



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**From the Arkansas Lottery Commission**

**January 30, 2014**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

Arkansas Lottery Commissioner Ben Pickard of Searcy resigned from the Commission on January 29 to take a position on the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Mr. Pickard was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to the Arkansas Lottery Commission in April 2009 as one of its original nine members and played an integral role in the development of the new agency, which was created to raise funds for college scholarships. He served as Lottery Commission Chair from May 2012 through May 2013.

One of Mr. Pickard's crowning achievements during his work with the Lottery Commission was the establishment of annual donations to the Upward Bound programs throughout the state. Mr. Pickard, with input from ALC Higher Education Chair Raymond Frazier, originated the idea and worked with ALC staff and vendor representatives to bring the program to fruition. The financial gifts, totaling \$40,000, are directed specifically at technology for the use of many underserved students who, with the help of Upward Bound, can reach their goals and get access to higher education.

Pickard retired in 2008 after 28 years as Vice Chancellor of Student Services at Arkansas State University-Beebe. He is past president of the Arkansas College Personnel Association, Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and the Arkansas Council on Student Services. He currently serves as the Chair of the Arkansas Student Loan Authority.