



# SHRM Student Chapter News

## Athens State University SHRM Members Participate in 2019 TERRA Conference

By: Michelle Anderson

The Athens State University SHRM Student Chapter attended the 21st Annual Tennessee Employment Relations Research Association (TERRA) Conference in Spring Hill, TN on February 3 & 4, 2020. The conference theme was “Workplace Practical Challenges and Pragmatic Responses ” and was hosted by UAW Local 1853. Experts in their fields provided sessions on 1) managing cybersecurity, 2) current issues in arbitration, 3) investigating workplace incidents, 4) laws, judicial decisions & agency regulation, 5) health & safety in the workplace, and 6) crucial concerns & financial records. The conference concluded with a tour of the General Motors (GM) Spring Hill Manufacturing facility where we observed the assemblies of Cadillac XT5 & XT6, GMC Acadia, and Holden Acadia automobiles. This conference was a phenomenal once in a lifetime learning experience for me. The information provided by the speakers still resonates within me and the GM tour was amazing. I am so very grateful to the TERRA sponsors, our faculty advisors, and everyone else who made attending this conference possible!

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## 2nd Annual AL-SHRM / Mississippi SHRM Case Competition

By: Katherine Brewer



The Athens State SHRM Student Chapter hosted the 2nd Annual AL -SHRM / Mississippi SHRM case competition on February 13, 2020. The SHRM HR Case Competition is an event that provides a realistic preview of situations and challenges that students may eventually encounter in the workplace. The case scenarios reviewed during the competition focus on several HR issues and requires strategic thinking, ethical decision -making, and strong leadership and presentation skills. Teams presented their recommended solutions to a panel of judges.

Athens State finished 2nd place in the case competition! We are thrilled to have achieved these results! We understand that critical thinking is a complex, higher order skill that is difficult to master, and we demonstrated those skills admirably. We 'd like to thank our faculty advisors, judges, and everyone involved in this program; you all aided in our success!

## 2nd Annual AL-SHRM / Mississippi SHRM HR Games

By: Dustin Parker

The Athens State University SHRM Student Chapter hosted the 6th Annual AL-SHRM State Leadership Conference & HR Games Competition on February 14, 2020. We are proud to announce that our student chapter finished 3rd place of the competition. Competing in the HR games competition was both a fun and rewarding experience. The competition tested the limits of our knowledge of HR, but we also learned a lot during the competition. I feel humbled to have placed 3rd overall, but I owe much of that thanks to my team members!



# CASA Community Service Project

By: Nicole Harris

On March 7, 2020, our SHRM Student Chapter volunteered for the Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound (CASA) of Madison County. CASA is a non-profit agency located in Huntsville, Alabama that provides services to individuals age 60 and older and to the homebound (wheelchair and bed bound) of all ages since 1979. CASA provides multiple services for our elderly community, such as building wheelchair ramps, transportation, yard work, weatherization, and delivering nutrition. We assisted Jennifer and Susan with planting various vegetable seeds that will sprout this summer! In addition to planting, Timothy and Dakota did an excellent job also weed wacking the perimeter of the garden, and we were able to help in clearing out a new area for a garden bed! We enjoyed the opportunity to be able to give back to our community and delighted that our contributions will help feed many families!



# ALSHRM Legislative Symposium

By: Veronica Moss

Veronica Moss represented the Athens State University SHRM Student Chapter at the 2020 AL SHRM Legislative Symposium, which took place on February 27, 2020 in Montgomery, Alabama. The topics covered during this conference included: Government policies, issues discussed at the senate and state level, lawmakers' questions in regard to current issues, and Alabama's state employment law update. One of the guest speakers was Emily Dickens from the National SHRM Corporate Secretary & Chief of Staff, who spoke about the importance of how managers, lawmakers and professionals must be bonded together with the same goal in mind in order to be able to see a new perspective of lawmakers as policy and not as politics.





# Welcoming our Guests

Dr. Harry Hobbs, SHRM-SCP

Huntsville Utilities

By: Andrea Ewart

The SHRM Student Chapter was pleased to welcome Dr. Harry Hobbs to speak in the January 2020 meeting. Dr. Hobbs is the Vice President of Employee Engagement at Huntsville Utilities and has an extensive background managing conflict. He presented a very inspirational presentation on Conflict Resolution to students. This presentation was very helpful not only in the workplace but it also gave tips to manage conflict overall in life. The SHRM Student Chapter was very appreciative of Dr. Hobbs coming and sharing such valuable information.



