Background

Ardmore was the location for the first Oklahoma off-campus higher education consortium established by Oklahoma statute. Begun as a nontraditional experiment in the higher education delivery in 1974, the Ardmore Higher Education Center (AHEC) continues to utilize technology combined with face-to-face classroom instruction to meet the higher education needs of south central Oklahoma.

AHEC is comprised of four public higher education institutions cooperatively offering courses and degree programs: East Central University-Ada, Murray State College-Tishomingo, Southeastern Oklahoma State University-Durant, and Oklahoma State University-OKC.

AHEC is governed by a statutory ten-member board of trustees appointed by the governor. The board of trustees receives a state appropriation, collects tuition and fees, submits a budget, and approves all courses and programs offered at AHEC.

AHEC is located in facilities owned by Ardmore City Schools and adjacent to the Ardmore High School campus. AHEC uses ten to twelve classrooms in the Ardmore High School for evening classes.

University Branch Campus

In 2007, the AHEC board of trustees resolved to transition to a university branch campus. AHEC has requested the Oklahoma legislature to affiliate it with a public university in Oklahoma and has developed a master plan for a new campus. AHEC plans to begin construction of the first building on the new campus soon. The construction of a new campus will provide a permanent location for the university branch campus when enabling legislation is enacted.

Student Profile And Enrollment

With the majority of classes offered during evening hours, AHEC serves many beginning freshmen as well as graduate students. The student population is comprised of nontraditional students, working adults, students who transfer to another college or university after completion of general education courses, concurrent high school seniors, or place-bound individuals in south central Oklahoma.

The affiliated college and university partners offer almost 300 courses during fall and spring semesters and 100 courses during the summer. These courses are attended by about 1,300 students per semester. AHEC accommodates over 25,000 course credit hours per year. Enrollment at AHEC has increased by almost 25 percent since 2000.
In 2007, the AHEC Board of Trustees resolved to transition to a university branch campus. AHEC requested the 2008 Oklahoma legislature to affiliate it with a public university in Oklahoma as a branch campus. Although enabling legislation did not become a reality during the 2008 legislative session, AHEC still has a vision for becoming a university branch campus. Our plan for the construction of a new campus that provides a permanent location and world-class facilities for a university branch campus expounds this vision.

We might think of the Ardmore Higher Education Center as the first phase in an evolutionary process that leads to our long-held aspiration for a university campus in Ardmore. As we reach important benchmarks in this evolutionary process, hopefully we can advance to the next step. As a higher education center we have successfully served our community and region for 34 years. As a higher education center we have, however, reached our capacity in enrollment, facilities, and academic programming. So it is time for us to move to the next stage in our evolution—a university branch campus.

AHEC continues to enhance and extend its portfolio of academic program offerings and student services to prepare the way for the creation of a university branch campus. In this report you will read about many of these advancements including an Ardmore-based Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, a 42% increase in enrollment over the past 10 years, expanded student services, growth in continuing education offerings, more scholarship dollars awarded, and a healthy and stable financial standing.

Transforming to a university branch campus has become part of the culture and climate of AHEC. Truly, we are “branching out” in Ardmore!

Steven C. Mills, Ph.D.
Director/CEO
In response to discussions and feedback from the community over the last several years, it was determined that there was a critical need for establishing postsecondary healthcare programs in the greater Ardmore area, especially in the field of nursing. Data collected nationally projects a shortage of close to 200,000 RNs in the United States by 2012. In Oklahoma alone, the state medical association projects a shortage of more than 3,000 RNs by 2012. One of the critical shortages in the Ardmore area was a shortage of bachelor-degreed nurses.

East Central University offers a bachelor in nursing program that is nationally accredited and has an excellent pass rate on the licensing examination for registered nurses. Because East Central University already offered its RN to BSN program on a two-year cycle at AHEC, ECU was requested to consider extending its bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) program to Ardmore. In July 2007, in association with Mercy Memorial Health Center and with financial support from the Southern Oklahoma Memorial Foundation to help start the program, ECU began staffing an Ardmore-based BSN program. In January 2008, the first class of ten students was admitted to the program.

