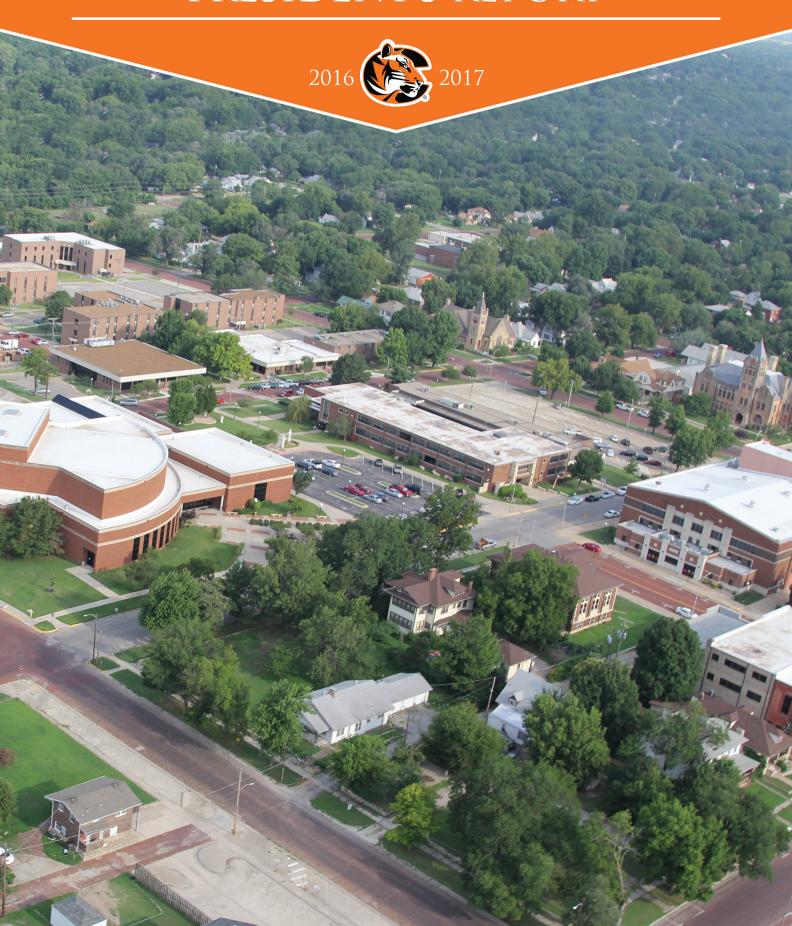
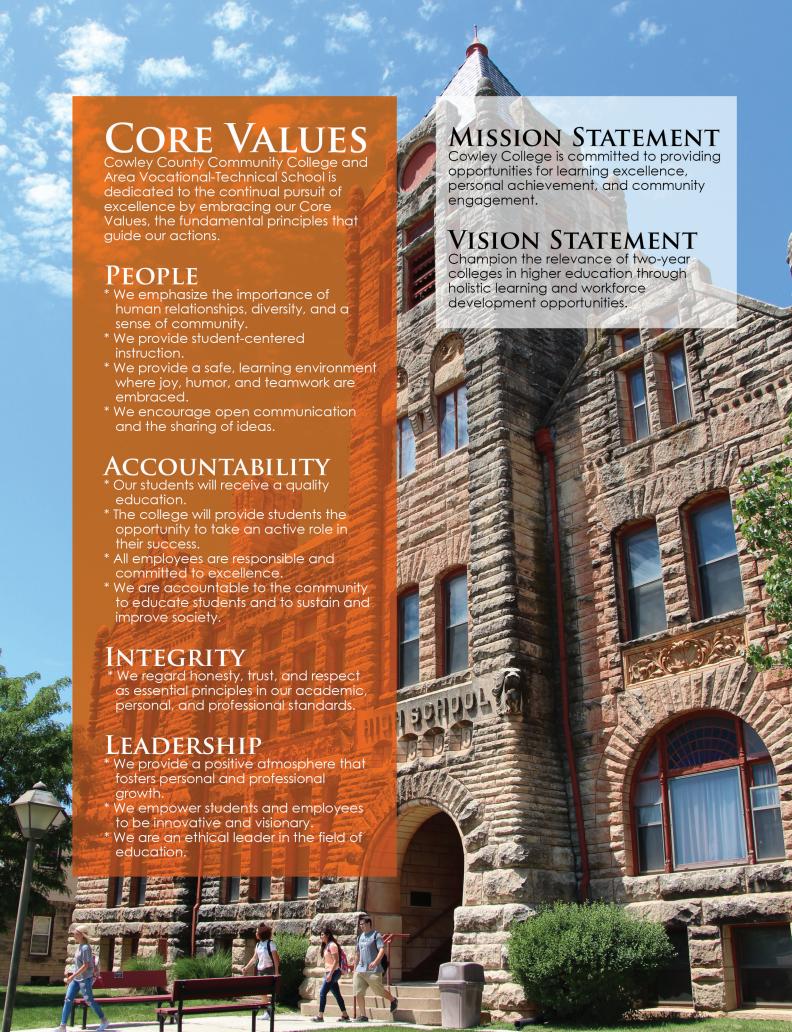
### COWLEY COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT





