

# Huckabee puts Hammerschmidt on state panel hunting up industry

BY KEVIN FREKING  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Former U.S. Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt of Harrison leads a trio of new Arkansas Industrial Development Commission members appointed Tuesday by Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Mike Akin of Monticello and Carl Rosenbaum of Little Rock will join Hammerschmidt on the 16-member commission, which seeks to locate and expand industry in Arkansas.

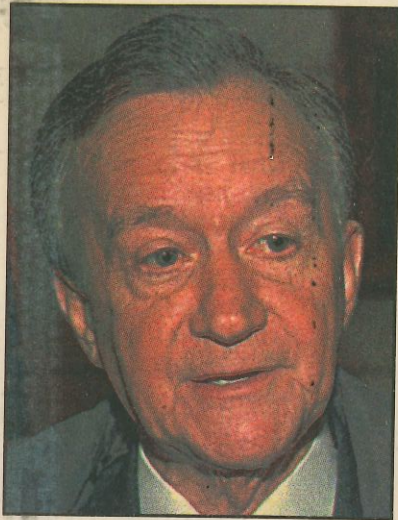
Hammerschmidt, 74, served 13

terms as the 3rd Congressional District's representative. Since his retirement from Congress in 1992, Hammerschmidt has been chairman of the Northwest Arkansas Council, an economic development group. He is on the board of the University of the Ozarks at Clarksville and the board of advisers for Winrock International.

Akin, 40, is president of Akin Industries in Monticello. The company manufactures furniture for nursing homes and hospitals.

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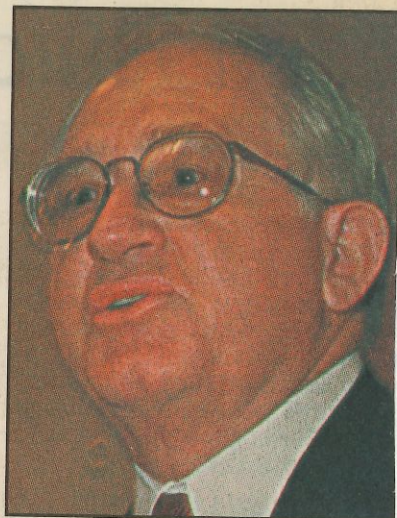
John Paul Hammerschmidt



Mark Riable



Carl Rosenbaum



Richard Bell

## Appointments

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Rosenbaum, 62, is chairman of Arkansas Glass Container Corp. in Jonesboro and president of Glass Energy Inc. in Little Rock. He is a partner in Rosenbaum Brothers, a partnership that manages property.

The terms of Hammerschmidt, Akin and Rosenbaum will expire Jan. 14, 2001.

Huckabee also appointed Richard Bell of Stuttgart to the Arkansas State University board of trustees. Bell is chief executive of Riceland Foods Inc. of Stuttgart. Bell's term expires Jan. 14, 2002. He

replaces Harold Thomas of West Memphis.

Alex Strawn of Hot Springs was appointed to the Henderson State University board of trustees. His term expires Jan. 14, 2004. Strawn replaces Theresa Keaton of Little Rock.

The governor appointed Mark Riable of Little Rock, a former state representative, to the Arkansas School for the Blind and Arkansas School for the Deaf board of trustees for a term expiring Jan. 14, 2002. He replaces Sherry Bartley of Little Rock.

Other appointments:

• Debra Haak of Texarkana to the Parks, Recreation and Travel

Commission, a term expiring Jan. 14, 2000.

• Henry Kinslow of El Dorado to the Claims Commission. His term expires Jan. 15, 2002.

• Harry Shelton of Casscoe to the Fire Advisory Board for a term expiring Oct. 15, 1999.

• Willie Rogers of Forrest City to the Minority Teachers Recruitment Advisory Council. The term expires Oct. 1, 2000.

• Dr. Trent Pierce of West Memphis to the Medical Board. The term ends Dec. 31, 2004.

• Robert Ferguson of Sherwood to the Arkansas Development Finance Authority. His term expires Jan. 14, 2001.

