

2025 - 2026
COWLEY COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S

Report

GOLD FOR TANK & DANCE
CO-ED CHEER NATIONAL RUNNER-UP

STUDENT OF THE YEAR
COOPER LEONARD

2025 QUEEN ALALAH
LAUREN HOWERTON



BEN LECLAIR AWARD
PEYTON SNIVELY

TIGER HEART AWARD
MEG SMITH + WENDY NEAL

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.

COMMUNICATION STATEMENT Communication is an important tool for transferring information, maintaining understanding, and achieving productivity. Effective communication advocates for collaboration by sharing timely information, establishing understanding, building consensus, and increasing our return on investment while embodying the College's core values of People, Accountability, Integrity, and Leadership.

CORE VALUES Cowley College is dedicated to the continual pursuit of excellence by embracing our Core Values, the fundamental principles that guide our actions.

STRATEGIC THEME With integrity and passion, Cowley College advances its mission and vision by supporting the attainment and demonstration of life skills in the areas of critical thinking and problem solving, communications, citizenship, computation, and technology.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair - Dr. Alan Marcotte | Brett Bazil | Bob McGregor
Jacinda Shaw-Kinzie | Joe Shriver | Stanley Cochran
Phil White | Gary Wilson



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

President - Dr. Michelle Schoon | Holly Harper
Paul Erdmann | Dr. Scott Layton | Dr. Ryan Burkett
Dr. Jason Kegler | Dr. Tasha Taylor | Jeff Fluty



Report



Cowley College's 2026 President's Report highlights a year of growth and achievement, driven by a dedication to shaping the lives of our students and strengthening our communities.

This year brought many moments worth celebrating. The Aspen Institute recognized Cowley College as one of the nation's top 200 community colleges for student success. This honor reflects the hard work of our faculty and staff and their commitment to helping students succeed. The Marketing Department also earned national recognition at the 2025 National Council for Marketing and Public Relations Conference, where Creative Media Producer Kris Ripley received the conference's top award for his theater promotional poster.

Our athletic programs continued to excel this year. Cowley was recognized as having one of the nation's top two-year college athletic programs, finishing sixth in the NATYCAA Ron Case Cup. National success by our Cheer team, Tigerettes Dance Team, Tank the Tiger, Men's and Women's Soccer, Volleyball, and Men's and Women's Tennis helped earn that distinction.

Community and partnerships are a continued focus for Cowley College. The Academic Civic Engagement through Service (ACES) program and the IMPACT program provided multiple service opportunities, and we launched the first Cowley Youth Choir with support from the V.J. Wilkins Foundation. Partnerships continue to strengthen workforce pipelines in high-demand occupations, including support for Habitat for Humanity through Cowley's construction trades programs and new partnerships in

cybersecurity. In Sumner County, voters approved a ½-cent sales tax that will help strengthen Cowley College's services, programs, and presence there for years to come.

Cowley College is proud to be part of the traditions that bring our communities together. The College has a long history of supporting the annual Arkalalah celebration, and this year, our staff and students continued that involvement by hosting and participating in events such as the soap box derby, parades, and the dodgeballalah tournament. Congratulations to Cowley sophomore Lauren Howerton on being crowned Queen Alalah 2025.

This year also reminded me how fortunate we are to work alongside extraordinary people. Wendy Neal and Meg Smith were recognized as Tiger Heart Award recipients for their compassion, dedication, and service to others. Peyton Snively received the Ben LeClair Award for staff excellence. We also celebrated four dedicated employees upon their retirement after a combined 94 years of service to Cowley College.

Our students continue to inspire us in remarkable ways. The Cowley Collegiate Quiz Bowl team once again competed at the national tournament and repeated as state champions. Our theater program brought us outstanding performances of *The Good Doctor*, *Twelfth Night*, *Cyrano*, and *Charlotte's Web*. Cooper Leonard was named our Student of the Year, recognized for his academic achievements, campus involvement, and leadership.

Commencement is always one of the highlights of my year. More than 428 degrees and certificates were awarded during our 103rd Commencement ceremony, celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates and the many people who supported them along the way. It was also a privilege to have Cowley Director of Media and Digital Journalism Meg Smith serve as our featured speaker and to recognize Danny Crittenden, Class of 2014, as our Outstanding Tiger Alumni.

As you read through this year's report, I hope you see a college that is growing, innovating, and remaining true to its mission of changing lives through education. I would like to thank all of our supporters, including donors, community partners, and alumni, who have contributed to the success of Cowley College. We look forward to continuing to serve our students and community in the years to come.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Schoon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "S".

Michelle Schoon
President, Cowley College

Report

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PEOPLE

- * We recognize people as a vital asset to the success of the College and its students.
- * We provide a positive learning environment in which we embrace teamwork and growth.
- * We create a supportive environment that prioritizes the individual strengths of students.

Student of the Year Reflects the Best of Cowley College



Cooper Leonard is Cowley College's 2025–2026 Student of the Year. Previously recognized as the September Student of the Month, Leonard distinguished himself through his academic excellence, campus involvement, and commitment to leadership.

A dedicated and driven student, Leonard's impact can be seen across multiple areas of campus life. His involvement as the Student Senate Vice President, a Student Ambassador, a Resident Assistant, in Hope Squad, Disc

Golf Club, PTK, and in the IMPACT program reflects both his leadership abilities and his passion for serving others. He was also a member of the Cowley College track and field team. In addition, Leonard has earned recognition within the Social Sciences Department, further highlighting his well-rounded achievements.