### Welcome to the President's Annual Report

The 2016/2017 Academic Year was packed with a multitude of successes because of the focused commitment of our employees, students, alumni, and communities. So that I do not mistakenly overlook one of the many incredible successes of this past year, I will share a broad brush approach to the College happenings through the lens of our four Core Values and then take a brief look into the future.

People is the first of the College's four core values. This past year, the college placed greater emphasis on valuing people through the development of a committee called the MORALE Committee, Motivating Others by Respecting, Accepting, Listening, and Empowering. This committee developed several initiatives to raise the level of appreciation across the College. During this past year, the College has seen a decrease in employee turnover and an increase in smiles, laughter, and joy.

Accountability is the second core value. The Sumner Campus project epitomizes accountability through the historic vote of Sumner County residents to pass a sales tax for the purpose of funding a new campus in Wellington, which will have programs of study identified by the citizens and businesses of Sumner County. The 18-acres of prime real estate on which the campus is located was donated by the Short Family from Oxford, KS and was appraised at almost \$2M. Throughout this process, the College embraces the highest standards of accountability, which is further demonstrated in the College's successful efforts to amend Kansas Law to add a new Trustee from Sumner County in January of 2018.

Integrity serves as the third core value of the College. The root meaning of integrity is to integrate throughout the whole of something. The College has demonstrated its integrity through an exceptional accreditation report as well as an exceptional financial audit, which equated to a credit rating of A+. The College is on solid academic and financial footing moving forward.

Leadership is the final core value and can be seen at every turn. Cowley College was the first to accept the Governor's Challenge to create a \$15K pathway for a four-year degree, by partnering with Fort Hays State University. The College announced the start of the Cowley Promise, which will freeze a student's general tuition and fees for a two-year period if the student remains continuously enrolled during that period. The College began multiple academic programs of study to include, the Milling Program, which is certified by the International Association of Operative Millers and is the only one of its kind in the nation. In addition, the College received approval to begin a new wrestling program which is almost filled to capacity and is comprised of state champion wrestlers from across the country.