• Darstarta Martin of Magnolia to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. She serves at the will of the governor.

• Dr. Stephen Shry of Russellville to the Board of Examiners in Psychology. His term expires Dec. 31, 2001.

• Hillman Koen of Hope to the Livestock and Poultry Commission. He is reappointed for a term that expires Jan. 14, 2004.

• Charley Kammerdiener of Hope to the Plant Board. He is reappointed for a term that expires Jan. 20, 1999.

• Steve Kinzler of Little Rock to the Elevator Safety Board. His term expires July 1, 2000.



# Trustee says plan is to gag him

Board member, once fired by college, blasts ethics code bid

BY DAPHNE DAVIS  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BENTONVILLE — Trustees of Northwest Arkansas Community College say a proposed code of ethics would put their board on par with peers nationwide.

But their newly elected colleague claims the proposal is not aimed at ethical behavior. Instead, he says, it is aimed at keeping him quiet.

"I think everyone is aware of what is going on," new trustee Jim Parsons of Rogers said of the proposal to be voted on Jan. 28. "I was

fired because they curtailed my freedom of speech. And now they're gearing up to curtail it again."

Parsons is a former anatomy and physiology instructor at the college. He sued the college in U.S. District Court after officials declined to renew his teaching contract in May 1993.

Parsons claimed his contract was not renewed because the state's "Democratic machine" wanted him out. Administrators testified that Parsons was an inefficient instructor who distributed grades in a way that violated a fed-

eral student-privacy law.

The suit was dismissed by U.S. District Judge H. Franklin Waters in June 1994. In 1995, the dismissal was upheld on appeal.

On Nov. 5, 1996, area voters elected Parsons to the community college's board of trustees. He defeated Bob Cheyne, who was appointed by Gov. Jim Guy Tucker in February 1996 to fill the unexpired term of Carolyn Walton, who resigned from the board in January 1996.

Bob Crafton, the board chair-  
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# Code

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man, said the proposed policy allows Northwest Arkansas Community College to keep pace with similar institutions nationwide. It is not, he said, aimed at a particular trustee, including Parsons.

"If we were going to target that against a person we would have passed it several weeks ago, not allowing their input," Crafton said.

Instead the board will consider the proposal at Parson's first official meeting as a trustee.

The proposal, drafted at the request of trustee EvaLena Mayo by board attorney George Rhoads, contains 13 points specifying model trustee conduct. Rhoads said he consulted a handbook from the Washington, D.C.-based Association of Community College Trustees.

Parsons insists some of the points are tailored for him. For instance, the proposed code forbids trustees from conducting "personal investigations into charges of unfairness by a faculty (member), student or employee," and requires trustees to notify the college president before visiting the campus to talk with students, faculty or employees.

Parsons said he already plans to investigate alleged wrongdoing on campus. And to do so, he said, will require some covert campus visits unknown to college president Bob C. Burns.

"There may be sometimes I don't want him knowing I'm on campus. I'll have to go incognito," Parsons said. "I'm responsible to the people to see that their tax dollars are being used properly."

Mary Beth Suddeth, associate director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, said she is unfamiliar with any similar

codes among the state's eight other community colleges.

"I'm not aware of any board that has that," Suddeth said. "I don't know how it could be enforced."

But Sally Hutchins, director of communications for the national Association of Community College Trustees, said ethics codes are effective and are newly popular ways for boards to outline conduct ideals that once were undeclared but understood.

"It sounds like they're doing some good things," Hutchins said of the Northwest Arkansas Community College proposal. "They're following procedures for good governance."

Hutchins agreed that enforcement of such a code could be difficult.

"It's more complex if they are elected," she said.

The nine trustees of Northwest Arkansas Community College are elected by voters in the Rogers and Bentonville school districts to six-year terms. The first board was appointed by then Gov. Bill Clinton in 1989. The initial members drew for staggered terms. Of the original appointees, four remain on the board as elected trustees.

