



STATE OF ARKANSAS
ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

January 9, 2018

Dear Presidents and Chancellors of Arkansas's Four-Year Universities:

During the 2018 Fiscal Session, I will be requesting approval from the Arkansas General Assembly for an increase of \$10 million in higher education funding. This new increase is to support the productivity funding model recently passed by the General Assembly. I am grateful for your support of this landmark legislation.

During the last ten years, the four-year universities in Arkansas have approved in-state tuition increases ranging from a low of 3.03% to a high of 6.21%. These represent averages of all four-year institutions. I appreciate the increased emphasis of each institution in improved efficiency and reducing the cost burden on our students. Our mutual goal is to serve students to increase the number of credentials earned and in a more efficient and affordable manner.

To further the higher education goal of student affordability, I am requesting all of our public universities to hold flat their tuition rates for in-state students for the coming academic year. I challenge our public two-year colleges to keep any tuition increases to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or below. Controlling costs for students sends a strong message to students, tax payers, and legislators that we are serious about making a college education obtainable for everyone and that our institutions of higher education can be trusted with their investment.

Each of you have been excellent partners in strengthening higher education in Arkansas. If I can be of assistance in achieving the goal of affordable education, then I stay ready to work with you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Asa Hutchinson".

Asa Hutchinson