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BLUE LETTER

May 2025

No. 3877



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Summer Opportunities

They say April showers bring May flowers, and we've certainly had our share of rain, storms and even tornadoes. It has been a challenging year for planting, hay harvest, gardening, and other activities that need favorable weather.

Despite the stormy weather, plenty has happened in May, beginning with the Support Staff Conference at the 4-H Center. Stacey McCullough's CPED team did a characteristically stellar job coordinating a conference that was both fun and informative for UADA staff. That was followed by New Employee Orientation, also at the 4-H Center. One of my favorite things about this job is having the opportunity to welcome our new employees and do my best to contribute to their orientation — both to UADA and to Extension more specifically. Those of us who have been around for a while tend to take for granted the breadth and depth of programming provided through CES. It is gratifying to see our new employees starting to gain that appreciation for the first time.

Summer gives us a great opportunity to highlight our excellent extension programming. We have numerous field days and other events coming up across the state in the next couple of months, not to mention 4-H district and state O-Ramas. I won't mention every summer event we have coming up, but I do want to highlight a couple. In June, Arkansas will host the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities' Mini Land-Grant Conference. This will bring our university colleagues in extension and research from around the country to our state for the better part of a week. It's a great opportunity for us not

only to collaborate with our counterparts on shared issues but also to show off some of the great things going on in our state. Unfortunately, the Mini Land-Grant Conference overlaps with the annual UADA/Anheuser-Busch field day in Jonesboro. Our FCS educators, Leigh Ann Bullington and Keith Statham-Cleek are always at this event with samples of some kind of Arkansas rice dish. For this year's offering, they have worked with colleagues in Food Science to develop a new rice pudding mix that they will be beta testing with the field day crowd. Not only will that be a lot of fun, but it's a great example of a cross-functional applied research project to add value to one of our most important agricultural products.

Finally, on Aug. 8, our Weed Science team will host the Southern Weed Science Society Contest at the Jackson County Extension Center. We'll be hosting more than 100 weed science students from 13 institutions around the region at our facility for this contest. Again, this is a great example of how CES can cooperate effectively across our other land-grant missions. I'm sure this will be a phenomenal learning experience for these students and likely the first chance some of them will have for a hands-on Extension experience.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the Boone County CES staff. This month, we produced the Director's Cut webinar from their office in Harrison. Even though we disrupted their office for a pretty good chunk of two days, they were incredibly gracious hosts. If you didn't catch the webinar live, it would be worth checking out the recording for the brief [video tour](#) of their location. It's a beautiful place. ■

INSIDE SCOOP

2. LifeSmarts National Championship
 3. Support Staff Conference
 4. APEX Accelerator Team Shines
 5. Leadership Log
 6. Tech Corner
 7. FCS Health Team Presents
- ...And much more!



Benton County 4-H Team Competes in

LifeSmarts National Championship

A Benton County 4-H team recently competed in the 2025 Lifesmarts National Championship with winning results. The competition is run by the National Consumers League, the nation's oldest consumer advocacy organization. It tests junior high, middle school, and high school students' knowledge of five topic areas including consumer rights and responsibilities, personal finance, health & safety, technology & workforce preparation, and the environment in online and in-person competitions using a quiz bowl-style format.

The team – Lauren P., Graceyn M., Caroline E., Brooklyn L., Kinley E. – placed sixth. Graceyn M. was recognized in the top 10 in the Instagram Reel Competition and also

served on the 2025 LEAP Team, a national youth leadership team that led activities during the championship.

The team also participated in a pilot project with META on an online safety training. They presented a project to a middle school class and then participated in a focus group with META representatives to give their feedback on the presentation. ■



From left to right: Team members include Lauren P., Kinley E., Brooklyn L., Graceyn M., Caroline E.

EHC Member Visits State Capitol, Host Workshop

Arkansas Rep. Mike Holcomb recognized Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council and the Cooperative Extension Service on March 11, 2025.

