

**MAPS,
CONTINUED**

She also said events like these helped her and gave her a “newfound sense of determination and drive” because of the opportunity to meet medical professionals who looked like her. “Only an estimated 2.8% of physicians are black women in the United States. I did not meet a black physician until I joined Maps at the age of 19,” King said. “I did not realize how important it was to have representation until I was like, ‘Wow, how have I not met a Black doctor before?’” Timia Starks, a junior biological sciences major from Jonesboro and Maps public relations director,

said the event was especially meaningful because her mother was one of the guest speakers. “Of course, I get a more in-depth version than you all did, but it’s really inspiring,” Starks said. “I know she went through a lot, and she always makes sure I’m prepared for whatever comes next. That’s an advantage not everyone has, and I feel lucky to have her and the connections she’s built.” Starks said it’s personally important to see women, especially Black women, in medicine. “I think it’s so important to see people like you in the medical field because it’s a male-dominated profession,”

Starks said. “You don’t see a lot of women, but when you do, it really makes you feel something. And when you see Black women or women of color, it’s even more special. It makes you feel seen.” Starks said the most impactful part of the event was hearing the panelists share their experiences as Black women in medicine, particularly their encounters with racial challenges. “Especially in the political climate we’re in right now, it’s really important to know that there are people like us out there—people we can go to and reach out to when we’re feeling discouraged,” Starks said. “Their stories empower us.”

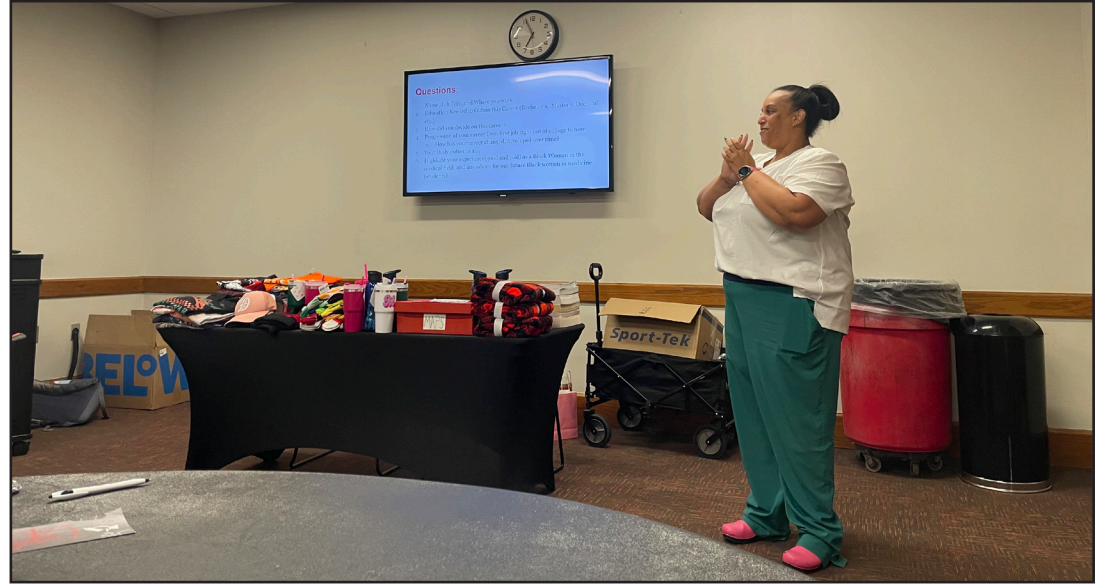


Photo by Laila Casiano | Opinion Editor

Adrienne Loftis, an OB-GYN, speaks at the Black Women in Medicine event.

**AGRIBUSINESS,
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The Arkansas Department of Agriculture (ADA) secretary highlighted problems with water and wastewater systems across the state, including broken systems that have made it hard for people to access clean water. He also addressed a decline in groundwater levels and the importance of ensuring enough water for irrigation in agriculture, which is crucial for the state’s economy. “In August of last year, we signed an executive order to update the state water plan. The deal there is a very comprehensive way to look short term and long term, at the needs for water resources

throughout the state,” Ward said. “Right now there’s about \$13 billion water and wastewater infrastructure needs that impacts every single one of us throughout the entire state.” To address this, he said the state is working on two large irrigation projects that aim to shift water use from groundwater to surface water for agriculture in eastern Arkansas. This will help ensure that farmers have the water they need to grow crops. In 2023 the USDA ranked Arkansas the worst state in terms of food insecurity. Ward said this is something the ADA staff is working to address.

