



Dear College and University Leaders,

Help us raise awareness for the upcoming no-cost educational event for college students:

**Learn, Connect, Serve: Cultivating Arkansas' Next Generation of Behavioral Health Leaders**

**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 8:00-4:30**

UAMS campus | I. Dodd Wilson Education Building | 116 Hooper Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205

## STUDENTS WILL

- **Learn:** glean practical insight into the education requirements, career options, and real-world experiences from local and national experts.
- **Connect:** meet peers with similar interests from across Arkansas as well as behavioral health professionals and educators.
- **Serve:** learn how they can be a part of the solution, increasing access to behavioral health professionals in Arkansas.
- **Get polished:** networking, resume and interview prep, and skill-based workshops.
- **Fuel up:** breakfast, lunch, and refreshments provided.
- **Ponder:** hear from panelists with diverse careers, learning about the fulfillment, challenges, and opportunities available to Arkansas students.
- **Enjoy:** Pop-up Academic & Career Fair, Research Poster & Networking Session

## OUR CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY

Arkansas faces a critical shortage of mental health professionals. Nearly **ALL** the state's counties are designated as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. This event is designed to empower the next generation of behavioral health professionals by providing the knowledge, guidance, and inspiration students need to make informed decisions about their academic and career journeys.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Share this information with your students, faculty, and career advisors. Printouts will soon be available on our website for download. Scan the QR code below and navigate to 'For Faculty, Staff, and Administrators' near the bottom of the page.
- Reach out to [PrEvents@uams.edu](mailto:PrEvents@uams.edu) if you are interested in participating in the morning Pop-up Academic & Career Fair or afternoon Research Poster & Networking Session or have other ideas to share with us!

Thanks for your support as we work to strengthen the behavioral health workforce in Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Laura B. Dunn in black ink.

**Laura B. Dunn, M.D.**  
Marie Wilson Howells Professor  
Chair, Department of Psychiatry  
Director, Psychiatric Research Institute

Handwritten signature of Isis Pettway in black ink.

**Isis Pettway, LPC, NCC**  
Senior Clinical Therapist,  
Psychiatric Research Institute  
Founder, *Learn, Connect, Serve*

Handwritten signature of Michael Keck in black ink.

**Michael Keck**  
Executive Director,  
Psychiatric Research Institute



Visit [psychiatry.uams.edu/learn-connect-serve/](https://psychiatry.uams.edu/learn-connect-serve/) for more information

Event Email: [PrEvents@uams.edu](mailto:PrEvents@uams.edu)

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