



HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

Congrats to Our New Graduates!

May 2018 HEP Newsletter

Supporters of Higher Education,

Thousands of students walked across the graduation stage at our public universities recently and received their diplomas. All of the studying finally paid off, and now graduates are headed for a new chapter in their lives. The road will, at times, be challenging as they enter their careers. Throughout all of the ups and downs that life may bring, one thing remains: a bachelors degree provides the best foundation for job growth, higher earnings potential and a better quality of life. Graduates are now prepared to be difference makers!

As our students enter the workforce, we want to build a network of alumni who can share the value their higher education experience has with lawmakers and others who shape public education policy. The more students and alumni we have advocating for higher education, the more our message is heard. Universities change lives, and they are worth supporting. As funding increases, research expands, knowledge transfer is accelerated and problems are solved! Cliff Davis is the Partnership's Director of Alumni Leaders Network and he wants to connect our STARS alumni leaders after graduation. If you are a recent graduate and would like to be involved in our advocacy efforts after graduation, please email Cliff at cdavis@higheredpartners.org with your updated contact information.

With graduation over, student elections decided and the end of the Spring semester, we turn our focus to the STARS Leadership and University Advocacy Conference in August at Destin. We have a wonderful conference planned this year and will bring together many different supporters of higher education to discuss issues facing higher education and the opportunities to ensure that our grassroots efforts remain strong.

Registration for the conference has officially opened and will continue until July 1. Registration forms are available [here](#), and can be mailed or emailed to us. We look forward to seeing everyone in Destin in a few months!

Finally, we have an important summer primary election coming up on June 5th. Given that our universities are comprised of more than 180,000 students and 70,000 employees, it is important that we **GO VOTE!** Taking action at the voting booth is the most effective way to make sure the decision makers pay attention to the university message. Please find your local polling place, set aside a time to vote and participate in the primary election!

Gordon Stone, Executive Director

Congrats to the Class of 2018! The Higher Education Partnership is rooting for you!

University Advocacy

Higher Education Partnership Executive Director Gordon Stone has been meeting with newly elected student leaders on Alabama's 14 public university campuses to welcome them to the HEP family. These leaders will be instrumental in organizing the advocacy teams for College Colors Day and Higher Ed Day. We have new programming that will be available in the Fall to help students learn how to be better advocates for higher education and their individual universities.

Newly Elected University Campus Leaders Include:

Alabama State University

Mr. Jaylon Pickett

Athens State University

Ms. Kaylee Lewis

Auburn University

Mr. Dane Block

Auburn University at Montgomery

Ms. Jasmine Powell

Jacksonville State University

Ms. Kasey Gamble

Troy University

Mr. Gus McKenzie

University of Alabama

Mr. Price McGiffert

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Mr. Siddhu Srikakolapu

University of Alabama in Huntsville

Ms. Ashley Dodson

University of Montevallo

Ms. Victoria Irvin

University of North Alabama

Mr. Chase Holcomb

University of South Alabama

Ms. Grace Newcombe

University of West Alabama

Mr. Terrell Malone

These campus leaders have the **vision, integrity and dedication** to help make a significant difference on their campuses in the coming year!

Many of our university students have been involved in public policy discussions this year. If you would like to share a story of student advocacy from your campus, please reach out to us! We are developing an archive of great student-led initiatives. Contact us at partners@higheredpartners.org and share your story!



Photos: Left Column: *Troy University, Alabama State University and University of North Alabama.* Right Column: *Jacksonville State University and Auburn University.*

#WEAREHIGHERED



Issue in Focus *Are you Registered to Vote?*

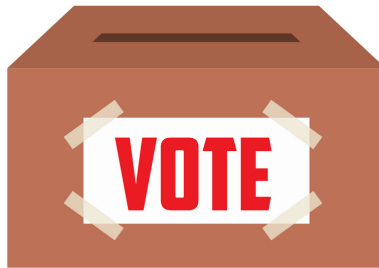
June Primary is June 5

Alabama's public universities enroll approximately 180,000 students a year and have more than 70,000 employees. Our employees are the backbone of the \$20 Billion economic impact that universities have on Alabama's economy. College is the perfect opportunity for students to begin the habit of voting and participating in democracy. As advocates, **voting** the best opportunity to make a difference in higher education!

During this election season, please talk to the candidates for office and ask them two simple questions:

- *Do you support Alabama's 14 public universities?*
- *Will you be a voice to support increased funding for our universities?*

The deadline to register for the June 5 Primary Election is **Monday, May 21**. You can register online at www.alabamavotes.org. Make sure your voice is heard on June 5!



**Questions? Thoughts? Concerns? Ideas?
Connect with Us!**

Do you have a story idea or issue in focus that we would include in an upcoming newsletter?
Email partners@higheredpartners.org and let us know!