Throughout his time at Cowley, Leonard demonstrated a consistent commitment to excellence in and out of the classroom. Faculty and staff recognize him as a

dependable leader who represents the college with integrity and professionalism. His ability to balance academics, athletics, leadership roles, and campus engagement sets him apart as a model student.

With a strong foundation built at Cowley College, Leonard is well-prepared for continued success as he pursues his future academic and career goals. He will attend Oklahoma Christian University, where he will compete in throwing events and major in sports psychology.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Cooper Leonard - Sep. | Ariana Peterson - Oct. | Bre Curry - Nov. | Mallory Jackson - Dec.
Mason Burr - Jan. | Dacey Morris - Feb. | Nathan Curran - Mar. | Grace Knight - Apr.





Lauren Howerton Crowned Queen Alalah at the 2025 Coronation

Lauren Howerton is the 93rd Queen Alalah, crowned during the 2025 Arkalalah Festival. The 19-year-old represents the values of leadership, service, and community pride that define this longstanding tradition.

Howerton graduated from Cowley College in the spring, earning a 3.7 GPA as a Pre-Nursing major. During her time at Cowley, she was actively involved as a member of the Cowley Softball Team, Student Senate, and Phi Theta Kappa. She is now continuing her nursing education through Kansas State University.

Delaney Colquhoun was named first runner-up for her dedication to community involvement and personal achievement.

Cowley College thanks all participants, volunteers, and community members who make this cherished event possible.





Cowley College Campus Life Director Stands Out

Cowley College is proud to announce Peyton Snively as the recipient of the 2026 Ben LeClair Award, one of the college's most meaningful honors for staff excellence.

Named in memory of longtime employee Ben LeClair, the award recognizes staff members who embody Cowley College's core values of People, Accountability, Integrity, and Leadership through exceptional service and commitment to students.

Snively, Director of Student Life, was nominated by Meg Smith and Brailea

Miller, who praised her for the energy, compassion, and heart she brings to campus each day.

"Peyton consistently demonstrates excellence in all four core values of Cowley College," Miller said. "Through her daily work, she models professionalism, compassion, and a genuine dedication to serving students, colleagues, and the college community."

From organizing events to encouraging students who may be struggling, Snively creates spaces where students feel welcomed, valued, and connected.

Colleagues say she has a unique ability to notice those who feel lost or alone and help them find belonging.

"Peyton does such an amazing job of dealing with all the juggling, the late-night events, and soothing emotional students," Smith said. "She makes it look easy."

Snively's impact extends far beyond event planning. Through her kindness, humor, and dedication, she helps shape the college experience for countless students and leaves a lasting impression across campus.



Cowley College Honors 2025-2026 Tiger Heart Award Recipients

The Tiger Heart Award recognizes Cowley College employees who make a meaningful impact through service to students, colleagues, and the community. Presented each semester, the award is passed to a new recipient selected by the current honoree.

In the fall semester, Meg Smith, Director of Media and Digital Journalism, received the honor from Jim Ailey in recognition of her positive impact across the institution.

Smith's influence extends well beyond her professional responsibilities. Whether serving as a colleague, mentor, teacher, team leader, or problem solver, she is known for leading with compassion, supporting those around her, and setting a high standard through her example.

Her impact is especially evident among students. One student describes Smith as "the most influential instructor and mentor of my entire college experience," while another affectionately refers to her as "The Workhorse" in recognition of her tireless dedication.

As the fall recipient, Smith selected the next Tiger Heart Award honoree. She chose Wendy Neal.

"There are so many amazing people working at Cowley, it is tough to narrow it down to one person to be recognized for this traveling award," Smith said. "The cool thing about receiving and bestowing this award is that it makes you reflect on all the thoughtful interactions you have with the people around you each day."

As a Financial Aid and Scholarship Specialist, Neal plays a vital role in supporting student success. She is committed to helping students find solutions and stay on track to achieve their goals.

"She is one of those people who goes out of her way to help someone out," Smith said. "She does not stay in her lane. If she knows a way she can make things happen, she will. The Heart of the Tiger is all about taking the extra time, stepping up, and giving to others."

As the newest Tiger Heart Award recipient, Neal will carry on the tradition by selecting the next honoree, recognizing another Cowley employee whose service and dedication reflect the Heart of the Tiger.

Cowley College Quiz Bowl Caps Historic Season with National Success and Back-to-Back State Championships

The Cowley College Collegiate Quiz Bowl team enjoyed one of the most successful seasons in program history during 2025-2026. The Tigers captured the NAQT Sectional Championship to earn a national tournament slot, finished

eighth in the nation after entering as the 10th seed, and repeated as Kansas Collegiate Quiz Bowl State Champions with a perfect 8-0 record. Led by Eli Hubble, Rawson Ray, Jimmy Ball, Andrew Allen, Hannah Watts, and the

entire squad, Cowley records its highest national ranking ever while claiming back-to-back state titles for the first time in 25 years.

Community Support Fuels Future Growth at Cowley's Sumner Campus

Sumner County voters approved the renewal of the county's half-cent sales tax supporting Cowley College's Sumner Campus in the November 2025 election.

Final results showed 2,081 voters supporting the measure and 1,848 voting against it. The renewal extends the tax for another 10 years and does not increase property taxes.

The sales tax provides funding for the Sumner Campus, supporting higher education, technical training, and workforce programs. Revenue generated through the tax stays in Sumner County and is used only to support the Sumner Campus and its programs.

