

**Arkansas Tech University
Student Government Association**

*Resolution 026
February 27, 2019*

**RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING BASED ON
PRODUCTIVITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS OUTCOMES FOR ALL STUDENTS IN
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.**

WHEREAS: Only 25% of Arkansans currently have a college degree, and the state legislature intends to double that percentage to 50% by 2025 with the passage of Vision 2025 (Act 1082) and,

WHEREAS: Arkansas is among the lowest in the nation for college graduation and degree attainment rates,

WHEREAS: The average debt of Arkansas graduates is \$26,859.00, and the percent of Arkansas graduates with college loan debt is 56% and,

WHEREAS: Tuition and fees for all four-year institutions has risen by 5.4% just in the 2016-2017 while state higher education funding has not increased during this time and,

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Challenge Scholarship has been reduced for first-year students at four-year institutions to only \$1,000 after the 2016-2017 school year and,

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Challenge Scholarship has also been reduced from \$5,000 each year to only \$4,000 for the second and third years and \$5,000 for the fourth year for students entering four-year institutions in the after the 2016-2017 school year, and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Department of Higher Education has created and implemented Closing the Gap 2020 which will redistribute funds allocated to institutions of higher education but will not produce any additional funds and,

WHEREAS: Arkansas Tech University is the third largest university in the state and,

WHEREAS: Arkansas Tech University is the most affordable option among the top five universities in the state and,

WHEREAS: Arkansas Tech University is ranked #1 in Arkansas by CollegeNET for providing students with upward social mobility and is ranked in the top 10% of the nation and,

WHEREAS: Arkansas Tech University has one of the top 3 graduation rates in Arkansas

WHEREAS: Almost 25% of Arkansas Tech is a representing a minority group.

WHEREAS: 92% of students that attend Arkansas Tech University are from one of the 75 counties in the state of Arkansas

WHEREAS: Arkansas Tech University is preparing more students for STEM careers than any other institution in the state and,

WHEREAS: Based upon years of data, Arkansas Tech University is grossly underfunded compared to its peer institutions although they are succeeding in providing economic development to the state of Arkansas and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Student Government Association of Arkansas Tech University supports an increase in higher education funding based on productivity and student success outcomes for all students in the state of Arkansas.

Signed: _____

Jayson Simmons, President

Attest: _____

Justin Gunderman, Vice President