Rhoads said he expects to answer questions about enforcement of the proposed code and said he would not offer his opinion until the matter was discussed in a public forum, such as the upcoming January board meeting.

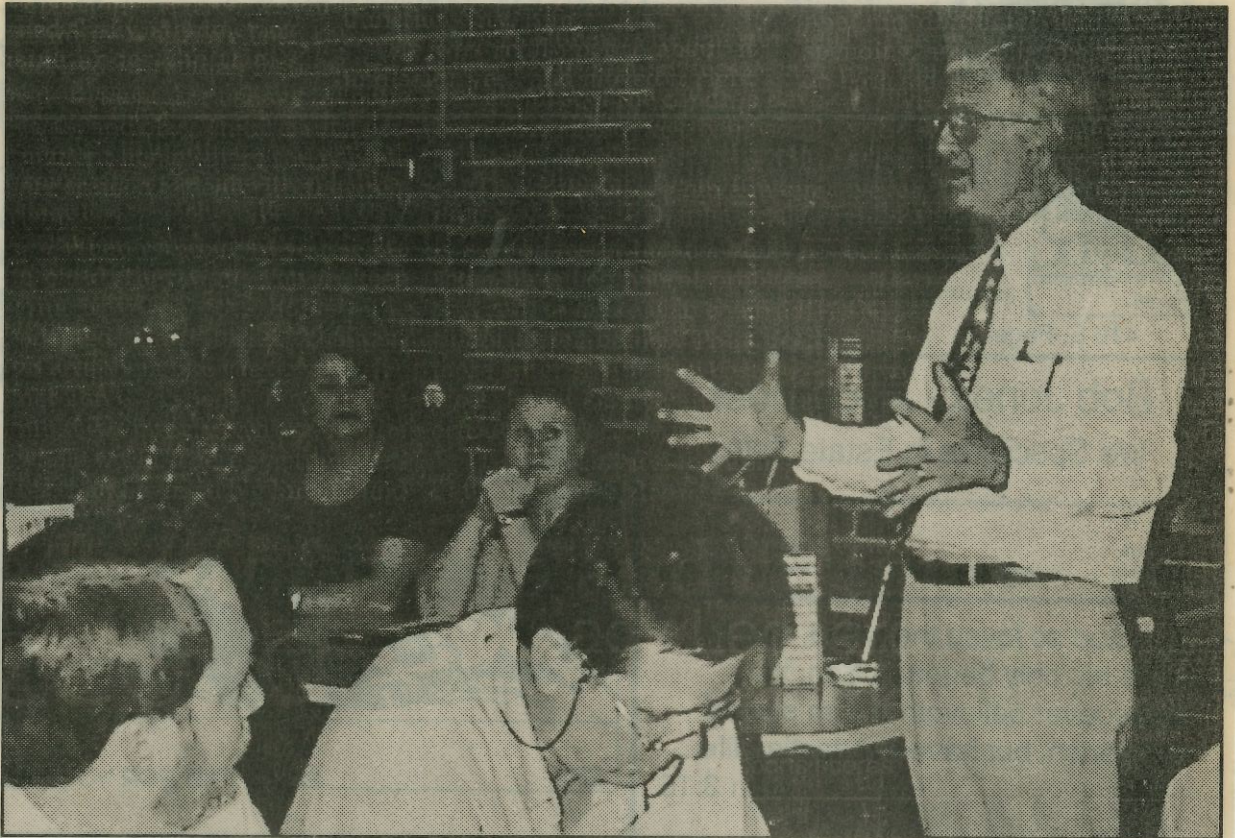
Parsons said he thinks the code is a challenge to the U.S. Constitution.

"I learned as a schoolteacher you don't make any rules that you know you can't enforce," Parsons said. "Just as sure as you do, someone will challenge you if you can't enforce it."

He said he plans to vote against the proposal.



May 9, 1997



Daily Record photo by Brawner

**HOW CAN WE DO IT? —** OTC president Dr. Kerri Martin (right) presents OTC's "Partners in Education" program to the Chamber during lunch. Malvern Chamber of Commerce members and representatives from Ouachita Technical College agreed Thursday afternoon to work together to strengthen the community.





