



Evidence Document

for Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation

Document Title: The Spirit Scholars Program

Office of Origin: Diversity Affairs

Document Summary:

The Sprit Scholars program at the University of Arkansas is a college preparatory academy for prospective young entrepreneurs, comprised of low-income and first-generation high school juniors and seniors who are interested in business. The scholars will develop business development, accounting, communication, presentation, collaboration, innovation, financial literacy, and more.



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



The Spirit Scholars Program

serving 30 promising first-generation and low-income high school students with a dynamic, faculty-led curriculum in college readiness and business development

The Spirit Scholars program at the University of Arkansas is a college preparatory academy for prospective young entrepreneurs - a diverse cohort of promising low-income and first-generation high school juniors and seniors who are interested in business. The residential program will provide five days of intensive college readiness workshops, professional networking opportunities, and an activities-based entrepreneurship curriculum in the context of a college-like experience. Participants will engage with campus staff, faculty, and student mentors and develop their college-level analytical, research, communication, and presentation skills.

The U of A Spirit Scholars will be competitively selected based on their academic profile, their interest in business, recommendations from teachers and community members, and an essay regarding academic opportunity and the spirit of enterprise and entrepreneurship. Spirit Scholars will be mentored by professional staff who specialize in college readiness and retention; business leaders who will guide and assess the students' projects; and by promising college student leaders who study business and demonstrate academic excellence. After the program, staff in University of Arkansas Diversity Affairs and in the Sam M. Walton College of Business will engage in structured follow-up and regular correspondence with the Spirit Scholars as they complete high school and transition to college.

A week of inspiration and enterprise

networking, business development, accounting, communication, presentation, collaboration, innovation, financial literacy, essay-writing, and college planning

Spirit Scholars will develop business plans, learn accounting and presentation skills, improve their readiness for the ACT and college admissions and scholarship applications, network with business leaders, and visit business innovation centers

FACILITATED BY DIVERSITY AFFAIRS & THE SAM M. WALTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS