

Three top candidates interview for dean of proposed veterinary college at A-State

A-STATE NEWS

PRESS RELEASE

Three highly qualified individuals from veterinary schools in neighboring states have completed the interview process as finalist candidates to become the next dean for the proposed College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at Arkansas State University. “We have been delighted to see such strong interest in this critically important leadership position,” stated Dr. Len Frey, executive vice chancellor for finance and administration and co-chair of the CVM search committee. “All three finalists have the potential to bring to Arkansas State University the leadership qualities necessary to guide us through the final steps to get the state’s only public veterinary college up and running.” A-State began advertising in January for applicants and nominees. The dean will be chief administrative officer for the CVM, responsible for its missions in teaching, research

and service. Primary duties will include oversight for all academic programs associated with the CVM, along with management of budget and other resources. The finalists: – Heidi E. Cox Banse has been associate dean for educational strategy in the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University since January 2022. An associate professor, Banse earned her bachelor’s degree in veterinary science and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, and a Ph.D. in veterinary biomedical sciences at Oklahoma State University. – Martin O. Furr has served as professor and head of the department of physiological sciences since 2015 at Oklahoma State University, where also became senior assistant dean, clinical programs, in 2021. Furr earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Oklahoma State, followed by a certificate of residency in large animal internal medicine at Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center

at Virginia Tech, a Ph.D. at the University of Maryland, and master’s in health professions education at Michigan State. – Carolyn J. Henry has held dual appointments as professor of oncology in the College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Medicine at the University of Missouri since 2008. She served as dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine from 2018-2023. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Eastern Kentucky University and her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Auburn University, then later added a master’s in small animal surgery and medicine. “Many thanks to Dr. Frey, co-chair Dr. Travis Marsico, and the committee for identifying exceptional candidates for this critical role for the university and the state,” said Dr. Calvin White Jr., provost and executive vice chancellor. “The caliber of the pool and the institutions they represent demonstrate the committee’s diligence and the uniqueness of the opportunity.” White shared that next steps include discussions with



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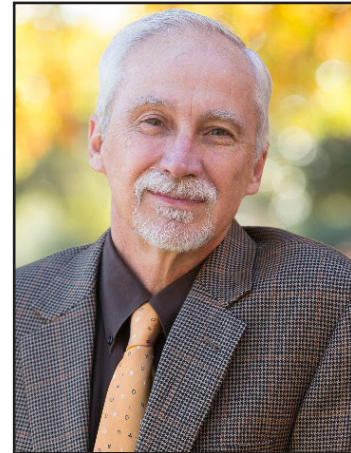


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Dr. Heidi Banse

stakeholders in the coming days. He added, “I understand the importance of this hire and how it will forever change the educational landscape in Arkansas. I choose wise counsel over haste; however, I will make the decision over the coming days.” The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved A-State’s plan to establish a College of Veterinary Medicine and its outline for the school, including the potential

Dr. Martin Furr

for 40 new faculty and staff positions dedicated to the DVM program, at its July 2023 meeting. The state board also approved the program of study along with the individual program requirements and courses. A-State has forwarded its plans and ADHE’s approval to the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Council on Education, the world’s leading accrediting body for colleges of veterinary medicine. As A-State advances toward

Dr. Carolyn Henry

establishing the CVM, founding dean Dr. Glen Hoffsis will continue to support the process, including planning for faculty, curriculum and facilities. With a current goal of admitting the first cohort of students in 2026, A-State’s College of Veterinary Medicine will provide opportunities for students to become veterinarians, meet the projected needs of Arkansas and beyond for veterinary services, and become an economic driver for the State of Arkansas.

