



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# 2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

## Mission

To have a positive impact on communities by equipping leaders with economic tools and resources, building consensus to achieve community goals and bringing UCA resources and communities together.

## Vision

We envision communities with robust economies, a flourishing quality of life and diverse and engaged citizen leaders.

## Values

We strive to develop relationships with leaders and communities that are based on:

- Trust and respect
- Local action that fosters consensus-building, community ownership and empowerment, transparency and inclusion
- An asset-based approach focusing on local strengths as the foundation for success

At the University of Central Arkansas Center for Community and Economic Development, we live by the belief that "community development facilitates economic development." It guides our conversations, shapes our vision, and grounds our work. When we build communities with a strong sense of place and a high quality of life, we build stronger, more resilient local economies.

In 2024–2025, our team continued to meet our mission through impactful training and technical assistance programs that touched every corner of Arkansas. We supported local leaders with high-quality learning opportunities, capacity building, strategic planning, and tailored services that met each community's unique needs.

This year's highlights include: the 2025 Community Development Institute (CDI), the culmination of our three-year Community Development Pipeline program, and a host of simulations, training events, community branding efforts, and walk audits.

These efforts reflect just a small part of our statewide impact. Our staff invites you to explore this annual report to learn more about what we do at UCA CCED and to please join us in thanking the many partners and sponsors who make this work possible.



*Shelby Fiegel*

Shelby Fiegel, PCED  
*CCED Director*

# Year at a Glance

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707

**ATTENDEES AT CENTER  
TRAINING EVENTS**

1,208

**ATTENDEES AT TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE EVENTS**

35

**CITIES AND COUNTIES RECEIVED  
DIRECT ASSISTANCE**

\$150,000

**RAISED THROUGH UCA AND  
UCA FOUNDATION**

# Where We Served

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## 2024-2025 Training & Technical Assistance

### *CDI 2025 Advanced Year*

Lonoke  
Keo

### *CED Fellowship - Fall '24 and Spring '25*

### *Community Development Pipeline Program*

Washington County  
Benton County

### *Community and Economic Resource and Strategy Session*

Crittenden County

### *Strategic Doing Workshop*

Health Partners  
Crowder College  
Northwest Arkansas

### *Walk Audits*

Pea Ridge  
Oscelola  
Springdale

### *Branding*

Elkins  
Centerton

### *Strengths Workshop*

UCA Seminar in Accounting Leadership  
Communities Unlimited

### *Futures Game Simulation*

Paragould Youth Leadership  
Leadership Maumelle  
CDI Central: Louisiana  
Leadership Union County  
City of Centerton

### *Newtonia Go! Simulation*

Cabot Youth Leadership  
Little River County Leadership  
Conway Area Leadership Institute

### *Poverty Simulation/Workshop*

Conway Area Leadership Institute  
The Wellspring Alliance (Louisiana)  
Jacksonville Youth Leadership  
Paragould Adult Leadership  
Goodwill Industries of Arkansas  
UCA Communication Sciences and Disorders  
CDI Central: Louisiana  
Springdale School District  
Fayetteville Xperience Youth Leadership  
Washington County Youth Leadership

### *Training Events*

Arkansas Leaders Consortium (Statewide)  
Community Building Summit (NWA)  
Unboxing Your Leadership (NWA)  
Grant Writing (NWA)

### *Retail Academy (in partnership with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission)*

Crossett  
Hope  
Marion  
Morrilton  
Newport  
Stuttgart

### *Economic Development Action Plan*

Elkins

# Community Development Institute

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The 39th annual Community Development Institute (CDI) hosted 177 participants from ten states: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas and awarded over 70 scholarships. Zachary Benedict of MKM architecture + design delivered the keynote address. The Advanced Year class conducted a community assessment in Keo and Lonoke, engaging with local leaders to identify opportunities for growth.

Visit [uca.edu/cdi](https://uca.edu/cdi) or our social media channels for additional updates, pictures, and videos of CDI 2025.

We hope you join us for CDI 2026 on July 27 - July 31, 2026! You can register at [uca.edu/cdi](https://uca.edu/cdi)



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# CDI 2025 Awards

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**Bill Miller Award**  
Jon Chadwell



**Earnest Whitelaw Award**  
Amanda Killingsworth



**Earnest Whitelaw Award**  
Jamie Smith



**Year 2 Class Award**  
Nick Smith



**Year 1 Class Award**  
Savannah Neal

# CDI 2025 Sponsors

## PRESENTING SPONSORS



## SPONSORS



## SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS



CDI Alumni Network

CDI Class of 2024

Bill Miller  
Scholarship Fund

Jenna Rhodes  
Scholarship Fund

# CDI Advisory Board

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The CDI Advisory Board was established in 2002 to assist UCA with the development of CDI curriculum, marketing, resource development, and external stakeholder support.

