

How Southeast Arkansas College Serves Diverse Student Populations

A FOCUS ON INSTRUCTIONAL NEEDS



COURSE SHARING CHAMPION

Dr. Stacy Pfluger
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Southeast Arkansas College is a two-year college that seeks to build a community of lifelong learners committed to becoming the leaders of tomorrow. Innovation, integrity, diversity and inclusion, and student success are key principles that drive the institution's core values, commitments, and contributions. "We have a lot of really talented learners, and our work is really about finding ways to reach and support our students," said Dr. Pfluger.

As an institution, Southeast Arkansas College has faced ongoing challenges as it relates to course offerings, particularly when it comes to instructor availability. In addition, SEARK resides in a relatively low-income community, where poverty rates pose a significant concern for students, families, faculty, and administrators. With Acadeum, SEARK was able to accommodate their courses that lacked instructors and strive toward more positive overall outcomes for their students.

SEARK Fast Facts:

- Based in Pine Bluff, AR
- Public, 2-year institution
- 1,180+ FTE
- Predominantly Black Institution (PBI)
- Started course sharing in 2022

60% of students identify as Black or African American

80% of students qualify for federal financial aid

"Without faculty on site to teach particular courses, the true benefit of this Acadeum partnership is that it eliminates the difficulties around course transferring."

- Dr. Stacy Pfluger

The Right Course at the Right Time

"As a relatively small institution, we have some limitations when it comes to faculty or how many sections of a course we can offer," Dr. Pfluger states. "We've had real difficulty getting the right courses, at the right time, in the right format that promote degree completion."

In the first semester using Acadeum, SEARK filled their critical chemistry course needs, allowing students to complete the final lab required for graduation. By employing innovative strategies like course sharing, SEARK has significantly enhanced student learning experiences and advanced degree completion rates.



"It really is a seamless process. The courses show up right on student transcripts and they can carry on in their educational journey."

- Dr. Stacy Pfluger

How Southeast Arkansas College is using course sharing to meet student needs and supplement faculty shortages:

- + Offering more courses that meet graduation requirements, allowing students to graduate on time
- + Helping students graduate on time, or early, to reduce financial aid costs
- + Reconciling faculty limitations and scarcity, ensuring students can take the courses they need to complete degree requirements
- + Inspiring institutional decision makers to implement innovative strategies that promote student success