March 20, 1997



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/RICK MCFARLAND

Rep. Ray Stalnaker, D-Little Rock, discusses possible options Wednesday with supporters of a bill, weakened a few minutes earlier by the House Insurance and Commerce

Committee, to require insurance companies to offer the same coverage for mental health and developmental disabilities as for other illnesses.

# Creation of vo-tech department clears Senate, heads for House

BY SUSAN ROTH  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A bill that would create a separate state department for vocational and technical education easily cleared a Senate committee and the Senate on Wednesday after the author of a competing bill signed on.

House Bill 1501 was approved in the Senate 29-2, with Sen. Jim Argue, D-Little Rock, and Sen. Jay Bradford, D-Pine Bluff, dissenting.

The amended version of the bill now goes back to the House. Lawmakers said they expect the House to agree to the amendments added Wednesday.

Last week, the bill, by Rep. Tom Baker, D-Alicia, known as the Workforce Education Act, could not get out of the Senate Education Committee. Committee Vice Chairman Jodie Mahony, D-El Dorado, had filed an alternative to Baker's bill.

Mahony's measure, Senate Bill 432, would have reorganized the state's public education system by removing post-secondary vocational programs from the Education Department's Vocational and Technical Education Division and placing them under the Higher Education Department instead.

The bill also would have abolished the state Board of Vocational Education and replaced it with a Coordinating Council for Skills and Technical Education as the

oversight body for all vocational education programs.

Mahony had also filed SB 623, which would have required a study of the state's vocational education needs.

But Mahony acknowledged Wednesday that Baker had overwhelming support for HB 1501, which would make the vocational division a separate department with a Cabinet-level director and a seven-member board appointed by the governor. The governor would have the authority to hire and fire the director.

Questions over that authority became an issue the first day of the legislative session, when the vocational education board fired division Director Stephen Franks, angering Gov. Mike Huckabee. Franks has remained at the division, but Charles Brown, associate director of finance, has reported to the board in the interim.

Baker's bill carves out a distinct territory for Franks, apart from the board that fired him. Franks said Wednesday he was relieved and believed other agency employees were, too.

"It's time to get on with business," Franks said. "We have a lot of work to do in the next six to eight months, but we're willing to do that."

Baker agreed Wednesday to an

amendment by Mahony that would broaden representation on the new State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities for the first two years. To the initial seven members on the board, Mahony added four representatives of various vocational education programs and six legislators "to assist with the transition to this new department."

The extra 10 members would leave the board in July 1999. If the new department needs legislative changes in the 1999 session, those lawmakers on the board could help, Mahony said.

Another amendment he added incorporates his proposal for a study of the state's vocational education needs. The amendment would establish a 24-member Workforce Development Commission to develop "a state plan for better delivery of technical education and training in needed skills." The commission would complete the plan by Dec. 1 and cease to exist on Jan. 31, 1998, under the bill.

The state board has opposed Baker's bill from the start.

Sen. George Hopkins, D-Malvern, brought up the bill on the floor because he wanted time for it to pass the House with the new amendments.

Staff writer Chris Reinolds contributed to this report.