“A lot of what we’re focusing on this legislative session is really just efficiency. We are working a lot about making sure we’re working on food insecurity issues, but more so trying to identify and correct inefficiencies that exist in government,” Ward said. “I would just ask if people are aware of issues on the state level, if there are things that we can do differently from an agriculture department, please don’t hesitate to visit us.” Ward said there have been discussions about improving trade relations and access to markets for U.S. agricultural products. The ADA is

working with NASDA and USDA to overcome barriers in international trade. In January, a group from several U.S. states including Arkansas, Montana, South Dakota and Connecticut traveled to India. Ward said the goal of the trip was to help open markets for U.S. agriculture, tackle trade challenges and advocate for U.S. farmers. “We can have a long conversation about India and what that might mean but India’s the most populated country in the world, hopefully in the future there will be some good market opportunities,” Ward said. Haleigh Jackson, a graduate

student majoring in agriculture business and economics from Leachville, Arkansas, said it’s important to stay up to date on agricultural issues and policy because it affects everyone in the agricultural sector. “Agriculture touches everything,” Jackson said. “I think that it’s important that students have some perspective of the things that are affecting us in everyday life and I think this conference kindly covers all.” Scott Adams, land manager for Adams Land Company in Leachville, Arkansas, and owner of Buffalo Island Farms in Manila, Arkansas, has attended this conference

for the past 19 years. “The major take from it is, we’re going to have to get creative on restructuring entities, market, our crop during rallies, watch our inputs, where we can watch our inputs and just mind the situation and do our best to weather the storm if this is what we’re going to continue to try to do,” Adams said. “My biggest concern is the family farmer going away, smaller farms being dissolved into bigger farms and it affecting the direct economy that we live in.”

A-State introduces more secure password reset process

IBUKI HINOHARA
PHOTO EDITOR

Arkansas State University’s Information Technology Services (ITS) rolled out a new password reset process aimed at improving security and streamlining convenience for all students, faculty, and staff. The new process, which launched Feb. 11 is available through Microsoft’s Office 365 platform and offers enhanced security features for A-State community members. Chris Boothman, vice chancellor for distance education and technology and chief information officer, explained the significance of the change. “This new process represents a significant upgrade in security and convenience compared to our existing password reset process,” Boothman said. “By using Microsoft Azure’s industry-leading authentication framework, the reset process eliminates the need for you to provide sensitive personal information such as your Social Security Number or passport number.”

What’s changing?
The upgraded password reset system leverages Microsoft’s encryption and robust identity management tools. Users will now reset their passwords

using Microsoft’s secure platform, providing the same level of protection trusted by institutions worldwide. One key change is for those who have both student and employee email accounts. Boothman said each account will now require a separate password reset. “If one account becomes compromised, the other email will not be impacted,” Boothman said. Additionally, users will need to ensure they have an alternate email address listed in Self-Service Banner. This step is essential for using the new Microsoft password reset tool, as it will be used to verify identity during the reset process.

How it works
For those who need to change their password and still know their current password, the process is relatively simple:

- Sign in to Microsoft with your username and current password.
- From the navigation header, select “Security,” then “Change my Password.”
- Follow the prompts to set a new password and select “Save.”

If a user forgets their password, the process involves a few additional steps:

- Click “Forgot My Password” on the Microsoft sign-in page.
- Verify your identity using your alternate email or phone number.
- Follow the on-screen prompts to create a new password.

Why it matters
Boothman said this new password reset process not only enhances security but also simplifies the experience for users. He said Microsoft’s industry-leading security tools will provide a more efficient way to protect sensitive accounts. “We hope this update makes it easier for the A-State community to manage their accounts securely,” Boothman said. As cyber threats become more sophisticated, adopting a secure password reset process is a proactive step toward keeping A-State accounts safe. ITS encourages all members of the university community to review their security settings and become familiar with the new reset process to ensure a smooth transition. For more information on changing or resetting your password, visit the A-State ITS webpage.

THIS WEEK’S PUZZLE