In July 2008, ECU received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a federal agency of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide additional funding to help start the Ardmore program. With the award of the HRSA grant, ECU will expand the program and admit 16 students at Ardmore in January 2009, 24 students in January 2010, and offer the RN to BSN completion program starting every year.

When fully implemented the BSN program at Ardmore will have as many as 72 students enrolled in nursing classes at any given time with an additional 150 nursing majors taking pre-requisite courses on-site. The program is expected to become self-supporting with the continuing operational expenses covered through tuition and fees and state appropriations to ECU based upon FTE production in the Ardmore-based program.

Currently, a full-time coordinator and a full-time clinical instructor provide classes for nursing students at a newly remodeled facility at 617 W. Broadway provided by Mercy Memorial Health Center. The facilities include two multimedia classrooms, large laboratory area, offices for three faculty and receptionist, and a large lobby area.

The BSN program is the first post-secondary academic program that is fully Ardmore based - faculty, facilities, and equipment - to be associated with the Ardmore Higher Education Center in its 34-year history.
During 2007-2008 all responsibility for financial record keeping was transferred from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSR) to AHEC. AHEC entered into a contract with the Oklahoma Office of State Finance (OSF) for budgeting, purchasing, and payroll processing. Additionally, AHEC opened a Capital Projects Fund and Agency Special Fund to process specialized revenues and expenses.

To establish the Capital Fund, $600,000 was transferred from the cash reserves of the AHEC general operating fund held by OSR and $166,115.97 was transferred from the proceeds of the AHEC Retirement and Reserve investment account held by OSR. With the addition of Capital Bond proceeds of over $660,000, AHEC has almost $1.5 million to allocate to the construction of new facilities.

The General Operating Fund for 2007-2008 had revenues of almost $1.78 million, an increase of 1.7% over the previous year. Over half (59%) of operating revenues were provided by tuition and fees with state appropriations through OSR providing 41% of revenues. Over half of operating expenditures (55%) were spent on general operations of AHEC and 45% of expenditures were spent on personnel costs. For the fiscal year, overall expenditures were 93% of total revenues, in spite of increased operations and personnel cost, allowing AHEC to maintain a healthy financial standing and outlook.

**Sources of Funds (Revenues)**

- **State Funding (41%)**
  - $727,745
- **Tuition, Fees, and Other (59%)**
  - $1,051,141

**Total**

- $1,778,886

**Uses of Funds (Expenses)**

- **Personnel (31%)**
  - $739,526
- **Operating Expenses (69%)**
  - $916,283

**Total**

- $1,655,809

**Revenues**

- **State Funds (42%)**
  - $727,745
- **Tuition, Fees, and Other (58%)**
  - $1,051,141

**Total**

- $1,778,886

**Expenses**

- **Personnel (31%)**
  - $739,526
- **Operating Expenses (69%)**
  - $916,283

**Total**

- $1,655,809
In 2007-2008, 138 new undergraduate and graduate students came through the Student Services office at AHEC and received information about higher education opportunities through our college and university partners. During the intake process prospective students are asked about their career goals and enrollment plans. The chart illustrates the most declared majors by these prospective students. Non-degree seeking students include those who attend other colleges or universities on a full-time basis and are taking additional hours at AHEC to supplement their degree program or are applying to college programs not offered at AHEC.

### Spring Fling at AHEC

On Saturday, April 19, Murray State College sponsored a Spring Fling student and family festival in partnership with AHEC, ECU, and SOSU staff and faculty. The festival offered a number of fun activities for students and their families including hamburgers and hot dogs and featuring a cake walk, bingo, two moonwalks (air jumps), and live music. Each AHEC partner institution had a booth and giveaways at the festival. The festival was attended by over 350 students and their families.