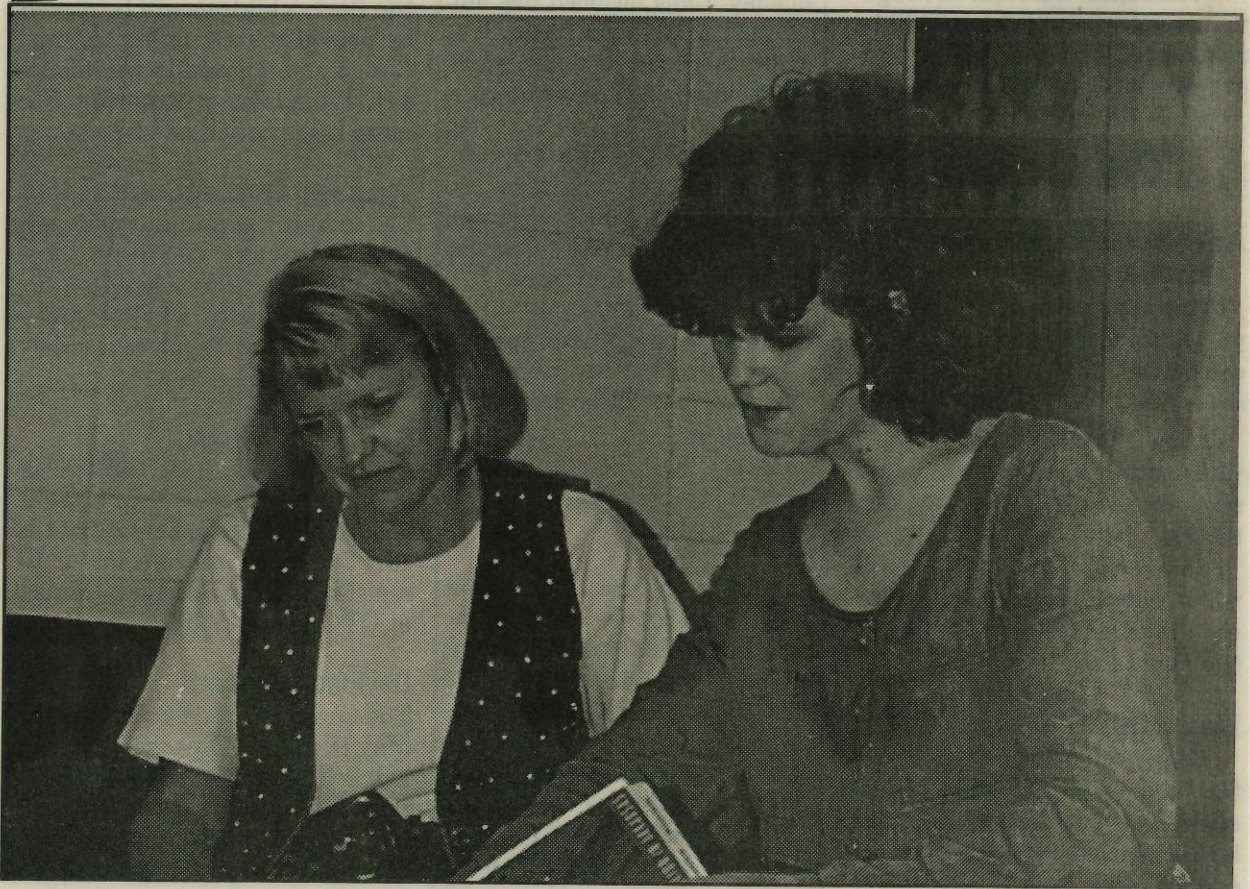
# OTC Presents Awards

Numerous Hot Spring County residents were recently recognized at Ouachita Technical College's Annual Awards Ceremony. Melissa Lishbrook was named the 1997 Outstanding Student of the Year for the BOIST Department, and Jimmy Whitley was named the 1997 Outstanding Student of the Year for the Applied Science Department. Four students were recognized as Outstanding Club Representatives. They include Mary Beth Willix and Olga Jester of Phi Beta Lambda, Von Michael of Student Government Association, and Karen Draper of Student Nurses' Association. **Bobbie Sue Morrison, Vanessa Clardy,** and **Elizabeth Pearl Beard** (pictured above) were the recipients of three \$250 scholarships awarded by the OTC Foundation to OTC students for the fall semester. Beard also received a Presidential Scholarship for academic achievement. The Presidential Scholarship is funded by the OTC Foundation for one year's tuition. OTC graduate, Tommy Finley, was awarded the 1997 Henderson State University President's Scholarship. Also from Malvern, Lynette Smith was named OTC's 1997 Faculty Member of the Year, and Amber Lindsey was named OTC's 1997 Administrator/Professional Staff Member of the Year.