"We're incredibly grateful for the support shown by Sumner County voters," said Cowley College President Michelle Schoon. "Since opening the Sumner Campus, we've seen firsthand the impact that accessible education and workforce training can have on students, families, employers, and communities throughout the county. This renewed investment allows us to continue building on that success for years to come."

Since opening in 2018, the Sumner Campus has helped meet educational and workforce training needs through career and technical education, academic transfer pathways, and community partnerships. Students at the Sumner Campus prepare for careers in high-demand fields, including agriculture,

emergency medical services, welding, and other skilled professions that are important to the region's workforce.

"Many of our technical education programs are operating at capacity, and employers continue to need skilled workers. This funding helps us continue serving students today while also planning for the future. We're excited about opportunities to expand programming, increase access to existing programs, and explore new areas of study such as construction management and aviation," said Phil White, who represents Sumner County on Cowley College's Board of Trustees.

According to Sumner County officials, approximately 20 percent of the sales tax revenue collected since the measure was first approved has come from individuals who live outside Sumner County. As a result, visitors and travelers also help support local educational opportunities.

"This investment is about more than buildings or programs," Schoon said. "It's about creating opportunities for students, supporting economic growth, and ensuring that residents have access to quality education and training close to home. We're honored by the trust Sumner County voters have placed in us and look forward to serving the community for the next decade."



From Students to Neighbors: Community Unites to Pack 20,000 Meals

Cowley College's ACES program, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Arkansas City, hosted a community food packaging event on March 7 at Central Christian Church.

A total of 136 volunteers including students, faculty, and community members worked together to package 20,000 meals for local distribution to families facing food insecurity in Arkansas City and Winfield.

One student shared, "It's kind of cool seeing all these

people who don't know each other working together for a common purpose." ACES Coordinator Greg Butler said the comment reflects the heart of service learning.

Organizers thanked the Rotary Club of Arkansas City, Central Christian Church, the Optimist Club, the Kiwanis Club, and the Early Bird Lions Club for their support as Cowley College continues to promote civic engagement and strengthen community partnerships.





Danny Crittenden Named Outstanding Tiger Alumni Recipient

Having graduated from Cowley College, Danny Crittenden has built a career defined by leadership, service, and a strong commitment to his community. He was recently recognized for his accomplishments by being named the Outstanding Tiger Alumni Award recipient.

Born in Wellington, Kansas, in 1979, Crittenden is a 1998 graduate of Wellington High School. He began his career with Panhandle Federal Credit Union in 1999, launching what would become a nearly three-decade commitment to the institution and the people it serves. Today, he serves as President/CEO, a role he has held since July 2018.

Under his leadership, Panhandle Federal Credit Union has experienced significant growth, with total assets increasing by more than \$9 million. He also led the development and construction of a \$2.2

million full-service facility in Winfield, Kansas, and expanded the credit union's field of membership beyond Sumner County to include Cowley, Chautauqua, Elk, and Butler counties—broadening access to financial services across south-central Kansas.

Crittenden completed much of his coursework at Cowley while working full-time, demonstrating exceptional dedication to both his education and career. His studies included a combination of on-campus classes in Arkansas City, outreach centers in Wellington, Mulvane, and Wichita, as well as online learning opportunities.

Following his time at Cowley, he continued his education by earning a mini-MBA from Wichita State University and completing professional certifications through the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

Crittenden's leadership extends well

beyond his professional role. He has been deeply involved in regional economic development and civic engagement, serving multiple terms as Board President of the South Central Kansas Economic Development District (SCKEDD), as well as on its Executive Committee and District Loan Committee. He has also served as a longtime board member and past president of the Wellington Area Chamber of Commerce.

Known for his relationship-driven leadership style, Crittenden has earned a reputation for putting people first and fostering meaningful connections within the communities he serves. He credits his time at Cowley College as a foundational step in his journey.

Through his professional achievements and dedication to community advancement, Crittenden exemplifies the leadership, service, and impact recognized by the Outstanding Tiger Alumni Award.



Four Retirees, 94 Years of Service, and Countless Lives Changed

At the close of the spring semester, Cowley College celebrated the retirement of four extraordinary employees whose decades of dedication helped shape the college and support generations of students.

LaVaughan Scheurich retired after 15 years of service as the Winfield Correctional Facility GED Instructor. Throughout her career, she believed in her students, often seeing their potential when others did not. She helped more than 400 men earn their high school diplomas, giving them new opportunities and a fresh start.

Stefani Jones was often the first face many students

and families encountered at Cowley College. For 28 years, she helped thousands of students begin their educational journeys, serving in numerous roles before retiring as Director of Student Enrollment and Success. Known for her quiet dedication and humble nature, Jones played an important role in enrollment efforts that contributed to Cowley College's growth.

Kristi Shaw concluded a remarkable 29-year career at Cowley College, wearing more hats than could easily be counted. Along with her leadership in Student Services, Shaw played a key role in

the return of cheerleading to Cowley and helped build it into the outstanding program it is today. She was a familiar face at countless student events and consistently went above and beyond to support students, often working nights and weekends to meet their needs.

Roxanna James retired after 22 years of service as Director of Student Support Services. Known for her compassion and dedication, James was someone students and colleagues knew they could count on. Katie Ryberg, Cowley IMPACT/TRiO SSS Program Advisor and ACES Coordinator, said, "Roxanna

is amazing to work with and truly carries the heart of Cowley and TRIO with her wherever she goes. She consistently goes above and beyond for staff and students."

