

Todd Shields, Ph.D.

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About Dean Todd G. Shields:

Todd G. Shields, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, is dean of the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Since joining the university in 1994, he has also served as professor, associate director of the J. William Fulbright Institute of International Relations, chair of the Department of Political Science, director of the Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society, Interim dean of the Clinton School of Public Service, and dean of the Graduate School and International Education.

Shields has published dozens of journal articles and is the co-author or co-editor of several books. His research focuses on public opinion, campaigns, elections and political psychology, and he has brought more than \$25 million dollars in grants and research support to the U of A as a principal or co-principal investigator. Shields also has been widely recognized for his commitment to student success, teaching and research excellence, mentorship, sustainable growth, and diversity.

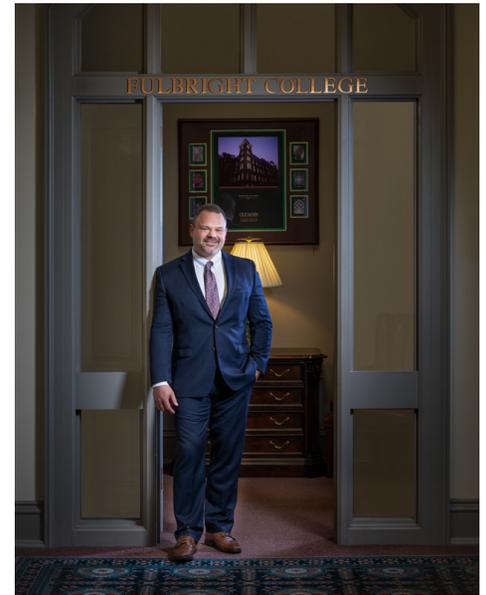
As dean, Shields represents and provides strategic vision and leadership for the largest college at the U of A, which consists of more than 8,700 students, three schools and 16 academic departments; provides the majority of the university's core curriculum; and offers degrees in the fine arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

In this role, Shields also led the creation of the university's School of Art in 2017 after an unprecedented \$120 million gift from the Walton Family Charitable Support Foundation. The School of Art is the first and only accredited, collegiate school of art in the state of Arkansas.

Shields earned a doctorate and Master of Arts in political science from the University of Kentucky and holds two bachelor's degrees, one in political science and one in psychology, from Miami University in Ohio.

Shields' main responsibilities in his role as dean include, but are not limited to:

- Leading and representing Fulbright College within the University of Arkansas and among external constituents locally, nationally and internationally
- Creating an environment of success for more than 7,820 undergraduate students and 950 graduate students
- Leading the ongoing assessment and revision of the university's core curriculum, which is primarily administered through Fulbright College for all U of A students
- Managing more than 650 full-time faculty and instructors, more than 600 teaching and research assistants, and hundreds of additional staff, while mentoring and developing the college's senior leadership team
- Overseeing an instructional budget of more than \$75 million and a research budget of about \$19.5 million
- Fundraising for and administering more than \$284 million in endowments, and bequests over \$50 million
- Supervising 3 schools, 16 academic departments, 30 academic programs, 10 research centers, as well as:
 - Dean's office staff and offices including finance and administration; academic integrity; research and sponsored programs; human resources; diversity, equity and inclusion; development and external relations; IT services; the college's honors program; academic services and student success; the student advising center; career awareness and placement; and retention and graduation



Key accomplishments during Shields' leadership tenure as dean include, but are not limited to:

- Raising over \$220 million for Fulbright College during the recently concluded U of A capital campaign – more than 284% of our goal – including a \$120 million endowment to establish the first collegiate School of Art in the state of Arkansas, \$50 million for infrastructure, and other seven figure gifts to the college.
 - Successfully reallocating over 3% of the college's base budget, approximately \$3.55 million, to university priorities, primarily to (1) create a Student Success Center, (2) foster greater diversity, equity and inclusion, and (3) hire in strategic research areas such as data analytics, material science, and nanotechnology.
 - Managing substantial student and faculty growth from 2009 to present. In 2009, Fulbright College generated approximately 290,000 student semester credit hours. In 2019 we generated over 360,000 student semester credit hours. By comparison, all other colleges generated approximately 338,000 combined semester credit hours in 2019. According to institutional research, Fulbright College grew from 298 tenure-track faculty in 2009 to 365 tenure-track faculty in 2019. The college grew from 134 non-tenure track faculty in 2009 to 288 in 2019.
 - Spearheading the creation of a new university-wide interdisciplinary undergraduate degree in Statistics and Data Analytics and a new interdisciplinary undergraduate degree that allows students to combine courses and minors from across the college.
 - Growing university-wide interdisciplinary graduate programs in Cell and Molecular Biology, Material Science Engineering, Public Policy, Nanotechnology, Statistics and Data Analytics, Space and Planetary Sciences, Environmental Dynamics, and at the University of Arkansas Rome Center. College faculty currently direct six of these programs and the college has spent over \$7.5 million since FY14 on these programs.
 - Growing the college's online courses and programs from 278 sections in FY16, to 403 sections in FY18. The gross and net tuition generated increased from \$5.3 million gross and \$417,000 net tuition in FY16 to over \$7 million gross and \$906,000 net tuition in FY18.
 - Growing the college's six-year graduation rate from 53.8% in the year 2000 to 61.6% in 2012. First to second year retention rates in 2000 were 51.3% while first to second year retention rates were 52.6 in 2013, 54.8 in 2014, 58.2 in 2015, and 57.5 in 2016.
 - Creating the Fulbright College Student Success Center and related initiatives, including:
 - Reducing “D, F, W” rates among Fulbright College core courses.
 - Offering Destination Arkansas Blackboard Assignment (DABA) to all first-year students after summer orientation but before first day of classes to assist them with the transition to campus.
 - Creating Strategies for Success (S4S), a zero-credit course offered to all undergraduate students regardless of major or college who fall into academic probation during their first fall semester. This course is offered over the holiday break to guide students in the creation of a plan to improve their academic performance during the spring semester.
 - Focusing on 11 High-Impact Educational Practices (HIPs) and related events that research indicates supports student success.
 - Creating a 150-seat section of University Perspectives with Peer Mentors to ensure that first-year students were given the opportunity to take a freshman seminar and connect with peer mentors in smaller Supplemental Instruction Groups.
 - Developing a Life Strategies and Career Awareness Course to improve overall student success, generate more internships, and foster greater career placement and success.
 - Working with Fulbright College advisors to improve student advising and mentoring services.
 - Working closely with institutional research to identify departments and programs that have the greatest problems with retention and identifying unique solutions to improve retention in these areas.
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- Providing ongoing support to help Fulbright College faculty increase research awards from approximately \$13,438,000 in FY13 to \$20,556,623 in FY17 and \$22,459,987 in FY18.
 - Hosting the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board at the U of A in 2018, as well as representatives from the state department, and signing an M.O.U. establishing the university as the “second home” of the Fulbright Program and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.
 - Bringing the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History back into Fulbright College and expanding its academic and community outreach mission and initiatives.
 - Establishing and growing strong relationships and mutual partnerships with Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and other major non-profits and businesses in Northwest Arkansas and beyond.
 - Reorganizing and expanding Fulbright College’s financial team into three core areas – budget and planning, research and foundations, business and cost center management – to maximize support. This helped the college go from millions of dollars in the red to \$1.25 million in one-time reserves in FY18.
 - Founding and creating Fulbright College’s first Office of Diversity and Inclusion and hiring its first full-time director, who is working closely with the Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion to make the college and university a more just, accountable, equitable, safe and peaceful place for all – regardless of the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality or other identities.
 - Continuously addressing faculty and staff equity and compression issues across the college to improve moral and increase employee retention, while mentoring and developing the college’s senior leadership team – many of whom have moved on to key administrative and leadership positions across the university and at peer institutions.
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