



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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NORTH LITTLE ROCK: Commissioner of Education Tom W. Kimbrell unveiled the Arkansas Department of Education's latest support tool for Arkansas educators and making educational content available for free on iTunes U, a dedicated area within the iTunes Store (www.itunes.com). With the initiation of "Arkansas on iTunes U," Arkansas joins the ranks of universities, state agencies, and not-for-profit cultural institutions who distribute educational media to the world for free through iTunes U. With iTunes U, interested users can "learn on the go" by downloading audio and video content onto a mobile device or any computer with Internet access.

"Arkansas content available on iTunes U is an effort we've been dedicated to, and I think the time and energy that have been put into its creation will prove more than worth it once teachers and students begin using it to supplement what already happens in the classroom," Kimbrell said.

When students download and play podcasts related to courses they are studying, iTunes U works with the classroom teacher to maximize instructional impact. Teachers can use video and audio tracks in iTunes U to motivate students to engage with a topic, activate background knowledge and come to class motivated to learn. They can use these tracks for re-teaching – helping students to reinforce a key concept and clarify misconceptions so that they have that "aha" moment and move forward in their learning. Students can also select and use tracks strategically to explore connections and applications that enrich their learning. In short, iTunes U makes it easy for users to take control of their own learning.

iTunes U allows teachers and students to use a variety of media to target essential lessons in new ways to reach various learning styles. Educators and students are encouraged to contribute content to help build the library of iTunes U resources.

Find out more about Arkansas education content on iTunes U by visiting <http://adepodcast.arkansas.gov> and explore our podcasts by searching for us in iTunes.

The Arkansas Department of Education strives to ensure that all children in the state have access to a quality education by providing educators, administrators and staff with leadership, resources and training.

