Established by the Arkansas General Assembly in 2003, the Education Renewal Zones (ERZ) are a multiyear Pre-K-16 initiative funded by the state of Arkansas to help improve public school performance and student academic achievement. The Northwest ERZ is a collaborative effort between the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Department of Education, the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative, partner schools, and community partners.

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**Partner Schools:**
- Elkins Public Schools
- Gentry Public Schools
- Lincoln Public Schools
- Owl Creek School, Fayetteville
- Ramay Junior High School, Fayetteville
- Springdale Public Schools

**Adopt-A-Classroom**
Adopt-A-Classroom, a program placing University of Arkansas professors in an area K-12 classroom once a month, will begin this January with a luncheon training on Jan. 9 for the 21 UA faculty members who volunteered to participate. Faculty members from the Dale
Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences; University Physics Library; College of Engineering; J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences; Sam M. Walton College of Business; and College of Education and Health Professions will represent the University of Arkansas as they partner with area public schools.

The University of Arkansas faculty participating in Adopt-A-Classroom will engage in and serve our area schools by working with public school teachers to share content-area resources and form mentoring relationships. The ERZ plans to continue the Adopt-A-Classroom program in the 2013-2014 school year and expand into more classrooms, as faculty participation allows. It’s not too late to join us for the spring semester. If you would like to Adopt-A-Classroom, please visit our link.

Northwest Arkansas P-20 Task Force
The Northwest Arkansas Education Service Co-op (NWAESC) and the Northwest Education Renewal Zone hosted the first NWA P-20 Task Force meeting on Nov. 13, 2012 at the Farmington-based co-op. The task force is comprised of representatives of five institutions of higher education and several local school districts.

At the first meeting, the task force worked to identify transitions for students throughout P-20 education and the challenges they pose. Forming a vision for the NWA P-20 Task Force and ideas for addressing P-20 transition, along with discussion on why Common Core State Standards matter to postsecondary institutions, completed the agenda for the meeting. All stakeholders present at the meeting voiced the need and desire to collaborate with each other to give our students the best education possible.

The next meeting will be from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 27, 2013, at the NWAESC. Our meetings are open to all interested parties; please contact Elizabeth Smith if you would like to attend or learn more.

ERZ Advisory Board Meetings
On Oct. 23, the ERZ Advisory Board met for the first time to discuss ERZ goals and what activities might be implemented to work toward the goals. The board consists of partner school superintendents, district administrators, University of Arkansas faculty and staff, and representatives of the Arkansas Department of Education. One of the major discussions revolved around the hours of professional development required by the Arkansas Department of Education and whether those requirements might be amended to allow teachers more time for personalized professional development based on growth plans. Notes from the October meeting may be viewed here.

Upcoming Advisory Board meetings are scheduled for Feb. 12 and April 16, 2013.

Want to Get Involved?
If you are considering a partnership with local schools, we would be happy to help. The
ERZ can provide administrative support to UA faculty and staff engaging in these partnerships and can connect you with interested schools.

Our Staff: Ready to Go!
For more information, please visit erz.uark.edu or call or email us

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