when needed, on behalf of Arkansas employers and the state’s economy.

The State Chamber/AIA is engaged on a whole host of issues that have important implications
for the business climate in Arkansas — tort reform, property taxes, sales taxes, tax exemptions,
unemployment insurance, economic development, energy policy, workers’ compensation
insurance, broadband access, education/workforce development, medical marijuana and
environmental regulations just to name a few.

Our national and federal efforts continue to involve issues of concern for Arkansas’s business
community, including fighting back against overreach efforts by multiple federal agencies. Those
have included State Chamber/AIA efforts and initiatives to push back against proposed federal
agency efforts to increase critical habitat for two freshwater mussels, tighten ozone standards,
limit affordable sources of energy, limit access to waterways and limit the freedom of
business and workers to debate unionization activities.

Congress and President Trump’s administration continue to fall short of efforts
to reach agreement on important issues that could result in faster growth in our
economy. Immigration reform, corporate tax reform, sensible energy policy,
exempted free trade, to name a few, all offer great opportunities to create more
certainty and confidence that would help stimulate business formation and
expansion and the jobs that would come from growth.

Our work to support Arkansas’s businesses never stops. We are now
focused on participating in the tax reform task force that has been
established, as well as interim proposals we are watching and possible
future Special Sessions.

The Arkansas State Chamber will soon continue our tradition of
taking our message on the road in partnership with our local
chambers of commerce and economic development organizations
with our State Chamber Door-to-Door initiative. Through the
voice of our membership, our issues committees will begin
meeting late summer and early fall to establish our legislative
priorities for the next legislative sessions.

Business matters and there is more work to be done.
We appreciate the support of our many member businesses
throughout Arkansas and we encourage those businesses
and organizations that are not currently members of the
State Chamber or AIA to join our ranks. We will always
lead the effort to secure Arkansas’s future through free
enterprise.

CONGRATULATIONS!

From all of your friends and colleagues at the
Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, congratulations,
Janet, on graduating as part of the 2016-17 class
of Leadership Arkansas!

Winthrop Rockefeller Institute
University of Arkansas System
rockefellerinstitute.org

Janet Harris, Director of Programs

Arkansas Business
Leadership: Realized

Congratulations to Marla Mitchell, 2017 graduate of Leadership Arkansas! Thank you for your commitment to our customers and your leadership in driving real progress for our great state.

Dreams: Realized

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Business news you can’t wait to read.

Arkansas Business Daily Report

From the latest Arkansas business news to industry trend reports, it keeps your finger on the pulse of what’s going on.

ArkansasBusiness.com/DailyReport

Toni Bahn

State Chamber of Commerce
Leadership Arkansas
Chairman

Leadership Arkansas is designed to advance the development of existing and emerging business leaders into a committed, involved and diverse network of community and economic activists in Arkansas. To date, nearly 600 individuals have completed this outstanding program, representing all types of businesses and industry, as well as educational, nonprofit, governmental and civic organizations.

The Leadership Arkansas program examines issues critical to Arkansas, furthers development of leadership skills, and provides a foundational background to formulate future opportunities by critically exploring Arkansas’s history, demography and diversities. One of the most rewarding and lasting benefits of Leadership Arkansas is the valuable time participants spend interacting with current leaders from a variety of professions, philosophies and locations, representing Arkansas’s diverse population and geography. Participants also discuss critical regional issues with a statewide perspective, enhancing their ability to work on local solutions while maintaining a statewide outlook.

After nine months of intensive study and dialogue, those individuals who successfully complete the program have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the complexity of the state and local communities, and are uniquely positioned to make meaningful contributions in the future.

Leadership Arkansas graduates have gone on to:
- Hold elected office.
- Chair local community projects.
- Serve on statewide boards and commissions.
- Volunteer their time.
- Invest in Arkansas’ local communities.

There’s no question that Leadership Arkansas graduates help make our state work and grow — but that’s not the only benefit. When they fully participate in the program, they expand their network, their understanding of our state, and their skills as leaders. It’s difficult for a Leadership Arkansas graduate not to be changed as a person after connecting and working closely with others who share the desire for change and solutions. Plus, there’s no better way to get to know the place where you live. Many Leadership Arkansas participants who have lived in Arkansas for years or even decades have been surprised at how much they did not know about our state. The history, the people, the problems, the solutions — all discovered because those participants made a decision to get involved in the Leadership Arkansas program.

