

ARKANSAS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION OPTICAL NETWORK

Mike Abbiatti, Executive Director

ARE-ON is a high-speed fiber-based optical communications network and associated applications established and operated by a consortium of public four-year universities in Arkansas. ARE-ON is governed by the presidents and chancellors of participating institutions, in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

- ARE-ON is an ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSET of the State created by the public, four-year institutions of higher education, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and the University of Arkansas' Division of Agriculture.
- ARE-ON is a collaborative environment that empowers each institution to leverage the unique and agile capabilities of high performance networking and computing for RESEARCH, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, and EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.
- ARE-ON is a link between the CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES in the State and the GLOBAL RESEARCH and EDUCATION COMMUNITY.
- ARE-ON is a member of the NATIONAL RESEARCH and EDUCATION NETWORK FAMILY that shares resources across many states to increase access to technology investments while being mindful of cost savings.
- ARE-ON is a UNIFYING ORGANIZATION dedicated to leveraging current and evolving technologies for the COLLECTIVE BENEFIT of Arkansans.
- CREATIVE MINDS + ADVANCED CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE = ARE-ON
- ARE-ON + INNOVATIVE APPLICATIONS = ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ARE-ON focuses its strategic initiatives, operational objectives and tactical goals and events on four Core Agendas:

- 1) Research Agenda (basic and applied)
- 2) Academic Agenda (scaling advanced cyber infrastructure across the curriculum)
- 3) Telemedicine and Telehealth (applying advanced cyber infrastructure to healthcare in support of UAMS)
- 4) Emergency Preparedness (integrating advanced cyber infrastructure into the process of planning and implementation of training and education related to Emergency Preparedness/Management programs in higher education and beyond as appropriate.

Each Core agenda is directly allied with ongoing, quantifiable statewide needs. ARE-ON represents a critical component of the higher education mission to be both a cultural and economic engine for the state of Arkansas. **General Revenue Request:** The recommended need of \$1,350,758 (FY14), \$1,381,825 (FY15) for ARE-ON would be applied toward maintenance and operation of the expanded network facilities and at least (1) additional engineer.