Arkansas Extension Homemakers toured the Arkansas State Capitol before the start of their annual EHC Spring Workshop held March 12 in North Little Rock. More than 200 members participated in the Statewide EHC Spring Workshop where they learned about parliamentary procedure, officer and member responsibilities, tips for stress management, and how to promote and grow their EHC programs.

Extension Homemakers started in 1912 and members continue to serve as leaders in communities and share research-based information from UADA. Their mission is to empower individuals and families to improve their lives through continuing education, leadership, and community service.

With more than 200 clubs, EHC is one of the largest nonprofit volunteer groups in Arkansas.

Last year, 7,029 volunteers logged 277,542 volunteer hours throughout the state. Those hours equate to more than \$9 million in service to communities in Arkansas. Each year, EHC also awards 29 college scholarships worth \$15,950.

EHC members continue to tackle current issues and work with local and state partners. Their current project focuses on promoting mental well-being awareness to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health. ■



Arkansas Extension Homemakers toured the State Capitol and later held the statewide EHC Spring Workshop.



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

Support Staff Conference

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This year's Support Staff Conference had a record attendance with more than 250 people participating – despite raging storms with tornado warnings across the state.

Staff from the Community, Professional and Economic Development unit — Stacey McCullough, Steve Siegelin, Vanessa Lewis, Lynn Wilson and Casey Hill — coordinated the Celebrating Excellence Support Staff Conference with program guidance from advisory committee members from

the Division, AES, and CES. Thanks go out to Amy Hedges, Nytyla Salter, Tammy Farnam, Gwendolyn Hamilton, and the Information Technology and Communications teams.

Jones Loflin, an internationally recognized and corporate trainer, was the keynote speaker. Attendees could choose from 26 sessions offered throughout the conference.

Top experiences and activities at the conference included great class options, networking and gift baskets created by departments and individuals to show their appreciation. The closing session featured a highlight video produced by Ben Aaron in Communications, along with the ice cream social and door prize drawing. The 2026 Support Staff Conference is set for April 23-24. ■



Keynote speaker Jones Loflin talks with attendees.



Dr. Anderson speaks to Support Staff Conference attendees.



Howard County Introduces

Embryology at Local Schools

Howard County 4-H Agent Samantha Horn has been working with Nashville Primary School and Mineral Springs sixth grade classes to incorporate an embryology program into the school curriculum. This program allows both Horn and Dawson Bailey, the agriculture agent, to engage students in hands-on learning experiences. Each school received 20 eggs to care for over a 21-day incubation period. Students learned about the life cycle of a chicken, how to candle eggs, and the different stages of egg care while using an incubator. Now, the students are continuing their learning by raising the hatched chickens, building pens



Students take good care of the chicks and read to them.



Student gets hands on learning experience.

with nesting areas, and setting up the proper equipment and space needed to ensure this becomes an ongoing program at their schools. ■

Food, Fun, & Reading SNAP-Ed Curricula

Earlier this month, 27 Family and Consumer Science agents, state staff, and SNAP-Ed educators participated in a two-day training to learn about the Choose Health-Food, Fun, and Fitness (CHFFF) Curriculum.

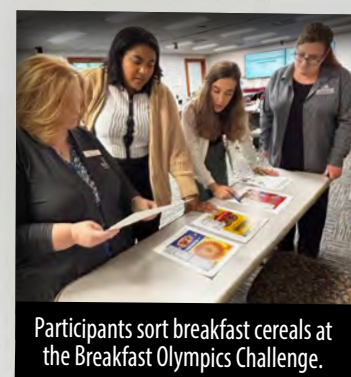
The curriculum features six interactive lessons rooted in social cognitive theory. Each session (45–90 minutes) includes hands-on nutrition activities, healthy snack preparation, active games, and goal setting. Key behavioral goals include increasing fruit and vegetable consumption, replacing sugary drinks with water or low-fat milk, eating in response to hunger, increasing active play, eating fewer high-sugar and high-fat foods, and reducing screen time.

