

# WADE DERDEN

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## CONTACT

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Experienced administrator, academic leader, and Higher Learning Commission peer reviewer with a demonstrated history of working in higher education. Skilled in public policy, government relations, instruction, curriculum development, instructional assessment, institutional and programmatic accreditation, advising, research, fundraising, grant writing, and public speaking.

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Policy, Higher Education emphasis, University of Arkansas, 2011  
M.A., History, University of Arkansas, 2000  
B.A., History, Hendrix College, 1995

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## CAREER PROGRESSION

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS** | 2023 – present  
National Park College, Hot Springs National Park, AR

Chief advancement officer and governmental liaison for National Park College. Collaborate with the President and cabinet, NPC Board of Trustees, NPC Foundation Board and executive committee, community leaders, government officials, faculty, staff, and students to advance the college's strategic initiatives and public relations. Lead the fundraising and friend-raising efforts of the Foundation team; manage the comprehensive marketing endeavors of the college including alumni engagement, branding, media relations, and internet presence; manage the crisis communications for the campus; and advocate for the college's students and mission within the local, state, and federal policy environment.

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS | 2015 – 2023**

National Park College, Hot Springs National Park, AR

Chief academic officer and accreditation liaison officer for National Park College. Collaborated with the President and cabinet, board members, faculty, and staff to meet regional education needs. Implemented the college's mission and strategic plan, ensured compliance with federal and state policy among college-wide programs. Developed a robust transfer program with over seventy 2+2 degrees. Advanced online technology in the classroom. Expanded high school partnerships in concurrent enrollment. Reorganized Academic Affairs to increase efficiency. Maintained accreditation standards with the Higher Learning Commission and with program-level accreditators.

**CHAIR, DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES | 2011 – 2015**

National Park College, Hot Springs National Park, AR

Coordinated with the Executive Vice President on division scheduling, instructional assessments, student evaluations, faculty performance reviews, and the employment of full- and part-time faculty. Taught a 3/2 load of history and government courses averaging 3.9 on a 4.0 scale on student evaluations. Led the effort to create the faculty and staff senates.

**INSTRUCTOR, HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE | 2003 – 2011**

Pulaski Technical College (now UA-PTC), North Little Rock, AR

Full-time faculty member with a 5/5 teaching load of on-campus and online history and government courses averaging 4.8 out of 5.0 on student evaluations. Served as departmental assessment coordinator; co-founder and editor of the academic writing journal, *Milestones*; founding co-chair of the Banned Book Week annual reading event; prepared the cost-benefit analysis for the adoption of the Center of Teaching Excellence; and served as Secretary and then President of the Faculty Council.

**INTERN, ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION | 2009**

Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges (now ACC), Little Rock, AR

Served as legislative aide to the Executive Director, tracked and analyzed legislation, prepared talking points for presidents and chancellors attending legislative committee hearings, engaged legislators and other state officials about issues affecting community colleges, and developed relationships with higher education leaders around the state.

**ADDITIONAL CAREER EXPERIENCE | 1997 – 2023**

- Future Presidents Institute participant, American Association of Community Colleges, Washington, D.C., 2023
- Dissertation Committee member, Collin Callaway (Ed.D., Adult Learning), The impact of the Arkansas Lottery Scholarship on college choice and completion of adult students, 2020
- Adjunct Instructor, Department of Political Science, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, 2009
- Adjunct Instructor, Arkansas State University-Beebe at the Little Rock Air Force Base, 2001-2003
- Certified Print Estimator, Finch Engraving/MassEnvelope Plus, Somerville, MA, 1998-2000
- Customer Service Representative, Finch Engraving, Boston, MA, 1997-1998

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### STATE AND REGIONAL

Criminal Justice Institute, University of Arkansas System, 2019-present

- Advisory Board member, appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson

Arkansas Community Colleges (formerly Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges), 2010-present

- AAC Future of Community Colleges Committee member, 2023 - present
- ACC Student Success Center Advisory Committee member, 2018-2019
- Elected at-large as an officer to the Board of Directors, served as president-elect and then president for two years, 2014-2016
- Elected among state-wide faculty to serve as Faculty Representative, 2010-2013
- Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges Leadership Academy, Class VI graduate, 2013-2014

The Higher Learning Commission, 2017-present

- Peer Reviewer for the Standard and Open Pathways
- Federal Compliance Reviewer

NISOD/Aspire Alliance, 2022-2023

- Consultant for adapting APLU INCLUDES Institutional Self-Assessment for Inclusive Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention of STEM Faculty tool for community college usage

Henderson State University's Partners in Education, 2016-2023

- Executive Board member

University of Arkansas Adult and Lifelong Learning Community College Leadership Ed.D. Program, 2013-2014

- Collaborated with University of Arkansas faculty, Dean of Education, and leaders from community colleges across Arkansas to develop an M.Ed. and Ed.D. program for the purpose of training future generations of community college leaders in the state
- Assisted with design of the curriculum, which is provided primarily online

Southern Regional Education Board-Gates Transitional Course Project, Historical Literacy Team, 2011-2013

- Selected by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to assist in the development of historical literacy curriculum for college-bound high school students with borderline literacy skills

Arkansas Political Science Association, 2011

- Served as chair and discussant for the Undergraduate Research on Public Policy Issues Panel

