

AACHT 2025

Arkansas Association of
College History Teachers

Collaboration: Connecting Across Campus and Community

September 25-26th | Old State House Museum



Welcome!

A letter from our President.

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Dear all,



I am pleased to welcome every one of you to the 2025 Conference of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers. Back in 2002, my first TA position was for a 180-person class on Nazi Germany. As a specialist in early 20th century Europe, it's a topic that I have returned to over the years. Last spring, in anticipation of choosing books for a fall course on 20th Century Europe, I was reading through Yale historian Timothy Snyder's brief piece *On Tyranny*. Snyder talks about divisions and othering, and for 20th century Europe he's speaking about topics like the othering of Jews and Socialists in Nazi Germany or kulaks in the early Soviet Union. But as historians, we know that there is a strong human tendency towards othering, with countless examples, such the Reconstruction South that othered Northerners, Republicans, and African Americans, or 18th century Britain's othering of the French. With the 250 anniversary on the horizon I've already heard talk of *Common Sense*, in which Thomas Paine famously inspired disaffected colonial leaders with the phrase "It is time to part," despite Paine being out of touch and clueless to the details involving the colonial complaint. These words sparked a civil war that saw literal neighbors turning on each other and resulted in a relatively high population loss of between 1 and 2 per cent in the colonies. It's a reminder of the power of words, and the tinderbox present when divisions become so pitched.

When contemplating the theme for this year's conference last spring, with the ubiquitous talk of divisions at present, I wanted to remind us of connections. The AACHT conference has always been an amazing opportunity to connect with fellow colleagues across the state, and this year's lineup does not disappoint. This year we have one of the most diverse and vibrant representations of historians that I've seen since the conference before the pandemic! We represent historians ranging from students to full faculty members, those starting their careers and those coming to an end, those from museums and archives to those from small schools to large Universities. At the conference socialize, network, and break bread with those we would never come into contact with in our daily lives, challenging the notion that our divisions are greater than our shared humanity. AACHT is stronger than we have been in years, and as Robert D. Putnam argues in *Bowling Alone*, our participation in institutions is essential for the maintenance of civil society. You are a valued part of this group, and I can't wait to spend this time with you!

Dr. David Adams
Professor, Harding University
President, Arkansas Association of College History Teachers

Conference Schedule

**Thursday, September 25th
Riverfront Room**



1-1:50 pm On-site Registration & Welcome

Meet us outside the Riverfront Room to sign-in, pay conference dues, and network before panels begin at 2pm.

2-2:30 pm Session 1A: Opening Speaker

Discussion of 250 Commission for Education
Dr. Ken Warden, Commissioner of Arkansas Division of Higher Education

2:40 - 3:40 pm Session 1B: Roundtable Discussion

Place-Based Learning with Primary Sources: Adventures in Archives and Civil Rights Exploration
Danielle Afsordeh, CALS Butler Center for Arkansas Studies
Emily Summers, Head Archivist, UA Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture

3:50 - 4:50 pm Session 1C: Roundtable Discussion

Using History to Commemorate Harding's Centennial
Dr. M. Liann Gallagher, Harding University
Dr. Kim Laing, Harding University
Amy McGohan, Harding University Librarian
Kendal Escue, Graphic Designer

5- 5:25 pm AACT Business Meeting

5:30 pm Welcome Reception

Conference Schedule

Friday, September 26th



7:45 am Officers' Breakfast

Sponsored by Ouachita Baptist University History Department
Big Bad Breakfast, 306 Main St, Little Rock, AR 72201
All former and current AACT officers are welcome to attend.