June 10, 1997



Daily Record photo by Gregory

**LOOKING OVER THE OPTIONS** – Amber Lindsey, (right) marketing and recruitment director confers with Teresa Avery, director of financial aid at Ouachita Technical College (left) as they look over a new publication about student financial aid.





July 28, 1997



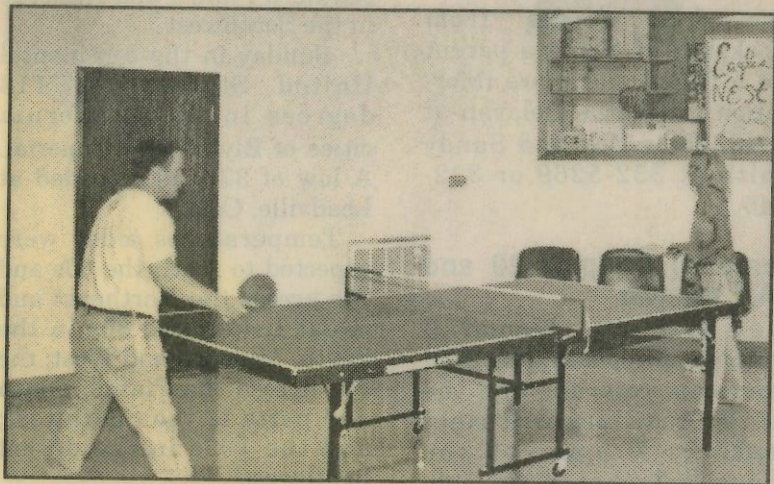
It is the students and the support of the community that have made Ouachita Technical College a success. The school, established in 1972, now employs 53 full-time and 26 part-time.

Ground breaking ceremonies are expected this fall or winter for the college's new building which will house the library and learning resource center.





August 26, 1997



**NEW PLACE TO PLAY** — Phillip Eakens, 22, and Heather Boone, 20, enjoy a round of table tennis between classes in OTC's new student center. Eakens is studying machine tools. Boone is seeking an associate of arts degree.





## Editorial

# Something's got to give

**F**or the better part of a year now, the Malvern Water Works has been asking for an 84 percent rate increase. In all that time, the water commission has appeared before the City Council on numerous occasions to explain the utility's myriad problems and the need for a rate hike of such a drastic amount.

In those many months, the council has approved one increase of less than half of what Water Works says is necessary and deferred the issue time and time again for further study, harsher scrutiny and a re-examination of how the utility does business.

Caution, careful planning and critical thinking are valuable traits in public officials charged with protecting the welfare of the community they are a part of and serve. Prudence is laudable but, unfortunately, the timeframe is limited.

As Monty Ledbetter, who recently took the reins at the beleaguered agency, explained, the utility is struggling to provide adequate service with antiquated equipment that is on the verge of wearing out. If the equipment that brings water into our homes and businesses wears out, it has to be replaced. When that equipment has to be replaced, someone has to pay and it ain't cheap.

Just like living a healthy lifestyle usually results in less need for healthcare later in life and therefore fewer and less costly medical bills, preventative maintenance of a city's water system should be far less costly than being forced into major repairs down the road.

Nobody likes the thought of paying a higher utility bill. The very nature of a public service like water and sewer gives rise to suspicion because of our dependence on the service. It is that same dependence that makes it necessary to occasionally bite the bullet and take action toward providing a long term solution instead of hoping someone else will or that the problem may go away. Necessity may be commonly referred to as the "mother of invention," but it often also forms a bitter pill that must be swallowed.

After a vote of 4-3 against the proposed rate hike, which was unofficial due to a lack of aldermen in attendance, the council set the stage to hear the Water Works' pitch again next month.

If the Malvern Water Works has been mismanaged, or at least poorly managed in the past, those problems should be rooted out and corrected. Some on the City Council have already taken steps in that direction.

But in the meantime, the system of pipes beneath our feet continues to decay.