# **Civic Action Plan: Executive Summary**

**Campus Compact**

The University of Central Arkansas joined Campus Compact (the national organization for service-learning and civic engagement in higher education) in 2013, and President Davis signed onto the Compact’s 30th Anniversary Action Statement in 2017.

**The Action Statement and Civic Action Plan**

The Civic Action Planning Committee was charged with drafting a university civic action plan within one year of President Davis signing the action statement. The committee has wide representation across the campus and is co-chaired by Dr. Peter Mehl and Dr. Lesley Graybeal. The committee met monthly during the 2017-2018 academic year, with subcommittees meeting more often. The plan’s point of departure is the Campus Compact Action statement, which focuses on

1. Partnerships for a just equitable and sustainable future for communities beyond the campus;
2. Educating our students for lives of engaged citizenship;
3. Responsibilities as place-based institutions to contribute the health and strength of our communities;
4. Harnessing the capacity of our institutions to challenge prevailing social and economic inequalities that threat our democratic future;
5. Overall, a campus that affirms the centrality of the public purposes of higher education.

**What Do We Mean by Civic Engagement?**

After reviewing a number of definitions, the committee established that *a civic engagement activity is one that engages members of the university community in reciprocal relationships both within and beyond the university to make a positive different in the quality of life of a community and contribute to the common good.* Civic engagement activities do at least one of the following:

* Support the university’s infrastructure for civic learning and reciprocal partnerships
* Prepare students for a life of active citizenship through curricular and co-curricular learning about issues of public concern
* Recognize and work to address social inequalities in our communities, including our campus community

**Expectations:** This means that UCA students will have the opportunity to participate in at least one civic engagement activity, and faculty and staff will also have the support for participating in institutional efforts and initiatives that serve the public good. UCA will offer a significant number of civic engagement activities, both academic and co-curricular.