



## HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP 20 YEARS OF ADVOCACY

# Higher Education Partnership Launches New and Improved Website

June 2018 HEP Newsletter

### Supporters of Education,

Our new website is live! If you haven't already noticed, we revamped [www.higheredpartners.org](http://www.higheredpartners.org) to be more modern and better equipped to provide all of the information you need to learn, engage and advocate with the Partnership.

Some highlights include the news section on our homepage, where you can now stay up-to-date on the latest stories relevant to higher education in Alabama. On the events page, you will see a rundown of all our events so you can mark your calendars. There are multiple resources available on the new website, including a breakdown of our mission, information on the economic impact of higher education, a helpful resource guide and more.

In the coming months, we will be launching another special feature to the website to share specific voices in higher education. Stay tuned!

We hope you'll enjoy visiting our new digital home! Let us know what you think!

Gordon Stone, Executive Director

*P.S. Have a safe and wonderful July 4th!*

**Meet Taylor Wesley**  
**Inspiring Mental Wellness**



We have partnered with the Department of Mental Health to have Miss Auburn 2015, Taylor Wesley, speak on addiction at our August conference.. Taylor will share her story of alcohol abuse, recovery and her platform on mental wellness.

Studies show that one in four students struggle with mental health. A rising number of college students are seeking treatment at campus counseling centers for mental health problems. Taylor has used her platform to raise awareness for mental illness and change the focus to mental wellness.

Learn more on Taylor's efforts [here](#).

## Issue in Focus The Value of Knowledge

In a January 2017 article published in Forbes magazine and originally crafted by a writer for New America magazine, there was a statement made that challenged the need to “save America’s colleges.” The article engaged readers in a discussion about the value of maintaining the current university systems in the United States. While the statement was general and did not specify the particular institutions that the author would prefer to see disappear, it did bring to the surface a troubling concern. Are there people that believe that America can prosper as a nation by reducing its ambition for knowledge?

Universities have forever served as the transfer agents for knowledge from one generation to the next. Further, they have been the location for research and exploration into the causes and solutions for many of the nations and world’s most serious concerns.

Technology drives much of America’s economy and the engine that drives the next wave of advancement in technology is the university. As each passing generation engages in new learning the outcomes benefit society as a whole. Citizens in the United States have more available options and more choices in their lives than at any time in history. From luxuries to necessities, the menu is extensive. A capitalistic economy depends on

customers having choices and dollars changing hands. Without innovation and expansion of knowledge choices could become stagnant.

From health care to transportation and from food production to entertainment, the graduates of America's universities are vital to the nation's progress. Therefore, the Higher Education Partnership reminds our friends and colleagues to be bold in defending your institution. Take a moment to list your value points and feel free to send those to the Higher Education Partnership ([partners@higheredpartnership.org](mailto:partners@higheredpartnership.org)). The voices of the university community are critical to making sure the general public understands that America depends on knowledge for its success as a nation.

## ***Primary Runoff Election July 17***

If you voted in the June 5th primary election, the runoff election is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 17th**. There are statewide runoff elections for the Republican Party, and no statewide runoffs for the Democrat Party. Be aware of the possibility of important local elections that may have runoffs. These local runoff elections may occur for either party.

**Crossover voting** is prohibited in this election, so you are not allowed to cast a ballot for one party in a primary and then cross over to vote in another party's runoff election. If you voted Republican in the June 5th primary, then you can vote in the runoff. Democrats are allowed to vote in the Democrat runoff.

Statewide runoff races are below with links to candidate websites.

### **Lt. Governor**

[Will Ainsworth](#)

[Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh](#)

### **Attorney General**

[Steve Marshall](#)

[Troy King](#)

### **Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries**

[Gerald Dial](#)

[Rick Pate](#)

### **Alabama Supreme Court: Associate Justice, Place 1**

[Brad Mendheim](#)

[Sarah Stewart](#)

### **Court of Civil Appeals, Place 1**

[Christy Edwards](#)

[Michelle Thomason](#)

### **Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2**

[Rich Anderson](#)

[Chris McCool](#)

# Last Call: Are You Registered for SLUAC?

*Deadline is July 1*

We are close to the deadline to register for the 2018 STARS Leadership and Universities Advocates Conference.

This conference is guaranteed to be an exciting few days with presentations on funding for higher education, advocacy efforts and leadership! Several members of the Alabama Legislature and members of Governor's Ivey's cabinet will join us! You will not want to miss this exciting opportunity to connect with state leaders and share the importance of higher education with them.

If you haven't registered yet, there is still time! The deadline is July 1.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**Questions? Thoughts? Concerns? Ideas?  
Connect with us!**

Do you have a story idea or issue in focus that we should include in an upcoming newsletter? Email [partners@higheredpartners.org](mailto:partners@higheredpartners.org) and let us know!