Members of the community celebrate Social Justice and Equality Day



Photo by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

BRIEF BY RACHEL RUDD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Members of the campus and community gathered in the auditorium to kick off the celebration of Social Justice and Equality Day. Hosted by Future for Felons, a faith-based organization that aims to secure jobs for felons getting out of jail, the event featured keynote speakers Shamal Carter, president of the NAACP Craighead County chapter and Jonesboro Police Department Chief Rick Elliot. Carter and Elliot spoke about the importance of social equality and how to promote equality within one’s community. In addition to featuring keynote speakers, for the entire day, rides

on the Jonesboro Economic Transportation System were free. “We’re at a place where we’re saying I’m no longer accepting the things I cannot change. But now I’m changing the things I cannot accept,” Carter said. “We must be consistent in the pursuit for justice.” Unable to attend the event due to flight delays, a proclamation issued by Mayor Harold Copenhaver was delivered, declaring April 19 Social Justice and Equality Day. “Today marks an opportunity for our community to reflect on the strides we have made and to reaffirm our commitment to create a more just and equitable society,” the proclamation read. “We’re as it is fitting and

proper to designate a day to celebrate our collective efforts and progressing towards social justice and equality for all.” Elliot spoke about methods to improve relations between members of the community, including doing interviews with local news outlets, getting feedback from the community through public forums and more. “We’re always looking for something, ways to make things better,” Elliot said. “We started that with our citizen police academy program. We’ve now graduated over 400 people through the program. It’s bringing the community out, bringing the community together to talk.”

Robert F. Kennedy campaign petitions on campus



Photo by Shelby Russom | Staff Photographer

Members from the Robert F. Kennedy campaign collected signatures on campus Thursday to get Kennedy on the ballot in Arkansas.

The group must collect 5,000 signatures by Aug. 5 for the petition to go through. The group said they were aiming for 6,000 signatures in case any signers lied about their registration status and began campaigning April 15. Currently, Kennedy is confirmed to be on the ballot in Michigan and Utah. Petitioning is complete in Nevada, Hawaii, Idaho, Nebraska, Iowa, North Carolina and New Hampshire, although signatures have not been validated by election officials. “We’re trying to get Arkansas in there too, and all the rest of (the states) so that we give everybody a choice,” said Judy Oliver, a volunteer for the campaign. “It’s time to change the guards. We have a change for the better, for the people, by the people.” Kennedy is running as an independent candidate, with Nicole Shanahan as his running mate. According to his official campaign website, his platform includes addressing the affordability crisis, offering government-backed mortgages to first-time homebuyers and more. “I’m not sure if I’ll vote for him, but neither of the two main candidates seem that great, so I definitely want him on the ballot,” said Colby Thompson (pictured above), a sophomore creative media production major from Conway, Arkansas, who signed the petition.

Brief by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

LIVESTREAMER, CONTINUED

“Most people like to hear and ask questions, but sometimes there’s a couple people that want to get frisky. I don’t like that and I try to avoid it,” Svochak said. Many students spoke with Svochak, including Caleb Thomas, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from McGehee, Arkansas. He said the Svochak’s sign “struck a nerve” with him and what he

said did not line up with God. “It wasn’t the Bible, it was all opinion and it was very hateful and not loving. My Lord is loving and he is peaceful. He didn’t come to condemn,” Thomas said. He said he felt like Svochak was there just to provoke people. Thomas said Svochak called him a liar and a sinner. “I stood there brave and was

ready for whatever he had to say to me. He’s a grown man and I’m just a 21-year-old student on the campus of Arkansas State University,” Thomas said. The nearly three-hour stream is available on the Kingdom Reconcilers YouTube channel. Rachel Rudd, Editor-in-Chief, contributed to this report.

CAMPUS CRIME, CONTINUED

After arriving back to his patrol unit and running their name through dispatch, the dispatcher informed him Suspect One had failed to appear out of Poinsett County. Matthews asked dispatch to see if Poinsett County was willing to pick up Suspect One. Poinsett County was willing to pick up

Suspect One from Craighead County Jail. Lt. Daniel Bradway arrived on the scene and aided Matthews as he asked Suspect One to step out of the vehicle. They informed Suspect One that he was being arrested and transported to Craighead County Jail to be picked up by Poinsett County. After

this, Matthews put handcuffs on Suspect One, placed him in the back of his patrol unit, and transported him to Craighead County Jail. Upon arrival, Matthews checked Suspect One in and transferred him over to the jail staff.