

COWLEY COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2019  2020

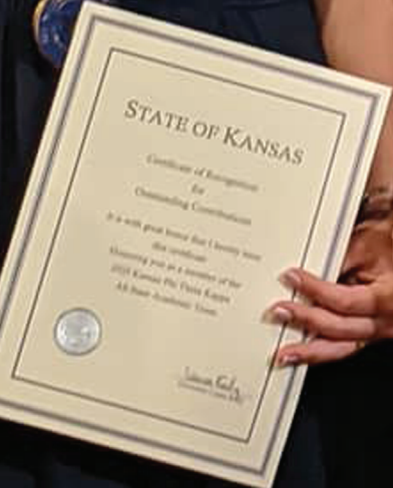
PTK ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM



**ASPEN
PRIZE**
FOR COMMUNITY
COLLEGE EXCELLENCE
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

TOP 150

2021



CORE VALUES

Cowley County Community College and Area Vocational-Technical School is dedicated to the continual pursuit of excellence by embracing our Core Values, the fundamental principles that guide our actions.

PEOPLE

- * We emphasize the importance of human relationships, diversity, and a sense of community.
- * We provide student-centered instruction.
- * We provide a safe, learning environment where joy, humor, and teamwork are embraced.
- * We encourage open communication and the sharing of ideas.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- * Our students will receive a quality education.
- * The college will provide students the opportunity to take an active role in their success.
- * All employees are responsible and committed to excellence.
- * We are accountable to the community to educate students and to sustain and improve society.

INTEGRITY

- * We regard honesty, trust, and respect as essential principles in our academic, personal, and professional standards.

LEADERSHIP

- * We provide a positive atmosphere that fosters personal and professional growth.
- * We empower students and employees to be innovative and visionary.
- * We are an ethical leader in the field of education.

MISSION STATEMENT

Cowley College is committed to providing opportunities for learning excellence, personal achievement, and community engagement.

VISION STATEMENT

Champion the relevance of two-year colleges in higher education through holistic learning and workforce development opportunities.

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

As we close another memorable year for Cowley College in its 98-year history, I am humbled by and made proud of the work of the students, faculty and staff of Cowley College. The spring of 2020 will long be remembered as the time when the United States acknowledged the presence of COVID-19 and its impact upon our economy, society, and of course, our educational system.

In spite of the enormity of challenges, we prevailed and overcame. The College launched new academic programs in the technical areas such as agriculture and piloted its inaugural livestock judging team. The College continued to increase its offerings of technical education to the growing demands within our communities. High school students continue to be a major focus of enrollment at Cowley College with the number of students topping more than 700. A special thank you to our high school partners such as counselors, teachers, principals, superintendents, and school board members for actively supporting the inclusion of a college experience for their students while in high school. The research strongly supports that such experiences make a profound impact on the likelihood that these students will complete their college education so that they can obtain gainful employment and meaningful work. This past year also marked the launching of the new education center on the main campus in Arkansas City. Offerings at the education building include the Cowley College and Newman University partnership for the Pathway to Teaching Program, designed to meet the needs of school districts hiring qualified, licensed teachers in Kansas. A special thanks to our partners at Central Christian Church for working

with us to discover a solution to a marked need.

Cowley College students excelled in the classroom and also outside of the classroom. The College saw the highest national ranking of its Collegiate Quiz Bowl Team in its history, finishing 10th at the national competition. Tiger Athletics saw a string of conference titles in men's and women's soccer, wrestling, men's basketball and women's cross country and may well have been on its way to more titles if the athletic season had not been cut short during the spring semester. In totality, Cowley College Athletics finished 9th in the NATYCAA CUP standings. Staff members and coaches leveraged the COVID-19 pandemic to provide a facelift to the W.S. Scott Auditorium basketball court to include the installation of big screen monitors to enhance the experience of our attendees. In addition, a special thanks is in order to our local community partners because without their financial assistance, these projects would not be possible. Lastly, the softball field received a new name, the Ed Hargrove Softball Field. We will look to unveil the new signage honoring our legendary coach in the upcoming fall semester.

As we peer into the future, the unknowns associated with COVID-19 will continue to present challenges. The attitudes, preparation, and flexibility of our faculty, staff and students may have never been more important when preparing for an upcoming academic year. As we have demonstrated by our service to our students and our community partners during the spring of 2020, we will shine and shine brightly. One of the proudest moments during 2020 occurred in the midst of the



pandemic and the many associated closings across our county. Cowley College stood up a pilot program, the Community Appreciation Tuition Scholarship (CATS), which covered the tuition costs for students who reside in Cowley or Sumner Counties and who were taking classes during this unique four-week session in May. Approximately 150 students from Cowley and Sumner Counties took advantage of these distinct course offerings, which helped lessen the financial hardships of the pandemic upon our neighbors, community partners and friends. When the smoke clears, we are all in this together. We are Cowley College, and we are Tiger Nation. Looking forward to a better future as we work together...

GO TIGERS!

In Your Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis C. Rittle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dennis C. Rittle

Cowley College President

A photograph of three students walking on a paved path in front of a large, curved brick building. The student on the left is wearing a grey hoodie with "COWLEY COLLEGE" printed on it. The student in the middle is wearing a light-colored, textured jacket. The student on the right is wearing a dark blue sweatshirt with a logo and the word "CHEER" visible, and is holding a white coffee cup. The entire image has a warm, orange-toned overlay.

PEOPLE

JUDEN HONORED FOR HIS SERVICE TO COWLEY COLLEGE

Prior to becoming a distinguished member and two-time Chairman of the Cowley College Board of Trustees, Bob Juden first came to Cowley College as a student and later began employment at the school. After recently finishing up serving more than seven years on the Board, Juden was honored with a plaque for his dedication and exemplary work while on the Board of Trustees.

Juden was elected in 2013 and re-elected in 2017. There were numerous accomplishments during Juden's tenure on the Board, such as the creation of the Sumner Campus in Wellington and the improvements made on the main campus in Arkansas City and other Cowley College Centers in Winfield, Mulvane, and

Wichita.

Juden graduated from Cowley College and completed his degree at Southwestern College in Winfield. He is retired from teaching and coaching in USD 470 where he led the Arkansas City High School softball team to four state titles.

Demonstrating a successful partnership between the president and the Board of Trustees, Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle and Trustee Juden had an opportunity to speak about Best Practices in President and Trustee Relationships each of the past three years.

"What an absolute joy it has been for my family and I to come to know and enjoy the comradery of working with Bob Juden and his wife, Reatha," Dr. Rittle said. "Candidly, I think that I

have learned what it means to be a 'Cowley Tiger' more from Bob than from anyone. He exhibits strength and courage balanced with care and compassion. And at his core, Bob cares first and foremost about the students and their successes. I have fondly considered him, Mr. Cowley. On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, and administration, we thank him for his service and wish him well as he continues living the life of a proud Cowley Tiger."

Juden considers Dr. Rittle to be a great leader and was proud to serve on the Board.

"It was a great honor to be a part of the College," Juden said. "I have such deep feelings for the school, and I will always be a Tiger."



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Harold W. Arnett | Ned Graham | Brian Sanderholm
Gary Wilson | Glennis Zimmerman | JoLynn Foster | Christopher Swan



KENDALL RAY NAMED COWLEY COLLEGE STUDENT OF THE YEAR

The whirlwind school year for Cowley College sophomore Kendall Ray culminated in her being named the 2019-2020 Student of the Year.

Wishing to recognize the hard-working students at Cowley College, this year's annual Honors and Awards Banquet was aired through a series of videos on the Cowley College YouTube Channel and shared across social media platforms. During the Honors and Awards ceremony, a representative from each department at Cowley College honored students that excelled during the 2019-20 academic year. The video series finished with Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle's announcement of Kendall Ray as Student of the Year. Ray, along with the school's other Student of the Month selections, was up for the prestigious honor of Student of the Year.

"As I was listening to Dr. Rittle begin to talk about the Student of the Year having grown up around Cowley I began to tear up," Ray said. "Being



named Student of the Year was just the cherry on top to what Cowley has offered me."

The occupational therapy major is the daughter of Todd and Deb Ray of Braman, OK. Her father, Todd, is the director of maintenance and grounds at the college, while her mother, Deb, was a cheerleader and Student Senate

president while attending Cowley. Her grandmother, Carol Hobaugh-Maudlin (deceased), was a long-time instructor at the college, while Kendall's brothers, Hunter and Parker Ray, each competed for the nationally ranked Tiger track and field team, as Kendall did as a freshman.

According to Cowley College executive director of student affairs Jason O'Toole, Kendall was a leader on campus. While admissions representative Mandi Hernandez has enjoyed the opportunity to work with Kendall.

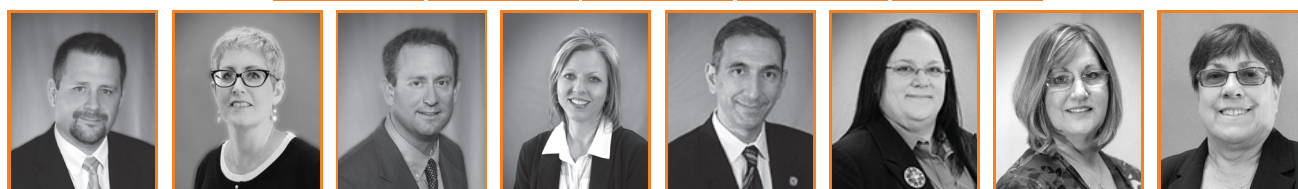
"She is a very hard worker, a positive person, and is always willing to help in admissions with anything that we ask," Hernandez said.

After her first year at Cowley, Kendall was named to the President's Honor Roll and was selected as a Junior Ambassador. She was recognized for her stellar work by being named the Outstanding Ambassador of the Year for the 2018-19 academic year.