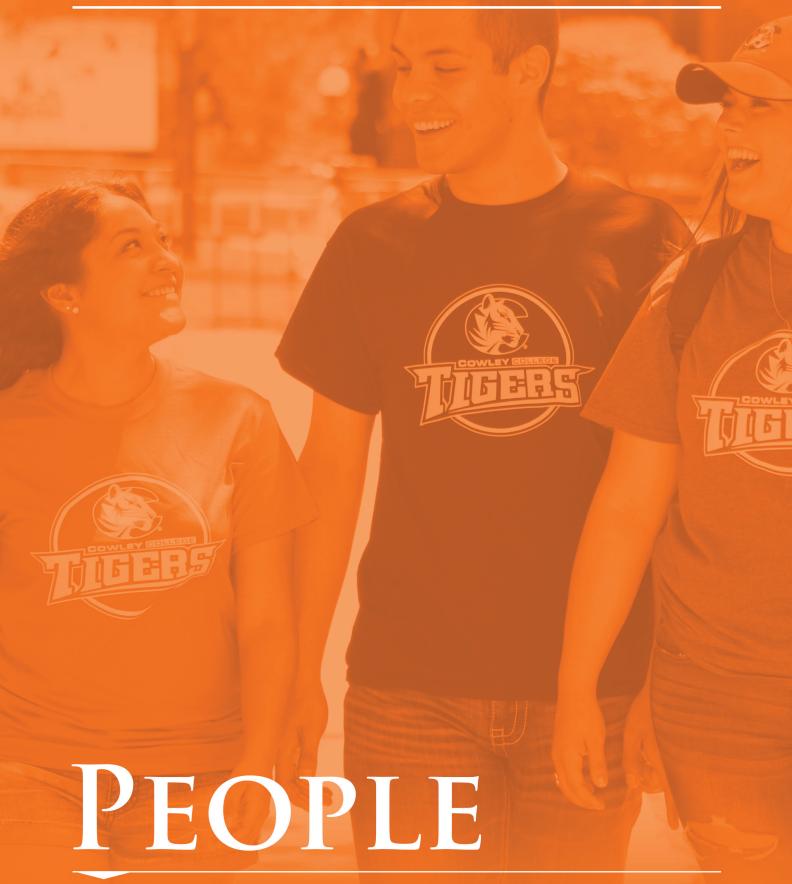
In closing, the College has had a tremendous year of success, which equates to success for our students,



communities, alumni, and employees. As we peer into the future, it is bright with many opportunities on the horizon to include new residential housing, early child care facilities, new campus signage, the construction of a new campus, and the development of more programs of study to address the needs of our local industries and communities. If you wish to join in the excitement by partnering with the College to make these opportunities become reality, please visit the Cowley Foundation Website www.cowleyfoundation.org or download the new CowleyGO App at your app store. Go Tigers!

In Your Service,

Dennis C. Rittle Cowley College President



# GOVERNOR BROWNBACK CELEBRATES COWLEY COLLEGE'S VARIED ACCOMPLISHMENTS



owley College was honored to host the Governor of Kansas to its main campus in Arkansas City for the first time in decades when Governor Sam Brownback visited the school on February 3, 2017 to congratulate the College for its accomplishments. As he does annually, Governor Brownback delivered his state of the state speech at the beginning of this year's legislative session. In that message, he put out the call for Kansas schools to offer a baccalaureate degree for \$15,000 or less. Many people thought this goal was out of reach, but not those at Cowley College. "In response to the challenge set by the Governor, a student can now get a baccalaureate degree for less than \$15,000 if they start with Cowley College while in high school and then move on to Fort Hays State University," Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle said.

The Governor praised the work done by Cowley College in making this a possibility for students.

"Thank you all for what you do here and for Kansas students," Governor Brownback said. "You have created a pathway for students to realize a baccalaureate degree for a price tag they can afford."

Along with Cowley College employees and members of its Board of Trustees, several area legislators and County Commissioners were in attendance. Cowley College Board Chair Bob Juden thanked the Governor for visiting the Cowley College campus so the school could showcase how they are changing student lives.

"We are honored to work alongside you and the Kansas legislature to continue our part in providing a first-rate experience," Juden said.

Dr. Rittle said Cowley College appreciates Governor Brownback for taking the time to recognize the

College's accomplishments. Dr. Rittle also discussed the many values and opportunities Senate Bill 155 offers. "It is a program that has afforded our high school students the opportunity to take technical education classes at little to no cost to them," Dr. Rittle said. "This important legislation was championed by Governor Brownback and our students are proof it's working."