### AHEC Graduation Reception

The 4th Annual AHEC Graduation Reception was held on May 13, 2008 at the Ardmore Convention Center. There was a record attendance and standing room only as AHEC honored graduating students from each of our partner institutions. Over 150 graduating students, family members, and friends were in attendance at the reception. The Presidents of ECU, SOSU, and MSC and a representative from OSU/OKC provided congratulatory remarks to the graduates.
Admissions Policy

Students taking classes at AHEC should meet the admissions and transfer standards of their participating institution. Generally an open admission policy is provided for freshmen students through the participation of Murray State College.

Costs

Average annual tuition and fees for an undergraduate student enrolling in 30 hours are $3,765.

Financial Aid

Scholarships, federal grants and loans are available for students who qualify. Financial aid is administered through the participating institutions. In addition to federal and state financial aid funds, the participating institutions award tuition fee waivers on a competitive basis based on financial need and academic achievement. Local foundations provide over $50,000 in scholarships per year for students who do not qualify for financial aid from federal or state sources.

Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)

AHEC houses EOC counselors from East Central University and Southeastern Oklahoma State University. EOC is a federally-funded program that assists individuals ages 19 and over who are interested in entering or re-entering post-secondary education. Services are free and include assistance with financial aid, career exploration, and applying for admission to post-secondary education.

Library And Technology Resources

The Mary Jane Hamilton Library at AHEC is available for use by students, faculty, staff members and citizens of our service area. The library collection includes approximately 16,000 volumes and patrons may also access over 16,000 books online through netLibrary.com. The library subscribes to approximately 150 professional journals and magazines, both in print and on microfiche and offers access to several electronic databases that provide full-text access to journals, magazines, and newspapers covering a variety of subject areas. The databases are available on-site and with remote access through the Internet. Library patrons may also request materials not available at AHEC through the interlibrary loan service.

AHEC has a facility-wide wireless network. Students may access the Internet with their laptop computer or other mobile device via the wireless network on campus. Students have access to computer technology in the library lab, the computer lab, and at public access computers in the student lobby.

AHEC has six interactive television (ITV) classrooms. The classrooms are equipped to receive and/or broadcast video conferences via the Internet. AHEC broadcasts and/or receives approximately 80 courses each semester with MSC, ECU, and SOSU using ITV.
Scholarships

The amount of scholarships awarded to students enrolled in the degree programs of the university and college partners of AHEC increased by 4% over the previous year. In all, 45 scholarships averaging over $1,200 per student were awarded during the fall, spring, and summer semesters to AHEC students from scholarship grants received from local foundations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Fund</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry Bridge Foundation Scholarship</td>
<td>$3,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Barr Foundation Scholarship</td>
<td>$17,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCrory Foundation Scholarships</td>
<td>$22,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Okla. Memorial Foundation Community Renewal Fellowships</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$55,492</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ada Mae Smith Endowment and Scholarship Fund

During 2007-2008, the estate of the late Ada Mae Smith of Ardmore provided funding for an endowment to establish the Ada Mae Smith Scholarship Fund. The fund is invested and administered by the Southern Oklahoma Higher Education Foundation. The Ada Mae Smith Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships to pay tuition and fees for African-American students residing in Carter County, Oklahoma, who enroll as students at the Ardmore Higher Education Center. The first awards from the Ada Mae Smith Scholarship Fund will be made in the 2008 fall and the 2009 spring semesters.

Southern Oklahoma Higher Education Foundation

The Southern Oklahoma Higher Education Foundation was established in 2006 as the supporting foundation for the Ardmore Higher Education Center or any succeeding institution. The Foundation was established to provide a source of funding for student scholarships and other program supports and to provide a funding mechanism for future capital campaigns for construction of new campus facilities.

