UAMS
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

inside UAMS

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UAMS GETS INTO HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION

UAMS MOVES CLOSER TO VISION 2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

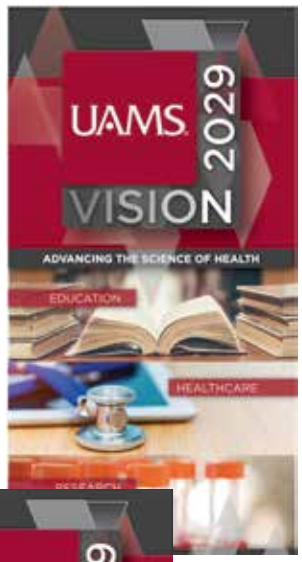
Development of a new 10-year strategic plan for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) moved another step forward following completion of a two-day retreat Dec. 4-5 where overarching objectives were set for advancing the science of health in Arkansas.

The retreat gathered representatives from the UAMS clinical, education and research missions, along with two UAMS students and a group of external stakeholders at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute in Morrilton. Over the course of the event, participants were divided into three groups and rotated through a series of sessions that allowed for discussion and feedback while crafting a series of long-range goals in clinical care, education and research; possible strategies for achieving those goals; and measures for gauging success at achieving those goals.

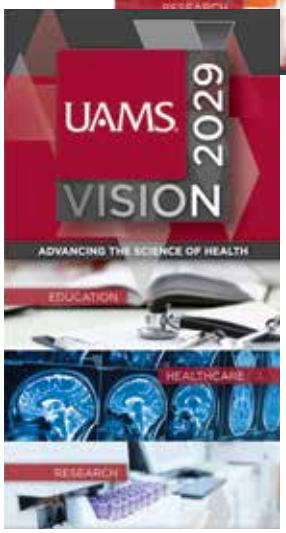
"This long-range planning process focuses us on our statewide commitment to improving health and health care in a lasting way," said UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., M.B.A. "We also seek to engage our employees in a vision to advance the science of health in Arkansas in the years to come."

At the beginning of the retreat, the participants received information and data garnered internally and externally during the initial part of the planning process. Premier Inc., a consulting firm, presented an external market analysis of the health care environment, anticipated trends and opportunities. The HR Organizational Development team presented the results of interviews of more than 60 UAMS leaders, internal focus groups, hundreds of employees who responded to a survey or attended one of six town hall meetings. The internal report included perceived UAMS strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats based on the interview results.

Following the presentations, the groups split up to draft strategic objectives based on the information. Each group rotated through the other two mission areas to review and offer feedback on each other's strategic objectives.



"The feedback and information given by Team UAMS through the interviews and town hall meetings was brought to the retreat and helped drive the formulation of strategic goals," said Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D., senior vice chancellor and provost. "But the Strategic Planning process did not end with the retreat. We are halfway through a process that will culminate when we release the final plan next June."



A draft plan is being developed based on the results of the retreat. The draft will be vetted and fine-tuned in a multi-step review. Committees from each mission area will meet to review the draft of the strategy and offer feedback.

UAMS GETS INTO HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH EMPLOYEE CELEBRATION

Leigh Austin shows off her holiday party swag. Employees were able to choose a UAMS bag, cup or phone holder as their gift.

The amazing Nutrition Services staff prepared meals for 9,000 UAMS employees. "This was a herculean effort, and I can't praise my staff enough for all of the work they put into this meal," said Director Tonya Johnson.

Lots of UAMS employees enjoyed the festive photo booth, including Rhonda M. Smith, R.N. (left) and Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA.

The holiday spirit was alive and well at UAMS as thousands of employees descended on the cafeteria Thursday, Dec. 6, for a turkey or ham dinner and all the fixins'. The festivities also occurred around the state at the various Regional Campuses.

Night and off-site employees weren't left out of the fun. Employees at University Tower, Education Building South and Freeway Medical Building were shuttled over to eat at the cafeteria. Employees on the hospital's night shift were able to pick up their meals at the Lobby Café', and holiday fare was delivered to off-site clinics on Friday, Dec. 7.

Nutrition Services catered the meal. To prepare a feast for 9,000 employees, Tonya Johnson, director of Nutrition Services, and her staff cooked 240 turkeys, 220 hams, 1,050 pounds of potatoes, 1,425 pounds of sweet potatoes, 1,500 pounds of mixed vegetables, 950 pounds of green beans and 1,200 pounds of fruit. Enough cakes and pies were baked to provide 9,000 slices.

"This was a herculean effort, and I can't praise my staff enough for all of the work they put into this meal," said Johnson.

Johnson said her team fed 5,000 people at the Dec. 6 lunch and another 1,200 that evening. Volunteers delivered 750 meals on Friday, and fed another 1,600 employees on the weekend.

The holiday celebration was the idea of Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, who wanted an event that would bring all of UAMS together.

"I knew it would be a big job to pull off a celebration for all of UAMS' 10,000-plus employees around the state," said Patterson. "I am so impressed with the remarkable job that Nutrition Services and the committee did. I know I had a wonderful time at the celebration, and I hope the rest of Team UAMS did as well."

Christina Clark, interim senior vice chancellor for campus operations and information technology, led the committee in charge of making the event happen. Committee members included Johnson, College of Health Professions Dean Susan Long, Deborah Taylor, Laura Gocio, Penny Talbert, Shelley Young, Clinton Everhart, Teresa Broady, Susan McDougal, Leslie Jordan, Jill Rush, Amber Marshall, Bonnie Hipp, C.J. Carrell, Kyle Curry, Andrea Peel, Elizabeth Bausinger, Dollie Resh, Jessica Bursk, George Hankins-Hull and Summer Khairi. Campus leaders, members of the House of Delegates and other employees also volunteered to help.