While on a tour of the campus, Brownback also congratulated the school for being selected as the only college in Kansas and Oklahoma to be invited to take part in the High School: Pell "Dual Enrollment" program, which allows students taking college-credit courses to access Federal Pell Grants as early as high school. He also mentioned Cowley's new campus that will be constructed in Wellington with the goal of offering classes in the Fall of 2018.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Bob Juden - Chairman | Dennis K. Shurtz | JoLynn Foster | Ned Graham | Brian Sanderholm | Jill Long













### KYNDAL DUTTON NAMED STUDENT OF THE YEAR

ard working, involved, and always positive, these are some of the words used to describe Cowley College sophomore Kyndal Dutton, who was named the Student of the Year during the annual Honors and Awards ceremony held Tuesday, April 18 in the Earle N. Wright Community Room. Dutton was named a Phi Theta Kappa Coca-Cola New Century Scholar and had an opportunity to represent the state of Kansas at the annual Presidents Breakfast at the American Association of Community Colleges Convention April 22-25 in New Orleans, LA.

Along with serving as Cowley College's vice president of scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa, the sophomore premedicine major was a member of the women's soccer and dance teams at Cowley, was a Cowley Tutor, and student ambassador. She accumulated a 4.0 grade point average and was a member of the President's Honor Roll. She was a finalist for Queen Alalah LXXXV and was named the school's November Student of the Month. Dutton, along with the college's other Student of the Month selections, were up for the prestigious honor of Student of the Year.

"I have never been so involved with a school before or loved something so much like Cowley," Dutton said. "To be named Student of the Year is absolutely incredible."



#### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Dr. Dennis C. Rittle | Dr. Harold Arnett | Paul Erdmann | Dr. Kori Gregg Dr. Gloria Walker | Kristi Shaw | Jason O'Toole | Shane Larson | Christopher Hollon



















Dutton is the daughter of Brian and Kim Dutton of Winfield. She is the granddaughter of Judy and Derryl Rising of Burden, KS, and Lois Henderson of Winfield, KS. She has a sister, Brianna, and a brother, Marshall.

Dutton plans to transfer to Newman University to pursue a degree in nursing.

Also during the banquet, Academic Excellence Challenge team sponsor Dianne Flickinger spoke of former Cowley College student and AEC team member Garrett Misora, who was tragically killed in a car accident in November 2016. Flickinger presented Misora's mother, Carol, with a plaque honoring Garrett. She also said the Garrett Misora Memorial Scholarship has been established by an anonymous donor. Misora received an honorary degree at this year's Commencement exercises.

During the Honors and Awards ceremony, a representative from each department at Cowley College honored students that excelled during the 2016-17 academic year. Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle praised the work done by the students and instructors of the college. Kristi Shaw, executive director of enrollment management, and Dr. Harold Arnett, vice president for academic affairs, served as master of ceremonies, while Great Western Dining provided the meal. Award recipients:

\*Academic Excellence Challenge -Harvey Baker, Daltin Brock, Chase LaPorte, Jesse McCabe, and the late Garrett Misora.

\*Derek Burroughs Award - Daltin Brock.

\*Student Ambassadors - Peyton Adams, Kelli Ailey, Morgan Bruce, Stephanie Cabrera, Peyton Cravens, Hannah Coryea, Alicia Dirks, Jose Duque, Kyndal Dutton, Carly Gum, Ashley Huslig, Gunner Johnson, Krystyn Kinzie, Olivia Powell, Teryn Scott, Deidra Shiever.

\*Outstanding Student Ambassadors -Peyton Adams and Gunner Johnson. \*Student Ambassador of the Year -Kelli Ailey.

\*Resident Assistants – Peyton Adams, Kelli Ailey, Alicia Dirks, Isaiah Evans, Maggie Fink, Victor Goncalves, Kayla Gourley, Blake Graham, Bryce Kinsey, Krystyn Kinzie, Connor Litton, Matheus Martins, Molly McCune, Joseph Stephens, Kylie Wiens, and Taven Wohlford.

\*Cowley Tutors - Mary Anderson, Jose Duque, Kyndal Dutton, Abby Garcia, Victor Goncalves, Blake Graham, Ashley Huslig, Connor Litton, Steven Lu, Matheus Martins, Olivia Powell, Deidra Shiever, and Tanner Balsters.

