



## HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

# 2019 Regular Session Begins in Six Months

September 2018 HEP Newsletter

### Supporters of Higher Education,

Fall semester is off to a great start on our college campuses. I have visited many campuses and am always encouraged to see student leadership opportunities growing and developing the next generation of state leaders.

We are six months away from the start of the 2019 Regular Session. While most people are focused on the November General Election, we are thinking ahead to the next quadrennium. The Higher Education Partnership is working with the Council of University Governmental Affairs Representatives (CUGAR) to arrange policy meetings before the session starts. These policy meetings allow our universities to connect with decision makers on issues that may come up during the session. As we continue to implement our strategic plan, we will keep you informed on advocacy outreach and policy matters during the legislative session.

Student leaders are working with the Partnership to host three unique advocacy workshops to engage and educate campuses on the issues in higher education. We look forward to working with each campus to make these workshops meaningful and successful for students.

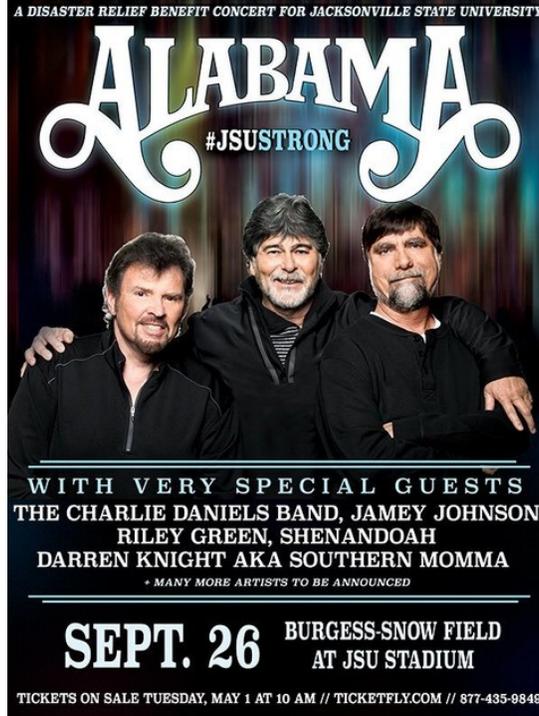
**Gordon Stone, Executive Director**

## #JSUStrong

The music group Alabama is hosting a benefit concert on Wed. Sept. 26th at Burgess-Snow Field at Jacksonville State University's JSU Stadium.

The Country Music Hall-of-Famers will be donating all concert proceeds after expenses to Jacksonville State University for tornado relief after an EF-3 level storm tore through Jacksonville and the JSU campus in March 2018. Alabama has recruited an all-star lineup of very special guests including the Charlie Daniels Band, Jamey Johnson, Riley Green, Shenandoah, Darren Knight "Southern Momma" and many more surprise artists to be announced.

Tickets are available [here](#) or by calling (877) 435-9849.



## University Advocacy Workshops

The Higher Education Partnership is offering three advocacy workshops for the Fall semester. We are working with SGA presidents to arrange the workshops on any of the topics below.

**Voter Registration Drive**--in Alabama's statewide elections, 180,000 votes can literally change the outcome so the **college vote matters!** The Higher Education Partnership is working with university campuses to have a voter registration drive to get students registered to vote in the 2018 General Election.

**Issues in Higher Education Presentation**--The Higher Education Partnership is planning to present critical issues facing higher education to student groups on campus.

**Legislative Meet and Greet**s--After the November General Election, the Higher Education Partnership will offer students an opportunity to meet with newly elected and newly reelected local leaders to network and talk about the impact higher education has on students' lives and Alabama's economy.

*Questions about the advocacy workshops can be emailed to [partners@higheredpartners.org](mailto:partners@higheredpartners.org)*

## 5 Reasons Why State Advocacy Rocks!

When people think of advocacy, they tend to think of efforts inside the Beltway. But if you want to get things done, you shouldn't forget to include some action on the state level, say some experts.

If you want proof, the 113th Congress passed 352 bills and resolutions, while the state legislatures passed more than 45,000 bills and resolutions in that same period.

Why is state advocacy so effective? For one thing, "because all politics is local," says Jeff Shaw, director of public policy at the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits.

"There is an incredible amount of power that comes from talking with local politicians," he says.

Shaw and other experts share some of the reasons why you can and should get action going in the states:

### **1. Local lawmakers tend to be more accessible.**

This can come in handy for advocacy professionals who strive to build relationships with these lawmakers over time.