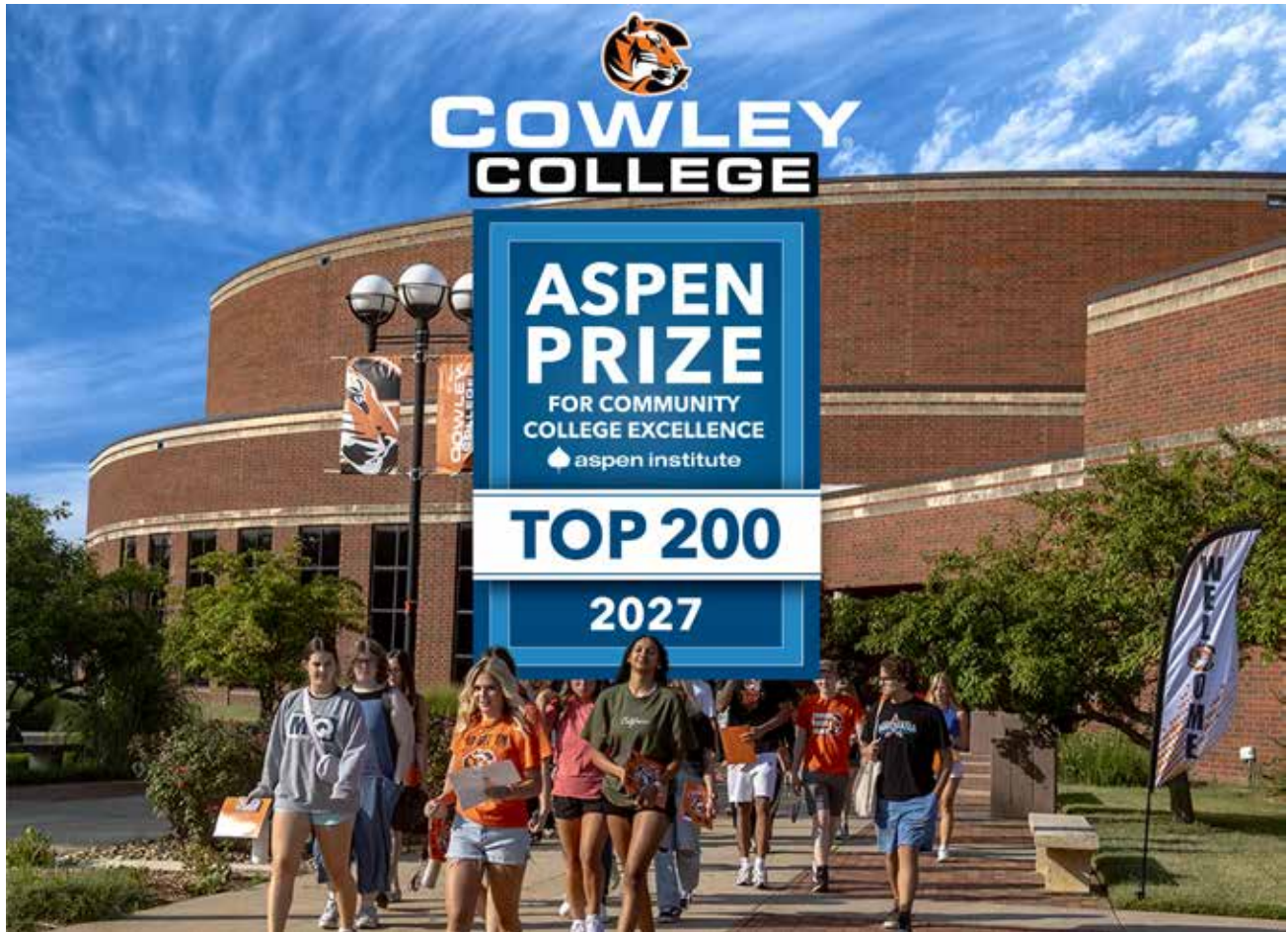
Together, Scheurich, Jones, Shaw, and James gave 94 years of service to Cowley College. They supported students, strengthened programs, and helped create the Cowley experience that generations of students remember. Cowley College thanks LaVaughan Scheurich, Stefani Jones, Kristi Shaw, and Roxanna James for their dedication and wishes them all the best in retirement.

Report



ACCOUNTABILITY

- * We provide a high-quality education while empowering students to take an active role in their success and advocate for their future.
- * Our employees are reliable, dedicated to mission, and focused on delivering excellence.
- * We are accountable to the community to educate students who make positive contributions to society.



Cowley Named One of Nation's Best Community Colleges

The Aspen Institute recognizes Cowley College as one of 200 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's premier recognition of outstanding achievement among two-year colleges. Colleges are selected based on student outcomes data, including retention, completion, transfer, and bachelor's attainment rates. Established in 2010, this marks the ninth cycle of the Aspen Prize.

Cowley College is one of just four Kansas community colleges selected for this distinction, highlighting its place among the state's leading institutions.

"We are honored to be recognized among the top 200 community colleges in the country," said Dr. Michelle Schoon,

President of Cowley College. "This distinction reflects the dedication of our faculty and staff, who work tirelessly to support student achievement and prepare our students for success in their careers and in further education. Having previously been named a candidate for the Aspen Prize in 2021 makes this recognition even more meaningful. It reinforces Cowley College's continued commitment to excellence."

The selected colleges reflect the strength and diversity of the community college sector, serving students in urban, rural, and suburban communities across the nation. From workforce training to transfer pathways and bachelor's attainment, these institutions represent the many ways community colleges transform lives and

expand opportunity.