This comprehensive training ensures educators are equipped

to effectively implement these programs in their communities, encouraging healthier choices through fun, practical learning. ■



Participants playing the game Dragon Tails during the training.



Participants sort breakfast cereals at the Breakfast Olympics Challenge.

Arkansas APEX Accelerator Team Shines in Chicago

APEX Accelerator Program Director Melanie Berman and APEX procurement counselors Kenneth Griffin, Tim Hicks and Kimberly Randle attended the 2025 National APEX Accelerator Alliance spring conference in Chicago, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the APEX Accelerator program. The event highlighted the program's legacy of excellence and innovation in procurement counseling, showcasing its enduring impact and the collective achievements.

Hicks presented on “*Clients, Chaos, and Calm: How to Maintain Your Sanity*,” sharing stories of businesses navigating demanding situations. His insights provided APEX Accelerator staff nationwide with actionable strategies to ensure counselor safety, combat frustration, discouragement, and prevent burnout.

Berman, who serves as secretary of the NAPEX Board of Directors, presented on NAPEX University. This innovative onboarding curriculum is designed to elevate the skills and knowledge of procurement counselors and program managers, marking a significant advancement for the association.

More than 200 APEX Accelerator professionals attended training sessions led by federal agency officials, private industry experts, and experienced colleagues. Participants heard updates about critical changes to small business regulations



Arkansas APEX Accelerator team members attending the NAPEX association conference in Chicago, Illinois. From left to right, Tim Hicks, Melanie Berman, Kimberly Randle, and Kenneth Griffin.

and acquisition priorities, and they gained insights into topics such as cost proposals, market research, service contract labor standards, and cybersecurity. The event also provided attendees an opportunity to network and learn from each other.

The APEX Accelerator Program, administered by the Department of Defense Office of Small Business Programs, aims to increase the number of businesses participating in government contracts, in collaboration with states, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. Assistance from the Arkansas APEX Accelerator is available at no cost. For more information, call 501-671-2390 or email apex@uada.edu. ■



LEADERSHIP LOG

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Leadership Lunch and Learn The Art of Community - Seven Principles for Belonging

In our increasingly digital and disconnected world, the need for genuine human connection is greater than ever. That was the powerful takeaway from a recent Leadership Lunch and Learn, where Brandi Berven shared a thoughtful and inspiring review of Charles Vogl's book, *The Art of Community: Seven Principles for Belonging*.



Brandi Berven

As the interim director for extension evaluation and staff development, Berven brought not only insight but also practical application to Vogl's ideas, which center on the belief that community is not just a group of people—it's a group where members care for one another's well-being. Watch the recording [here](#). Read the blog post [here](#).

iLEAD IV Class Tours SWREC

by Mishanna Lanes and Brandon L. Mathews. Our iLEAD Class IV cohort traveled to the Southwest Research and Extension Center (SWREC) in Hope. The seminar was filled with insightful presentations, hands-on experiences, and powerful conversations about agricultural innovation, leadership, and the future of extension programs in our state. Read details [here](#). ■



Andrea Price, software and business enablement coordinator, and Tina Hart, greenhouse manager-DREX AES Station, make strawberry freezer jam during iLEAD seminar in Hempstead County.

COMMUNICATIONS



STATION

News: [40+ stories](#) in May. The News Team writes research and extension stories that we post online and send to media statewide. If you have a story idea, please send it to tcourage@uada.edu

New Videos: Check out new work by The Video Guys.

- [Here for you - U of A System Division of Agriculture](#)
- [Coleman Creek Cleanup - 2025](#)
- [SeaPerch Challenge - 2025](#)

Find more on our [YouTube channel @AginArk](#) and please subscribe.

Social Media: Arkansas Extension's following on social media is growing!

- [Extension on Facebook — 35K+ followers](#)



- [Extension on Instagram – Nearly 5K followers](#)



- [You Tube @AginArk – 15K subscribers](#)



Need help with your social media pages, reach out to Social Media Manager Melissa Johnson at mjohnson@uada.edu.