We thank Citizens Bank, AWCare, Entergy Arkansas, Farm Credit Services of Arkansas, Nucor Steel — Arkansas and Nucor-Yamato Steel, and Walmart Stores Inc. for their generous support of Leadership Arkansas Class XI. As we prepare for Class XII, we are seeking individuals to join us in discovering the many facets and testing of our state, and to take the lead in shaping Arkansas’s future.
SESSION I
Garbro Manufacturing Company

SESSION II
First National Bank of Fort Smith
Mercy Health
Gerdau Special Steel
Stephens Production Company
Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corporation
Baldor Electric Company

SESSION III
Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas
Entergy Arkansas
Wright Lindsey & Jennings LLP
Centerpoint Energy
International Paper Company
Dover Dixon Horne PLLC
Tyson Foods, Inc.
Windstream

SESSION IV
Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control

SESSION V
Southland Park Gaming & Racing

SESSION VI
Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts
Seiz Sign Company
Arkansas Furniture

SESSION VII
Signature Bank of Arkansas
Black Hills Energy
Northwest Technical Institute
Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport
McKee Foods Corporation
The Empire District Electric Company

SESSION VIII
AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company
Centerpoint Energy
Regions Insurance
W&W/AFCO Steel LLC

Congratulations!

Sean Pollard

Southland Park proudly congratulates our Director of Surveillance for his commitment and hard work in completing The Arkansas State Chamber’s Leadership Arkansas program.

Congratulations to all of this year’s class, and thank you Sean for making Southland Park a great place to work and play!

800.467.6182 • West Memphis, AR
southernlandpark.com

See Player Rewards for details. Players must be 21 years of age or older to game and 18 years of age or older to bet at the race track. Play responsibly for help quitting, call 800-522-4700.
JONATHAN ADAMS  
Associated Builders and Contractors of Arkansas

BRYAN BARNHOUSE  
Arkansas Research Alliance

CHRIS BELL  
Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation

GREG BLAIR  
Harrison Energy Partners

JENNIFER CHUNN  
National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

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WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM  
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JILL DABBs  
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AMBER ELLIS  
ARcare

KAREN FREEMAN  
Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard PLLC

ERIKA GEE  
Wright Lindsey Jennings LLP

CARL GEFFKEN  
City of Fort Smith

KIM HARDEN  
Baptist Health

JANET HARRIS  
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LINDSAY HENDERSON  
Conway Area Chamber of Commerce

LENKA HORAKOVA  
Arkansas District Export Council

ERIC HOWERTON  
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PAM JONES  
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DR. TENNILLE LASKER-SCOTT  
Arkansas Tech University

KATHLEEN LAWSON  
Museum of Discovery

ANGELA LOPEZ  
Arkansas Dept of Human Services

JEFF MALAND  
Signature Bank of Arkansas

BRANDON MATHEWS  
Arkansas Foodbank

SHAUN MCKAMIE  
Farm Credit of Western Arkansas
We work here. We live here.

We’re invested in Arkansas.

Our leaders aren’t just committed to our company, they’re committed to our state. Congratulations, Laura Nick and Keith Tencleve! We’ve seen what you can do for Garver, and we look forward to what you will do for Arkansas.
CONGRATULATIONS

JASON SMITH
On your graduation from Leadership Arkansas Class XI

The employees and administration of Baptist Health congratulate Kim Harden, 2017 member of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas’ annual leadership class.

Leadership Arkansas is the best program for learning new leadership skills, networking and professional growth I have experienced in my career! I am extremely grateful to have been a part of this class and looking forward to more work with my classmates and the program in the future.

— Greg Wolverton
chief information officer at ARcare
I would like to offer a big thank you to the Arkansas State Chamber for preparing a comprehensive program on the most current issues that affect Arkansas and for the opportunity to engage in a discussion with so many of the state’s leaders!