\*Health and Human Services Department – Jeremy DeCoudres. \*Business, Computer and Information Technology Department – Dayana Viveros.

\*Career and Technical Education

Department – Gabriela Baeza. \*Humanities and Communication Department – Arturo Mendoza. \*Natural Science and Mathematics Department – Kyndal Dutton. \*Social Science Department -

\*Visual & Performing Arts Department - Shayna Templeton. \*ACES - Gage Hinson and Justin Haist.

Veronica Marin.

\*Act One Drama Club/Theatre -Brianna Baxley, Kristen James, Payton Latney.

\*Art and Design Club - Abby Cahn, Shayna Templeton, Jesus Originales. \*Cowley Student Senate - Kelli Ailey, Karee Britt, Kyrstyn Kinzie, Mary Anderson.

\*Creative Claws - Austin Crowe. \*DECA -Ashley Simpson and Dayana Viveros.

\*Math & Science Club – Ashley Simpson and Felipe Escalante. \*Media Club - Kayla Schenck and Arturo Mendoza.

\*Phi Theta Kappa – Ashley Huslig and Abby Garcia.

\*Skills USA – Anthony Koller. \*Vocal Music - Riley Paye, Allie Lawrence, Austin Sherman. \*Instrumental Music - David Bartlett and Sarah Manning. \*Students of the Month - Debra

Arnett, Ashley Huslig, Kyndal Dutton, Abby Garcia, Peyton Adams, Tanner Balsters, Stephanie Cabrera, and Teryn Scott.

#### STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Debra Arnett - September | Ashley Huslig - October | Kyndal Dutton - November | Abby Garcia - December Peyton Adams - January | Tanner Balsters - February | Stephanie Cabrera - March | Teryn Scott - April