Website: Need help updating your webpage? Find a broken link? Spot an old EEO statement that slipped through the cracks? PLEASE let us know by sending a [Webpage Update Request](#) to us.

Publications: Our publications are great resource for agents to share with their clientele. Check the newest additions to our [Pubs Database](#). For questions about the Publication process, contact Emily Davis, edavis@uada.edu, or Oliver Williams, owilliams@uada.edu. ■

Cybersecurity Myth Debunked

Phishing emails are easy to spot due to poor grammar and misspellings.

Oftentimes, you can spot phishing and other scam messages because of generic greetings, misspellings, and bad grammar. Since the widespread use of artificial intelligence and large language models, though, scammers have become much more sophisticated and more challenging to identify. The grammar and spelling of phishing emails have improved significantly in just a few years.

Some scam messages can appear almost identical to messages from trusted sources, such as Amazon or Facebook. If a message is trying to get you to click on a link or download an attachment, take a moment. If the message was sent to your work email, use the Outlook Report Message button. If the suspicious message was sent to your personal email, check to see if the sender has a strange email address. Many email services today let you report phishing attempts if something doesn't feel right.

Beyond misspellings and poor grammar, the primary indicator of a scam message is a sense of urgency. Is the message unexpected? Is it trying to get you to act quickly without thinking? Even if your high school English teacher would give the message an A, you should be suspicious of these urgent messages. Reference: <https://www.staysafeonline.org/articles/6-cybersecurity-myths-debunked>.

Windows 11 Upgrade -

Volunteer Migration Phase 2

Windows 11 is the biggest major Microsoft operating system update since 2015. With the release of this new operating system, Microsoft will stop supporting Windows 10 in October 2025. What does this mean for us? All UADA computers will need to be upgraded to Windows 11 or replaced with a new Windows 11 computer by October 2025.

Mandatory migration - Phase 3 (May 2025)

Any computer that is eligible to be upgraded to Windows 11 unless they qualify for an exception. Exceptions will be approved only for the following devices:

- Any device that is used strictly with research\testing\ networking equipment and not connected to the internet.

Contact the Help Desk

New ways of serving you! Technicians are ready to answer your calls. You can request help from the IT Help Desk by calling 1-866-779-3375, (501) 340-0265, visiting [services.uada.edu](https://uada.edu/services), or emailing tickets@uada.edu.

Email Forwarding Changes

Starting July 1

Many employees have two email addresses – uada and uark. These employees have been forwarding their email from one inbox to the other inbox so they can login to one account only. As part of our ongoing commitment to protect our organization, UADA will be disabling the email forwarding feature. This decision is driven by the increasing threats posed by cybercriminals who exploit this functionality. The implementation begins July 1, 2025. For more information on why we are making this change and implementation details, visit: [Email Forwarding](#).

Hump Day Hacks

Hump Day Hack resources can be found on the Hump Day Hacks Resource page in Team Dynamix. April's hacks included setting up a Microsoft Booking page, structure for numbered and bulleted lists, Zoom AI Companion basics, Focus Cell in Microsoft Excel, and embedding videos in PowerPoint. Join us on June 25, 2025! [Register Now](#). ■



2025 TECH TUESDAYS WEBINARS

Have you missed any past Tech Tuesday webinars or want to join future webinars? Check out the recordings and other resources on the [Tech Tuesday Blog page](#). More Tech Tuesday topics coming soon! Did you miss April's [Streamline Your Scheduling with Microsoft Bookings Tech Tuesday](#)? Check out the recording and resources.



FCS Health Team Presents at Conferences

The FCS Health Team has presented at three national conferences focused on public health, volunteerism, and community engagement. These events offered exciting opportunities to showcase Arkansas's innovative programs, share research-based insights, and gather ideas from peer institutions to strengthen our work across the state.

At the Society of Public Health Education Annual Conference in Long Beach, California, Jessica Vincent and Heather Wingo presented three posters under the conference theme "Waves of Change: Embracing Diversity and Technology for Equity and Wellness".

