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## CHANCELLOR STEINMETZ HITS THE ROAD

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After five days, 12 cities and 1,000 miles, Chancellor Joe and Sandy Steinmetz's Arkansas bus tour rolled back home to Fayetteville as dusk began to fall Friday, May 20.

"I've learned a lot about Arkansas the past several months, but I gained a new appreciation for the beauty and diversity of our state on this week-long bus tour," Steinmetz said. "Arkansans are amazing, the most welcoming people Sandy and I have ever met. It's impossible to see everything the state has to offer on such a short trip, but we made many new friends and learned a lot. This was a great start."

The goal was to meet with educators, state and local leaders, alumni and students to get a better feel for the unique traditions and needs of the state. More than 71,000 alumni call Arkansas home.

The tour rolled through the Boston Mountains to Fort Smith and into the Ouachitas to Mena on the morning of day one. After a stop in Hope, the team ended the day with an alumni event in Texarkana.

Day two crossed the timber country of south Arkansas from Texarkana to El Dorado, where Joe and Sandy Steinmetz and the U of A leadership team met with faculty, staff and students at El Dorado High School. The day ended – and day three began – in Stuttgart, where the team toured the Dale Bumpers Rice Research Center and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station.

The bus tour continued across the Delta to Helena-West Helena on Wednesday, where the chancellor and Charles Robinson, vice chancellor for student affairs, announced at Central High School a new \$2.4 million program for students in 26 counties across the Arkansas delta.

The Accelerated Student Achievement Program will serve first-generation and low-income students. It is being established at the U of A through a grant from the Walton Family Foundation. The program is a four-year pilot initiative designed to improve college retention and completion through targeted outreach to these students with admissions counseling, college readiness support and career planning.

An alumni event in Newport capped off the day, followed the next morning by stops in Searcy to visit leaders and students at Harding University and a sample Yarnell's Ice Cream. Then it was on to Little Rock to meet with legislators at the state Capitol, and meet faculty, staff and students at historic Central High School.

The tour wrapped up with alumni events in Little Rock and Conway and finally a tour of the Post Familie Winery in Altus.

Steinmetz, a first-generation college graduate, joined the U of A in January, coming from Ohio State University, and has spent his

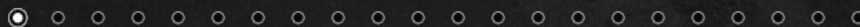
first five months as chancellor meeting with all 75 academic departments and many centers, hundreds of faculty, students and staff as he works to develop the future academic plan for the state's flagship institution.

The statewide tour is a key element of that effort, as well.

"I've been looking forward to this bus tour for months," Steinmetz said. "Meeting with people across the state is the best way to learn the unique traditions and needs of Arkansas."



BUS BOUND

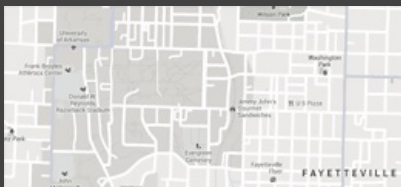


## WHERE'S JOE?





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