For Immediate Release
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Southern Arkansas University Tech
Press Release

Southern Arkansas University Tech (SAU Tech) in Camden, Arkansas is proud to announce that The Aspen Institute has named the College as one of the 150 Community Colleges in the United States eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and $1 million in prize funds. SAU Tech was chosen to apply in the previous round of competition from the Aspen Institute in 2015.

Community colleges are considered based on the following criteria:

- student success in persistence, completion and transfer;
- consistent improvement in outcomes over time; and
- equity in outcomes for students of all racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The Institute obtains the previous information from the nation's community college statistical outcomes submitted to the U.S. Department of Education each year through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

Overall only four community colleges in Arkansas were chosen by the Institute out of 150 colleges chosen nationwide from 35 states. SAU Tech will submit the application to compete for the prize that will be awarded in 2017. "The students we serve work hard to complete their degrees, and our staff and faculty work equally hard to help them achieve that educational goal. This honor is confirms our effort of putting our students first," stated Robert Gunnels, SAU Tech's Executive Vice-Chancellor, when notified about the College being eligible for the second time to compete for the prize.

Ten finalists will be announced in the fall of this year, and the list of eligible colleges and previous winners can be found at The Aspen Institute.

As a two-year college under the Southern Arkansas University System, SAU Tech provides career technical, online and transfer degrees and operates the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy. Since its inception in 1968, the College has provided business and industry training to area businesses and to the industries inside the Highland Industrial Park where the College's campus is located. For more information about SAU Tech and the students the College serves, go to www.sautech.edu.