The 2007-2008 fiscal year was the foundation’s first full year of operations. During this year the foundation began administration of scholarship funds and investments. The following financial reports define the foundation’s financial position as of June 30, 2008:

**Southern Oklahoma Higher Education Foundation Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Short-term Investments</td>
<td>$230,181.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td><strong>$230,181.88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance Equity</td>
<td>$21,229.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income, June 30, 2008</td>
<td>$208,952.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Equity</td>
<td><strong>$230,181.88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Southern Oklahoma Higher Education Foundation Statement of Activities for Year Ended June 30, 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation and Trust Grants</td>
<td>$40,757.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Bequests</td>
<td>$181,891.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest and Other Income</td>
<td>$143.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$222,792.81</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>$11,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$997.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td>$1,242.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,840.39</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Income                                                  | **$208,952.42**|
Continuing Education programs provide lifelong learning opportunities from youth to senior adults. Our Continuing Education program includes CEU and credentialing opportunities in real estate as well as professional improvement opportunities in conversational Spanish, ESL, and ACT test preparation.

Kids to Kollege - Inspiring Youth in Science and Math

Kids to Kollege is an experiential learning program for students ages 10-14 held during the summer. AHEC in partnership with Ardmore City Schools and the Southern Oklahoma Technology Center offers a fun-filled week of challenging learning opportunities for young students. Kids to Kollege courses are intended to stimulate math and science awareness, creativity, and critical thinking. The 2008 Kids to Kollege program provided classes in drama, science, computers, and culinary arts.

Senior University - Enrichment for the Young at Heart

Senior University is a program designed to provide self-improvement courses and activities for adults ages 55 and over. Senior University programs are fun and interesting learning opportunities that enrich the lives of older or retired adults. Senior University provides a year-round schedule of classes and activities including health, nutrition, yoga, art appreciation, book reviews, bridge tournaments, and physical fitness.

### Non-Credit Course Enrollment Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Courses Offered</th>
<th>Course Hours</th>
<th>Enrollments</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>2846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>4135.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>377.5</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>6992.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Enrollment Demographics

### Headcount by Academic Year - Last 10 Years

![Bar Chart of Headcount by Academic Year](chart.png)

### Enrollment Summary Fiscal Year 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Fall 2007</th>
<th>Spring 2008</th>
<th>Summer 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollment</td>
<td>1261</td>
<td>1333</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Degree Seeking</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Students</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ardmore Higher Education Center

Trustees & Employees

AHEC 2007-2008 Board of Trustees

Mark Cunningham, Chair
Ardmore

Thomas Worsham, Vice-Chair
Healdton

Bebe Lodes, Secretary
Ardmore

Bob Bramlett
Ardmore

Brent Hartin
Marietta

Scott Landgraf
Madill

Kathleen Maher
Dickson

Andre Moore
Ardmore

Jessica Pfau
Ardmore

Cindy Stewart
Ravia

2007-2008 Institutional Partner Staff

Murray State College
Lynette Kirk, Director of Operations
Vicki Allen, Activities/Academic Advisor
Margie Ritchie, Enrollment Facilitator
Rhonda Glenn, Associate Financial Director
Jan Glenn, Secretary
Barbara Sneed, Secretary
Bonnie Peterson, Online Learning
Sherri Gray, Bookstore

East Central University
Andrea Bryant, Academic Advisor
Kirk Rushing, Educational Opportunity Counselor
Dr. Adrianna Lancaster, Campus Liaison

Southeastern Oklahoma State University
Chris Smith, Academic Advisor
Deborah Godwin, Educational Opportunity Counselor
Kyle Stafford, Campus Liaison

Oklahoma State University-OKC
Lisa Dillon, Campus Liaison

AHEC 2007-2008 Administrative Staff

Steve Mills
Director/CEO

Cindy Pollard
Assistant Director/Library Director

Cyndi Stoker
Accountant

Marilynn Cleveland
Student Services Coordinator

Mary Ray
Office Manager

Molly Means
Purchasing Clerk

Sharon Spurgin
Receptionist

Jennifer Amendolea
Assistant Librarian/ITV Coord.

Audrey Gastineau
IT Coordinator/Library Assistant

Amanda Stinson
Library Technical Services Coord.

Courtney Layton
Library Clerk

Georganne Westfall
Program Coordinator

Helen Thompson
Program Coordinator

Barbara Ellis
Executive Secretary

Director’s Annual Report