Highlights included:

- *Extension Health Ambassadors: A Volunteer Framework for Community Outreach and Education* highlighted a scalable volunteer model that builds on local knowledge, skills, and trust. Participants expressed strong interest in replicating the Health Ambassadors framework to address unmet health needs in communities with limited resources.
- *Building Vaccine Confidence, Community Partnerships, and Tailored Messaging: A "Learn. Understand. Decide." Communication Method Approach* showcased how Arkansas developed relevant messaging and partnered with pharmacists and healthcare providers to promote vaccine confidence.
- *Understanding Volunteer Motivations: Insights from the Volunteer Functions Inventory in Extension Get Fit* explores how data from the Volunteer Functions Inventory (VFI) is being used to strengthen recruitment, engagement, and retention in the Extension Get Fit program.

Vincent and Wingo also presented *Understanding Volunteer Motivations and Extension Health Ambassadors* at the National Extension Conference on Volunteerism in Portland, Maine. The entire FCS Health Team attended the National Health Outreach & Engagement Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. The conference, themed "Rooted in Partnerships: Growing Collaborations for Health Promotion," emphasized the role of partnerships and collaboration in implementing programs, as well as policy, systems, and environmental change approaches that promote health for all people.

The Health team presented the following:

- A poster presentation of *Understanding Volunteer Motivations: Insights from the Volunteer Functions Inventory in Extension Get Fit* with Vincent and Wingo.
- A workshop session with Darby Treat on *Delta Rides: How Extension is Bridging Communities and Health Through Transportation*, identifying transportation issues and how those can influence the social determinants of health in rural communities, and the innovation of how Extension can collaborate with partners to develop transportation solutions.
- At the Extension Foundation's EXCITE Pre-Conference, Vincent and Wingo shared updates on the *Vaccine Messaging Awareness Project and Vaccine Education Integration projects*.

Across all three conferences, the Health Team amplified Arkansas' leadership in health programming, connected with colleagues from across the country, and brought home new strategies and ideas that will shape future work in community health, volunteerism, and equitable access. ■

FCS Adopts GivePulse Software

Family and Consumer Sciences is now using GivePulse, a comprehensive volunteer engagement software designed to recruit, engage, schedule, and track volunteers.

GivePulse streamlines volunteer management by providing tools to organize events, track attendance, and manage volunteer hours efficiently. Volunteers log in using Single Sign-On (SSO) to access the user-friendly platform.

To explore the platform, visit uada.givepulse.com. To get started using it, fill out the software request form at software-request.uada.edu. For more information, contact Mishanna Lanes at mlanes@uada.edu.



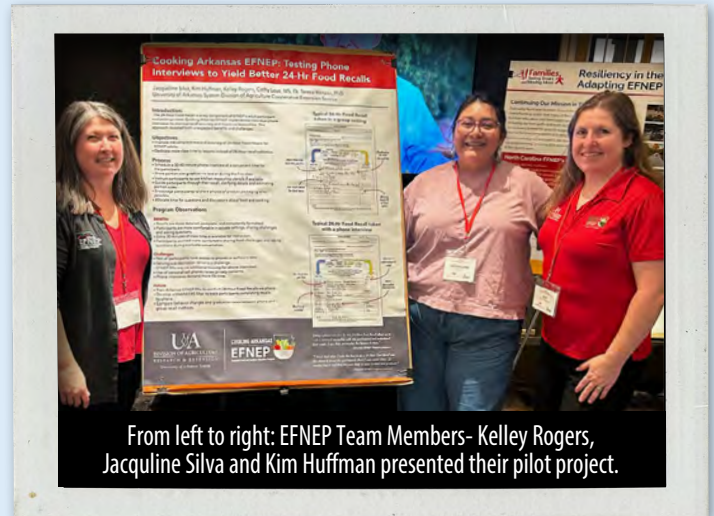
Mishanna Lanes

EFNEP Little Rock Team Attends

“EFNEP Southern Style” Conference

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Little Rock Team recently participated in the EFNEP Southern Style Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina, where they engaged in workshops, networking, and professional development sessions focused on strengthening nutrition education efforts across the southern region.