At Cowley she was a member of the track and field team, was Student

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Dr. Dennis C. Rittle | Dr. Michelle Schoon | Paul Erdmann | Dr. Kori Gregg | Holly Harper
Shane Larson | Debbie Phelps | Jason O'Toole | Kristi Shaw | Eddie Andreo | Dr. Tina Grillot
Janice Stover | Jan Grace



Senate president was a Cowley Student ambassador, a Cowley Tutor, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and participated in Intramurals. She received the September 2019 Student of the Month Award, was a finalist for Queen Alalah, and was crowned 2020 Homecoming Queen.

“When I was named September Student of the Month, I was surprised and honored,” Ray said. “Then I was named 2020 Homecoming Queen, and I was at a loss for words. Then being named Student of the Year was all of those feelings plus so much more. Never in a million years did I think I would even be in a position to be nominated for such awards.”

Ray plans to transfer to Northeastern State University to complete a bachelor’s and master’s degrees to become a traveling occupational therapist.

“My experience at Cowley has been extraordinary,” Ray said. “Cowley has allowed me to grow as a person in and out of the classroom. Cowley has introduced me to peers, mentors, and community members that have truly changed my life. Cowley has become my happy place and my home away from home. Never did I think that a college just 20 minutes from my home would give me such huge opportunities to make personal advancements. As I close my chapter at Cowley, I want to thank everyone that has been instrumental in my journey

thus far. Cowley College, you have my heart. As always, GO TIGERS.”

Award recipients:

- *Art Club – Sarah Shields and Haley Smith.
- *Business & Social Sciences – Levi Macy.
- *Derek Burroughs Award – Priscilla Bianchini.
- *Health and Human Services – Janica Haynie.
- *DECA Club – Cole Godberson, Spencer Rahn, Randie Wingert, and Levi Macy.
- *Collegiate Quiz Bowl – Amanda Glenn, Connor Lancaster, and Jacob Helzer.
- *International Student Organization & Multicultural – Priscilla Bianchini and Dawson Leach.
- *Multicultural Scholars Program – LyNise Jackson.
- *Natural Science and Mathematics – Dawson Leach.
- *Writing Center – Amanda Glenn, Dachev’ Stubbs, Caleb Vining.
- *Resident Assistants – Caleb Vining and Qwynn Marquez.
- *Outstanding Student Ambassadors – Dawson Leach and Audrianna Bruce.
- *Ambassador of the Year – Kendall Ray.

- *Trap Club – Brian Cox and Jeanie Gage.
- *Visual and Performing Arts – Chello Curtis.
- *Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Gamma Upsilon – Priscilla Bianchini and Childress Rittle.
- *Phi Theta Kappa Beta Phi Upsilon – Adrienne Morris and Haddy Staley.
- *Creative Claws – Dachev’ Stubbs and Rachel Shriner.
- *Vocal Music – Sarah Flickinger and Matthew Sinnett.
- *ACES – Eric Herrera.
- *Act One Drama Club – Jacob Giger and Abiah Konrad.
- *Humanities & Communications – Erin Sitzler.
- *Campus Tutors – Ainsley Carson, Aline Miranda, Alejandra Delgado, Britton MacLaughlin, Elluan Martins Gomes, Gabe Capps, Kendall Ray, Levi Macy, Lucas Freitas, Meghan Harrison, Olivia Seiter, Skylar Darnell, and Trevor McDowell.
- *Student Senate – Kendall Ray and Priscilla Bianchini.
- *Student of the Month/Year – Kendall Ray, Priscilla Bianchini, Dawson Leach, Ainsley Carson, Caleb Vining, Sasha Elizondo, Hope Strader, and Kate Pani.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Kendall Ray - Sept. | Priscilla Bianchini - Oct. | Dawson Leach - Nov. | Ainsley Carson - Dec.
Kaleb Vining - Jan. | Sasha Elizondo - Feb. | Hope Strader - Mar. | Kate Pani - Apr.

