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News Release

Oct. 18, 2021

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**UAMS Receives *INSIGHT Into Diversity's*
2021 Health Professions HEED Award**

LITTLE ROCK — The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has received the 2021 Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

As a recipient of the annual award, UAMS will be featured along with 50 other recipients in the December 2021 issue of the magazine. The national honor recognizes health colleges and universities in the United States that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

“It is the mandate of UAMS to care for the entire state, and it is likewise the mandate of equity that we offer our programs to all Arkansans,” said Brian Gittens, Ed.D., MPA, UAMS vice chancellor for diversity, equity and inclusion.

“I’ve been pleased to see the tremendous geographic expansion of so many of our efforts,” Gittens said. “Our work to improve the climate and culture within UAMS continues to thrive, with grassroots subcommittees that include employees from throughout the institution who advise us on policy decisions that will create more equitable hiring, offer more opportunity for mentoring and research for minority scholars, and create a more welcoming environment that respects the identity of all individuals.”

UAMS was also named a Diversity Champion, which means it scored in the top tier of all HEED Award institutions.

In selecting recipients of the Health Professions HEED Award, the magazine rigorously reviews answers to questions about the recruitment and retention of students and employees, and best practices for both. It also considers answers related to continued leadership support for diversity and other aspects of campus diversity and inclusion.

“We take a detailed approach to reviewing each application in deciding who will be named a Health Professions HEED Award recipient,” said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher

of the magazine. “Our standards are high, and we look for schools where diversity and inclusion are woven into the work being done every day across the campus.”

“Our work has earned us recognition as a 2021 Health Professions HEED award recipient and Diversity Champion, but work remains as we continue our efforts in accordance with the chancellor’s 2029 strategic plan,” Gittens said.

A list of all of the 2021 award recipients is available on the [magazine’s website](#).

UAMS is the state's only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; hospital; a main campus in Little Rock; a Northwest Arkansas regional campus in Fayetteville; a statewide network of regional campuses; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, Psychiatric Research Institute, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Translational Research Institute and Institute for Digital Health & Innovation. UAMS includes UAMS Health, a statewide health system that encompasses all of UAMS' clinical enterprise including its hospital, regional clinics and clinics it operates or staffs in cooperation with other providers. UAMS is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. *U.S. News & World Report* recognized UAMS Medical Center as a Best Hospital for 2021-22; ranked its ear, nose and throat program among the top 50 nationwide for the third year; and named five areas as high performing — colon cancer surgery, diabetes, hip replacement, knee replacement and stroke. *Forbes* magazine ranked UAMS as seventh in the nation on its Best Employers for Diversity list. UAMS also ranked in the top 30% nationwide on *Forbes*' Best Employers for Women list and was the only Arkansas employer included. UAMS has 2,876 students, 898 medical residents and six dental residents. It is the state's largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including 1,200 physicians who provide care to patients at UAMS, its regional campuses, Arkansas Children's, the VA Medical Center and Baptist Health. Visit www.uams.edu or www.uamshealth.com. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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