Thank you to all CDI Advisory Board members for their outstanding service! The complete list of board members can be found at [uca.edu/cdi/advisory-board/](http://uca.edu/cdi/advisory-board/).

# CED Fellowship Program

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The Community and Economic Development (CED) Fellowship program aims to prepare UCA students for careers in the field of community and economic development. The program exposes UCA students to a variety of community or economic development careers and provides networking, coaching and mentoring to enhance career preparedness. During the program, fellows participate in three site visits that showcase community and economic development activities at the local and state levels of government and in the nonprofit sector. Activities include organization site visits, mock interviews and mentorship from CCED staff. Fellows have the opportunity to join the Arkansas Community Development Society and attend the Community Development Institute.

Three students were selected for the Fellowship. The students attended site visits with the Office of Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, City of Hope Outreach, United Way of Central Arkansas, Conway Area Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Conway.



**Richard Ware**  
Hope, AR  
*Political Science &  
Philosophy*



**Grace Mureithi**  
Conway, AR  
*Public Administration*



**Dami Osundolire**  
Lagos, Nigeria  
*Economics*

# Community Development Pipeline Program

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CCED received a three-year grant from the Walton Family Foundation to support the development and implementation of the Community Development Pipeline program. The vision of the program is to train community leaders on foundational community and economic development principles, positively impact and uplift the economies and quality of life of communities whose leaders participate in the program, and develop new relationships that build bridges across Arkansas communities. The CD Pipeline program provides Community Development Institute (CDI) training and technical assistance services to community leaders in Washington and Benton counties. Twenty-five (25) community leaders from Benton and Washington counties were selected to participate in the Pipeline programs.

This program culminated following CDI 2025 with 22 leaders completing the program:



Amy Drummonds



Daisy Bonilla, PCED  
The Valle Pino  
Foundation



Mayor David Faulk  
City of Prairie Grove



Dustin Phy, PCED  
City of Pea Ridge



Ezequiel Tovar, PCED  
Elkins Community  
Network



James Bell, PCED  
Broken Bow Arrow  
Church of Christ



Jamie Smith, PCED  
Elkins Community  
Network



Judith Yanez, PCED  
RootED Northwest  
Arkansas



Kayla Knight, PCED  
City of Centerton



Keegan Stanton, PCED  
City of Pea Ridge



Kelly Rich, PCED  
Experience  
Fayetteville



Lydia Alston, PCED  
CDC of Bentonville +  
Bella Vista, Inc.



Mallory Barker, PCED  
Walton Arts Center



Michelle Viney, PCED  
Communities  
Unlimited



Mayor Nathan See  
City of Pea Ridge



Judge Patrick Deakins  
Washington County



Ross Phillips  
Rogers Lowell  
Chamber



Stacy Morris  
Main Street Siloam  
Springs



Taryn Golden  
Prairie Grove  
Chamber of  
Commerce



Trace Henley  
Health Partners



Trish Ouei, PCED  
Beaver Water District



Mayor Troy Reed  
City of Elkins

# Staff Highlights

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**Shelby Fiegel, PCED**  
*CCED Director*

- Served as Chair of the Community Development Council (CDC)
- Served as the Arkansas Community Development Society Ex-Officio
- Served as a member of the UCA Alliance for Economic Impact



**Tabatha Duvall, PCED**  
*CCED Assistant Director*

- Member of Lead AR Class 21
- Served as Arkansas Community Development Society Vice President of Technology



**Tracie Spivey, PCED**  
*CCED Project Coordinator*

- Obtained PCED Certification
- Participated in Conway Area Leadership Institute
- Pursuing CPM Certification via UALR



**April McCullough**  
*CCED Graduate Assistant*

- Joined CCED in November 2024
- Pursuing her PhD in Change Leadership



**Linda Tetteh-Quaye**  
*CCED Graduate Assistant*

- Joined CCED in May 2025
- Pursuing her Masters of Business Administration



**Unzila Cheema**  
*CCED Graduate Assistant*

- Joined CCED in November 2024
- Graduated UCA with her Masters of Business Administration



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