



Through the University of Arkansas System Workforce Response & Training Center, comprised of seven two-year colleges, two regional universities and strategic partnerships that provide workforce education to their communities, the UA System boasts a wide range of career and technical education programs and capabilities that stand ready to support the statewide effort for improved workforce development. In support of Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders' leadership to expand workforce development across the state, the UA System has created the following Action Plan that identifies seven areas of focus for potential investment by the UA System and the state.

1 UA SYSTEM WORKFORCE RESPONSE & TRAINING CENTER

Enhance the effectiveness of the UA System Workforce Center as a single location where students, colleges and universities, and business and industry stakeholders have access to data on available employment opportunities, as well as available credit and non-credit workforce programs in each region of the state.

2 CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Develop a robust evaluation of prior learning that maps to workforce and academic credit to award students for already acquired knowledge.

3 NEW STATEWIDE FUNDING INCENTIVES FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING

Create a new funding formula for non-credit workforce training to provide higher education institutions with funding for already existing programs that bring value to their communities and incentivize institutions to further invest in career and technical education.

4 OFFICE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (OSD) GRANT PROGRAMS

Revise the grant process to ensure it meets the needs of business and industry and institutions of higher education, allowing grant recipients to move swiftly to provide equipment, materials, and training before it is no longer relevant or moves out of state.

5 SECONDARY CAREER CENTERS

Increase funding for secondary career centers and review funding tier priorities to ensure the current workforce needs of the state are being met, and to incentivize programs of study that result in the earning of a credential.



WORKFORCE ACTION PLAN



6 PERKINS FUNDS

Review the percentage split of Perkins Funds between K-12 and higher education institutions to ensure funding is adequate to meet student and institutional needs. Perkins funding is vital for student access and success; however, the allocation at the higher education level is lacking.

7 WORKFORCE CHALLENGE AND AR FUTURES SCHOLARSHIPS

Adjust the Workforce Challenge and AR Futures Scholarship programs to better serve student needs and better align award amounts with program costs. These programs provide vital support for career and technical education students; however, they need tweaks to better serve the goal of improving workforce development across the state.