



## HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

### Rolling Into Summer

April 2019 HEP Newsletter

**Dear Friends,**

We hope you have had an exciting spring and are having a great start to summer. With the 2019 Legislative Session underway, we have been tracking and following bills pertinent to all things higher education. We continue to diligently advocate for higher education across all formats!

Hosted by the Higher Education Partnership, the 2019 STARS Leadership & University Advocates Conference will be held in August at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort and Spa in Destin, Florida. The conference features specialty breakout sessions as well as general sessions, panel discussions and lunch with a featured speaker. HEP Board members should make plans to attend the board meeting scheduled for the end of the conference.

The STARS Leadership and University Advocates Conference offers a learning experience and an opportunity to network with peers. Conference participants will enjoy the opportunity to enhance their skills of leadership and advocacy while gaining insight about issues facing Alabama. Registration is now open! To obtain a registration form, please visit our website, [higheredpartners.org](http://higheredpartners.org). We hope to see you in August!

Gordon Stone  
Executive Director

### Issue in Focus

*A Good Budget...Let's Be Diligent!*

**By Gordon Stone**

With the current and expected growth of the revenues in Alabama, the legislature has been working with a total Education Trust Fund (ETF) of \$7.2 billion. The outcome of this type of growth is the possibility that all 14 of the state's public universities will benefit from increased appropriations. In the version that has passed the Senate, each university will achieve at least a five percent growth in their general appropriation. Further, there are discussions underway that should result in even more dollars for the operations and maintenance needs of the institutions. Many of these have been appropriated and others are being negotiated.

The Higher Education Partnership is pleased to be able to report this type of significant

improvement for the 14 public universities. However, the reality is that while the K-12 side of the ETF has achieved a funding level that is equivalent to the more than 100 percent of what they received in 2008, the public universities are still below that level. The 2008 number is significant because it represents the last time the public education entities in the state were the beneficiaries of a significant period of expanded revenue. After the recession of 2008, the institutions experienced major setbacks in appropriations. Reaching the 2008 level is important; however, it still is not sufficient enough to allow the institutions to relax in the quest for support. There are significant needs. For example, capital improvements is an example of what must be considered.

The 2019 legislative session looks good for the university budgets and the Partnership salutes leaders like Governor Kay Ivey, Senator Arthur Orr and Representative Bill Poole. However, we are only halfway through the process. The Senate has passed the ETF Budget and now it is headed to the House. We encourage all of the voices of the universities to continue to be diligent. We feel good about the eventual outcome, but nothing can be taken for granted. Our institutional governmental affairs teams are doing excellent work. Let's be ready to support them by educating our state leaders about the important role of universities in a vibrant economy.

If we want Alabama to continue to grow and produce more and more opportunities for the citizens of the state, we cannot simply trust in the recruitment of new jobs. We must grow leaders, thinkers, dreamers and entrepreneurs that are empowered with the knowledge to compete in the global marketplace! Universities are the key!

## Calling All Cooks

To celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Higher Education Partnership, a cookbook was published to celebrate the history and success of Alabama's public universities. We have copies of the cookbook still available, so we are making them available once again.



*Wonder What. . .*

### **Alabama's Serving for Dinner?**

The *Scholarly Gourmet* was published in celebration of the Higher Education Partnership's 10th anniversary. The cookbook was a joint effort of the 14 public universities in the state of Alabama and is filled with recipes, stories and photographs of well-known alumni along with over 250 recipes from faculty, staff and alumni of each university. The *Scholarly Gourmet* will provide for hours of great reading, cooking and eating.

Your purchase of *The Scholarly Gourmet* directly supports the Higher Education Partnership Foundation funding leadership and educational programs for university students.

Supply is limited so order your book today.

### ***The Scholarly Gourmet:***

*A Collection of Recipes from Alabama's Public Universities*



Visit our website at [www.higheredpartners.org](http://www.higheredpartners.org) to order your copy on-line. Payments can be made through Paypal. Or send in the order form with payment to Higher Education Partnership, 2 North Jackson Street, Montgomery, AL 36104.

For more information, call 334-832-9911

Request Your Cookbook Here!

## Questions? Thoughts? Concerns?

*Connect with Us!*

Do you have a story idea or issue in focus we should include in an upcoming newsletter?  
Email [partners@higheredpartners.org](mailto:partners@higheredpartners.org) and let us know!