— Lenka Horakova
vice chairman of the Arkansas District Export Council

BKD Wealth Advisors congratulates Director Matt Wahl and the graduates of the 2017 Leadership Arkansas Program for their professional dedication and civic leadership.

BKD Wealth Advisors, LLC is an SEC registered investment adviser. A copy of our sanitizer disclosure statement is available upon request.

Learn more at bkdw.com.

Congratulations, Jeff!

Jeff Maland
Chief Risk Officer

Signature Bank of Arkansas
MEMBER FDIC
For me, Leadership Arkansas turned out to be a once in a lifetime experience. I went into the program hoping to gain insight into industries that my clients service. I came away with a deeper appreciation for our unique state and a greater sense of pride in being an Arkansan.

— Jon Adams
membership director at Associated Builders & Contractors of Arkansas
6) The 2017 class gathers at their graduation ceremony in Little Rock. 7) Class XI visits the Arkansas Biosciences Institute in Jonesboro. 8) Jonathan Lopez experiences the parachute simulator at the Little Rock Air Force Base. 9) Dave Roberts and Jennifer Chunn inside the cockpit of a C-130H. 10) Class XI poses at Southland Park Gaming and Racing with the Leadership Arkansas race winner.

Leadership Arkansas is dynamic...68+ diverse, educated, forward thinking, engaged, successful program leaders and classmates who are making a difference, not only state and nationwide, but globally.

— Brig. Gen. Joe Wilson
Arkansas Air National Guard

Smile by Jenna

Delta Dental of Arkansas congratulates our very own Jenna Recker on her graduation from the Leadership Arkansas Program. Congratulations Jenna!

DeltaDentalAR.com
LEADERSHIP ARKANSAS

BECOME A PART OF ARKANSAS’S NETWORK OF FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS

WHO WE ARE

Leadership Arkansas is a unique program designed to take a comprehensive view of the economic and political challenges that face this state. First introduced in 2005 by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Arkansas, our staff, with the guidance of the organizations’ boards and executive committees, recruits highly-motivated individuals to experience firsthand the dynamic interactions between cities, industries, governmental units and the people they serve.

Leadership Arkansas is grounded in the belief that it is from bringing diverse interests and backgrounds together that real progress is achieved. Through shared experiences and frequent interactions, Leadership Arkansas participants, facilitators and alumni learn and grow as they advance through an innovative nine-month program designed to expose class members to the challenges and opportunities of our local communities and their impact on the state as a whole.

WHAT WE OFFER

Leadership Arkansas has helped more than 500 graduates deepen their backgrounds and understanding of issues facing the state and provided them with effective tools to develop initiatives to improve the quality of life in Arkansas. We also have helped create a statewide community to generate dialogue on those issues, setting the stage for progress throughout the state.

Participants have been developing, strengthening and connecting with emerging leaders in Arkansas for several years. We count among our graduates well-established political, business and community leaders.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

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

Leadership Arkansas sessions include:

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

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Class members gain:

- An inclusive network of colleagues and resources.
- A broad understanding of state issues and developments.
- A better sense of personal leadership potential and enhanced leadership skills.
- Staff energized and motivated to apply program information to organization situations.
- Leaders prepared to address issues and keep companies in action.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must be postmarked by Aug. 11. They should be typed or computer generated.
- Applications will be reviewed in September and notifications will be distributed on Sept. 8.
- Your application is not considered complete until we have received your two letters of recommendation and a $25 application fee.
- Payment instructions are included at the end of the application.
- Be sure to request recommendation letters from your references in advance. They should be sent directly to Leadership Arkansas by Aug. 11.
- Please enclose a recent color photograph suitable for use in publications and publicity.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Parker, Leadership Arkansas program director, at aparker@arkansassusstechchamber.com or (501) 372-2222.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants are required to attend at least 80 percent of the program sessions, including the entire opening session, which is mandatory. The 2017–18 program year is tentatively scheduled as follows:

Class XII Orientation – Oct. 1-3, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Morrilton (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)

Session II – Arkansas’s Workforce – Oct. 26-27, Fort Smith

Session III – Government & Military – Nov. 28-29, Little Rock and Jacksonville

Session IV – Agriculture & Outdoor Life – Dec. 11-12, 2017, Stuttgart


Session VI – Economic Development Infrastructure & Education – Feb. 26-28, 2018, West Memphis and Blytheville