9-10:10 am Session 2A: Stories from the Natural State

Location: River Front Room

"Women and Capital Punishment: An Arkansas Case Study"

Dr. John A. Kirk, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

"'Good for Arkansas and x for You': The 1976 Campaign to Repeal Arkansas's Right-to-Work Law" - *Dr. Michael K. Rosenow, University of Central Arkansas*

"Daisy Cook: Folk Painter and Visual Historian of the Ozarks"

Bethany Kiele, University of Arkansas

10:20-11:30 am Session 2B: Emerging Scholars Panel

Location: Riverfront Room | Moderator: Dr. Allison Shutt, Hendrix College

"Raiding Private Spaces: The 1903 Ariston Bathhouse and LGBTQ+ Life in Early 20th Century New York" - *Sarah Dilatush, University of Arkansas*

"Seizing the Rib of Adam: Cases of American Trans Patients Treating Themselves in the Mid Twentieth Century" - *Sloane Jeffery, University of Arkansas*

"Labor, Lobbying, and the Failed Fight: Walmart and the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009" - *James Kelly, University of Arkansas*

OR

10:20- 11:30 am Session 2C: Community Centered Historical Practice

Location: The Theatre

"A Peculiar Hobby: A Brief History of Civil War Reenacting"
Coley Matthews, Harding University

"The Northwest Arkansas Holocaust Awareness Project and Community Outreach"
Dr. Eric Totten, NorthWest Arkansas Community College

"Bring out your dead (for DNA testing!): Recent Collaborative Research on the Black Death"
Dr. Peter Dykema, Arkansas Tech University

11:35- 12:25 pm Session 2D: Race and Power in American History

Location: Riverfront Room

"Exodus from the Cadron: Black Settlers in Walker Township, Faulkner, Arkansas, Between 1879-1900"- *Zane Brooks, University of Central Arkansas*

"John Brown's Example: A Case Study of Long-term Political Violence Among Nineteenth-Century Southern Common Folk"
Dr. Gary T. Edwards, Arkansas State University

12:30- 1:00 pm Keynote Address in Riverfront Room

Casey Sanders, Arkansas PBS

1:30 pm Closing Lunch at Cache Restaurant

We will close out the conference with lunch at Cache Restaurant.
425 President Clinton Ave, Little Rock, AR 72201





Dr. Ken Warden was appointed by Governor Sarah Huckabee-Sanders as the Commissioner of the Arkansas Division of Higher Education on June 1, 2023.

Dr. Warden holds a Doctorate of Education in Workforce Development from the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville, a Master’s in Education in Educational Leadership from Arkansas Tech University, a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Education also from the University of Arkansas -Fayetteville, as well as an Associates of Applied Science in Automotive Service from Westark Community College (now UA-Fort Smith).

Prior to being appointed Commissioner, Dr. Warden worked for the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith from 2014-2023, most recently serving as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Compliance and Legislative Affairs. He previously served as the Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology for six years and as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development for one year.

He also spent 17 years working with Arkansas Tech University - Ozark where he held positions including: Department Chair of Automotive Service Technology, Business and Industry Coordinator, and Chief Officer for Business and Community Outreach.

His breadth of work in higher education spans the gamut, having worked in adult education, two-year colleges and university systems. He has experience in program design, project management, community partnerships, career pathways, grant implementation, and senior level academic leadership. His research interests are focused on adult learners/non-traditional students, credit and non-credit workforce aligned programs, student retention, and sustainability initiatives on college campuses.

He has been married to his wife, Sandy, for 30 years. He has three adult sons and three well above average grandchildren. When he is not working in the arena of higher education, you’ll find him working on his old farm equipment, feeding cattle, or maybe fishing.



Casey Sanders has been with Arkansas PBS since 1989, producing award-winning programs and national PBS content across arts, culture, history, and public affairs.

She currently leads the network's engagement efforts around major documentaries, creating opportunities for meaningful community conversation.

Her recent work includes screenings and discussions for Ken Burns's *The U.S. and the Holocaust* and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.'s *Making Black America*, as well as upcoming events for Burns's new film *The American Revolution*.

Sanders also directs Arkansas PBS's Emerging Filmmaker Program and partners with National History Day to connect students with storytelling, history, and documentary film.



Thank you to the Old State House Museum for hosting our conference.



Cache
R E S T A U R A N T

We will close out the conference with lunch at Cache Restaurant on Friday afternoon.



Thank you for attending AACHT's 2025 conference!

We hope to see you next year!

AACHT Officers, 2024-2025

**Dr. David Adams, President
Harding University**

**Dr. Marie Totten, Vice President
University of Central Arkansas**

**Dr. Walter Everett, Treasurer
University of Arkansas at Monticello**



**Former Officers
AACHT Meeting Minutes
AACHT Bylaws**