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## Professor Gary Valcana, SPHR, SHRM-SCP

By: Candace Stainbrook

Professor Valcana has always been a beacon of unwavering support for his students. His support has been essential to our chapter's development. Professor Valcana was our honorary speaker at our March chapter meeting, where he discussed becoming certified as a professional through SHRM. He went into detail about why it is important to have this certification, and what doors it could potentially open. To our surprise (not really because that is just the type of person he is) he was able to secure Nancy Woolever on a conference call with our chapter! Nancy Woolever is a certified Senior Professional through SHRM and is currently Director of Exam Development at SHRM. She was able to give us great information about exam preparation and explained different ways we can qualify for the certification. She was willing to answer all questions and concerns we had, and we



are so grateful to of had the opportunity to speak with her. It really helps to hear from someone who knows firsthand about what it takes to pass such an important exam. We are so thankful for Professor Valcana's dedication to the SHRM student chapter.

## Want to Learn More? Find HR Interesting?

HR is an expansive field and Athens State University SHRM Chapter wants to help you enter the field right.

We are currently taking requests for HR Topics that our Students are interested in.



Send us a Facebook Message  
with HR topics!



## **SHRM Annual Conference and Exposition is COMING SOON!**

Did you see the pictures of the students who attended the SHRM Annual Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas last year? Do you wish that you could have attended too? This conference is a great way to be exposed to many different aspects of HR, and you get the chance to network with HR professionals from across the country.

Details on the event: **Place:** San Diego, California **Date:** June 28-July 1, 2020 **Keynote Speaker:** TBD How to attend:

Students are eligible to attend the conference at a reduced rate with National SHRM Student Membership.

To be eligible to attend with Athens State, students must participate and be active in the Athens State SHRM Student Chapter. Applications and reasoning why you would like to be included will be required. For more details on how to attend the conference, please contact Gary.Valcana@Athens.edu

### **Student SHRM-CP Eligibility**



**SHRM CERTIFICATION**  
**SHRM-CP | SHRM-SCP**

Beginning with the 2017 Winter testing window, students enrolled in a bachelor's or master's HR degree program at an educational institution aligned to SHRM's curriculum guidelines are eligible to apply for the SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) exam.

#### **Eligible Students:**

- Must be in their final year of study in the HR degree program
- Must have a minimum of 500 hours of relevant HR experience

Contact Dr. Gary Valcana at [gary.valcana@athens.edu](mailto:gary.valcana@athens.edu) for more information.



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## TVC-SHRM

The TVC SHRM Professional Chapter is the Professional Chapter Sponsor of the ASU SHRM Student Chapter. This is a terrific venue to network with current HR professionals and develop lasting professional relationships. ASU Students/ASU SHRM Student Chapter Members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Cost: First time guests free (must contact Dr. LaFevor in advance at kim.lafevor@athens.edu ), after second visit \$10 for lunch-meeting. Second Wednesday of Each Month Decatur Country Club -Decatur, Alabama Come join us for lunch and informative sessions on relevant HR issues! For information about TVC-SHRM: <http://tvc.shrm.org/>



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## SHRM Website Resources:

**Society for Human Resource Management website**

<http://www.shrm.org/Pages/default.aspx>

**SHRM certification website**

<http://www.shrm.org/certification/pages/default.aspx>

**SHRM Foundation website**

<http://www.shrm.org/about/foundation/pages/default.aspx>

**SHRM Student Awards & Scholarships website**

<http://www.shrm.org/about/awards/pages/default.aspx>

**SHRM Student Career Center website**

<http://www.shrm.org/communities/studentprograms/pages/careers.aspx>

**TVC-SHRM Professional Chapter website**

<http://tvc.shrm.org/National>

**SHRM Conference website**

<http://annual.shrm.org/>

**Benefits of SHRM Membership website**

<http://www.shrm.org/about/memberkit/pages/default.aspx>

## Upcoming Events

Outstanding Merit Award Application Due ..... April 30

National SHRM Convention in San Diego, CA.....June 28 - July 1

Alabama SHRM State Conference.....September 21 - 22

□ Birmingham, AL

## Meetings



Athens State University's Student Chapter of SHRM  
Invites You!

Meetings held monthly on the first Wednesday  
from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Located in Sanders Hall Conference Room 115

Meetings will be streamed live on Facebook  
as available