Session VII – Tourism, History & Revitalization – March 29-30, 2018, Hot Springs

Session VIII – Regional Development – April 24-26, 2018, Fayetteville, Springdale and Bentonville

Session IX – Leadership, Planning & Graduation – May 24-25, 2018, Little Rock (MANDATORY ATTENDANCE)

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

Leadership Arkansas
P.O. Box 3645
Little Rock, AR 72203-3645
Fax to (501) 372-2722
Phone (501) 372-2222

Overnight delivery:
1200 W. Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201

All applications must be postmarked by Aug. 11. PLEASE INCLUDE A COLOR PHOTO THAT CAN BE USED IN PUBLICATIONS!
Congratulations Graduates!

Class XI
Leadership Arkansas

Chris Bell  Justin Simpson

Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas
Your Local Energy Partners
The 2017 Legislative Session was overall a great success for Arkansas businesses. The State Chamber/AIA’s governmental affairs team, along with State Chamber/AIA members, worked with legislators to help pass 18 of our 22 priority bills. Prior to the session, we outlined these issues in our Legislative Agenda. Below are the measures that were passed.

CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM

SJR 8, by Sen. Missy Irvin, R-Mountain View, Rep. Bob Ballinger, R-Hindsville, and 66 others, will be on the 2018 General Election ballot. This will provide Arkansas voters the opportunity to vote on a Constitutional Amendment that will set caps on attorneys’ fees, punitive and non-economic damages.

Act 986 (HB 1742 by Rep. Laurie Rushing, R-Hot Springs, presented by Rep. Michelle Gray, R-Melbourne and Sen. Bart Heston, R-Cave Springs) amends the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act (UTPA) to ensure fairness for all litigants in consumer protection actions by protecting employers from frivolous lawsuits by individuals who have suffered no real harm.

TAXES

Act 465 (SB 362 by Sen. Lance Eads, R-Springdale and Rep. Andy Davis, R-Little Rock and 21 others) creates a sales tax exemption for manufacturers on their repair and replacement parts by phasing out the entire sales tax by 1 percent a year until complete, along with the Constitutional taxes, by June 30, 2022. Manufacturers must continue to seek a rebate until the tax is completely removed. To mitigate revenue impact to the state, it will also phase out the InvestArk incentive.

Act 659 (HB 1772 by Rep. Joe Jett, R-Beebe and Sen. Jason Files, R-Fort Smith) provides training, hearing guidelines and additional resources to County Equalization Boards, and a procedural warning to corporate taxpayers appealing Equalization Board decisions to the next level; lowers the taxpayer “burden of proof” in court appeals; clarifies and improves taxpayer refund rights for various types of reporting and assessment mistakes; and addresses various procedural handicaps for taxpayers appealing assessments by the Tax Division of the Public Service Commission.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Act 734 (HB 1405 by Rep. Robin Lundstrum, R-Springdale and Senator Jim Hendren, R-Cave Springs) reduces Arkansas employers’ unemployment insurance taxes and encourages those drawing unemployment benefits to look for work quicker.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


Act 685 (SB 581 by Sen. Jim Hendren, R-Cave Spring, Sen. Missy Irvin, R-Mountain View, Rep. Justin Boyd, R-Fort Smith and Rep. Bob Johnson, D-Jacksonville) will remove the 5 percent cap on Amendment 82 bonds and provide a framework for municipalities and counties to appropriate money for economic development projects and economic development services while also maintaining safeguards for judicious use of municipal and county resources. A Cost Benefit Analysis is required for expenditures over $100K; recapture provisions and reporting are included. There is a 5 percent cap on expenditures of the municipality’s and county’s general revenue and reserves of the previous fiscal year but does allow for exceeding the 5 percent upon issuance of a financial forecast of the governing body by an independent CPA. Revenue that is specifically dedicated by law or public vote for economic development purposes is excluded from these limitations/ restrictions. There are no prohibitions or restrictions on funding economic development projects through revenue bonds.