"The Aspen Prize rewards colleges that achieve outcomes that truly matter to students, completing degree programs that lead to long-term success," said Josh Wyner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Aspen Prize winners demonstrate that community colleges can deliver life changing education that helps make the American Dream a reality."

Community colleges play a vital role in educating nearly six million students nationwide and opening doors to opportunity. The Aspen Prize shines a spotlight on colleges like Cowley that are driving strong student outcomes and implementing effective practices that help students succeed.



Cowley Athletics Posts 3.23 Fall GPA

With more than 400 student-athletes posting a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, the Cowley College athletic department had a combined 3.23 GPA in the fall semester.

Tiger athletic programs with a 3.0 GPA or higher in the fall semester were women's cross country (3.71), volleyball (3.70), women's tennis (3.49), softball (3.45), women's soccer (3.38), baseball (3.34), men's cross country (3.34), men's

soccer (3.30), cheer (3.29), dance (3.26), women's track (3.22), women's basketball (3.11), and wrestling (3.01).

Cowley College Athletic Director Jeff Fluty is proud of the student-athletes' academic work during the fall semester.

"This reflects their dedication to excellence not only in competition, but also in the classroom," Fluty said. "Our coaches and support staff do

an outstanding job of emphasizing academics, and our student-athletes continue to prove they can balance the demands of athletics while succeeding academically. This is a testament to The Tiger Way and the pride we have in Cowley College athletics."

Two hundred and eleven Cowley College student-athletes posted a GPA of 3.0 or higher, 142 had a GPA of 3.5 or higher, and 52 achieved a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Cowley Sees Enrollment Growth for Second Consecutive Year

Cowley College celebrated continued enrollment growth this fall, with preliminary census day figures showing a 2.5% increase in year-to-year headcount enrollment. This marks the first time in recent years that the College has experienced two consecutive years of enrollment growth.

According to the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), the state's public higher education system has now experienced three consecutive years of enrollment growth, with overall headcount up 2.2% compared to 2024.

At Cowley, the momentum reflects

a shared focus on student access and success. Eighty-five percent of Cowley students are Kansas residents, highlighting the College's strong connection to the state and its communities.

Cowley College President Dr. Michelle Schoon said, "I attribute this to a collegewide effort focused on supporting enrollment management and retention. I also credit some of our increase to key programs that meet industry demands, such as welding and nondestructive testing, along with programs that support health and human services—specifically education, medical coding, pre-nursing, CNA, and paramedic. The College

continues to focus on student success and retention, with an increase in fall-to-fall retention numbers and a significant increase in retention of part-time students."

Enrollment data is collected annually by the Kansas Board of Regents on the 20th day of the fall semester and reported in both headcount and full-time equivalency.

Cowley College remains committed to helping students achieve their educational and career goals while strengthening the workforce and serving as a partner to communities across Kansas.



Cowley Celebrates Future Workforce Leaders Through CTE Signing Day

Much like student-athletes signing to play college sports, Cowley College's National Career and Technical Education (CTE) Signing Day gave students pursuing technical programs the opportunity to publicly commit to their futures.

Cowley hosted its fifth annual event on April 16, 2026, in partnership with the National Coalition of Certification Centers, celebrating 30 students who signed their intent to enroll in Cowley College CTE programs.

Part of a nationwide initiative, CTE Signing Day highlights the value of hands-on careers and the important role skilled workers play in today's workforce. Students committed to programs including automotive technology, welding, health sciences, criminal justice, childcare development, and more.

"We are incredibly proud of these students for choosing to invest in their futures through career and technical education," said Jessica Dorman, Technical Education Support Specialist.

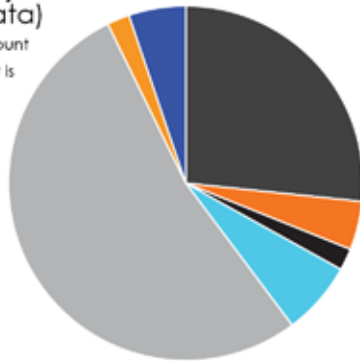
"This event celebrates their achievements while reinforcing the importance of skilled trades in our communities."

Cowley College remains committed to providing hands-on training that prepares students for in-demand careers while supporting workforce development across the region. Those interested in exploring a career in a technical field can learn more by visiting Cowley.edu or connecting with the college's admissions team.

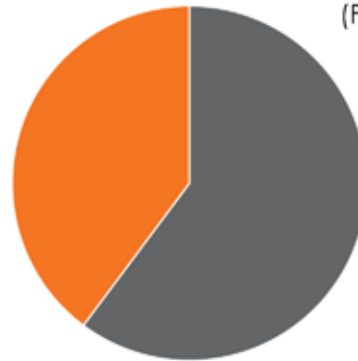
WHO WE SERVE

Enrollment by location
(Fall 2025 Data)

(Duplicated headcount where each student is counted for every location category where they are enrolled)



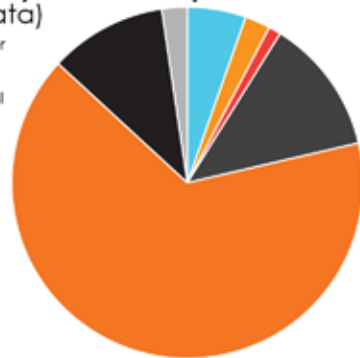
Arkansas City	871
Mulvane SEA	145
Mulvane Tech	65
Sumner Campus	219
Virtual Campus	1,732
Winfield	67
Winfield Correctional	170