EFNEP Program Educators Kelley Rogers, Kim Huffman and Jacqueline Silva also showcased their collaborative efforts during a poster session. They presented their pilot project focused on using phone interviews to enhance the EFNEP 24-Hour Recall process with program participants.



Horticulture Specialty Crop Production Team

Spring and summer bring a full slate of workshops and field days, and the Horticulture Specialty Crop Production Team has been hard at work! The team travels across the state, connecting with growers and sharing valuable insights. Stay informed on upcoming events by following “UAEX Fruit and Vegetable Production” on social media and checking out their other [resources](#).



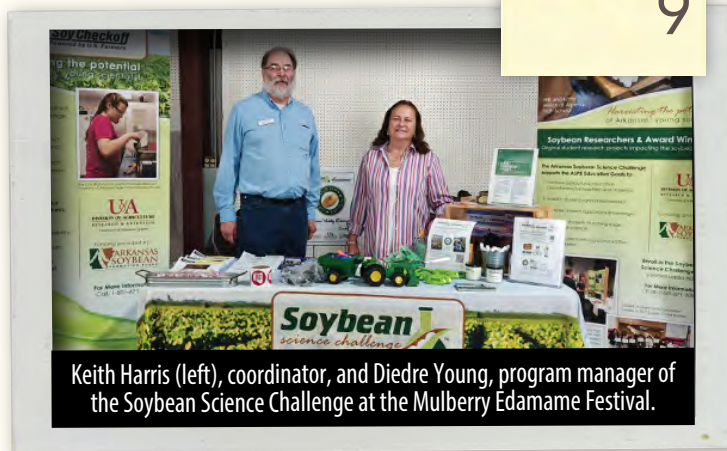
Mulberry Edamame Festival

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The city of Mulberry recently celebrated soybeans with the return of the Mulberry Edamame Festival. Staff from the Soybean Science Challenge were there for the excitement. 2025 marks the second consecutive year of the festival after an initial seven-year run was paused in 2020. This year's festival included vendors, music, a classic and custom car show, and food and sports competitions, such as a BBQ cook off, and archery, disc golf cornhole, and pickleball contests.

Mulberry is home to American Vegetable Soybean and Edamame Inc., a food processing company that specializes in the production of soybean and edamame products, including tofu, soy milk and soy sauce.

Edamame, also known as vegetable soybeans, are harvested before reaching full maturity, when they are soft and green. They are known for their mild, slightly sweet, and nutty flavor and are a good source of protein, fiber, and various vitamins and minerals.



Keith Harris (left), coordinator, and Diedre Young, program manager of the Soybean Science Challenge at the Mulberry Edamame Festival.

Soybean Science Challenge staff provided information about soybeans and free soybean seeds to plant and grow one's own edamame. Many of the visitors to the staff's booth were high school students and teachers from schools familiar with the program. ■



Soybean Science Challenge Presents

Awards at Arkansas State Science Fair

Soybean Science Challenge Coordinator Keith Harris and associate Diedre Young attended the 71st Annual Arkansas State Science Fair at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway on April 4-5. The Challenge presented awards to high school students for their soybean-focused scientific research projects. This year, 53 students qualified to compete in the Soybean Science Challenge at their respective regional science fairs. The best projects at each regional fair were invited to compete at the State Science Fair. Fifteen soybean and agriculture-focused projects were invited, with ten presenting. Dr. Jeremy Ross, Dr. Mike Daniels, and Dr. Terry Spurlock from Extension served as judges.

