

## **Harding Academy Granted District Accreditation Status from 3 Accrediting Agencies**

Harding Academy is pleased to announce that it has recently been granted District Accreditation from the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, and it has successfully renewed its accreditation status with the Arkansas Non-Public School Accrediting Association (ANSAA) and the National Christian School Association (NCSA). This announcement follows visit from the AdvancED Quality Assurance Review Team, which occurred on Feb. 21-23. The 9 member team consisted of nine professional educators from both public and private school districts in four different states (Arkansas, Texas, Maryland & Delaware).

The team commended Harding Academy for providing a school community that embraces and lives its mission as a faith-based, close knit family committed to a strong Christian education in a nurturing, Christ-centered atmosphere. The team also praised the school for having experienced, credentialed, and dedicated teachers, up-to-date technology and resources that enhance the learning environment, and its ability to offer a variety of dual credit college courses with Harding University. The team also noted that Harding Academy families have great confidence that the administration and faculty are meeting the spiritual, academic, and social needs of the students.

The accreditation process involves three ongoing components: 1) meeting high quality standards; 2) implementing a continuous process of improvement; and 3) engaging in quality assurance through internal and external review. The district's accreditation is for a five-year term with regular monitoring of progress and reporting occurring during the term. "District Accreditation as conferred by the AdvancED Accreditation Commission, ANSAA, and NCSA provides Harding Academy a nationally-recognized mark of quality for our district and all the students within our district," stated James Simmons, Superintendent. "We one of the 70 Arkansas school districts to complete AdvancED's district accreditation process and the only school in the state to be accredited by all three of these agencies. This accomplishment demonstrates to our community our commitment to excellence, our openness to external review and feedback, and our desire to be the best we can be on behalf of the students we serve."

Dr. Mark Elgart, President/CEO of AdvancED, stated, "District Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school system on the primary goal of creating lifelong learners. Harding Academy is to be commended for engaging in this process and demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement."