

Spring 2024

# SHRM NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the Athens State University  
SHRM Chapter #5695

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Building Relationships and Making Connections



**ATHENS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

# A Message From President, Holly Baker



As we bid farewell to another academic year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've embarked on together as a chapter. The past fall and spring semesters have been nothing short of remarkable, filled with growth, learning, and camaraderie.

From engaging opportunities on campus to insightful guest speakers, we've strived to provide enriching experiences that complement your academic pursuits and prepare you for the dynamic world of human resource management. Whether it was honing our leadership skills, exploring emerging trends in HR, or networking with industry professionals, each activity has contributed to our collective development and success.

As the school year draws to a close, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication, passion, and contributions to our chapter. Your enthusiasm and commitment have been the driving force behind our accomplishments, and I'm immensely proud of all that we've achieved together.

Looking ahead, the future brims with exciting opportunities and possibilities. As we gear up for the 2024/2025 academic year, I am confident that we will continue to build upon our achievements, foster new connections, and make a positive impact both within our university community and beyond.

I encourage you to stay engaged, remain curious, and seize every opportunity that comes your way. Together, we will embark on another year of growth, innovation, and excellence.

Thank you for being part of our journey, and here's to a bright and promising future ahead!

Warm regards,  
Holly Baker

# MEET THE TEAM



**Dr. Tina Camba**

Assistant Professor of Management/  
HR Management at Athens State, Co-Advisor  
for ASU Student Chapter SHRM



**Dr. Gary Valcana**

Associate Professor of Management, at  
Athens State, Co-Advisor for ASU  
Student Chapter SHRM



**Holly Baker**  
President



**Sharifah Aburbaker**  
Vice President



**Annie Rankin**  
Secretary



**Coleen Driggers**  
Director of  
Student Relations



**Savannah Cornelius**  
Director of Chapter  
Information Systems



**Kimberly Wilcox**  
Director of Community  
Relations



**Barbara McKinnie**  
Director of  
Communications



**Dalton Thrasher**  
Co-Director SHRM  
Merit Award



**Ashley Powers**  
Co-Director SHRM  
Merit Award

# 2024 Case Study Competition

On March 19th, students gathered together to test their HR Knowledge in a Case Competition sponsored by the ASU-SHRM Chapter. Teams of two students were invited to compete in a Virtual Case Competition.

## Meet the winners!



Ashley Powers



Sharifah Abubaker

March 16, 2024



# STUDENT EVENTS

## Athens State SHRM Chapter Co-sponsored the TVC SHRM Fall Conference on December 7, 2023



We had a great time serving as host and silent auction hostess at the TVC SHRM Fall Conference hosted at Athens State University!

The topic was "Beyond HR - Bridging People and Performance" and we had such a great time learning and networking with HR professionals in the area.



## Game Night



The Student Government Association and Athens State SHRM Chapter came together to host a Student Game Night! A lot of fun and connections were made!

# HR in Motion

By Savannah Graner Cornelius



We had a great time attending the Athens State University Career Development Center's Spring 2024 Career Fair on April 4th.

We were able to talk about the wonderful benefits of #ASUSHRM, discuss some of the HR related master programs offered at #AthensState, provide interview tips, and share how O\*NET can help with your job search.

Thank you to everyone who made the event such a success, especially the Athens State Career Development Center team!

## Suicide Prevention Walk April 7th



The Suicide Prevention Campus Walk was a success! There was a great turnout and over \$16,000 was raised! Thank you to American Foundation for Suicide Prevention for all you do in the fight to #StopSuicide and thank you to The University of Alabama In Huntsville for hosting with

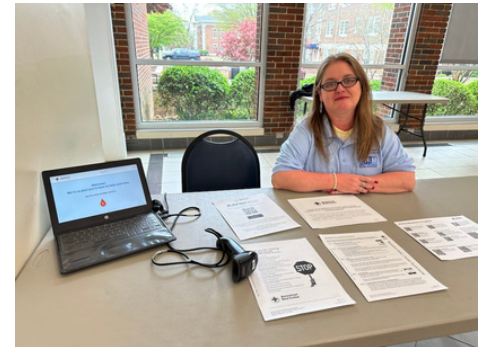
ASU-SHRM Student Chapter.

Suicide is preventable and we can support one another by having #RealConvo. If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs help, please call or text 988 or text TALK to 741741.

# SHRM ACTIVITIES



Co-sponsored by Student Activities and the Athens State University SHRM Student Chapter



Our President, Holly Baker and Dr. Camba made a difference by donating time to the co-sponsored Blood Drive event hosted by the Student Activities Department and SHRM Student Chapter.

## Students joined in celebrating Earth Day with the Athens community



A blue poster for an Earth Day Expo. At the top, it says "JOIN" in large white letters. Below that, it says "Keep Athens-Limestone County Beautiful and Athens State University" in white. The main title "Earth Day Expo" is in large white letters. The date and time "April 20, 2024 10:00 am - 3:00 pm" are listed below. The poster lists activities: "Enjoy Steve Trash-Rockin' Eco Hero's Music, The Amazing Wonders of a Soap Bubble Circus, a petting zoo and MORE!". It also says "FREE ADMISSION!". The location is "Athens State University Gymnasium, 400-476 Pryor St E, Athens, AL 35611". At the bottom, it says "Visit the ASU-SHRM Table for Lunch!". The poster features a graphic of a globe with a smiling face, surrounded by flowers and leaves. The SHRM logo and the Athens State University logo are at the bottom right.

# SPRING 2024 SHRM SPEAKERS



The Athens State SHRM Chapter held its first meeting for the Spring semester with Caitlin Sampson.

Caitlin Sampson was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to the State Rehabilitation Council on November 21, 2023 as an employer representative. She also serves as the President-elect of NASHRM and will begin her duties in 2024.

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Pam Werstler is the president/owner of Acorn to Oak Consulting, a leader in people optimization. She has over 25 years of Human Resources experience.

Pam has a BS in Human Resources Management from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, holds the SHRM-SCP (Senior Certified Professional), SPHR (Senior Professional of Human Resources and CPBC (Certified Professional Business Coach). She is also a certified mediator.

Pam served on the Board of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of SHRM for 14 years, as president for 4 years and Legislative Director. She served on the Alabama SHRM State Council for 12 years, including State Director, Co-Legislative Director and Conference Chair. She is a member of the North Alabama SHRM chapter.

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Dr. Elizabeth Bowden closed the year out with “Career Development”. Her presentation will help students for years to come.

Dr. Bowden has accumulated over 24 years of experience in adult education. Her roles at Athens State encompass serving as the Interim Director of LaunchBox Initiatives, a Career Consultant at Athens State University, and an Instructor for the Career Seminar Course. She has held positions such as Regional and Huntsville Campus Director at Ross Medical Education Center, Business Development Manager at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Program Director of General Education, and Director of Career Services at Virginia College in Huntsville.

In her capacity as an online educator, she has accumulated more than 17 years of experience in distance education. Her other distance learning experiences include teaching online courses at Athens State University and Kaplan University, working in the Distance Learning Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and undertaking contractual assignments with organizations such as Tutor.com, Tutor Me Education, and Varsity Tutors.



# SHRM BASK

Body of Applied Skills and Knowledge

**Be the Best HR Professional You Can Be by Earning your SHRM-CP!**

Gain recognition as an expert and leader in the HR field by demonstrating your ability to apply HR principles to real-life situations through attaining SHRM HR Certification.

**Applications are accepted starting June 3, 2024  
for  
December 1, 2024 – February 15, 2025.**

Additionally, the SHRM Body of Applied Skills and Knowledge (SHRM BASK) provides a comprehensive road map for a career in HR. These competencies focus on the types of behaviors that are essential for success in HR. SHRM BASK is also used to define content areas of the SHRM-CP and SHRM-SCP exams.

Learn more at:

<https://www.shrm.org/.../certification/exam-preparation/bask>

## SHRM BASK at a Glance



# HR Tips for Professional Communication from Dr. Bowden



## **Use Proper Language and Format**

Always use full sentences, correct grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

## **Be Clear and Concise**

Clearly communicate your message, objectives, and expectations.

## **Respect Time and Boundaries**

Be punctual, respond promptly, and respect other's time.

## **Adapt Communication Style**

Tailor your communication style to match the professionalism of your audience.

## **Proofread Before Sending**

Double-check for errors before sending any communication.

# PURSUE YOUR PURPOSE



[Join Now](#)

Save  
the  
Date

## **ALSHRM Conference in Orange Beach, AL (May 13 - 15, 2024)**

Mark your calendar for the ALSHRM Conference happening from May 13th to 15th in the picturesque setting of Orange Beach, AL.

This three-day event serves as a convergence point for professionals across Alabama, offering a distinctive opportunity to expand your knowledge, build valuable connections, and advance in your professional journey. ALSHRM's primary mission is to provide leadership, facilitate communication, and extend support to the numerous human resource professionals in Alabama, including those affiliated with SHRM chapters or independent members. Notably, the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), with a substantial membership exceeding 250,000 individuals, stands as the global advocate for the human resources profession.

## **SHRM National Conference in Chicago, IL (June 23 - 26, 2024)**

Get ready for the SHRM National Conference, set to unfold in the vibrant city of Chicago, IL from June 23 to 26, 2024. Chicago, also known as the

Windy City, extends a warm invitation to all forward-thinking HR professionals. SHRM24, celebrated as the world's largest HR conference, promises a four-day extravaganza filled with exceptional learning opportunities, extensive networking, inspiring moments, and professional growth. Attendees can customize their experience, choosing from competency-based HR seminars, immersive workshops, and an array of curated content on crucial HR topics, including mental health, AI in the workplace, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and much more. The conference is your chance to learn from renowned business leaders and the brightest minds in HR, igniting your inspiration to propel your organization into the ever-evolving world of work. Don't miss the chance to elevate your HR expertise and connect with like-minded professionals in the heart of Chicago.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Congratulations to our  
Graduates!

*Follow Us on Social Media!*



**LinkedIn**