

## Schmidt joins A-State Administrative Leadership Team as Chief of Staff

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Newly appointed Chief of Staff Lane Schmidt likes Arkansas State University's emphasis on enhancing research, recruiting and retaining students, and continuing to build its reputation for providing quality higher education.

Schmidt recently joined the university administration to provide strategic support and assistance to Chancellor Todd Shields and Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Calvin White Jr. "I view the chief of staff position as an essential role that can be leveraged to benefit our campus," Schmidt says. "I am excited to work with Chancellor Shields, Provost White, and their executive leadership teams to identify and operationalize campus priorities and special projects."

With a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa, Schmidt previously served for a decade in higher education administrative roles at the University of Arkansas.

Following his experience in the academic initiatives and integrity division, Schmidt progressed to become executive assistant to the deans of the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design, then chief of staff and executive director of communication for the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, the university's largest college.

"I have been lucky to work on several amazing executive leadership teams in higher education and think that will benefit my work here," he continued. "At A-State, I will help clearly communicate goals and provide support to meet them."

That work will support institutional goals and administrative initiatives articulated by Chancellor Shields since beginning his tenure at A-State in 2022, followed by Provost White's arrival last July.

"We're so happy to have Lane join the A-State leadership team," Shields said. "In the time I've worked with him, I've known him to be an excellent communicator, able to provide nuanced and strategic management of special projects, along with support of day-to-day operations."

White, who also has worked closely with Schmidt, emphasized his talent with providing insight to colleagues and building relationships with high-priority stakeholders, both on campus and the state at large.

"Lane has extensive experience creating bonds on and off campus, working closely with university central administrators, deans, department chairs, and key external constituents," White noted. "I see him as a facilitator and collaborator, who can help support and accelerate our campus initiatives."

Schmidt said he sees so



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

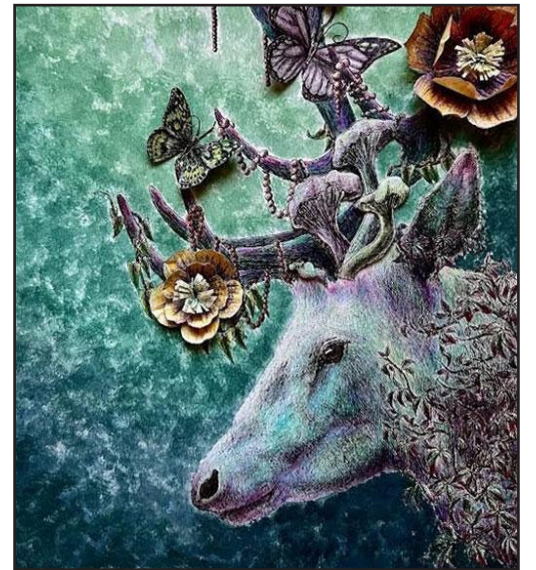
Lane Schmidt, new chief of staff

many opportunities at A-State, adding to the other incentives that attracted him to Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas.

"Arkansas State is uniquely situated to serve swaths of the state that have largely been ignored by other institutions," he continued. "We are fulfilling the land-grant mission for the state, without being a land-grant institution. We know those gaps exist and I am excited to continue my professional support of Arkansans."

When he's not attending to duties at A-State, Schmidt enjoys family ties, especially the excitement of being uncle to 13 nieces and nephews all under the age of 12... some of whom he hopes may join the Pack someday, he added with a smile.

## BAM "Inspired 9" features exhibition including area high school students



A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Bradbury Art Museum (BAM) at Arkansas State University will open an exhibition featuring local high school students on Dec. 7, from 5 until 6:30 p.m.

"Inspired" is an annual, competitive exhibition offered to regional high school students.

Students highlighted at the event have created artwork in response to what they saw during a visit to BAM.

"Students virtually submitted their work and artist statements for consideration by a juror. Through this exhibition, participants get to see the work of contemporary artists and are given an early glimpse into the process of exhibiting their own art in a professional setting,"

said Madeline McMahan, museum curator and educator.

This year, students were inspired by two exhibitions showcased at BAM earlier this fall. "Sweet Dreams," an exhibition featuring fantasy and surreal contemporary artwork, as well as "Memento-Mori," a solo exhibition of sculpture by artist Michael Warrick served as inspiration.

The juror for "Inspired 9" is Lana Stephens, a professional artist and educator whose work was included in "Sweet Dreams."

"I hope the audience enjoys the exhibition as much as I enjoyed looking at the images and selecting the works for display. I was deeply moved by some of the work as well as visually stunned by the beauty of others," said Stephens.

Stephens works out of

the Seattle area and has been exhibiting her work for nine years. From a record number of submissions from 10 regional schools, she selected the works included in this exhibition.

BAM will present several awards and display them on tags next to the awarded works. Included in the exhibition are 65 works by students from 10 area high schools:

Also on view will be a series of drawings by Stephens, as previously seen in "Sweet Dreams."

Admission to the museum is free. The exhibition will continue through Tuesday, Dec. 19. Hours are noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For additional information about the exhibition, one may email [visitBAM@AState.edu](mailto:visitBAM@AState.edu) or call 870-972-3765.

### EVOLVE, CONTINUED



PHOTO COURTESY OF TONI JONES

Members of Evolve and Mr. and Mrs. Put It On contestants. This was the first time Evolve hosted Mr. and Mrs. Put It On.

Alexander Veasey, a junior financial management major from Little Rock, said Mr. and Mrs. Put It On was not his first time competing.

"I love to model and do fashion shows. I've done a few at Dillard's and when I was in high school I used to model as well," Veasey said. "Being a part of another model gig was very exciting to me."

When designing outfits, sophomore Eddie Lee Pirtle, a theatre major from Memphis, said he tried to pick things nobody would expect.

"When you've got good energy and you can turn the crowd up, you can make any

fit, no matter the category, look good on you," Pirtle said.

Evolve vice president Gabe Fortenberry, a junior interdisciplinary studies major from Olive Branch, Mississippi, said the organization served as a way to boost confidence in its participants.

"We weren't expecting it to affect them in such a way because, from the beginning, some of them were shy. At the end once it was over, I was looking at completely different people," Fortenberry said. "It's just really heartwarming and be like 'oh my gosh, we did this and we helped them come out of there.'"

### PERIOD POWER, CONTINUED

They packaged bags of eight tampons, eight pads and eight panty liners, distributing them to the A-State Food Pantry, the NYIT Medical Clinic on campus, the Craighead County Health Department,

Bono Church of Christ food pantry and other locations within the Jonesboro/Northeast Arkansas area. They packaged almost 300 full bags, with over 200 bags that were halfway

full or partially filled. For the Mr. Rhomeo Pageant, hosted by the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Schaufler presented the period poverty drive as his community service initiative.

"I took monetary donations or physical donations and I was able to package the same bags and package 82 of them," Schaufler said.

The Period Power initiative earned \$267 in donations,

with 75 individual physical products donated as of Dec. 4.

Period Power donations end Dec. 6, but they won't complete their last rounds of donations for Finally Susan until Dec. 13.

If students miss the

deadline, they can donate to Finally Susan through the CashApp, <https://www.cash.app/>

[Smelanieleac](https://www.cash.app/).

### ART, CONTINUED

They packaged bags of eight handmade stuff," Matthews said. "I got a tote bag and I really hard and I really love

got a keychain from Heaven."

Parker said the event helps open doors for the students involved.

"A lot of them think 'I could never do something like this' and then they do it

and they realize it's possible to open some doors that they might have previously thought

were closed," Parker said.