



## Arkansas State University EDA University Center

Arkansas State University EDA University Center provides direct technical assistance and disseminates applied research in support of economic development programs and projects to the public and private sector in 12 counties in the Upper Delta region of northeastern Arkansas. The Center's mission is to harness the intellectual knowledge and resources of the university to foster economic development in the region and to become a model of university support, especially for small towns and distressed populations.

### University

Arkansas State University

### Center Director

Mary Margaret Jackson

### Center Location

Delta Center for  
Economic Development

### Center Since 2018

### Center Activities

- Applied Research
- Leadership and Workforce Development and Training
- Entrepreneurial Support

### Clients

- Local Governments and Community Organizations
- Local Businesses and Start-Ups
- Entrepreneurs and Innovators
- Students and Faculty

### Contact Information

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### Website

<https://www.astate.edu/DCED>

Arkansas State University's EDA University Center's support and services include:

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The University Center program serves as a conduit to connect the assets and expertise within the institution to the community and economic development needs of the region. Technical assistance services provided to communities and businesses include but not limited to economic impact analysis, feasibility studies, market research, survey research and evaluation, demographic reporting, strategic planning, labor market and industry analysis, and disaster resiliency strategies.

### LEADERSHIP AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The University Center program locates workforce education needs and gaps identified by business and industry in the region and coordinates services and training. In addition, the Center helps to cultivate the next generation of leaders through various leadership and professional development seminars. The Center also retains three employees for Arkansas Manufacturing Solutions, a program of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission that is designed to enhance competitiveness, productivity, and technological performance in the state's manufacturing sector. These employees provide full-time support to the manufacturers in the region.

### INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEUR SUPPORT

The University Center program supports and enhances the resources of the Arkansas State University's Innovation System, an entrepreneurial ecosystem that integrates innovation, support for start-ups, technology transfer, and various community and business partners. Specifically, the Center identifies and coordinates training for this audience and provides venues for networking and information sharing. The Center also works with local schools, university students, and the general public through various programming to spur a culture of innovation. In addition, the Center is co-located with the regional office of the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center and coordinates with them to assist small businesses in the region.



**ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Delta Center for**  
**Economic Development**

Arkansas State University EDA University Center is led by the Delta Center for Economic Development (DCED), an outreach organization of the institution that was established to support and coordinate economic development initiatives throughout the state and greater Delta region. Funding support for the University Center program is provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration.