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Arkansas Energy Personnel Developments: E-Z Mart Stores Inc. President/Chief Executive Officer Sonja Hubbard Appointed Board Chairman of Arkansas Research Alliance

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Arkansas Business reports in its February 1st *Daily Report* that Sonja Hubbard has been appointed Chair of the Arkansas Research Alliance (“ARA”).

Ms. Hubbard serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Texarkana, Texas company E-Z Mart Stores, Inc. (“E-Z Mart”).

E-Z Mart is a privately owned convenience store chain operating close to 300 convenience stores in Arkansas and several other states.

Ms. Hubbard is a Certified Public Accountant and received her BSBA from the University of Arkansas. In 1999, she was named Outstanding CPA in Business & Industry for Arkansas by the Arkansas Society of Certified Professional Accountants. She previously served as Chairman of the National Association of Convenience Stores in Washington, D.C. and Chairman for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis – Little Rock Branch.

The ARA describes itself as:

...dedicated to elevating the fundamental belief: Research Matters. Operating as a public partnership, ARA invests in research that simulates innovation, encourages collaboration and strengthens economic opportunity.

A Scholars program is sponsored and has current research projects which include drug development, stem cell research and membrane technology in purification processes.

The *Arkansas Business* article states the ARA board is composed of 17 business leaders from across the state and the Chancellors of the state’s five research universities.

Ms. Hubbard is quoted as stating:

“ARA is an incredible asset to Arkansas that helps facilitate and support work that ultimately gives us a competitive advantage,” she said. “The impact this organization has, especially its focus on science and technology research, will have far reaching impact for many years to come. It’s an honor for me to represent the vibrant business community in Arkansas and serve as chairman of our board of trustees.”