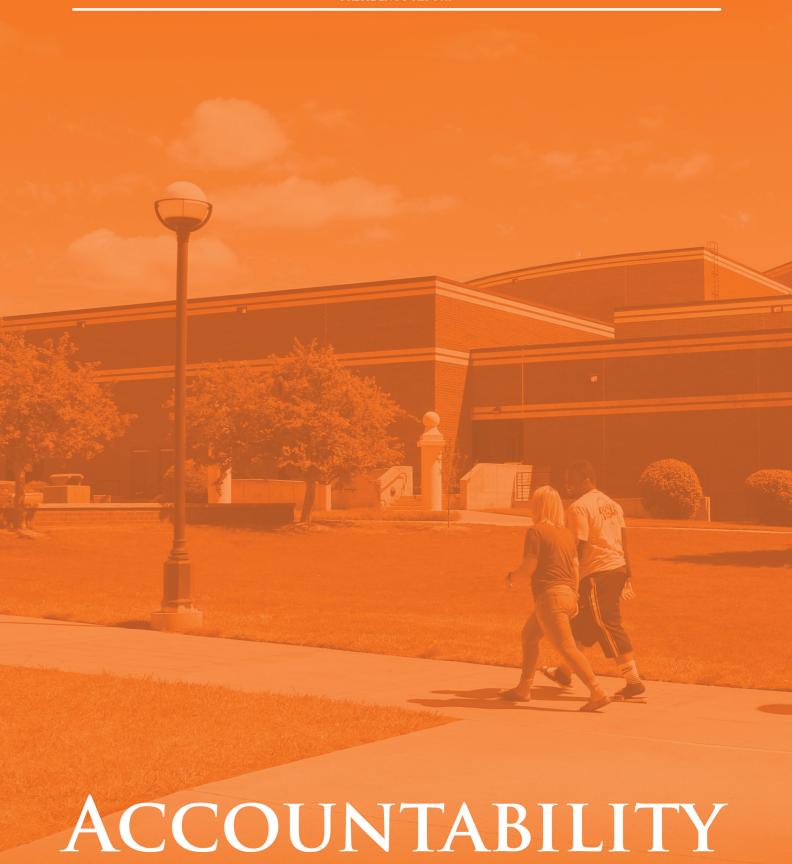


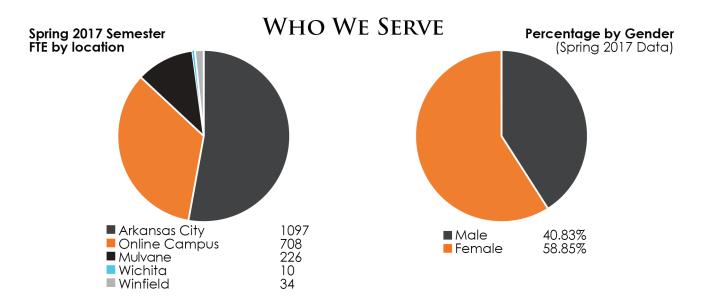


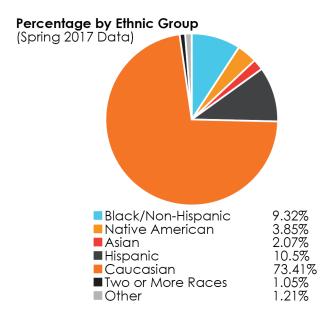


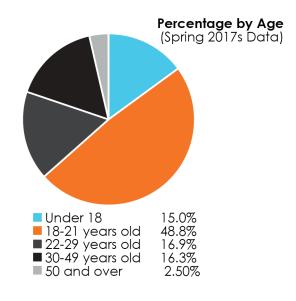












### 2016-2017 Enrollment Data

Unduplicated Headcount Fall 2016 Unduplicated Headcount Spring 2017 FTE Fall 2016 FTE Spring 2017 3,760.0 3,085.0 2,028.8 1.826.3 **International Student Enrollment** (2016-17 Fall/Spring Semesters Only)

51

# COWLEY COLLEGE NAMED 'BEST COLLEGE' AND 'BEST LIVE THEATRE'

Results of the "Best of Cowley County" contest in the Cowley CourierTraveler newspaper revealed Cowley College as the winner in both the 'Best College' and 'Best Live Theatre' categories.

Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle said the College draws encouragement from the results of this survey that their work is valued and appreciated.

"These results also motivate us to remain committed to our mission by realizing our efforts whether as a College or as a Live Theatre, have meaning and value to those whom we call 'friends and neighbors'," Dr. Rittle said. "Cowley College faculty, staff, administrators, and Trustees thank our communities for the trust they have placed into us and take great joy in knowing our community values the efforts of the College to provide dynamic opportunities for learning, community enrichment, and workforce development. We are blessed to be able to do what invigorates us; namely, providing opportunities to make

people's lives better."

Cara Kem, Cowley College director of theatre, and John Rohr, technical director of theatre, were thrilled to learn of the College being named 'Best Live Theatre'.

The duo performed "Rumors" April 20-22 in the Robert Brown Theatre. "I could not be more proud of the product John Rohr and I have produced," Kem said. "And these kids make us look good; they are just so dang talented."

### COWLEY GAINS FULL ACCESS TO MULVANE CENTER

ith intentions of transforming Cowley College's Mulvane Center-Bloomenshine Building into a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Center, the College recently conducted successful negotiations with the Mulvane School District permitting Cowley College full access to the facility.

Cowley College has conducted classes in the upper level of the building since 2005. This agreement will allow the College to have two additional classrooms and office space in the basement of the facility. Also included is street-front parking.

To celebrate the successful negotiations, members of Cowley College's Administrative Council assembled for their bi-weekly meeting at the Bloomenshine Building in Mulvane on Wednesday, June 21. Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle and Cowley administrators worked with the USD 263 School Board to get their support. Dr. Brad Rahe, Superintendent of

Schools at USD 263, was instrumental

in helping Cowley gain full access to the Bloomenshine facility.

