



OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING

Happy fall from the Office of Planned Giving!

It's an exciting season on the Hill as the University of Arkansas celebrates a record-breaking semester with its largest-ever enrollment of 34,175 students. More Arkansans than ever are calling the U of A home, reflecting the university's incredible momentum and growing impact across the state.

Read on to learn about the U of A's nationally rising profile, campus improvements, and philanthropic successes.

U of A Rises in National Rankings

The university's record enrollment is matched by rising student success and national recognition. The U of A advanced into the top 100 public universities in the U.S. News & World Report rankings, with several programs earning national distinction. Supply chain management ranked No. 11 among public institutions, undergraduate business ranked No. 41, and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing ranked No. 74. These distinctions highlight the U of A's growing impact and academic excellence in fields vital to the state's economic growth. Complete rankings are available [here](#).



Campus Innovation Takes Shape

The U of A's Facilities Management team recently completed several major projects, including the Anthony Timberlands Center for Design Materials and Innovation, a state-of-the-art facility focused on building with sustainable Arkansas timber that serves as both a learning hub for architecture students and a research center for affordable housing and new construction technologies. Additionally,



Phase One of the Maple Street Safety and Accessibility Project, developed with the City of Fayetteville, enhanced one of the campus's busiest corridors with upgraded crosswalks, redesigned lanes, expanded green space, and preparations for a future bicycle path.

Record Gift Support

Research innovation, student success and campus improvements are fueled by sustained philanthropic investment. Thanks to generous giving, the University of Arkansas raised more than \$254.7 million in private gift support during fiscal year 2025, one of the most successful fundraising years in its history. This milestone also propelled the Land of Opportunity Scholarship initiative past \$135 million toward its \$200 million goal, reflecting the shared commitment between philanthropic partners and the university's vision under Chancellor Charles Robinson's leadership.

This momentum continues as alumnus Doug McMillon and his wife, Shelley, committed \$10 million to strengthen the McMillon Innovation Studio, ensuring future students have access to world-class learning opportunities. Their gift establishes both the McMillon Innovation Studio Endowed Fund, ensuring permanent operational support, and the McMillon Innovation Studio Construction Fund, which will provide a new home for the studio and expand opportunities for U of A students.



End of Year Giving

As 2025 winds down, it's a great time to review your charitable giving plans. One smart way to receive tax benefits and support the U of A is through a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**.

You may have received a postcard reminder last month about the opportunity to make a QCD. This year, individuals aged 70 ½ and older can contribute up to \$108,000 directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as the University of Arkansas.

A QCD can reduce taxable income, satisfy Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligations, and help donors manage their tax brackets. Married couples may each make a transfer from their individual IRAs for a combined total of up to \$216,000 in tax-free charitable contributions.

Many U of A supporters are using this strategy for their charitable giving, including alumni Orville and Susan Hall. Their connection to the U of A runs deep as Orville earned degrees in engineering and engineering mechanics, while Susan majored in banking and finance. After raising their family in Kansas, the couple returned to Fayetteville, where their ties to the university strengthened, highlighted by Orville's induction into the Arkansas Academy of Mechanical Engineering.

"We started thinking about philanthropy a long time ago, but with retirement, we

now have the opportunity and resources to give back," said Susan. "We want to return a little bit because the university doesn't always get the support it needs. Hopefully, our legacy improves the lives of some students during their college career and later in life."

The Halls encourage others to consider using their IRA to support the university. "Many people our age are not aware of the tax advantages of giving from your IRA," said Susan. "It frees up your personal funds and lets your retirement assets support something meaningful."

You can make a difference with a QCD just like Susan and Orville Hall and make your year-end gift by **December 31st** to impact the 2025 tax year. To learn more or get started, contact your IRA administrator or our Office of Planned Giving.

Philanthropy maximizes your legacy and supports students, faculty, programs, and facilities at the U of A. For more information on making a planned gift of any size, please contact us by calling **479-575-7271** or emailing legacy@uark.edu.


Our planned giving stories are moving! Starting today, you'll find our updates and stories on the Arkansas Alumni Association's social media channels. Join us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **LinkedIn**, and **X** to see what's happening on the Hill and how philanthropic support is transforming the lives of Razorbacks every day.

Thank you for being an essential part of the University of Arkansas community and look for our next e-newsletter in January 2026.

Office of Planned Giving



Nate Looney, Executive Director



Tony Hilliard, Senior Director



Tammy Knowles, Assistant Director



landofopportunity.uark.edu

Thank you for your interest in planned giving. To access any of our resources, please visit our [website](#). The Office of Planned Giving's e-newsletter is informational and educational in nature. It does not offer professional tax, legal or accounting advice. For specific advice about the effect of any planning concept on your tax or financial situation or with your estate, please consult a qualified professional advisor.

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

[Adjust My Settings/Unsubscribe From This Email](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

© 2025 Crescendo Interactive, Inc.