

**UAMS News Bureau**

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**Schmieding Foundation Gives \$500,000  
to Support STEM-H Academy in Springdale**

LITTLE ROCK — The Schmieding Foundation, Inc., gifted \$500,000 to Springdale’s Pathway Academy, which will be renamed the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Schmieding Foundation Pathways Academy of Springdale in recognition of the nonprofit’s continued support for UAMS.

The Pathways Academy program is a statewide initiative managed by the UAMS Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DDEI) that works to prepare low-income K-12 students for educational and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health care (STEM-H) disciplines.

“We are excited to partner with UAMS to help provide students in Springdale the necessary resources to prepare them for careers in STEM-H” said Lance Taylor, president of Schmieding Foundation, Inc. “Through this program, we will not only increase education opportunities in the state, but we will also help grow the workforce to transform Arkansas into a regional health care leader.”

The goal of the program is to diversify the health care workforce in Arkansas, advancing a strategic objective outlined in Vision 2029 — UAMS’ plan to deliver dramatic and lasting health and health care improvements to make Arkansas the healthiest state in the region through its synergies of education, clinical care and research. In addition to Springdale, there are Pathway Academies in Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Hot Springs and Jonesboro.

“To address the gaps in health care in Arkansas, we must diversify our medical workforce and that begins with engaging K-12 students of all backgrounds in STEM-H programming,” said Brian Gittens, Ed.D., MPA, UAMS vice chancellor for DDEI. “The UAMS Pathways Academy program is key to achieving the goals of Vision 2029, and we are grateful for the Schmieding Foundation for its support of the program.”

Beyond STEM-H programming, the UAMS Schmieding Foundation Pathways Academy curriculum will also incorporate concepts related to nutrition, mental health, community service and other life skills. Students will also participate in experiential site visits,

including trips to the academy, to learn firsthand about the array of STEM-H careers available to them.

In addition to the academy, the Schmieding Foundation's commitment to the health care and education of children in Northwest Arkansas includes the nonprofit's support through UAMS Schmieding Kids First and the UAMS Schmieding Developmental Center. The nonprofit, which was created by brothers Lawrence and Hubert "Bert" Schmieding, also constructed and provided programmatic and operational resources for the Schmieding Center for Senior Health and Education in Springdale, the first facility of its kind in the state. Now, it is a nationally-recognized program for healthy aging. In 2019, the Schmieding Foundation generously gifted the building to the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees for the benefit of UAMS.

"UAMS is humbled by the continued support of the Schmieding Foundation and are inspired by its leadership in health care and education in Northwest Arkansas," said Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, UAMS chancellor and CEO of UAMS Health. "The UAMS Schmieding Foundation Pathways Academy is further evidence of Lawrence Schmieding's lasting legacy of generosity for young and old alike."

UAMS is the state's only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; a 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. 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. UAMS has 3,047 students, 873 medical residents and fellows, and six dental residents. It is the state's largest public employer with more than 11,000 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](http://www.uams.edu) or [www.uamshealth.com](http://www.uamshealth.com). Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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