Percentage by Gender
(Fall 2025 Data)

Female	60.2%
Male	39.8%

Percentage by Ethnic Group
(Fall 2025 Data)

(Headcount used for numerator does not include International Students)

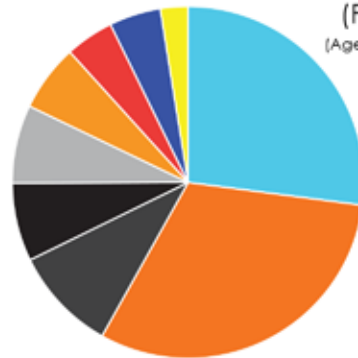


Black or African American	5.39%
Native American	2.34%
Asian	1.13%
Hispanic Latino	12.50%
White	65.47%
Two or More Races	10.80%
Other	2.34%

(This category includes Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander and Unknown)

Percentage by Age
(Fall 2025 Data)

(Age on 20th day of the fall term to be consistent with federal reporting)



Under 18	27.14%
18-19 years old	31.14%
20-21 years old	9.63%
22-24 years old	7.21%
25-29 years old	7.21%
30-34 years old	6.17%
35-39 years old	4.46%
40-49 years old	4.75%
50 and over	2.54%

2025-2026 Enrollment Data
(Fall and Spring Semesters Only)

Annual Unduplicated Headcount Including Sumner
Unduplicated Headcount Fall 2025
Unduplicated Headcount Spring 2026
Full-time Equivalent Students Fall 2025
FTE Students Spring 2026

3,252
2,392
2,302
1,689.2
1,577.53

Annual Unduplicated Headcount Without Sumner
(2025-26 Fall and Spring Semesters Only)

3,077

Unduplicated
Headcount

YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Revenues by Sources

FY 2025

Student Sources	\$8,380,447
Federal & State Sources	10,035,621
Local Sources	6,705,257
Other Sources	1,080,057
Total Revenues by Sources	\$26,201,382

Expenditures by Sources

	<i>Cash Basis</i>
Instruction	\$8,368,889
Academic Support	896,981
Student Services including Athletics	4,760,723
Institutional Support	5,200,481
Operation & Maintenance	3,199,963
Scholarships/Grants	2,413,116
Transfers	-
Total Expenditures by Sources	\$24,840,153

Foundation Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Total Cash and Investments	\$11,210,519
Accounts Receivable	647,815
Interest in Trust	543,409
Total Assets	\$12,401,743

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	179,994
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NET POSITIONS

Net Investment in Capital Assets	-
Restricted	\$4,660,468
Expendable	6,183,031
Non-Expendable	1,378,250
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$12,401,743

College Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Total Cash and Investments	\$16,576,262
Inventory	316,266
Accounts Receivable	2,566,181
Prepaid Expenses	175,900

Capitalized Assets	39,553,425
Total Assets	\$59,188,034
Deferred Outflows of Resources	511,465
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$59,699,499

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	11,753,381
Deferred Inflow of Resources	2,098,469

NET POSITION

Net Investment in Capital Assets	34,315,652
Restricted	-
Expendable	-
Unrestricted	11,531,997
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$59,699,499



Report

INTEGRITY

- * We commit to a fair learning environment where academic, personal, and professional standards reflect honesty and integrity.
- * We hold ourselves to compliance with high standards in conduct.
- * We affirm a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, and respect.



Cowley Partners with Kansas Air National Guard to Strengthen the State's Workforce

Leaders from the Kansas Association of Community Colleges and the 184th Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, join efforts to create a statewide Proclamation of Partnership, establishing a collaborative effort to strengthen Kansas' workforce pipeline in cybersecurity and other mission-critical fields.

Representing Cowley College, President Dr. Michelle Schoon and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Scott Layton are among Kansas community college presidents and Air National Guard leaders who affirm a shared commitment to expanding academic pathways aligned with the operational needs of the Kansas Air National Guard.

The agreement formalizes collaboration in areas including cybersecurity, intelligence analysis, information technology, aviation maintenance,

emergency management, logistics and other emerging mission areas. Through the partnership, Kansas community colleges work alongside Guard leadership to expand curriculum, develop stackable credentials and align technical training programs with real-world mission requirements.

The collaboration is further strengthened by federal support, including from U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall, highlighting the importance of aligning higher education and military resources to meet workforce needs across Kansas.

Dr. Michelle Schoon emphasized the importance of Cowley College's role in the initiative.

"This partnership further strengthens the link between education and the workforce," Schoon said. "Cowley

College is proud to work with the 184th Wing to connect classroom learning to real-world needs."

Dr. Scott Layton, vice president of academic affairs, echoed that sentiment.

"It's a great opportunity to enhance student learning in cybersecurity with the expertise provided by the Air National Guard," Layton said.

As a member institution of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges, Cowley College actively collaborates in developing and expanding programs that serve both traditional students and military-affiliated learners. The agreement reinforces a shared commitment to educational excellence, workforce readiness and service to the people of Kansas.



New Space, New Opportunities for Marketing and Strategic Communications

Cowley College's Department of Marketing and Strategic Communications has a new home in Galle-Johnson Hall. A former storage area in the lower level was transformed into a modern workspace designed to support the team's growing needs.

Designed by Kris Ripley, the department's Creative Media Producer, the new space features three private offices, a conference room, and a dedicated production studio. The addition enhances

the college's ability to create professional photography and video content, particularly during Media Day events for student athletes.