Act 686 (SB 379 by Sen. Bruce Maloch, R-Magnolia and Rep. Mike Holland, R-Pine Bluff) also provided some technical implementation of Amendment 97 needed by local economic developers.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE QUALITY

Act 910 (HB 1621 by Rep. Mark Lowery, R-Maumelle and Sen. Jane English, R-North Little Rock), will move school board elections to either the General Election or Primary Election date.

Act 416 (SB 328 by Senators Alan Clark, R-Lonsdale, Jane English, R-North Little Rock & Bart Heston, R-Cave Springs and Representatives Charlotte Douglas, R-Alma), will require the State Board of Education to test applicants for first-time teacher licensure for elementary education (K-5) and special education (K-12) in subject matter content and knowledge of beginning reading instruction.

Act 951 (SB 441 by Sen. Jane English, R-North Little Rock), creates the Legislative Task Force on Workforce Education Excellence, which is tasked with reviewing and researching ways to improve technical education and workforce development programs.
LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

Act 191 (HB 1126 by Rep. Charlie Collins, R-Fayetteville), amends the definition of employer to clarify that a natural person acting as a supervisor is not an employer and creating a one year limitation period for discrimination, retaliation and interference claims. The bill also amends the hate crime section to eliminate claims arising out of employment relationship.

Act 783 (HB 1137 by Rep. Charlie Collins, R-Fayetteville), will prohibit damages awarded in discrimination and retaliation cases under the Arkansas Civil Rights Act of 1993, from duplicating or increasing any award for damages over those allowed for by any other state or federal law as the federal law existed on January 1, 2017. It will also establish that individual employees, agents of employer or employees of an employer’s agent are not liable for a violation found to have been committed by employers.

Act 914 (HB 1146 by Rep. Charlie Collins, R-Fayetteville and Sen. Bart Hester, R-Cave Springs), will establish that an employer is not subject to liability because the failure of the employer to pay an employee minimum wage or to pay an employee overtime compensation for or because certain activities that are not principle to the employee’s job.

Act 593 (HB 1140 by Rep. Carlton Wing, R-North Little Rock and Sen. Missy Irvin, R-Mountain View), will provide protection for the workplace regarding Medical Marijuana usage by creating new definitions or modifying existing definitions for employers in matters related to the use of marijuana.

Act 606 (HB 1165 by Rep. DeAnn Vaught, R-Horatio and Sen. Gary Stubblefield, R-Branch), creates a cause of action against people who have gained access to a nonpublic area of another person’s property and engaged in an act that exceeds the trespasser’s authority within the nonpublic area.

Act 966 (SB 69S by Sen. Linda Collins-Smith, R-Pocahontas), clarifies the definition of the employment relationship to help ensure that state enforcement agencies and courts do not adopt the expansive new joint-employer standard adopted at the federal level.

SB 550 passed but was vetoed, by Sen. Trent Garner, R-Eldorado, would have created a Class A misdemeanor for unlawful mass picketing, defined as engaging in demonstration that hinder or prevent the pursuit of lawful work or employment, obstruct entrance to a place of employment or interfere with the use of roads.

WORKERS’ COMPENSATION

The only priority issue we were not able to get legislation adopted was workers’ compensation. We attempted to address the increased cost employers will be exposed to when the Workers’ Compensation Commission’s Death and Permanent Total Disability Trust Fund stops accepting claims after June 30, 2019. But our efforts have not ended and we are already and will continue to work until a solution is adopted. The State Chamber/ AFA was the driving force in moving Arkansas from the bottom three to the top three states regarding workers’ compensation costs.
58th Annual Washington Fly-In & Congressional Dinner held on March 15

The State Chamber/AIA hosted the 58th Annual Washington Fly-In and Congressional Dinner on March 15.


Regions Insurance congratulates
Jonathan Lopez
on his graduation from Leadership Arkansas

The coverage you need. The guidance you trust.SM

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The Chamber
BATESVILLE, ARKANSAS

Jamie Rayford is a true leader for the Batesville Area and Arkansas!

A New Degree of Leadership

Congratulations to Sherry Sims, Division HR Administrator, on becoming a Leadership Arkansas graduate!

