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**UAMS Receives Roger Carter Award of Excellence
From National Rehabilitation Association**

LITTLE ROCK — The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) received the Roger Carter Award of Excellence for a Large Employer from the National Rehabilitation Association during a virtual ceremony today. UAMS was recognized because of the success of its Project SEARCH program, a job-training program that helps young adults with disabilities develop independent living and working skills.

“UAMS is honored to be presented with this award,” said Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, UAMS chancellor and CEO of UAMS Health. “Project SEARCH is a tremendous program that offers young adults with disabilities the opportunity to learn skills that will help them find full-time employment.”

The Roger Carter Award of Excellence honors an employer who has demonstrated exemplary achievement in the recruitment, hiring and retention of persons with disabilities throughout all levels within the company. Roger Carter was a rehabilitation counselor with Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services who provided years of dedicated services to individuals, the community and the National Rehabilitation Association. He passed away unexpectedly in 2018, and the award was established in his honor.

A nine-month internship program for young adults with developmental disabilities, UAMS Project SEARCH is a partnership with the Little Rock-based nonprofit ACCESS® and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. Interns participate in the program with the goal of gaining necessary skills to obtain competitive employment.

UAMS Project SEARCH was first of its kind in central Arkansas. It was modeled after a program that began in 1996 at the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Since UAMS Project SEARCH began in 2013, more than 82 interns have gone through the program with 90 percent finding employment.

“I want to say when Project SEARCH first appeared on our campus, we believed the program would provide UAMS an opportunity to help young adults with disabilities reach their potential,” said Odette Woods, senior director of staff diversity, equity and inclusion in the UAMS Division for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, during the virtual award ceremony. “It has done that. However, it has done so much more. As our

employees, students and guests interacted with Project SEARCH interns and alumni, our campus culture changed by becoming more inclusive and welcoming to all Arkansans — regardless of their abilities or disabilities. For that we are grateful.”

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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