

# EL DORADO PROMISE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

EL DORADO

WILDCATS



January 2014

EHS Class of 2013 is pictured above with Shane Broadway, Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education who visited the High School on Academic Signing Day. Photo by W.I. Bell.

## By The Numbers

**1,444**

Total Promise scholarship recipients to-date

**90**

Percentage of 2013 Promise-eligible Class enrolled in college

**91**

Percentage of Promise college freshmen who completed at least one year of college

**62**

Percentage of the Promise recipients who have completed at least two years of college

## About the El Dorado Promise

In January 2007, El Dorado Public Schools (EPS) Superintendent Bob Watson announced the establishment of a scholarship program called the El Dorado Promise. This exceptional scholarship program reaches beyond the boundaries of economic need and academic ability to pay up to 100% of college tuition and mandatory fees for potentially every graduate of El Dorado High School. As the Promise celebrates its seventh anniversary in 2014, 1,444 students have received Promise scholarship funding.

Established and funded by Murphy Oil Corporation, the El Dorado Promise scholarship funds can be used at any accredited two or four-year college or university in the U.S. The Promise is available to all students who graduate from El Dorado High School and have been an EPS student since at least the ninth grade. The scholarship amount is determined by length of attendance in the District.

For example, graduates who have attended all 13 years at EPS will receive 100% of the scholarship. Students who attend ninth through twelfth grades at EPS will receive 65% of the scholarship.

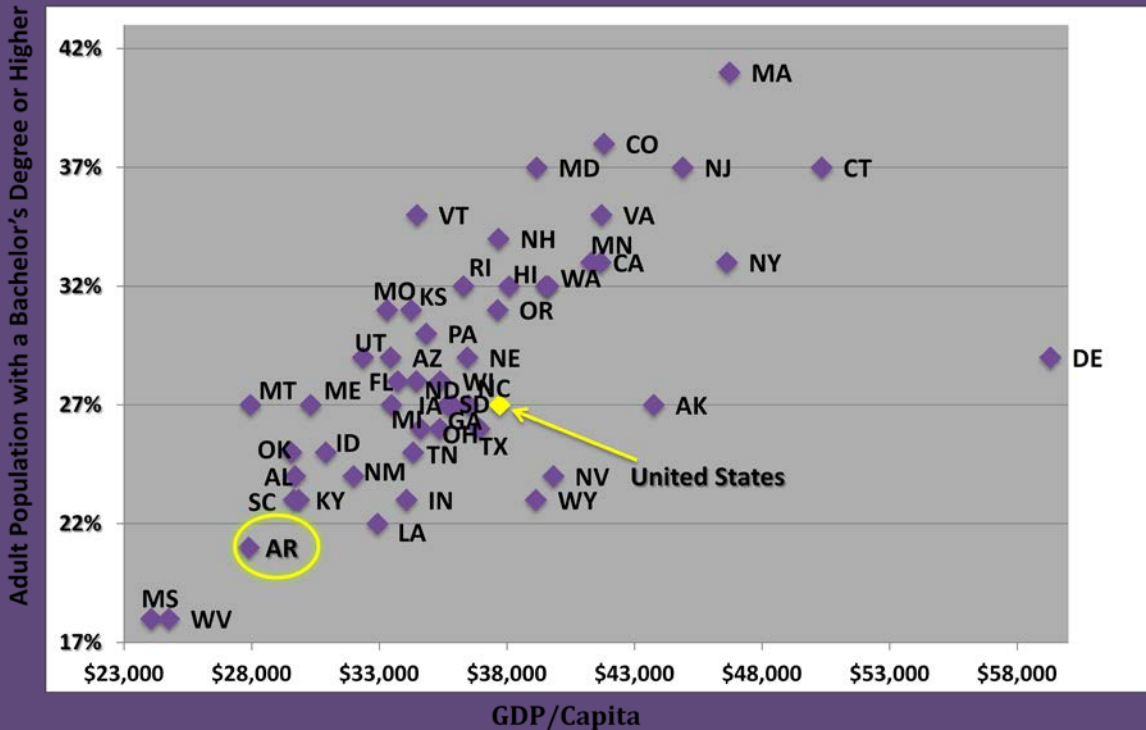
The maximum annual amount payable per student is based on the maximum level resident tuition payable at an Arkansas public university. In 2013-2014, the highest tuition rate in the state was \$7,595 per year for a student taking 15 credit hours.

The goals of the El Dorado Promise include greater educational attainment, a vibrant economy, and an improved quality of life. Understanding the strong correlation between overall academic achievement and a community's economic vitality and quality of life, the Promise is an investment in El Dorado's greatest resource: our children.



# HOW EDUCATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

When asked why Murphy Oil Corporation decided to fund the El Dorado Promise, Chairman of the Murphy Oil Board of Directors Claiborne Deming said, "Education is the one thing you can give people that can permanently change their lives." Studies show that higher education does make a difference in the quality of life and economy of a region. In a recent speech, Governor Mike Beebe noted that Arkansas currently ranks 49<sup>th</sup> in a list of states that have adults with college degrees. The chart below shows the direct correlation between the percentage of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher and the GDP per capita for the state. The state of Arkansas ranks below average in both categories. Offering the opportunity for higher education to the students of El Dorado has the potential to make an economic impact on the community and the state.

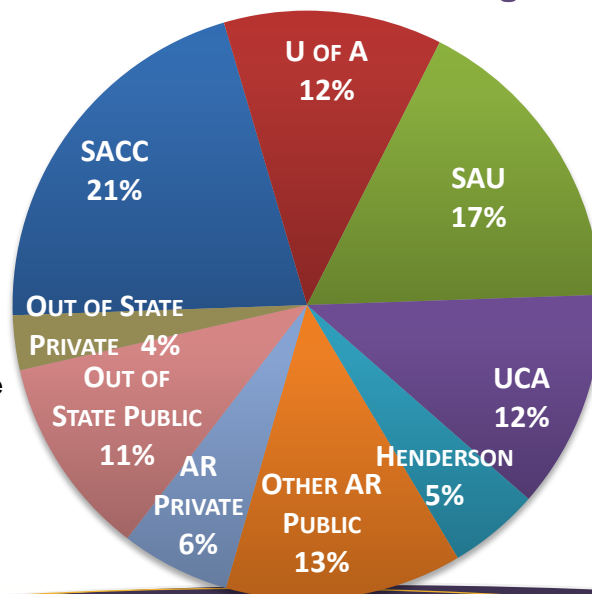


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis ([www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)), [HigherEdInfo.org](http://HigherEdInfo.org)

## Where Promise Students Are Going to College

### Promise Recipients Have Graduated From The Following Universities:

- Arkansas State University
- Belmont University
- Central Baptist College
- Cornell College
- Emory University
- Grambling State University
- Harding University
- Hendrix College
- Henderson State University
- Louisiana Tech University
- Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge
- Louisiana State University – Shreveport
- McPherson College
- Mississippi State University
- Notre Dame University
- Oral Roberts University
- Ouachita Baptist University
- Saint Louis University



### Promise Recipients Have Graduated From The Following Universities:

- South Arkansas Community College
- Southern Arkansas University
- Southern Methodist University
- Tulane University
- University of the South – Sewanee
- University of Louisiana – Monroe
- University of Mississippi
- University of the Ozarks
- University of Arkansas – Fayetteville
- University of Arkansas – Monticello
- University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- University of Central Arkansas
- University of Central Oklahoma
- University of Texas – Austin
- Vanderbilt University
- Westminster College

