



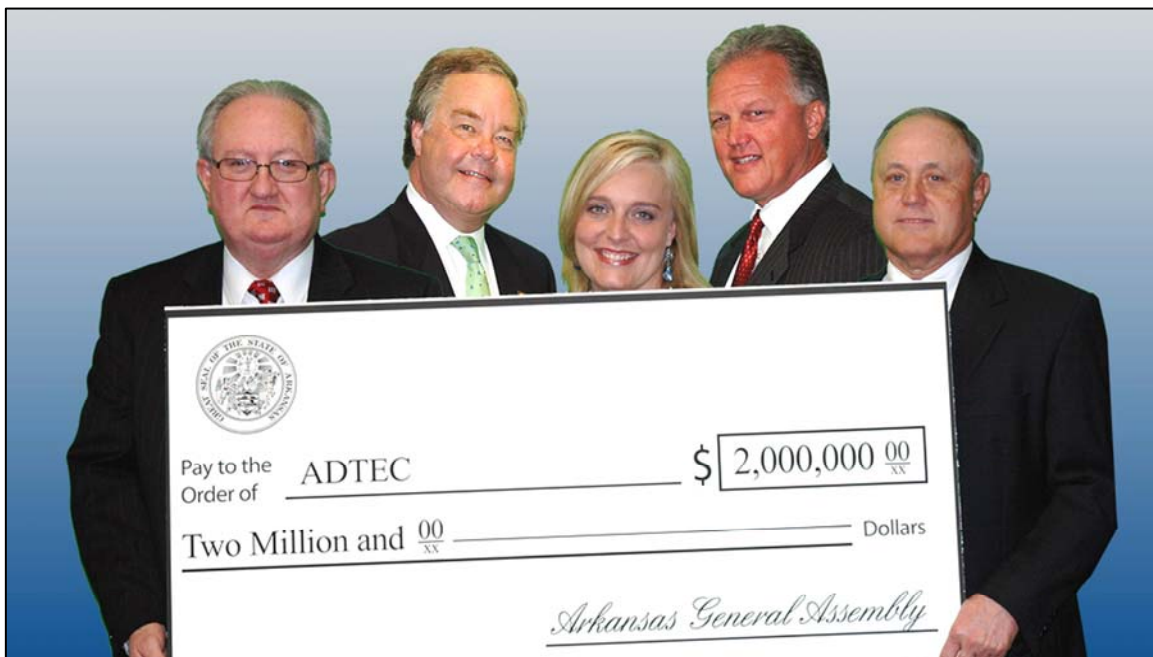
May 7, 2012

Rep. Ingram Continues Support for ADTEC, Economic Development

State Representative Keith Ingram of West Memphis has been working with Arkansas legislators and the region's two-year colleges to solidify and stabilize funding for the award-winning Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium.

For the 2011-12 fiscal year, Rep. Ingram and fellow members of the Arkansas General Assembly approved \$2 million for the ongoing training and economic development effort in Eastern Arkansas.

ADTEC, which includes Arkansas Northeastern College, Arkansas State University-Newport, East Arkansas Community College, Mid-South Community College, and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, takes an aggressive, systematic, and comprehensive approach to workforce education and training.



State Rep. Keith Ingram has led funding efforts for the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium. Pictured, from left, include Dr. Steve Murray, Chancellor, Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas; Rep. Ingram; Heather Maxwell, Executive Director, Crossroads Coalition; Dr. Glen Fenter, President, Mid-South Community College; and Dr. Coy Grace, President, East Arkansas Community College.

“The ADTEC consortium continues to build a solid foundation for job training and economic development, and its cutting-edge educational model is providing unprecedented opportunities for our region and state,” Rep. Ingram said. “ADTEC’s proactive, industry-relevant approach gives us a roadmap to future success. I appreciate my fellow lawmakers for recognizing ADTEC’s importance and helping me make funding a higher budgetary priority.”

The overall goal is to create a consistent funding model that annually recognizes the positive impact ADTEC is making on the state and region.

“ADTEC is recognized as one of the top workforce education models in the country, and we owe it to the people of our state to make a long-term commitment to this ongoing initiative,” Ingram said. “We’re all working together for the good of Arkansas, and what this consortium does on a daily basis is lay the groundwork for future investments in our state.”

“Our best opportunity for economic growth lies in producing a deep pool of well-trained and highly-skilled people ready to make businesses profitable, and that is the very core of what ADTEC does.”

MSCC President Dr. Glen Fenter said consortium members appreciate Ingram’s vision and his willingness to encourage legislators to appropriate resources to keep the initiative thriving.

“Keith has taken on a very aggressive role in creating legislative support of our efforts to sustain the ADTEC model, clearly demonstrating his resolve to help move our regional economic development endeavors to a higher plane,” Dr. Fenter said.

Dr. Coy Grace, East Arkansas Community College president, said the continuous infusion of state dollars into the consortium is vital.

“Our goal is to create a world-class workforce, and an established funding model is absolutely necessary of us to continue the momentum built over the last seven years of this innovative partnership,” he pointed out.

Dr. Steve Murray, chancellor of Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, said funding for the consortium will continue to pay great dividends.

“The investments being made in ADTEC today and tomorrow will pave the way for a brighter future for our entire region,” Dr. Murray said.

Since its inception, ADTEC has created a positive buzz in the state, region, and nation with its award-winning workforce model.

Recognition has come from Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Community College Futures Assembly, the Southern Growth Policies Board, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Together with its strategic partners, ADTEC is creating the capacity to provide a continuum of education focused on growing jobs and economic opportunity. Student learning is measured by industry-defined competencies.

“These two-year schools have created an opportunity and a strength far greater than any one campus,” Gov. Beebe said during an ADTEC dedication event at one of the member institutions. “This vision for affordable and accessible higher education is changing the entire dynamic of the Delta.”

Masingill, speaking at a 2012 meeting of the Crossroads Coalition, said ADTEC is blazing a training and economic development trail.

“If there is a single great success story from our entire region that the world wants to copy...it’s ADTEC,” Masingill pointed out. “What we’re doing here with this model is successful, and it is the No. 1 component in economic development.”

ADTEC has been recognized as a model program for four straight years. The consortium earned a 2007 Southern Growth Policies Board Innovator of the Year Award and a 2008 U.S. DOL Recognition of Excellence Award.

In 2009, ADTEC received recognition in a workforce training report commissioned by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A year later, the consortium received the prestigious Community College Futures Assembly Bellwether Award which recognizes outstanding and trend-setting programs.

Over the last seven years, more than \$55 million (from a variety of state, regional, and national sources) has been invested to catalyze high-tech training and economic development opportunities. Research has shown that the state receives \$5 for every \$1 it invests in the effort.

With funding from the Labor Department, the Delta community colleges joined forces to lay the groundwork for an industry-driven training model.

On each consortium college campus, high school students have the opportunity to select an education/career pathway while earning high school and college credit. Students can earn proficiency certificates and up to 24 college credits that apply toward higher degrees.

Traditional college students, adult learners, incumbent workers and unemployed individuals may also enter a career pathway and advance through different levels of certification or educational attainment.

In addition, ADTEC partners have implemented a University Center concept which provides students with on-site baccalaureate, graduate, and advanced professional development opportunities from regional colleges and universities.