



September 7, 2023

Dear Members of the Campus Community,

Henderson State University has announced enrollment of 2,139 students for the Fall 2023 semester—a decrease of approximately 15 percent from the Fall 2022 semester. Our enrollment exceeds the budget projections for this academic year, and we will continue to build a size and shape that is sustainable for the future.

Moving into Fall 2023 from Year Zero into Year One, we have worked to address structural deficits to support student success and begin to build enrollment from the inside-out. We are implementing the resources needed to reimagine college for all students, and our commitment to make college affordable continues with no tuition increase this year.

New resources that meet student needs and provide opportunities for engagement and belonging are critical to boost retention and empower more students to persist and graduate:

- During Welcome Week, 877 students participated in the Reddie Hub, a one-stop shop where students could register and receive assistance to resolve questions.
- The Reddie Outreach Center (ROC) is now open in the Garrison Center and includes a food pantry, clothes closet, and life skills education center.
- The Reddie Student Success Center is beginning to consolidate academic services and tutoring at Huie Library with full implementation expected in Spring 2024.
- More than 30 events took place during Welcome Week—including time-honored traditions such as the Pine Tree Assembly and Street Dance and new events such as a Caddo River float trip and community food truck festival.
- A reimagined first-year experience, Henderson Seminar, kicks off this fall, and a second-year experience is in the early stages of development for Fall 2024.
- New degrees, including natural sciences and secondary education-mathematics, were approved by the State of Arkansas to meet student and community workforce needs.
- New technology tools within Banner, along with the addition of Navigate (with direct support to students), are being implemented to focus performance on enrollment, completion, and instructional outcomes.

We are already seeing progress from the #StudentsFirst initiatives this semester and will continue to work together to build a stronger Henderson. Thank you for your work to engage students and to help prepare them to be #ReddieForWhatsNext.

Joining you in service,

Chuck Ambrose