"I thank Dr. Rahe and the School Board for granting us full access to the building as well as the parking in front," Dr. Rittle said. "I look forward to continuing to work with Dr. Rahe and the School Board to bring this journey to the next chapter in our relationship where we have a Learning Center that meets the needs of the students, workforce and community." Dr. Rahe said the opportunity recently arose to grant the College full access to the Bloomenshine facility.

"This is a positive opportunity for everyone in Mulvane," Dr. Rahe said. "The more classes you can offer the better it is for our students in the community."

Cowley College currently leases the Mulvane Center-Bloomenshine Building.

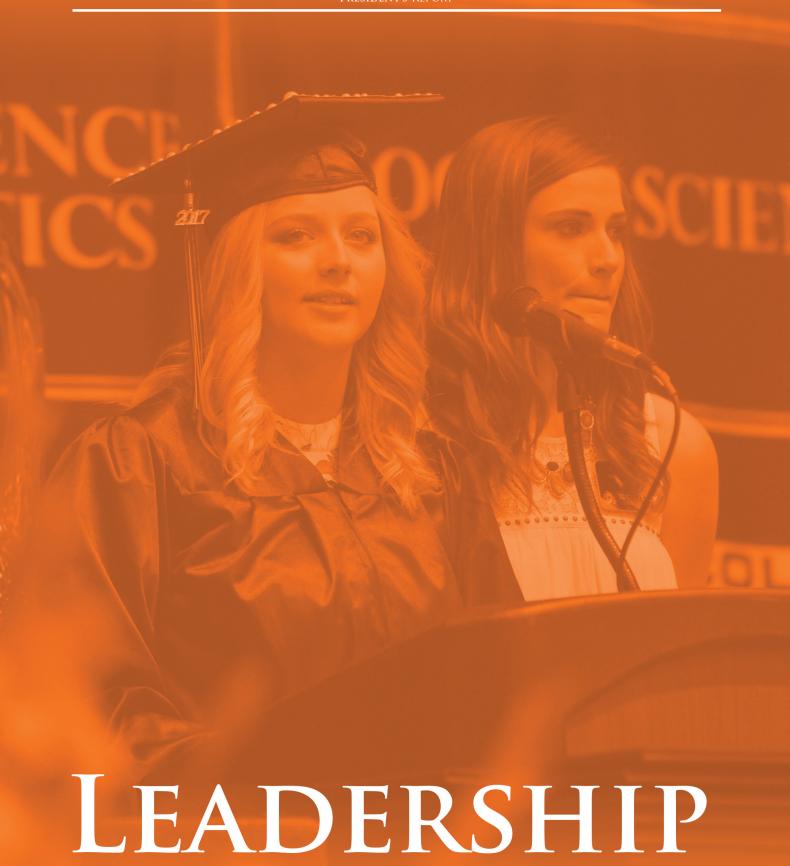
Dr. Michelle Schoon, Cowley College Natural Science Department Chair, said the Mulvane Center has traditionally been strong in the math and science areas and this additional space to use for instruction will strengthen class offerings in the Mulvane area.

"We hope to be able to offer some new programs and to improve services to our students," Dr. Schoon said. When Dr. Chad Killblane began teaching at the Bloomenshine building in 2011, he wondered why the College shared the basement of its facility with another organization.

"It often led to confusion and parking issues," Dr. Killblane said. "It always seemed crazy that we could not park in front of a building with our name on it. Now we have full access to our building and its parking; it is a breath of fresh air. More so, it feels as if things are taking a very positive turn, and I am excited for the future."

Jan Grace, Campus Operations Officer of Cowley College in Sumner County, said this means Cowley College is showing its commitment to the Mulvane community.

"Cowley College is always looking for more community projects we can do with Mulvane," Grace said.