### CAMPUS

National Park College: COVID-19 Risk Management Team, co-chair, 2020-2022; HLC Accreditation Team, 2014-2023; Quality Pay Task Force, co-chair, 2015-2018; Strategic Planning Committee, co-chair, 2014-2016; Van Davis 5K Coordinating Committee, member, 2014-2015; Presidential Search Committee, member, 2014; Staff Governance Development Committee, chair, 2013-2014; Faculty Governance Development Committee, chair, 2012-2013; Assessment Committee, member, 2012-2013; Student Government Candidate Debate, panelist, 2012-2014; numerous hiring committees, 2012-present

Pulaski Technical College: Community Conversations, facilitator, 2011; Green Committee, member, 2010-2011; *Milestones* academic journal, co-editor and co-founder, 2003-2009; Foundations of Excellence, Organizational Dimension, member, 2006-2007; Social Science Assessment Coordinator, 2006-2008; New Faculty Orientation, developer and coordinator, 2005-2006; Faculty Council, president, 2004-2005; Faculty Council, secretary, 2003-2004; Budget Committee, member, 2005-2006; Banned Book Week Committee, founding chair, 2004-2006; Library Committee, member, 2007-2008; Library Committee, co-chair, 2003-2004; Academic Integrity Committee, member, 2004-2006; numerous hiring committees, 2004-2011

University of Arkansas: Students of Policy at Arkansas (SPARK), Founding Member and Vice President for Scholarship, 2008-2009

#### **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

- Association for the Study of Higher Education, 2011-2013
- Arkansas Political Science Association, 2008-2013
- Association of Arkansas College History Instructors, 2006-2008
- Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, volunteer, 1996

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## **AWARDS, HONORS, & GRANTS**

Arkansas Division of Higher Education Regional Workforce Grant Phase II for Radiologic Technology X-ray equipment and software, \$114,000 total one-time award, 2021

Arkansas Division of Higher Education Regional Workforce Grant Phase II for Cybersecurity computers, software, and hardware, \$48,900 total one-time award, 2021

Secured a \$1.2 million grant from the Governor's office to support the development of three STEM bachelor's programs to be taught by NPC faculty through a partnership with Southern Arkansas University, 2019

Obtained a \$1.2 million award from CHI St. Vincent—Hot Springs; \$600,000 granted to NPC for expansion of the NPC nursing simulation lab and \$600,000 granted to Henderson State Univ., 2018 – 2020

Arkansas Division of Higher Education Regional Workforce Grant Phase I for the NPC Innovative Technologies Center of Excellence and Makerspace, \$1,879,000 total award, 2017 – 2020

Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary International, Oaklawn Rotary, Hot Springs, AR, 2017

Recognized for the development of the Lakeside Legacy Program to assist high school students seeking associate degrees in Arkansas House of Representatives Resolution HR1040 by Representative Les Warren, 2017 Regular Session

Best Graduate Student Paper, "An Implementation Analysis of the Arkansas System of Care Network," Arkansas Political Science Association Conference, Jonesboro, AR, 2010

Selected by the University of Arkansas Political Science department to attend the “Unlocking V.O. Key, Jr., 2nd Annual Blair Legacy Series Conference,” Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Petit Jean Mountain, AR, 2009

NISOD Excellence Award Recipient, 30th Annual NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, Austin, TX, 2008

NISOD Master Presenter, 28th Annual NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, Austin, TX, 2006

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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

### PUBLICATIONS

Derden, M. W. & Miller, M. T. (2014). Predicting post-secondary attendance through cultural norming: A test of community expectancy. *Critical Questions in Education*, 5(2), 112-124.

Derden, M. W. (2012). Confessions of an entry-level administrator. *Journal of Organizational Learning and Leadership*, 10(1), 29-33.

Derden, M. W. (2011). Community expectations of college completion and attendance. *ProQuest Dissertations and Theses*. (UMI No. 3449866)

### PRESENTATIONS

*Virtual Chat Accreditation Share Fair* (April 2022), Presenter for Open Pathway Comprehensive Visit at the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

*The Tassel is Worth the Hassle* (October 2019), Co-presenter at the Arkansas Community Colleges Conference, Little Rock, AR

*Quality Pay the NPC Way* (October 2016), Co-presenter at the Arkansas Community Colleges Conference, Hot Springs, AR

*The Impact of Community Expectations on Postsecondary Degree Completion* (November 2011), Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Conference, Charlotte, NC

*Community Expectations of College Attendance* (October 2011), Paper presented at the Mid-South Educational Research Association, Oxford, MS

*Community Expectations of College Success* (October 2011), Paper presented at the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges Conference, Hot Springs, AR

*An Implementation Analysis of the Arkansas System of Care Network* (February 2010), Paper presented at the Arkansas Political Science Association Conference, Jonesboro, AR

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Oaklawn Rotary, Scholarship Committee, member, 2015-present

Hot Springs Soccer Association, Vice President, 2019-2023; Asst. Coach Y10 Girls, 2017-2019

First United Methodist Church, Hot Springs, Long Range Planning Committee, 2016-2019

Mid-America Science Museum, Education Committee, 2016-2018

Lakeside School District "Kids First" Millage Campaign Committee, member, 2018

Hot Springs Future Fund, member, 2013-2018

NPCC Foundation Steering Committee for millage election, member, 2013

Conway Rush Soccer, Micro League Coach, 2010-2012

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