



HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

A Fun and Exciting Spring

March 2019 HEP Newsletter

Dear Friends,

It has certainly been an exciting few months at the Higher Education Partnership. In January, we had our Freshman Leadership Conference that was well attended by schools from throughout the state.

As you know, Higher Education Day is quickly approaching. It will be held on April 4, 2019.

This is the day that university students and other leaders will be convening in Montgomery to help share the higher education story. It will be an event you won't want to miss.

Leading up to Higher Education Day, many university campuses held pre-Higher Ed Day meetings to organize and prepare to speak to legislators. Higher Education Partnership staff joined students on many campuses as they shared the value of higher education.

On Higher Ed Day, students and other leaders will share the story of the economic impact of higher education across our state. These are samples of interesting information taken from a University of Alabama study. Feel free to share these with your local legislator.

- Alabama's universities have a **\$20 billion annual economic impact** and are important economic drivers in communities, creating jobs and strengthening quality of life opportunities for citizens.
- **Students with a bachelor's degree will increase lifetime earnings by \$1 million.** Alabama's public universities provide options for students to improve career opportunities, earn more income, gain leadership skills and develop cultural awareness that will create a long-term impact on a student's life.
- Every **\$1,000 increase** in higher education funding produces **\$1.8 million in total per capita income in the State of Alabama.**

We hope to see you in April!

Gordon Stone
Executive Director

*P.S. To all of our students out on Spring Break or about to be out, the Higher Education Partnership hopes you have a **safe** and **fun** Spring Break!*

HEP Events Around the State



Above: Gordon Stone visits the Jasper Rotary Club



Top right: Gordon Stone speaks with students from the University of South Alabama at an advocacy workshop



Bottom right: Gordon Stone visits with the University of Alabama First Year Council

Issue in Focus

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

By Gordon Stone

The 2019 legislative season is underway. With the daily discussion of the infrastructure bill dominating the early headlines around Montgomery, the discussion of funding and the Education Trust Fund budget have not begun. However, the dialogue will soon begin. The Higher Education Partnership and the public universities are pleased with the reports that have been delivered by all of the respective revenue forecasters. In 2019, the education revenue has grown and this should lead to better appropriations for all of the parts of public education: PreK-12, two-year and four-year.

A positive recognition of the needs at the four-year level is expected. The public universities have been actively working to make the case and to deliver a strong message of the importance of the work on their campuses. Through the Higher Education Partnership, there is an on-going effort to share the stories of the people of the universities. The Partnership is pleased to be hosting Voices of Higher Education. The effort is designed to encourage more awareness of the positive work that is being accomplished in the university setting.

The Partnership is actively encouraging each member of our constituency to discover their local legislator's name and address. As university officials get to know their elected officials, they will be prepared to communicate directly about critical issues. The Partnership will serve to communicate and educate members about the issues.

The Partnership is an advocacy organization and is dedicated to encouraging greater awareness of the importance of funding the universities. Since the universities receive 27 percent of the Education Trust Fund, they are well below the 33 percent of the past. Making the move to return higher education funding to a level that equals one-third of the Education Trust Fund will not happen overnight. However, a good appropriation in the 2020 budget will be a significant step in the right direction.

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 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!