The new degree of comfort.
Arkansas winners were honored at the 2017 Small Business Awards Luncheon hosted by the State Chamber/AIA on May 4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in West Little Rock.

Victoria Washington, president of Vision Information Technology (IT) Consultants LLC of Little Rock, was named the 2017 Arkansas Small Business Person of the Year. Vision IT Consultants is a certified SBA 8(a), HUB Zone, Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Small Business (EDWOSB) that provides offering competencies in engineering, management, logistics, sustainment, information technology, security and testing. The company has 21 employees and reported sales exceeding $3 million in 2015.

The following awards were also presented:
- Arkansas SCORE District Chapter of the Year – Little Rock SCORE
- Arkansas Microlender of the Year – F.O.R.G.E., Huntsville
- Arkansas Top SBA Lender – based on number of loans to Arkansas Small Businesses – Arvest Bank, Fayetteville
- Arkansas Rising Star SBA Lender of the Year – Legacy National Bank, Springdale
- Arkansas Top SBA Lender – based on dollars loaned to Arkansas Small Businesses – First Financial Bank, El Dorado
- Arkansas Youth Entrepreneurial and Innovation Champion – The EAST Initiative, Little Rock
- Arkansas Top Supporter of Small Business Contracting – Little Rock Air Force Base
- Arkansas Financial Services Champion – Al Hodge, The Arkansas Capital Corporation Group, Little Rock
- Delta Heritage Award – Drew Farm Supply, Monticello
ARKANSAS INSTITUTE FOR PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE
GOVERNOR’S QUALITY AWARD PROGRAM

TRAIN | ASSESS | RECOGNIZE


RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE IN ARKANSAS

The Governor’s Quality Award Program offers opportunities for all businesses in the state to assess their performance through a systems perspective and receive award recognition and feedback. The award process uses the Baldrige Excellence Framework, a proven management framework for more than 25 years for all types of businesses and organizations including manufacturing, healthcare, education, government agencies and non-profit. Those who apply choose from four levels of awards. Applications are evaluated and applicants receive written feedback reports citing strengths and areas for improvement. Twenty-seven organizations received Governor’s Quality Awards in 2016. DD&F Consulting Group of Little Rock received the highest honor, the Governor’s Award for Performance Excellence.

Now is the time to consider applying for an award in 2018.

• Training is provided;
• Applications are assessed by teams of examiners, volunteer professionals from across the state who are trained by AIPE to provide feedback reports that can be used for improvement and strategy;
• Applicants receive recognition at an annual awards presentation dinner.

For more information about the Arkansas Institute for Performance Excellence or the Governor’s Quality Award Program, contact Sue Weatter at sweatter@arkansasstatechamber.com, call her at (501) 372-2222, or visit the website at www.arkansas-quality.org.

On behalf of
ARKANSAS BUSINESS PUBLISHING GROUP

Congratulations

Bonnie Jacoby
Leadership Arkansas Class XI Graduate
Thank you for all you do for our team!
DD&F Consulting Group - recipient of the 2016 Governor’s Award for Performance Excellence.

2017 GQA Board of Examiners Training.

2017 GQA Applicant Training.

2017 Governor’s Quality Award Board of Examiners.

Citizens Bank Congratulates

Pam Jones
EVP & Senior Loan Operations Officer

on your graduation from
Leadership Arkansas

Thank you for your leadership.
You make us a better bank.

WRIGHT LINDSEY JENNINGS

From the boardroom to the courtroom to the community, we are committed to making a difference. Our firm has promoted a culture of service for 117 years, and we are proud that Erika shares that commitment.

Leadership Arkansas
Class XI

ERIKA ROSS GEE, PARTNER
Administrative & Regulatory Law
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Legislative Drafting
Lobbying
Local Government & Municipal Utilities

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Little Rock | Rogers
THE RIGHT TOOLS TO SUCCEED.

Every year, Nucor is proud to support the Leadership Arkansas program for its ongoing commitment to developing community leaders and giving them the tools they need to strengthen our state from within.

This year, we would like to congratulate our teammate Thomas Williams, of Nucor Steel Arkansas, for completing the program. Thank you, Thomas, for your leadership and for your dedication to strengthening the community where you live and work.