



HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

An Exciting Month of Events

November 2018 HEP Newsletter

Supporters of Higher Education,

This has been a busy month at the Partnership. We have had an exciting month of events spanning the state.

We had two small group discussions with our Council of University Governmental Relations Team that proved to be very informative and exciting. Thank you to Mr. Jay Reed and his team from Associated Builders and Contractors of Alabama and Dr. Ira Harvey and Mr. Gene Murphree from the University of Alabama for speaking with us.

Finally, thank you to the Gadsden Kiwanis Club, the Cullman Kiwanis Club, and the University of Montevallo SGA for letting us come and share with you the importance of higher education and how you can get involved in your communities.

We wish you a joyous holiday season!

Gordon Stone
Executive Director

HEP Events Around the State



Photo: Higher Education Partnership Executive Director Gordon Stone speaks to the Gadsden Kiwanis Club.



Photo: Higher Education Partnership Executive Director Gordon Stone speaks to the Cullman Kiwanis Club.



Photo: The Higher Education Partnership met with the University of Montevallo SGA Executive Cabinet and Senate to discuss advocacy workshops.

Issue in Focus

Funding University Education in Alabama

By Gordon Stone

When leaders in the State of Alabama are asked about the future, many of the questions begin and end with two words: public education. What can Alabama citizens do to move the state forward with positive steps? The answers are never simple, but the solution always seems to revert to a fundamental issue. Will difference-making funding be available to help the public education programs? In 2019, the educational funding forecasts are strong and this will be one of the unique years that the state can make significant progress.

What will this good year of economic growth, which leads to the additional revenue for the Education Trust Fund, mean to the state's three levels of public education? From PreK -12 to the two year colleges and to the public universities, the state has many programs of importance. What is the determining factor for deciding where to invest the new revenue found in 2019?

Clearly, a positive revenue forecast will allow for the state's leaders to address funding opportunities that have received minimal support over the lean economic years. Funding should be available for books, fuel, deferred maintenance and other items that might otherwise have a lower priority. In addition, there is optimism that funding should also be available for new programs and ideas that are meaningful to growing the economy and continuing the positive revenue activity.

To secure positive economic growth, the state must consider investing in programs at the public universities. The universities readily assist job recruiters as Alabama competes for the nation's top level of employment opportunities. The natural resources of Alabama, the work ethic of the state's employees and the business friendly climate are all reasons why the leaders of industries in the knowledge-based economy should be looking to Alabama. However, one of the state's limiting factors is the need for more four-year graduates. If the State of Alabama will grow additional university educated, highly skilled and professionally trained workers then the possibility looms for the state to improve from its 48th in the nation ranking in per capita income. The states that have a higher per capita income are also the states that are shaping the economy of tomorrow.

By setting a goal to be the best location for the next generation of knowledge-based industries, Alabama can raise its level of educational expectation. With the goal of having more employees available that are qualified for the top jobs of tomorrow, the role of the four-year institutions is critical to success.

Alabama has 24.2 percent of its workforce with four-year degrees. To meet the national average, the state would need to have 30 percent of the workforce with a four-year degree. Gaining knowledge-based jobs will lead to growth in the economic activity which will lead to additional years of increased funding for all of public education. If Alabama places additional resources in the state's public universities, then the state will have the ability to change the pattern of educational progress. More emphasis on university education will help generate top-tier jobs and improve income and quality of life for all Alabamians.

News From Around University Campuses

[Athens State](#): Staff Senate raises money for Breast Cancer Awareness

[OANOW.com](#): EAGLES program helps students spread their wings

[WSFA](#): WSFA 12 News launches new Troy University camera

[The Chanticleer](#): JSU Drama receives eight nominations for roles in campus play

[The Crimson White](#): Global Entrepreneurship Week teaches students how to pitch ideas

[Bham Now](#): 5 ways UAB Sustainability plans to transform Birmingham and Alabama

[University of Alabama in Huntsville](#): Community support ensures that engineering projects benefit more than just UAH students

[University of Montevallo News](#): University of Montevallo awarded GEAR UP grant

[The Flor-Ala](#): It's On Us campaign promotes sexual assault awareness

[Alabama Today](#): U.S. Treasury approves Alabama's multiyear implementation plan for Gulf Coast recovery

[WTOK-ABC-11](#): UWA program aims to help solve rural teacher shortages

[Montgomery Advertiser](#): ASU grad's shirt business fit her to a "T"

Calling All Cooks

To celebrate the 10th 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 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 and let us know!