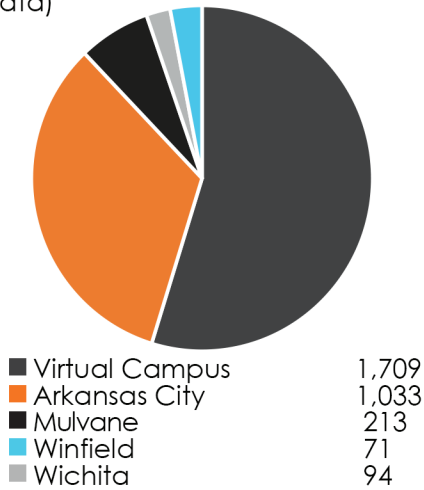




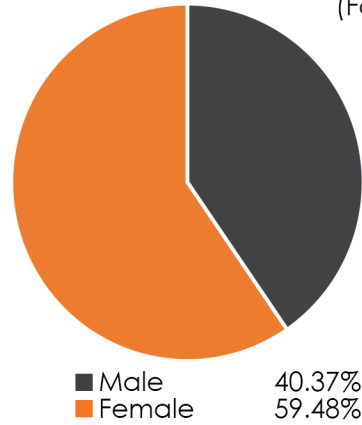
ACCOUNTABILITY

WHO WE SERVE

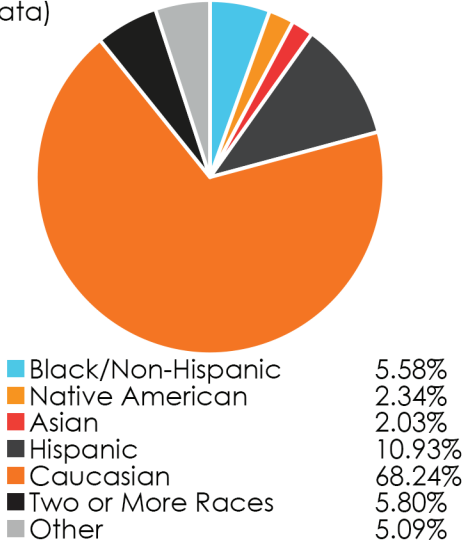
FTE by location
(Fall 2020 Data)



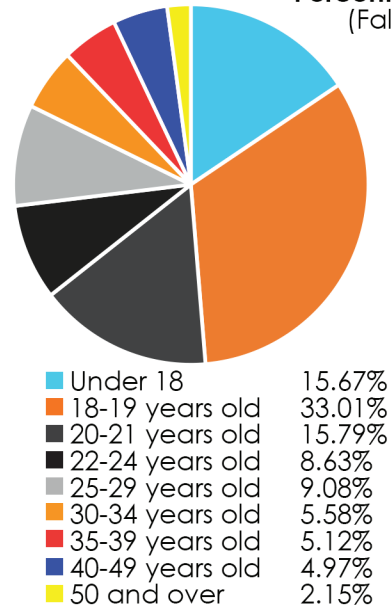
Percentage by Gender
(Fall 2020 Data)



Percentage by Ethnic Group
(Fall 2020 Data)



Percentage by Age
(Fall 2020 Data)



2018-2019 Enrollment Data
(Fall and Spring Semesters Only)

Annual Unduplicated Headcount	3,347
Unduplicated Headcount Fall 2018	2,654
Unduplicated Headcount Spring 2019	2,513
Full-time Equivalent Students Fall 2018	1,821.93
FTE Students Spring 2019	1,664.60

International Student Enrollment
(2019-20 Fall/Spring Semesters Only)

135 Unduplicated Headcount

YOUR RETURN

Revenues by Sources

FY 2019

Student Sources	\$7,466,662
State Sources	7,967,787
Local Sources	5,681,474
Other Sources	443,868
Total Revenues by Sources	\$21,559,791

Accrual Basis

Expenditures by Sources

Instruction	\$7,625,032
Academic Support	749,434
Student Services including Athletics	4,383,181
Institutional Support	4,075,260
Operation & Maintenance	2,752,226
Scholarships/Grants	1,879,011
Transfers	
Total Expenditures by Sources	\$21,464,144

Accrual Basis

ON INVESTMENT

College Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Total Cash and Investments
Inventory
Pledges Receivable
Prepaid Expenses
Capitalized Assets

Total Assets

Deferred Outflows of Resources

Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resource

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities
Deferred Inflow of Resources

NET POSITIONS

Net Investment in Capital Assets

Restricted

Expendable

Unrestricted

Total Liabilities and Net Position

Accrual Basis

\$9,944,026
537,256
4,152,183
273,711
31,038,856
\$45,946,032

913,712

\$46,859,744

16,466,239
77,254

19,186,780

221,533

10,907,938

\$46,859,744



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

ASPEN INSTITUTE NAMES COWLEY COLLEGE AS A TOP 150 U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program recently named Cowley College as one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. Based on strong and improving in student outcomes—including in learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings, and equity—15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize.

"Aspen Institute's recognition of Cowley College as one of the top two-year colleges in student achievement and performance directly speaks to the concerted efforts of all Cowley College employees and our Board of Trustees to keep student success as our number one priority," Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle said. "Advancing student success requires innovation and courage, and our team excels in these areas. Congratulations, Tiger Nation!"

The 150 community colleges named today as eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. Located in 39 states in urban, rural,

and suburban areas, serving as few as 500 students and as many as 75,000 students, these colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector.

"The Aspen Institute rightly recognizes Cowley College for the increasing level of student success, particularly the most recent 6% rise in completion awards when comparing academic years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019," executive director of institutional effectiveness Deborah Phelps said. "Degree attainment can be life-changing for students, and at Cowley College, our end goal is to work together to best serve our students."

Data show that over the last two years, student retention, graduation rates, and degree completion have improved at the top tier of 150 Aspen Prize-eligible colleges.

"Community colleges play a vital role in developing talent and enabling social mobility across the country, and it's critical for them to get better at what they do," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "We're pleased to see evidence that these institutions are improving, that more are delivering on their promise. We're also pleased to play a role in honoring outstanding community colleges and sharing what works to ensure great outcomes for students—

through graduation and beyond."

The top ten finalists for the 2021 Aspen Prize will be named in May 2020. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data. A distinguished jury will make award decisions in spring 2021.

Previous winners of the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence are Miami Dade College (FL) and Indian River State College (FL), 2019; Lake Area Technical College (SD), 2017; Santa Fe College (FL), 2015; Santa Barbara City College (CA) and Walla Walla Community College (WA), 2013; Valencia College (FL), 2011.

"Cowley College has a long history of providing a quality learning environment for students, and it is an honor to receive this recognition from The Aspen Institute as a top 150 community college," vice president of academic affairs Dr. Michelle Schoon said. "Student success is a primary focus at the College and is achieved by a focused effort of all employees as a whole."

For a full list of the top 150 eligible institutions and to read more on the selection process, visit www.highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize.

COWLEY COLLEGE RENAMES MULVANE CENTER THE SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND ACADEMIC CENTER



Wanting a name to more accurately reflect the purpose of the facility, Cowley College recently changed the name of its Mulvane Center to the Science, Engineering and Academic Center.

The name change shows support for the six science and engineering

articulation agreements with Wichita State University (Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Industrial Engineering).

The facility shows support in the areas of pre-nursing and other pre-health professional areas. It features

an Academic support center with enrollment services, academic tutoring and bookstore delivery site.

Cowley has offered classes in Mulvane since 1987 and is committed to the Mulvane service area. The rebranding of the building serves to show support to the students and the community.

BILL AND JUDY DOCKING DONATE \$250,000 TO COWLEY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Continuing to support Cowley College students and faculty, Bill and Judy Docking recently donated \$250,000 to the Cowley College Foundation to help with faculty enrichment and student scholarships.

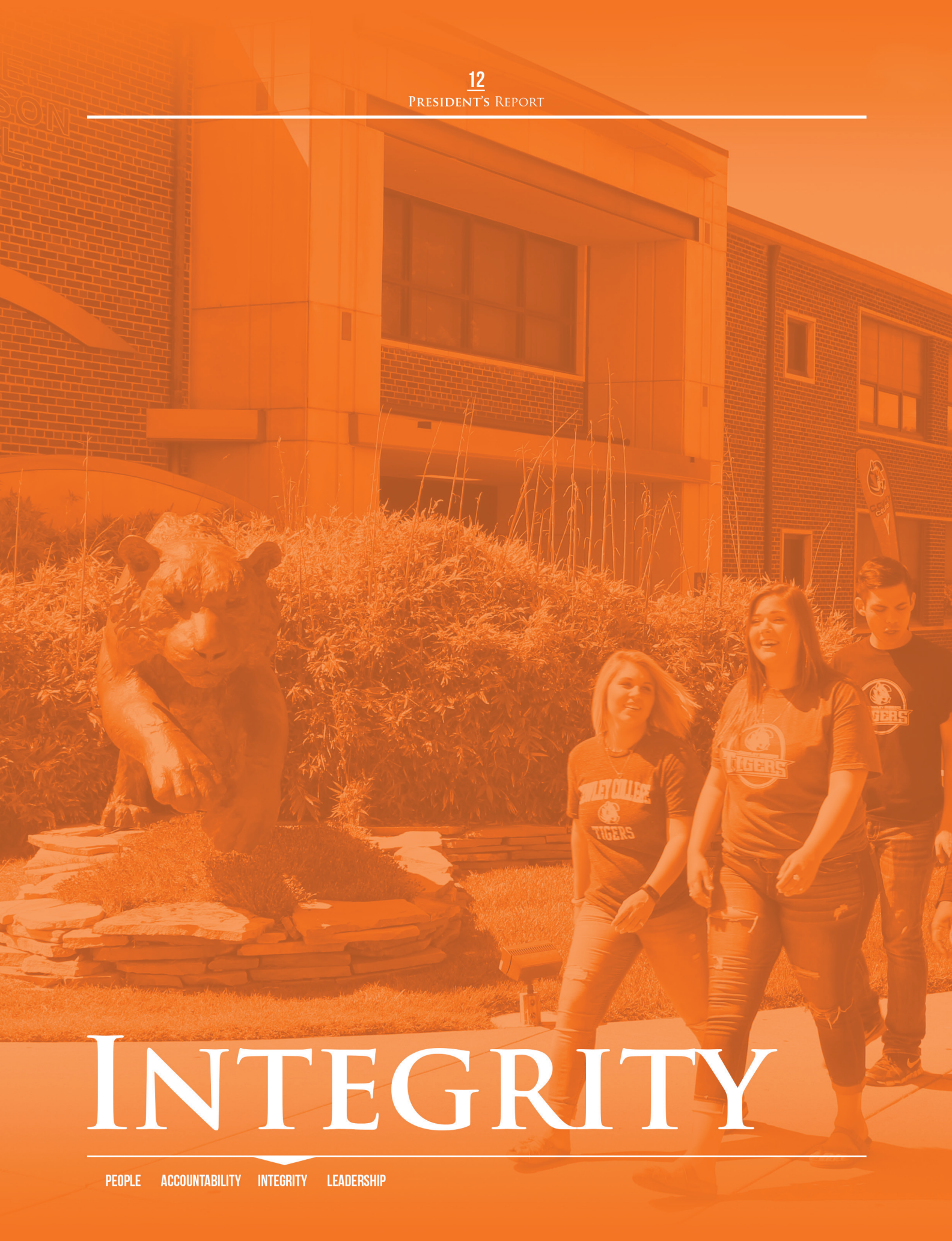
Bill and Judy are no strangers to charitable giving as they are previous recipients of the Ambassador Award, which recognizes individuals who have given significant volunteer and other contributions to both Cowley College and the community and consistently give of themselves and their time to make the community better.

“We are beyond excited that the Dockings made this commitment to Cowley College faculty and students,” Cowley College Foundation Board president Mike Munson said. “Bill and Judy have done great things for our community and the college.”

Bill is chairman of Union State Bank in Arkansas City and City Bank & Trust Company, Guymon, OK. He is also chairman, president and CEO of Docking Bancshares, Inc., a bank holding company, and is president of Cowley County Broadcasting, Inc., which owns two radio stations. An attorney and certified public

accountant, Docking has distinguished himself as a businessman, a community leader, and a friend of Cowley College. Although he has three degrees from the University of Kansas, he and his wife Judy have generously supported Cowley College. Docking’s support of the community has led to extensive service throughout Cowley County and Kansas. He is also a member of the Cowley College Foundation’s Board of Directors.

To find out more about the Cowley College Foundation, please visit www.cowleyfoundation.org.



INTEGRITY



COWLEY AGRICULTURE PROGRAM RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT

Looking to expand its Agriculture program, Cowley College recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Sunderland Foundation. The grant is for building funds for higher education at Cowley College's Sumner Campus in Wellington, KS.

Due to the demand for agricultural education and the many diverse components, Cowley College is expanding its agricultural program so it can train students to improve crop and animal production for the future.

Cowley College Agriculture program director Buddy Curry said the current plan is to use this money for equipment and pen systems to go in the facility that the Agriculture program is trying to build.

"Every dollar asked for and received is being strategically used to accomplish the goals of the Agriculture program to provide quality education to the students, farmers and ranchers, as well as Agriculture industry partners in the service area," Curry said. "See, it is not just about a building, which

is needed, it is about the building, equipment, animal handling, pens etc. to provide the full learning experience to our students and partners. This will provide opportunities to our students and partners to collaborate with other industry leaders and universities to provide the highest quality education possible in a central location here in South Central Kansas."

Jan Grace, Sumner Campus Operations Officer, found out about the grant, while Shannon Martin served as the grant writer.

"When Jan Grace contacted me about Cowley College being a grant recipient for \$50,000 from the Sunderland Foundation, I was overjoyed," Cowley president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle said. "Jan worked on this grant during the spring when the Covid-19 pandemic was in full force. She showed tremendous initiative and leadership to leverage the downtime to secure dollars, which will help advance the vision of the Sumner Campus and its efforts to be a premier agricultural program among two-year colleges in the nation. Thank you, Sunderland