Jennifer Searle, director of Marketing and Strategic Communications, said the new space goes beyond serving as an office.

"Whether we're highlighting a Student of the Month, helping a department share what they offer prospective students or showcasing our student-athletes, this space

allows us to tell more stories about the people who make Cowley College special. It has even opened the door to new opportunities like our podcast, Behind the Stripes," Searle said.

The renovation added two new restrooms to the lower level of Galle-Johnson Hall, along with a breakroom available to all employees. Improvements were also made to The Vault, a popular gathering space where students can relax and play video

games, including the creation of a dedicated esports arena for Cowley College's new esports team.

The renovations were necessary to open up space on the main level of Galle-Johnson Hall for the Cowley College Foundation, which recently relocated from historic Ireland Hall. The result is a dedicated space designed to support the college's communication, storytelling, and media production efforts.



Cowley Youth Choir Makes Debut

The Cowley Youth Choir (CYC) made its debut during the 2025-2026 academic year, bringing together students in grades 3 through 7 from across Cowley County and surrounding areas. The program was made possible

through a grant from the V.J. Wilkins Foundation.

“We are incredibly grateful to the V.J. Wilkins Foundation for their continued investment in the arts and youth programming in our region,” said Cowley College Theater

Director Nick Albrecht. “Their partnership allows us to expand artistic opportunities for young people and foster a love of music at an early age.”

Cowley College would like to thank the V.J. Wilkins Foundation for helping make

the Cowley Youth Choir possible and for supporting arts opportunities for young people. The college looks forward to building on the success of the choir’s first year.

Land Donation Expands Cowley’s Sumner Campus

Cowley College has added 6.5 acres to its Sumner Campus thanks to a land donation from the Short-Burger Family. The land sits adjacent to the campus and will support future growth.

The donation also directly

supports the college’s growing 14-acre Pollinator Habitat. With bees now established on the site, the habitat is developing into a living laboratory for sustainability, agriculture, and environmental science.

The Short-Burger Family has played an important role in the growth of the Sumner Campus. An earlier donation of 18 acres made construction of the campus possible, and the family’s latest gift continues that legacy of support.

Cowley College is grateful for the Short-Burger Family’s ongoing generosity. Their support will help shape the next chapter of growth at the Sumner Campus and help create learning environments that serve students and the region for years to come.



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LEADERSHIP

- * We provide impactful opportunities and resources to better serve the current and future needs of our communities.
- * We provide a positive atmosphere that fosters personal, educational, and professional growth.
- * We empower students and employees to be innovative, creative, and visionary.



Cowley College Celebrates Class of 2026 at 103rd Commencement

Cowley College celebrated the achievements of 428 graduates during its 103rd Commencement Ceremony on May 9. Nearly 300 graduates participated in the

ceremony inside W.S. Scott Auditorium as Associate degrees and technical certificates were conferred. The ceremony featured the Arkansas City VFW Honor

Guard, performances by the Cowley College Singers, commencement remarks from Meg Smith, inspiring messages from student leaders Mackenzie Tanner and Cooper

Leonard, and recognition of Danny Crittenden as the 2026 Outstanding Tiger Alumni Award recipient.



Cowley Welcomes Stanley Cochran to Board of Trustees

Stanley Cochran is the newest member of the Cowley College Board of Trustees. A longtime Cowley County resident, he holds an Associate of Arts from Cowley College and both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Business Administration from Southwestern College.

Cochran retired after a 28-year career with Spirit AeroSystems, where he advanced from assembly mechanic to operations

management. His experience in aerospace manufacturing provides valuable insight into workforce development, aligning closely with Cowley College's mission.

The Board of Trustees provides leadership and oversight in guiding the college's mission and ensuring continued opportunities for student success. To learn more about its members, visit cowley.edu.



Cowley Athletics Rises Among Nation's Best After a Standout Year

Cowley College continues to establish itself as one of the nation's premier two-year athletic programs, earning a sixth-place finish in the 2025-26 Ron Case Cup presented by Daktronics Scholarship Division while celebrating multiple national appearances and championships across its athletic programs.

Presented annually by the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators (NATYCAA), the Ron Case Cup recognizes overall program excellence among two-year colleges. Cowley improves two spots from last year's eighth-place finish, earning 145 points to place sixth nationally among all scholarship community colleges. Three

Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) schools finish among the nation's top 10, with Barton Community College tying for second and Hutchinson Community College placing seventh.

The national ranking reflects a year of outstanding performances by Tiger student-athletes, including several teams and individuals who compete on the national stage.

Leading the way, the Cowley College Spirit Squad delivers an unforgettable performance at DTU The College Classic in Orlando, Florida. The Tigerette Dance Team captures a national championship in Team Performance while earning a

national runner-up finish in Hip Hop. The Large Co-ed Cheer Team also finishes as national runner-up, showcasing elite-level stunting, synchronization, and execution against the nation's top programs. Tank the Tiger adds another national championship by winning the Mascot Division.

The Spirit Squad's success comes after months of preparation while balancing practices, performances at athletic events, community appearances, and academic responsibilities.

"This group puts in an incredible amount of work all year long," Head Cheer and Dance Coach Holli Gurnee said. "From early mornings to late



nights, they've stayed committed to each other and to representing Cowley the right way. I couldn't be more proud of how they perform and the way they carry themselves on the national stage."