The Challenge recognized three projects as the best soybean research projects in the state, with the first-place winner awarded a \$1,000; second place, \$500; and \$250 for honorable. The teacher-mentor of the winning students were awarded \$300, \$200, and \$100, respectively. The winners were:

- 1st place – Vishak Meenachi and Teacher-Mentor April Owen, Little Rock Central High School
- 2nd place – Bennet Chen and Teacher-Mentor

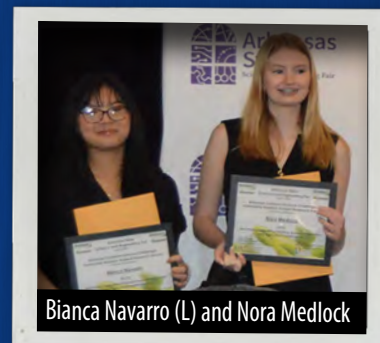
Lee Conrad, Little Rock Central High School

- Honorable Mention – Bianca Navarro and Nora Medlock and Teacher-Mentor Dr. Lindsey Waddell, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts.

The Soybean Science Challenge is a farmer-funded, statewide, high school education program that seeks to increase student knowledge about the value of Arkansas soybeans to the Arkansas economy, to the labor force, and ultimately to feed and fuel the world. The Soybean Science Challenge is a partnership between the Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board and the Cooperative Extension Service. For more info, contact Dr. Julie Robinson, jrobinson@uada.edu, or Keith Harris, krharris@uada.edu. ■



Bennet Chen (L) and Vishak Meenachi



Bianca Navarro (L) and Nora Medlock

Annual Spring Fling Success

The Annual Spring Fling at the Little Rock State office, hosted April 16 by AACES and Chi Epsilon Sigma, brought employees together for refreshments, networking and fun activities while also raising more than \$800.

Noteworthy highlights included an egg hunt where Casey Hill discovered a golden egg containing raffle tickets, and a 50/50 raffle, won by Brittney Schrick. Attendees enjoyed a bake sale and a silent auction featuring plant donations from Randy Forst and AACES and Chi Epsilon Sigma members and uniquely crafted Easter baskets by Teresa Henson and Kim Magee.

The organizers wish to express gratitude to Dr. John Anderson, the Spring Fling Planning Committee, Facilities Management, donors, volunteers and all participants for their support. ■

Annual Spring Fling featured a bake sale, silent auction and a raffle.



Rural Advocate of the Year

LeadAR director Julie Robinson presented the 2025 Rural Advocate of the Year Award to former LeadAR director Joe Waldrum on May 21 in Little Rock during the Arkansas Rural Development Conference. The conference is hosted by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission Division of Rural Services and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission.

Joe Waldrum is a leader among leaders. For 22 years, he spearheaded the LeadAR program, which has trained hundreds of Ar-

kansans to be effective leaders in communities across the state. The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership and dedication to improving the lives of people in rural Arkansas communities.

Read more [here](#). ■



Joe Waldrum

JOIN AACES

ASSOCIATION OF ARKANSAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SPECIALISTS

OPEN TO ALL CES NON-CLASSIFIED PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL

Did you know that AACES is the professional association for Arkansas extension specialists?

All non-classified professional personnel — including professors, program associates, program technicians, instructors, and support and non-support staff — are eligible for membership. Only executive leadership team members are not eligible for membership.

AACES members have access to networking opportunities, professional development and social activities. Get to know your fellow Extension colleagues and help us foster a warm, fun working environment.

JOIN NOW!

Only \$10 for new members. Scan QRC above to join!

Benefits Corner

Assistance Programs

Whether you're dealing with stress, mental health concerns, a child with a learning disability, a parent who needs in-home care or a difficult colleague, the university offers resources to help.

The assistance programs provide resources for life issues no matter how big or small. You and your immediate family members can use the assistance programs for confidential, no-cost individual and family counseling.

There are two options: the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and the UnitedHealthcare (UHC) (MAP).

UAMS EAP

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)

EAP offers a library of online resources and counseling with on-site professional staff. Visit with a counselor over the phone, through video chat or in person. To schedule an appointment, call 800-542-6021 or 479-973-9072.