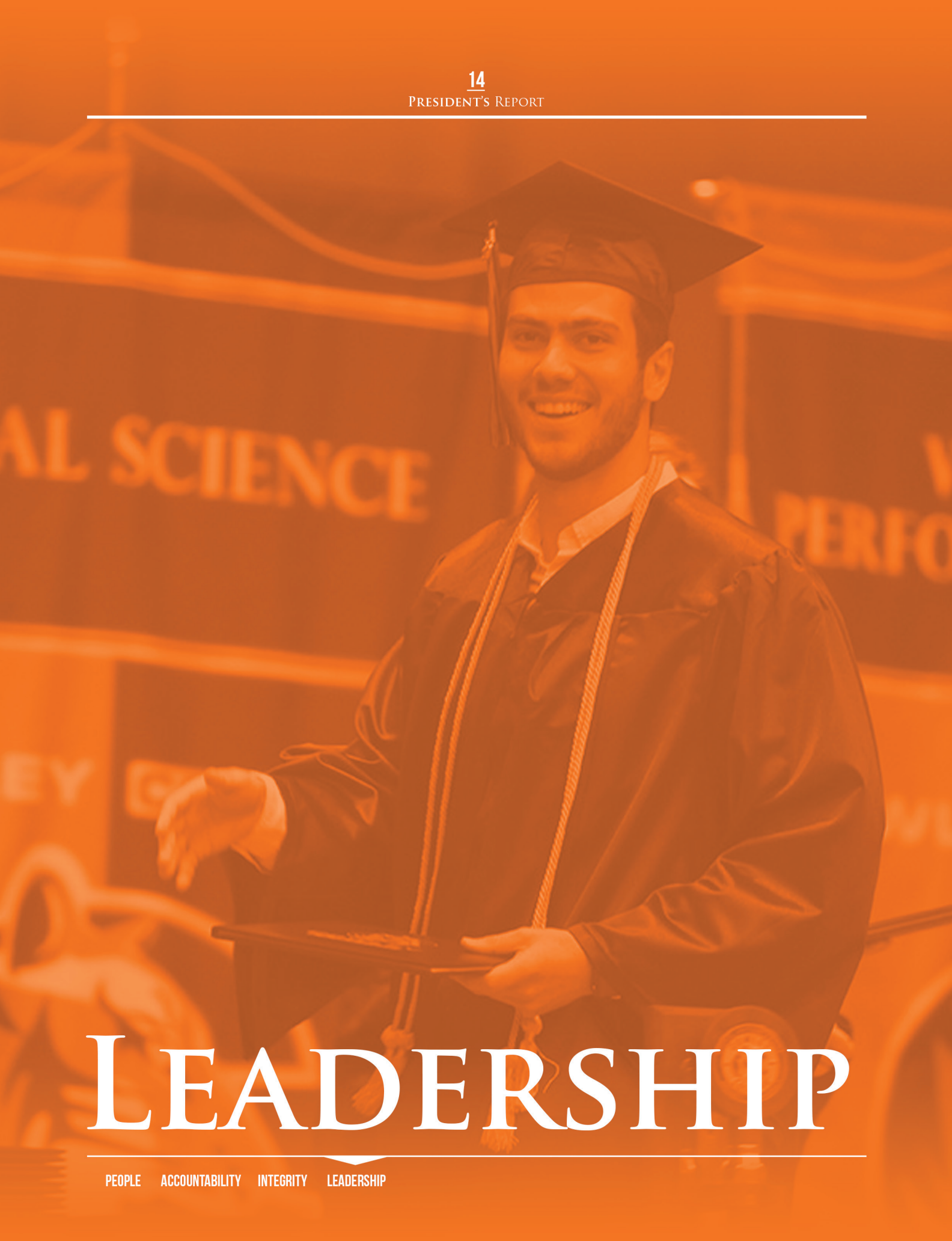
Foundation, for your generosity. And, thank you, Jan Grace, for your leadership."

Larry Theurer, Chairman of Cowley College's Agriculture program advisory committee, has been a long-time resident of the Sumner County community and is glad to have Cowley College and the Agriculture program in Wellington.

"With Wellington being the Wheat Capital, anything we can do agriculturally is a plus," Theurer said. "It is wonderful that foundations like this have money during this time to give to the college. This is a good first step to help the Agriculture Program at Cowley College continue to grow."

Cowley will continue seeking partners and grant funding to provide a state-of-the-art facility that will be the leader in "gate to plate" agricultural education in Kansas.

For more information on Cowley's Agriculture program, call 620-441-5394 or visit www.cowley.edu/departments/it/agriculture/.



LEADERSHIP



DR. RITTLE APPOINTED PRESIDENT TO THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS FOR THE KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle was recently appointed as President to the Council of Presidents for the Kansas Community Colleges. This appointment is for the Academic year of 2020-2021 and began in July 2020.

As president of the Council of Presidents, Dr. Rittle will chair a variety of meetings, including a monthly meeting with the System Council of Presidents, which includes the state's university presidents, through the Kansas Board of Regents. He will also report at the monthly Kansas Board of Regents meetings as well as the Technical Education Authority monthly meetings.

"I am profoundly humbled by the confidence that my fellow presidents have placed in my abilities and

work ethic to serve the interests of the community colleges, which is to advance student success, workforce readiness, and community engagement," Dr. Rittle said. "During these very challenging times, I am overjoyed to have the opportunity to be part of the solution, namely, improving the lives of our students and the betterment of our communities."

Dr. Rittle officially became the fifth president of Cowley College on July 1, 2015. He continued his pursuit of higher education, culminating in a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership at the esteemed Regent University. Dr. Rittle is a highly-respected presenter in local, national, and international settings to include being a guest presenter in Oxford, UK, and Harvard. He is also an accomplished researcher to include more than a dozen scholarly publications. Dr. Rittle

began serving in higher education in 1995 and has provided leadership for government, for-profit, and public education sectors.

Fort Scott Community College president Alysia Johnston will serve as vice president to the Council of Presidents, and Hutchinson Community College president Carter File was appointed secretary. Dr. Rittle will also work with Heather Morgan, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges.

"I look forward to working alongside Dr. Rittle and the other Council of President's leadership as we advocate for Kansas community college students and policies which best serve their interest in the next year," Morgan said.

COWLEY COLLEGE CONDUCTS THIRD REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP SIGNING

Conducting its third registered apprenticeship signing, Cowley College and Kuhn Mechanical Inc. signed an agreement with the Kuhn Mechanical Registered Apprenticeship Program for Plumbing Wednesday, January 29, in the President's Private Dining Room located inside the McAtee Dining Center.