Cowley's success at national competition extends beyond the Spirit Squad. Throughout the 2025-26 season, Tiger athletic programs earn opportunities to compete against the nation's best, contributing valuable points toward the Ron Case Cup standings and further strengthening the college's reputation for excellence in intercollegiate athletics.

"Finishing sixth nationally in the NATYCAA Ron Case Cup is an outstanding accomplishment and a reflection of the championship-level culture that exists at Cowley College," Athletic Director Jeff Fluty said. "This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our exceptional coaching staff and the hard work, commitment, and competitive excellence displayed by our student-athletes throughout the 2025-26 athletic season. Our success across multiple

sports demonstrates the pride, perseverance, and pursuit of excellence that define the Tiger Way. I am incredibly proud of everyone. Go Tigers!"

The sixth-place finish reinforces Cowley's standing as one of the nation's elite community college athletic programs, with championship performances, national appearances, and a commitment to excellence continuing to define Tiger athletics.



27th Class inducted into the Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame

Celebrating 27 years of the Tiger Athletic Hall of Fame, five individuals and one team represented the Class of 2026 at the Hall of Fame festivities held Saturday, February 7, in the Earle N. Wright Community Room.

Those inducted were tennis player Dean Clower, baseball player Casey Eckstein, softball pitcher Jessica (Seay) Linke, women's basketball player Montia (Johnson) Storey,

contributor Peg Williams, and the 2011 national champion volleyball team.

Cowley College athletic director Jeff Fluty said one of his favorite events of the year is the annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony, and the luncheon is an opportunity to celebrate all that is good about college athletics.

"The 2026 Cowley Tiger Hall of Fame was a tremendous

success and a powerful celebration recognizing the best of the best in Tiger Athletics," Fluty said. "From the social at the Burford Theatre, the formal induction banquet at the Wright Room on campus, to the public inductee introductions between the men's and women's basketball games, the entire weekend reflected the pride, tradition, and excellence that define Cowley Athletics. It

was an honor to recognize these outstanding individuals and reconnect generations of Cowley Tigers who helped build our legacy."

Sponsors for the Hall of Fame luncheon on Saturday and Social on Friday night at the Burford Theatre were Community National Bank and Trust, RCB Bank, and Union State Bank.

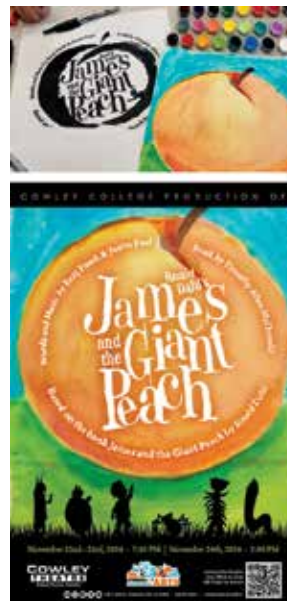
Cowley Earns National Award for Marketing Excellence

The Cowley College marketing team earned national recognition with a 2025 Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations for Creative Media Producer Kris Ripley's work on a promotional poster for the Theatre's production of *James and the Giant Peach*.

Ripley began the project by hand-painting and hand-drawing the artwork, creating

a one-of-a-kind poster that stood apart from traditional digital designs.

The Paragon Awards recognize outstanding achievement in marketing and communications among community colleges nationwide. This year's competition included 1,585 entries from 216 colleges.





New Podcast Highlights the People Behind Cowley

Cowley College introduces Behind the Stripes, a new podcast that highlights the people who make Cowley special. Each episode provides a behind-the-scenes look at Cowley through interviews, student spotlights, campus updates, and candid conversations.

The podcast is co-hosted by longtime Cowley College employees and familiar voices from the 620 Sports Show, Rama Peroo and Dave Burroughs.

Peroo has served Cowley College since 2003 and currently holds the position of Assistant Athletic Director for Media and Communications. Burroughs, a Cowley College Hall of Fame coach, amassed more than 1,300 wins during

his 30-year career as head baseball coach and guided the Tigers to back-to-back national championships in 1997 and 1998.

Supporting production efforts is Kris Ripley, Cowley College's Creative Media Producer, who has been with the college since 2006.

The podcast's title, Behind the Stripes, was selected through a student-led naming contest. Cowley College student Isabella Loomis submitted the winning entry.

Behind the Stripes airs live every Tuesday at noon on YouTube. To watch episodes and stay up to date on the latest podcast news, follow the Cowley College Facebook page.



Cowley Student's Art Earns Best in Show on National Stage

Cowley College student Regina Free earned national recognition at the 2025 Santa Fe Indian Market, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, widely recognized as the world's largest and most prestigious Indigenous art market.

Competing for the first time, Free, a Chickasaw Nation artist and nontraditional student, earned "Best in Show" for her life-sized bison sculpture Windswept, created from unconventional materials including paper towels, driftwood, fabric dyes, plaster, and weathered metal.

Free's journey to Windswept began when she enrolled in a Cowley College 3D design class to reconnect with her creativity. "I can't remember a time I wasn't creating," Free said. "Life got in the way for a while, but the passion never

left." A classroom assignment led her to experiment with paper towels as a sculpting medium, and from that process, Windswept was born.

At Santa Fe Indian Market, Windswept rose above more than 1,500 entries. Free first won her division before earning Best in Show among all category winners. She also earned second place in sculpture for another piece depicting a bald eagle.

Free continues to exhibit her work across the country and is currently developing a new large-scale golden eagle sculpture.

Cowley College congratulates Free on this remarkable achievement and the lifelong learning journey that helped her reconnect with her creativity.

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