UHC MAP

UnitedHealthcare's Member Assistance Program is available to all benefits-eligible employees and offers:

- Unlimited 24/7 phone access to master's degree-level specialists
- Up to three sessions of counseling per issue
- A legal consultation of 30 minutes per issue
- A 30- to 60-minute financial consultation per issue

To schedule an appointment, call 877-660-3806 (TTY: 711). For more information on your benefits, please visit uasys.edu/benefits or email yourbenefits@uada.edu. ■

Print Services Update

The Print Shop at the Little Rock State Office will close on June 30. We will be working with UA Little Rock and other suppliers to handle future print jobs. Communications will continue to provide all design services for your jobs and will handle sending and receiving all print jobs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the print shop close?

The print shop will take orders through May 31. It will close on June 30.

How will I order publications (and other print jobs) after May 31?

Order publications through the online ordering system (pubs@uada.edu). The billing information will be slightly different when the Internal Service Delivery (ISD) is created. An updated Quick Reference Guide for creating ISDs will be available at that time. Order other print jobs (non-publications) by emailing printshop@uada.edu. Continue to include a [Misc 300x](#) with your order.

How long will it take to get my print job after May 31?

Since we will no longer have an in-house print shop, more lead time may be required. Please allow a minimum of 5 business days for printing. Please allow a minimum of 10 business days for printing plus shipping.

Where will I pick up my orders?

Continue to use the current pick-up shelf and sign-out sheet in the LRSO Annex. If you need your job shipped, it will be shipped to you.

Does this effect the sign shop?

No. The Media Production Center will continue its normal operations of printing signs, banners, stickers, and other materials. Continue to contact Chris Meux for help.

Can I use a local printer instead?

Yes. You can use a local copy shop for small jobs under \$1,000. Please obtain design approval from the Communications Department before printing materials that will be distributed to the public. For approval, email your job to printshop@uada.edu. Include the words "For Approval" in the subject line. How you can help:

- **Do NOT call the UALR Print Shop directly.** If you have questions regarding paper, binding or job status, please email printshop@uada.edu.
- **Do NOT go to the UALR Print Shop to check on or pick up print jobs.** Communications will make daily pick-ups from UALR and deliver to LRSO.
- **Avoid last-minute printing requests.** Submit your request as far in advance as possible. At least 2 weeks' notice is preferred.
- **Please be patient with us.** We expect issues to arise, and we promise we will work diligently to find solutions. ■

Grants & Contracts

PROJECT TITLE	AWARD AMOUNT	PI	GRANTING AGENCY
United Way Hempstead County 4-H Program Support	6,000	Terrie James	United Way of Hempstead County
University of Arkansas Strawberry Research Trials 2025-2026	2,000	Amanda L McWhirt	Mid-American Strawberry Growers Association
Sebastian County 4-H Shooting Sports	2,250	Shaw nee Marie Tichenor	National Rifle Association (NRA) Foundation
2025 Arkansas Master Gardner Conference	20,000	Sherri Sanders	Searcy Advertising and Promotion Commission
Survey of Eriophyid Mites on Caneberries in the Southeast	5,000	Aaron Joseph Cato	Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium
Integrated Dynamics of Climate Resilience and Risk Aversion in the Agriculture of the Lower Mississippi River Basin	8,113	John Pennington	University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR)
Rice Discovery Program	5,000	Ashlyn Ussery	Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board
Arkansas Future Ag Leaders Tour	5,000	Julie C. Robinson	Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board
TOTAL AWARDS FOR APRIL 2025: \$53,363			

Personnel Changes

Welcome Aboard:

Harley Warren – Program Technician, Animal Science, LRSO

Nathan Bailey – Maintenance Specialist, Vines 4H Center

Trey Burton – Maintenance Specialist, Vines 4H Center

Allisyn Stratton – 4-H Program Assistant, Sebastian County

Lida Rahimi Araghi – Assistant Professor, Family & Consumer Science, LRSO

Farewell to:

Amanda Crane – 4-H Program Assistant, Montgomery County

Megan Wells – Program Associate, Family & Consumer Science, LRSO

Arin Shaffer – County Extension Agent, Garland County, Agriculture/Horticulture, Garland County

Timothy Wallace – County Extension Agent, 4-H/Agriculture, Jefferson County

