

## Women's Leadership Conference gets BOLD

**BENJAMIN MCDOWELL**  
STAFF WRITER

The Women's Business Leadership Center (WBLC) and Women's Leadership Collaborative (WLC) hosted the annual Women's Leadership Conference this week, bringing together students, professionals and community members for a one-day event focused on empowering women to lead boldly in their careers and communities. The theme of this year's conference was "BOLD," and it featured keynote speaker Lenore Trammell, chief administrative officer, chief compliance officer and general counsel at Big River Steel. "One of my favorite sayings is that chance favors the prepared mind," Trammell said. "Being bold in your life will require you to take risks. You can do it scared, but do it — especially if that risk helps move you closer to your future self." Trammell said boldness can have an impact on not only individuals, but others who follow their lead. "There's a beautiful thing about boldness — it doesn't stop

with us. When we step forward, we create a path for others to follow, and that's where boldness turns into impact," she said. The conference, designed to inspire leadership and professional growth, included keynote sessions, skills workshops and interactive discussions. Organizers said the event is intended to cultivate students' academic and career experiences while strengthening mentorship networks for women in business. The event drew attendees from across the region, including high school students, university students, faculty and business leaders. Lauren Maness, a junior majoring in international business and marketing, said the Women's Business Leadership Center has been key in helping her find mentorship. "Anybody can sign up," Maness said. "You can sit through Zoom calls and mentoring meetings, it's just a great way to make connections." Jagriti, a recent MBA graduate from India, said mentorship for students is important. "Just reaching out for help

rather than stressing alone — that's the whole meaning of being in WBLC," she said. "There are so many people who can guide you. If you need help, they're always there." Jagriti said her experience at A-State was shaped by the WBLC. "I cannot imagine my whole U.S. experience without WBLC. I think about it every single day," she said. She said she encourages other women to pursue opportunities boldly. "If there's no rule saying women can't apply, then go do it," she said. "It's all about mindset." Christy Valentine, guest speaker and manager of academic and philanthropic programs at Hytrol Conveyor, said supporting women in industry is important. "We not only believe in Arkansas State and this program, but we believe in supporting strong women in our industry," Valentine said. "We build a family, we are helping move the world." She said she urges students to seek clarity in their career goals. "Don't ever tell me you want



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WOMENS LEADERSHIP CENTER

Women at the Women's leadership conference listen to speakers. The keynote speaker was Lenore Trammell, chief administrative officer, chief compliance officer and general counsel at Big River Steel. conference is what motivates her to host it year after year. "A lot of us come back because of the community we're creating," Johnston said. "People from out of state are amazed by what we have on this campus. This year, especially, the 'bold' theme is really resonating." Johnston said empathy is important in leadership and is proud of the strengths she sees in today's college students.

CONTINUED:  
WLC, 4A

## Lunch and Learn discusses future updates in NIL funds

**ALLIE CARSON**  
STAFF WRITER

Arkansas State University athletics staff hosted a NIL Lunch and Learn to discuss the future of Name, Image and Likeness in college sports. Chancellor Todd Shields, Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics Jeff Purinton and Executive Senior Associate Athletics Director Amy Holt discussed the ongoing NIL house settlement and A-State's "one pack" mentality. NIL was originally filed in 2020 and is being worked on this week. Purinton said the college needs to be prepared for what NIL might look like for A-State. "The silver lining is that we're all working together. We like to say we're one pack," Shields said. "We've created committees

of athletics and people on the campus side of things so we're working to make sure our fundraising is strategic, that our finances are strategic and maximize our success. We're making sure our communication is aligned and strategic." Shields said with NIL news developing constantly, it is not a situation that is easy to immediately understand. Richey said NIL will offer new challenges and opportunities alike throughout colleges. If approved, there will be roster caps for sports, the ability to add or remove scholarships and revenue share, which could be up to \$20.5 million for the larger conferences such as the SEC, Big 12, Big Ten and Atlantic Coast Conference. With the possible addition of NIL throughout college sports, finances regarding

campus athletics will have to be handled differently. Purinton said A-State will have to be more efficient with spending. "We're doing a deep dive into that because every dollar is going to matter, now more than ever," Purinton said. Shields said the whole process will have to be a huge trial and error period with everything and everyone involved. Amy Holt said student athletes will be able to learn important life skills if the settlement goes through, such as being able to manage their money. "The positive aspect is they're going to get money for their performance and they're going to benefit off of that," Holt said. In regards to fans being worried about the future of A-State sports, Shields said no sports will be cut, especially with the success athletics have

had in the recent seasons. "You see a lot of institutions that are doing that in order to afford where we're going. We're not in that place and largely because we are all working together and spending hours and hours and spreadsheets, making sure we can save every penny and use it in the right place," Shields said. Holt said the community has seen A-State come together and support one another. "I think it's exciting to hear that everybody is excited about where the direction of this whole university is going with athletics as well," Holt said. "We're making the one pack statement. We're going in the right direction, whether it's athletics or the whole campus," Holt said. Holt said they will communicate with the community on any developments.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF A-STATE

The promotional graphic used for the Lunch and Learn event with A-State Athletics and The Ticket radio station. "Once we know, we're going to continue trying to put it out there for everybody to help buy in and become our one pack with us," Holt said.

## Access and Accommodation Services raises awareness for women with disabilities



Photo by Hossein Rastegar | Special to The Herald

Access and Accommodation Services collaborated with the Women's Business Leadership Center and held 'Leading the Way: Women with Disabilities Thriving in the Workforce,' an event to raise awareness for women with disabilities. Four panelists were featured to give advice to students and discuss how women with disabilities can be leaders.

## CAMPUS CRIME

**JERRY DON BURTON**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
**SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE**  
NEWS EDITOR

April 6 | 1:05 p.m.  
Officer Robert Kary was dispatched to a parking lot accident. Upon arrival, Kary spoke to the complainant, who said she was backing out of a parking spot and was struck on the back right side of her vehicle, causing moderate damage. She said she made sure to look before backing out and didn't see anything before reversing.

The associated person who struck the complainant's vehicle said he was traveling east through he parking lot when the complainant backed out and hit him on the front passenger side of his vehicle. The associated person said he reached into the floorboard of his vehicle to pick up a fallen object before the collision occurred. Kary reviewed the camera footage and confirmed the complainant and associate person's statements. April 6 | 12 a.m.  
Officer Christopher Sewell was patrolling the area of Red

Wolf Boulevard when he noticed a black GMC Yukon on the side of the road with its emergency lights on. Upon pulling up next to the vehicle, Sewell noticed vehicle debris in the roadway. Sewell made contact with the victim and she told him she was driving North on Red Wolf Boulevard when a white Chevy Silverado turned in front of her and failed to yield. The victim said she hit the back passenger side of the truck and it kept driving.

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CAMPUS CRIME, 4A