

NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

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**University of Central Arkansas receives
Jesse L. Moore 2022 Supplier Diversity Award**

CONWAY—The University of Central Arkansas received the Jesse L. Moore Supplier 2022 Supplier Diversity Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity magazine and website in higher education today.

The *INSIGHT Into Diversity* Jesse L. Moore 2022 Supplier Diversity Award is a national recognition honoring colleges and universities that take proactive steps to support and engage with minority-owned businesses through supplier diversity offices, unique programs and leading initiatives. Winners will be showcased in the April 2022 issue of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine.

“Success in supplier diversity at UCA has occurred due to cross-campus collaborations,” said Angela Webster, UCA’s chief diversity officer. “UCA’s Minority Vendor Partnership Initiative is under the auspices of the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, but the Division of Outreach and Community Engagement, as well as the Division of Finance and Administration, the Physical Plant and the purchasing office, have served as dynamic campus partners.”

Each year, trillions of dollars are spent on goods and services by institutions of higher education, yet there is little recognition of the contributions colleges and universities are making to support diverse suppliers in their communities. The *INSIGHT Into Diversity* Jesse L. Moore 2022 Supplier Diversity Award recipients were selected by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* based on their efforts to engage and retain suppliers from underrepresented groups.

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine selected UCA because the university has initiated a variety of longstanding initiatives such as professional development sessions, expos and showcases that offer both education and exposure to minority business owners.

The Minority Vendor Partnership Initiative also received funding from the Women’s Foundation of Arkansas to conduct and publish a study on the challenges and opportunities for women of color in business. Through the Women’s Empowerment Hub, some women received \$5,000 in capital for their businesses. Kristy Carter, director of marketing for Outreach and Community engagement and principal investigator, continues to make presentations about the results of this research around the state.

“When it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), colleges and universities have traditionally put their resources into recruiting and retaining diverse students and employees — however, there is a third leg of DEI that focuses on supplier diversity. The *INSIGHT Into Diversity* Jesse L. Moore Supplier Diversity Award, named in honor of longtime advocate and economic development pioneer Jesse L. Moore for his leadership in promoting supplier diversity and the success of minority-owned businesses, is our way of ensuring this critical area of DEI also gets recognized for the important role that it plays,” said Lenore Pearlstein, co-publisher of *INSIGHT Into Diversity*.

A call for nominations for this award was announced in December 2021.

For more information about the *INSIGHT Into Diversity* Jesse L. Moore 2022 Supplier Diversity Award and *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, visit insightintodiversity.com.

About *INSIGHT Into Diversity*

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine is the largest, oldest, and only print diversity and inclusion publication in higher education today. *INSIGHT Into Diversity* is known for its annual *INSIGHT Into Diversity* Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, the only award that recognizes colleges and universities for outstanding diversity and inclusion efforts across their campuses. *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine presents timely, thought-provoking news and feature stories on matters of diversity and inclusion in higher education and beyond. Articles include interviews with innovators and experts, as well as explorations of best practices and profiles of exemplary programs. *INSIGHT Into Diversity's* online Career Center allows readers to discover thousands of employment opportunities that connect job seekers with institutions and businesses that embrace a diverse and inclusive workforce. Current, archived, and digital issues of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine are available online at insightintodiversity.com.

Caption:

Members of the UCA Minority Vendor Partnership Initiative Committee are (front row, from left) Kristy Carter, Cassandra McCuien-Smith, Shaneil Ealy (back row, from left) Candice Maxwell, Meghan Payne-Cowan, Angela Webster, Reuel Shepherd and Elizabeth Gayfield.