

A letter from the Dean:

Welcome to your first year with the Neil Griffin College of Business at Arkansas State! I look forward to working with you throughout the next four years. I have a few items to share as we begin this journey together.

Be sure to dedicate time to study and prepare for your classes each week. This means completing the assigned reading, but it also means the time to make sure you understand the concepts being presented and writing down your questions. Bring those questions to class with you and don't be afraid to ask them during class, after class, or during office hours visits with your professors. Don't be a passive learner. Questions, discussion, and applying concepts are keys to deeper learning. You will retain the information longer and understand how to apply what you have learned to new types of problems. After all, one of your primary goals in business will be to find solutions to problems. Use your time at A-State to learn how to ask questions, make sure you understand the question, gather and analyze information, and present solutions. The curriculum and opportunities at A-State will equip you with the tools necessary for each one of those steps.

Getting involved is another essential aspect of your business education. You will have opportunities to attend events, join student organizations, participate in research projects, complete an internship, and study abroad during your time in the Griffin College. I want you to take advantage of every one of those opportunities. You can attend events across campus that allow you to learn about other subjects, explore other cultures, enjoy the arts, and cheer for your friends who are in plays, band performances, and athletics. Or you might want to be in a play, one of the musical groups, or on an athletic team. (If you are, please let me know and I will attend and cheer for you.)

Student organizations provide a place to belong, learning experiences, and leadership opportunities. We have several active student organizations in the Griffin College of Business, and one will be a great fit for you. In addition to student organizations in the Griffin College, get involved other organizations across campus that will include new friends and opportunities to learn about topics outside of business.

While you are at it, establish new friendships with students from other countries. You can learn about cultures from around the globe during your time on campus. Since I have you thinking about other cultures, you might want to start making plans for a study abroad experience in the future. We have bilateral exchange agreements with universities in Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. You can spend a semester or longer at our bilateral partner universities while paying your regular A-State tuition. There are also shorter-term (2 – 4 weeks) faculty-led study abroad trips to countries around the world. Did I mention that there is frequently scholarship money available to help fund your study abroad experience?

Thank you for joining the Neil Griffin College of Business community of learners. Please stop by my office (BU 102) for a visit sometime.



Jim Washam, PhD, CTP, FPAC
Dean & McAdams Frierson Professor of Bank Management