Of course, no holiday feast would be complete without carolers. Hull and Ernie Bailey oversaw the entertainment portion of the event, recruiting frequent Holly Days performers, including Janean Hardister, Luke Johnson, Anthony Costello, Melisa Clark and Heart of the Rock, featuring Kendra Henderson. Hull also led a singalong with Jane Corley, Marcia Dunbar, Jennifer Huie, Jan Shorey, M.D., and Richard Wheeler, M.D.

"One of the most amazing things about this celebration was how many people from across campus were involved," said Clark. "From the incredible crew in Nutrition Services and the committee that planned this celebration to the campus leaders who were handing out gifts, so many people volunteered their time to serve their fellow employees."

Ready to shed those holiday pounds? The UAMS Fitness Center can help.

Open 24/7, the Fitness Center costs just $15 a month and is conveniently located on the eighth floor of the Rahn Building. Come burn some calories on the elliptical machines or pump some iron in the weight room.

Looking for yoga, Zumba or other aerobics classes? Check out **http://go.uams.edu/schedule** for a full class schedule. Classes are held in the Rahn Building, Room 2202, and are included in the price of your membership.

ACCOLADES

Hauwa Anda, R.N., who works on F7 Stem Cell Transplant/MIRT, has been selected as the **January DAISY of the Month**.

Jennifer Hunnicutt, an access coordinator in the Myeloma Center, received the **Golden Mug for December** as the staff member at the Cancer Institute whose work deserves special recognition.

Steven Nichol, a patient care technician on F8 Cardiac Progressive Care, has been named the **January BEE of the Month**, an award by the Center for Nursing Excellence that honors non-nurse staff who provide exceptional care for patients and families.

F8 Cardiac Progressive Care was selected as the **Outstanding Area of the Month for January**.

IN MEMORIAM

Teresa Wellman, 89,
of North Little Rock, died Dec. 13, 2018.
She was a retired health services specialist in Radiology.

Visit the In Memoriam intranet site, http://inside.uams.edu/inmemoriam/, for full obituaries on UAMS employees and students who have passed away.

BLANKETS FOR THE HOMELESS

UAMS students (from left) Phuong Gip, Rosa Ruvalcaba Serna, Dalith Bessemepseayuk and Thelma Juarez helped distribute blankets to the homeless at Canvas Community Church. The students collected 227 blankets, 100 tarps and 100 packages of socks during their blanket drive.

HEAD START ELVES, REINDEER AND SANTA CAROL AT UAMS

Head Start students sing "Jingle Bells" in the chancellor's office.

Though a dreary mist darkened the midmorning sky outside, it was all brightness and cheer in the offices of UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, as 19 preschool carolers from UAMS Head Start Sherwood came to spread the holiday spirit.

The happy singers, led by teacher Tami Dickerson, came in elf attire, reindeer shirts and Santa hats.

"Oh my goodness! Just look at you guys!" gushed Patterson as he welcomed the 3- and 4-year-old guests to his office, bent over to greet them face-to-face, then offered high fives with a resounding "booyah" to each one.

The preschool class was continuing an 18-year tradition of caroling the UAMS chancellor just before the winter holidays, though this was the first concert for Patterson, who joined UAMS as chancellor in June 2018.

After lining up so as to be flanked by a handmade saxophone and plastic guitar, the singers launched into a jazzy rendition of the iconic holiday classic "Jingle Bells" as Patterson and numerous onlookers danced and swayed, many with cameras in hand recording the whole holly jolly proceeding. All verses covered, the sax and guitar each got their turn for a "solo" before all singers came back in for a final, emphatic chorus.

Afterward, Patterson handed out clementine Cutie oranges to each student, and they collectively gave the chancellor a green Christmas card signed by the class.

Pictures taken, the group moved on to visit Richard Turnage, M.D., vice chancellor for clinical programs and CEO of UAMS Medical Center. For him, five elves split off and gave a five-line elf cheer full of well-wishing before the entire ensemble broke into "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

From Turnage's office in Hospital Administration, the group progressed to the hospital's Lobby Café, where they sang "Where Is Santa?", "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and a reprise of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" for the gathered audience of UAMS staff, guests and patients.

Their concert tour complete, the preschoolers then headed toward the exit, but not before stopping to take a picture with a group of UAMS police officers they encountered as they waited for their bus.

UAMS Head Start serves 928 preschoolers at 17 sites in Pulaski County. UAMS has administered the Head Start program in Pulaski County since 1998.

PROJECT SEARCH INTERNS WHIP UP TASTY TREATS IN ANNUAL BAKE-OFF

The UAMS Project SEARCH interns squared off against each other Dec. 17 for the program's sixth annual bake-off.

Nine UAMS interns competed to see who would win serious bragging rights and the Champion Bake-off rolling pin. In the end, Myia Williams was victorious with her tasty Millionaire Pie earning the most votes from UAMS employees who couldn't resist sampling the array of desserts.

Midway through the event, Williams was nervous because it didn't look like many people had sampled her pie, which bore the No. 10. But she prevailed in the taste test.

She said the pie, which featured a graham cracker crust and a filling made of pineapples, cherries, whipped cream and condensed milk, was a family favorite that she sometimes makes with her mom.

Other participants also made family favorites for the contest.

Bryce Taylor made five-layer bars that included butter, sweetened condensed milk, almonds, butterscotch morsels, coconut, chocolate chips and graham cracker crumbs.

"We make this every Christmas for my family, and we all love it," he said.