State and local lawmakers usually don't have the same time constraints and pressures on them as those in Washington, so it's easier to get them on the phone or meet with them in person. "Being present goes a long way over time" in developing relationships with staffers and lawmakers at the local level, Shaw says.

### **2. There is a lot to be learned from people at the state level.**

"People really chew on issues deeply from a variety of angles" at the state level, says Susie Brown, public policy director at the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits. Because of this, the states are like "little think tanks," she says.

Many times, if the federal government is looking at an issue, you can be sure that a number of states have already tried to tackle that same issue.

### **3. Ideas catch fire in the states.**

What gets legislative attention in one state can quickly spread to other states. Many times federal laws began as a multitude of state laws.

For this reason, it's always good to keep your eye on what's trending in the states, Shaw says.

### **4. You can get ahead of the curve by working in the states.**

Federal work is reactive, while work at the state level is often proactive, says David Thompson, vice president of public policy at the National Council of Nonprofits.

You don't have to do advocacy in all the states to reap a positive effect, but you do have to be aware of what's happening in some of them. "Broaden beyond yourself," he says.

### **5. States are less hindered.**

It goes without saying that the federal government has more pressures and mandates than states do, so it's no surprise that Congress has trouble getting things done, Brown says. For this reason, "states are really where the action is," she says.

If you work on the state level and would like to get involved at the federal level, take the lead from the people who are doing that kind of work, Brown says.

And, likewise, people at federal level should make state advocates their trusted partners. "Try to understand who the key players are and really learn from them," she says.

When it comes down to it, state and federal advocacy professionals employ all the same strategies to get their jobs done. Yet, they can learn a lot from each other about how to succeed.

*\*\*Reprinted from August 24, 2015 CQ article by Diana Manos\*\**

## **University Student Presidents' Council Supply Drive** **Oct. 1 through Oct. 12**

The University Students Presidents' Council is holding school supply drives on campuses to collect items for schools in need. For many schools, paper, pencils, crayons, glue are in short supply, and teachers often use their paychecks to purchase classroom needs.

Thanks to the leadership of Council Co-Chairs Price McGiffert and Grace Newcombe, student presidents are having a direct impact on meeting this local need by organizing a school supply

drive.

Beginning October 1, students can drop off items to their local SGA Office or make a donation to help cover supplies. The supply drive will run through Friday, October 12.

Questions about the supply drive can be directed [here](#). The Higher Education Partnership hopes you'll support this special service project!

## Calling All Cooks!



*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 a Cookbook!](#)

## News From Around University Campuses

[Alabama News Center:](#) On this day in Alabama history: Auburn opens its Montgomery campus

[WAAY \(ABC-Huntsville\):](#) University of Alabama Huntsville Sees Record Enrollment

[Opelika Auburn News:](#) Leath: More than 30,000 Enrolled at Auburn University

[Gadsden Times:](#) Charlie Daniels joins Alabama and friends in JSU benefit concert

[University of Montevallo News:](#) University of Montevallo Scores High Marks in U.S. News and World Report's 2019 Best Colleges

**Alabama Today:** Richard Shelby announces \$3.2M grant for new research facility at Troy University

**Alabama Public Radio:** University of South Alabama Changes Hospital Name

**Tuscaloosa News:** Philanthropist Hugh Culverhouse Jr. donates millions to University of Alabama law school

**The Odessa American:** UAB Medicine and IKS Health Collaborate to Address Patient Access, Outcomes and Physician Burden

**Rocket City Now:** Alabama A&M University cuts ribbon to new scoreboard

**Montgomery Advertiser:** Labor Day Classic brings huge celebration to ASU

**Decatur Daily:** Athens State's interim president has list of priorities for the next year

**Times Daily:** Getting ready to pour the sand

**Tuscaloosa News:** Fall enrollment increases at University of West Alabama

## September Snapshots



*Executive Director Gordon Stone and Troy University SGA President Gus McKenzie met on Sept. 12th to discuss HEP's Fall programming options.*



*University of Montevallo President, Dr. John Stewart, met with HEP Executive Director Gordon Stone on Thursday, Sept. 20 to discuss ongoing initiatives at the university and update on the activities of the University Presidents' Council. Dr. Stewart currently serves as council chairman.*

REMEMBERING THOSE IMPACTED  
BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF  
SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001.

#PatriotDay



Questions? Thoughts? Concerns?

*Connect with us!*

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

