

Arkansas Strong Start to Finish

Regional Coordinator Biographies

Charles Watson, Ed.D. (North-Central Arkansas region)

Dr. Charles Watson’s long career in public education spans 55 years. He has served as a high school mathematics and science teacher, program manager for the Arkansas Department of Education, and associate professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Central Arkansas (UCA). His experience as a classroom teacher, administrator, and policy administrator over the years demonstrates his dedication to advancing mathematics education.



Most recently, Dr. Watson served as co-chair of the state’s initiative to develop multiple mathematics pathways for students entering higher education. His work included creation and implementation of an alternate gateway mathematics course to College Algebra – Quantitative Literacy – for non-STEM students. Although Dr. Watson will retire at the end of the Spring 2019 semester, he will continue to impact student learning in mathematics in new and innovative ways.

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Institutions to Support as Regional Coordinator	
University of Central Arkansas	Arkansas State University – Beebe
Arkansas Northeastern College	Arkansas State University – Newport
University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville	Ozarka College
Black River Technical College	Arkansas State University – Mountain Home
North Arkansas College	North West Arkansas Community College
Arkansas Tech University	University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton
University of Arkansas	Arkansas State University – Jonesboro
University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech College	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
University of Arkansas – Fort Smith	

Shelton Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. (South-Central Arkansas region)

Dr. Shelton Fitzpatrick first joined the teaching faculty at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) in 1977 before retiring as full professor in 2014. During his career at UAPB, Dr. Fitzpatrick served as director of the Minority Center for Excellence in Math and Science (1999-2014). He was involved in initiatives that impacted student performance in mathematics and science and sought to close the achievement gap between the highest and lowest performing student populations. Grant-funded initiatives included hosting summer workshops for teachers on professional development activities and follow-ups on classes, sessions, and workshops to evaluate material usage.

Dr. Fitzpatrick graduated from Mississippi Industrial College with a degree in biology education. He also holds a master's degree and doctorate from Atlanta University in plant pathology.



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Institutions to Support as Regional Coordinator	
National Park College	College of the Ouachitas
Henderson State University	University of Arkansas – Rich Mountain
University of Arkansas – Little Rock	University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff
University of Arkansas – Cossatot	University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana
Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas	East Arkansas Community College
Arkansas State University – Mid-South	Southern Arkansas University
Southeast Arkansas College	University of Arkansas – Monticello
Southern Arkansas University Tech	South Arkansas Community College