From the OEP

We would like to thank those who participated in the OEP survey. We appreciate your help and value the suggestions we received. Congratulations to Diana Peer of the University of Arkansas and Kenny Pennington of Monticello High School, our Barnes and Noble gift card winners!

Tomorrow we will post a newsletter that reflects on the education acts created or updated during the most recent session. Be sure to visit our website tomorrow for this release.

Next week will be the third installment of the Outstanding Educational Performance Awards. This time we are highlighting top elementary schools in each region. The following section will focus on middle schools, and we will then move on to high school performance.

As always, you can view more news on our website by visiting the In the News section. Have a great weekend!

News from Around the Natural State

Schools Director Sets His Agenda
Dr. Tom Kimbrell will start his job as the new Arkansas Education Commissioner on September 28. He spoke at the Cabot Rotary Club about Arkansas school history and his plan as Commissioner.

News from Around the Nation

Revised Draft of 'Common core' Standards Unveiled
A revamped draft of proposed common academic standards for states offers more detailed expectation than an earlier version, though the document also says that some decisions about specific curricula and lessons should be left to individual states and schools.

Initiative Focuses on Early Learning Programs
Tucked away in an $87 billion higher education bill that passed the House last week was a broad new federal initiative aimed not at benefiting
college students, but at raising quality in the early learning and care programs that serve children from birth through age 5.

**Study Shows Better Scores for Charter School Students**
Students who entered lotteries and won spots in New York City charter schools performed better on state exams than students who entered the same lotteries but did not secure charter school seats, according to a study by a Stanford University economist.

**Student-to-College 'Mismatch' Seen as Graduation Rate Issue**
An important new book on improving the stagnant graduation rates of the nation’s public colleges and universities suggests that one reason so many academically talented students leave college without a diploma may be that they enroll in schools for which they are overqualified.

**Site Seeing**
We recently added a new section to our website to post previous OEP Web Links (OWL) blasts. In case you need to refer to a past story or are just interested in reading a past e-mail, you can visit the [O.W.L. Weekly E-blast](#) section of our website.

**Mark Your Calendar**
September 25, 9:00am: Education Committee meeting at Mount Judea High School
September 25, 12:00pm: Department of Education Reform Lecture Series: Mike Feinberg, co-founder of Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) at the Graduate Education Building auditorium, University of Arkansas
To RSVP to the above lecture or view upcoming presentations, visit [http://www.uark.edu/ua/der/lecture_series_09_10.html](http://www.uark.edu/ua/der/lecture_series_09_10.html)

To view other events in Arkansas, visit the [OEP Calendar](#).

**Final Thought**
“*Work hard. Be nice.*” – Knowledge is Power Program motto (As the University of Arkansas prepares to welcome Mike Feinberg, co-founder of KIPP, tomorrow, we thought it would be appropriate to highlight the school motto.)

**Thanks for reading! See you next week!**
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If you would like to be added or removed from this list, please send an e-mail to oep@uark.edu.