



September 8, 2022

Dear Members of the Campus Community,

The Arkansas State University System Board of Trustees officially approved Henderson's Strategic Positioning Platform at its September 2 meeting. Three of the core attributes identified in our platform are educational opportunity, college completion, and innovation driven by partnerships. I am pleased to share that our *Students First* initiative is moving forward with key partnerships aimed at both opening the doors of access and opportunity for all students and removing barriers to college completion.

Policy, Equity, and Practice (PEP) Initiative

Henderson is partnering with Complete College America (CCA) and the Arkansas Department of Higher Education on the Policy, Equity, and Practice (PEP) Initiative. Higher education institutions in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Montana were selected to participate based on a grant application process last spring.

According to Complete College America, the PEP Initiative will help universities with "restructuring the onboarding process to ensure students identify their interests, explore possible careers, and understand important job market data that could impact their financial future." PEP is a "multi-year engagement that will include technical assistance and campus coaching." We will be utilizing the tools and resources provided by CCA to build a new student success continuum, engaging the entire university community and ensuring that students are #ReddieforWhatsNext.

Representatives from eleven higher education institutions in Arkansas will convene September 26-27 to develop action plans and build communities of practice that remove student barriers to college completion. Dr. Talisha Givan, Chief Learning Officer, is coordinating this initiative. Additional information is available at <https://completecollege.org/pep>.

ReUp Initiative

Henderson also is partnering with ReUp, an agency that "offers personalized support and planning to help adult learners make their dreams of higher education a reality—with self-service resources and tools, 1:1 success coaching, and everything in between."

Our contract with ReUp includes re-engaging students whose Henderson experiences may have been interrupted due to various factors but who may wish to re-enroll and complete their degrees. ReUp receives a percentage of tuition based on the number of students who re-enroll and persist to graduation.

We are currently in the process of identifying students who may be eligible for this initiative. ReUp's student success coaches will then contact eligible students who may have stopped out or dropped out and haven't enrolled at another institution. ReUp will work with these students to determine financial aid eligibility, arrange payment plans, and remove any other barriers to re-enrollment and

graduation. Dr. Nikki Laird, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Dean of Students, is coordinating this initiative. Additional information is available at <https://reupeducation.com>.

Thank you to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness for leading these initiatives. We will continue to provide updates on our progress, and you can access additional information at <https://www.hsu.edu/studentsfirst>.

Joining you in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Ambrose".

Chuck Ambrose