

# Return on Your State's Investment

## *Arkansas and The Doctoral Scholars Program*

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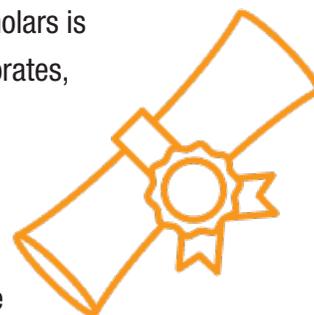


The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program is an excellent investment with clear returns for states and institutions. As states consider how to support student success and increase diversity, equity and inclusion in their states, funding for the Doctoral Scholars Program is a smart decision.

### Reducing Time-to-Degree

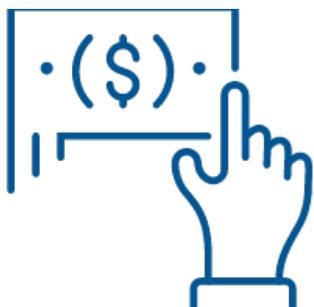
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- The median funded time-to-degree from program entrance for **Arkansas DSP** scholars is **4.4 years**. According to the National Science Foundation's Survey of Earned Doctorates, the national median time-to-degree for all Ph.D. recipients is **5.8 years**.
- That reduced time-to-degree has saved **Arkansas** over **\$3,200,000** over the past 25 years.
- A faster time-to-degree means that students spend less time out of the workforce and become higher-income earners sooner. Given that the vast majority of doctoral candidates are state-supported, it also lessens the state's cost in tuition and fees for doctoral students.



### Higher Wage Earners, More Tax Contributions

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- Workers with a Ph.D. make, on average, **\$97,616** per year compared to the **\$64,896** that bachelor's degree recipients earn.
- Over a lifetime, a doctoral degree recipient makes an estimated **\$1,000,000** more than a bachelor's degree recipient.
- Given that **30 Arkansas DSP** graduates are currently employed within the state of **Arkansas**, that could add up to about **\$30 million** in additional taxable income.

# Arkansas and The Doctoral Scholars Program

## Building a Diverse Faculty

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- 67% of Arkansas DSP graduates who are working in Arkansas are employed in postsecondary education as faculty or administrators.
- An additional 17 Arkansas DSP graduates are working in states in the SREB region.
- 7 DSP graduates from other states work in Arkansas.
- Assuming an average college course size of 35 students and an average faculty member course load of 3 courses, approximately 1,470 students are taught by Arkansas DSP alumni each year. That's 14,700 students in the next decade. And as students continue to grow more diverse, research shows it's important to have professors that look like them at the front of the classroom.



## A Competitive Pool of Diverse Faculty Candidates

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- The Doctoral Scholars Program also hosts the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the largest gathering of minority doctoral scholars in the country. The Institute has an average of about 1,000 attendees per year and serves as a crucial connecting point for students and recruiters from higher education institutions.
- The DSP Scholar Directory showcases almost 2,000 accomplished doctoral scholars and Ph.D. recipients who are committed to pursuing careers in the professoriate — a key recruiting pool for higher education institutions. The directory includes vitae, profiles, research and scholarship areas and other information.

Interested in deepening your partnership with the Doctoral Scholars Program?

Reach out to us at [Doctoral.Scholars@SREB.org](mailto:Doctoral.Scholars@SREB.org).