A little over a year ago, Dr. Tina Grillot, Cowley College associate vice president for workforce and community education, Diann Gregg, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, Inc. Registered Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, Mel Kuhn, owner, and Pam Miller, project manager, began working on a vision that has come to fruition with the announcement of the Kuhn Mechanical Registered Apprenticeship Program for Plumbing.

The apprenticeship program is a great example of an employer-driven solution to the decreasing availability of skilled labor. This program is now certified by the Kansas Registered Apprenticeship Council through the Kansas Department of Commerce.

"With people retiring, we need young people to move into those positions," co-owner Ian Kuhn said.

The plumbing apprenticeship program will provide participants with a nationally recognized apprenticeship credential obtained through a three-year program that includes 4,000 hours of on the job training and just over 400 hours of classroom instruction. Because this apprenticeship also ties wage increases to on-the-job training, the apprentice plumber can quickly progress to an attractive wage over the three-year period.



"This is a great opportunity for individuals to have a career, and there is a lot of work available in these fields," Ian Kuhn said.

Cowley College's Workforce & Community Education provides short-term opportunities to develop a highly-skilled workforce to preserve the community's competitiveness and economic opportunity.

Keith Lawing, president and CEO of the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, is pleased to be part of the partnership with Cowley College and Kuhn Mechanical on the expansion of Registered Apprenticeship opportunities.

"The earn-and-learn strategy is a great way for both job seekers and employers to benefit from high-quality skills training," Lawing said. "I hope more businesses would consider using a Registered Apprenticeship program to meet the need for skilled workers."

Dr. Grillot is most excited about the potential pathway this apprenticeship creates to guide local youth into a skilled workforce. Now that the registered apprenticeship is in place, Dr. Grillot will join the Career & Technical Education team at Cowley College to develop the registered

apprenticeship technical training into a for-credit Cowley College program.

"This is a crucial step in building a career pipeline for the future needs of our area industry partners, and assures that our high school youth can take advantage of Excel in CTE funding while completing the apprenticeship's required technical training," Dr. Grillot said.

According to Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, recent surveys of high school

graduates across the region show two overwhelming responses have been found: high school graduates want to work as soon as possible so that they can begin earning

money and high school graduates want to work and live in the region where they were raised.

"Registered apprenticeship programs, such as this one between Kuhn Mechanical and Cowley College, make these top priorities obtainable," Dr. Rittle said. "Good work Team Cowley, and Thank You Kuhn Mechanical and Workforce Alliance of South

Central Kansas. Together we can build a stronger and better future for our communities."

COWLEY AND WSU PARTNER ON ANOTHER ARTICULATION AGREEMENT



Cowley College and Wichita State University signed an articulation agreement to coordinate the pre-engineering curriculum, leading to a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace Engineering. The articulation allows for 49 credits of Cowley College course work to be accepted into the Aerospace Engineering program, with the students completing 81 hours of course work at Wichita State University.

Pre-engineering course work can be completed at the Cowley College Mulvane Science, Engineering and Academic Center and the main campus in Arkansas City. Cowley students can seamlessly transfer their credits into WSU's Aerospace Engineering degree.

Cowley College vice president of academic affairs, Dr. Michelle Schoon, is excited about this partnership.

"This is Cowley's first chance to be involved with an Aerospace Engineering degree pathway," Dr. Schoon said. "Wichita State has been very gracious in working with transferability of courses and articulation of courses. Being able

to take our Engineering courses into their Aerospace program is a really significant advantage to Cowley College students."

Being a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, there is a personal aspect to this agreement for Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle.

"We live near the air capital of the world, so the opportunity to work with a valued university partner to provide opportunities for our students to enter into an industry which is vital to our state's economy, and which our state is known for worldwide, is a great opportunity and we thank WSU for this partnership," Dr. Rittle said. "It is very satisfying to know that we are able to continue to advance that industry and help our students make better lives for themselves."

The aerospace engineering articulation agreement is the most recent of several engineering agreements with WSU. This articulation adds to the existing agreements in Biomedical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering and Computer Science.

"These agreements provide the student with a roadmap of coursework and the assurance that courses will transfer in a way that allows the student to graduate on time," Cowley College Natural Science Department Chair Dr. Scott Layton said. "We are looking forward to partnering with WSU by developing additional agreements in the near future."

According to Wichita State University professor of aerospace engineering Dr. Roy Myose, WSU suggested three pathways for Cowley to consider.

"I think that Cowley chose the option which makes it easier for transfers from Cowley to transition very well into our program and ultimately become successful aerospace engineers," Dr. Myose said.

A couple of years ago, Dr. Myose helped establish an Applied Propulsion track within the Aerospace Engineering program of General Electric's Strother Field facility in Arkansas City and Wellington.

"We hope that some of Cowley's students who transfer to WSU will choose to pursue this optional track," Dr. Myose said.

COWLEY COLLEGE

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