### SUMNER COUNTY VOTERS MAKE HISTORY WITH "YES" VOTE ON A COWLEY COLLEGE CAMPUS



n November 8, 2016, Sumner County voters made history by approving the passage of a half-cent county sales tax to build a Cowley College campus in Sumner County and to provide educational services for citizens of Sumner County. The campus will be constructed in Wellington with a goal to begin offering classes in Fall of 2018. "This historical vote signifies the start of a new era of access to quality and affordable higher education and workforce training in the heart of Sumner County which will permeate throughout all of south central Kansas," declared Dr. Dennis C. Rittle (pictured), President of Cowley College. "The campus will offer transfer degrees as well as high-wage and high-skilled technical programs of study in the areas of agriculture, manufacturing, education, computer science, police science, and firstresponders."

This successful 16-month collaborative journey would not have been possible without the efforts and leadership of Stacy Davis (pictured), Executive Director of Sumner County Economic Development, Annarose White (pictured), Executive Director of the

Wellington Chamber of Commerce, and Jessica Lucas (pictured), Campaign Champion and Strategist.

White said this is a huge opportunity for Wellington and Sumner County. "The town of Wellington turned 150 in February, and I cannot think of a better way to celebrate than to have a College in Wellington to serve Sumner County," White said. "This is a game changer for the quality of life of our citizens and businesses."

Agriculture, manufacturing, computer science, first-responders and education programs will be offered at the Wellington campus.

"Cowley College employees, students, and the Board of Trustees, as well as county and state dignitaries, industry leaders, educators, and Sumner County dignitaries stood shoulder-to-shoulder and arm-in-arm to make this vision become a soon-to-be reality," Rittle reflected.

Brad Klinge, Kansas commerce deputy secretary of Workforce Services, shared, "This partnership is a model that could be replicated across the state." Klinge added, "It will provide the area with a workforce that can achieve its overwhelming potential and will allow fantastic communities like

Sumner County to keep their best and brightest."

Stacy Davis, Executive Director of Sumner County Economic Development, said in economic development, it is important to remember that not only is recruiting new business important, but so is business retention.

"In determining the needs for retaining these companies, it was discovered the severe demand for a community college to partner with local companies," Davis said. "This partnership facilitates educational gaps needed to fill opportunities for retaining these businesses and eventually expanding some of them. It also creates a skilled and qualified workforce that will be afforded a different lifestyle."

For Sumner County, the partnership between Cowley College and these manufacturers will also open avenues for other industries to grow.

"I am thrilled the residents of Sumner County see the value in education and voted to partner with Cowley College," Davis said. "We have set up Sumner County to grow in a manner it has not seen in years."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 12** 

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Dennis C. Rittle and Board Chair Bob Juden joined Marjorie Short and Nancy Short-Burger on December 21, 2016 for the signing of the deeded property worth \$1.76 million from the Short Family to the College for the future construction of the Cowley College Sumner County Campus in Wellington, KS.

Dr. Rittle views this as not only a wonderful opportunity for area students, but also the City of Wellington and other communities in the county.

"It is through these types of visionary partnerships that communities will flourish, economic development will become commonplace, and further acts of charity will become contagious as a foundation to build a legacy of learner and workforce success has been laid through a tremendous act of generosity," Dr. Rittle said. "Thank you, Short family."

Marjorie Short, the wife of the late Bill Short, is the owner of Short Land Company, LLC, and the donor of 18 acres of property just east of Walmart along Highway 160. In honor of the donation, the family received naming rights and announced the naming of the first building to be the Short General Education Center. The Center will house general education coursework as well as Student Support Services staff. Marjorie Short said signing over the deed to the land to Cowley College was an experience of a lifetime. "Being in a position to give a gift of this magnitude was something I never dreamed of being able to do," Marjorie said. "I am very happy to see the land being used for education and look forward to seeing how it will improve

In addition to the 18 acres Marjorie bequeathed to Cowley College,

our county."

the College will be given a future opportunity to purchase up to an additional 10 acres of adjacent property at a fixed cost.

"What a great deal the Short family has done for their community," Juden said. "They have given of themselves so their community can grow." Nancy Short-Burger, daughter of Marjorie and the late Bill Short said signing over the deed to the land was a humbling experience.

"The gratitude of Mr. Juden, Dr. Rittle and Dr. (Gloria) Walker made the experience ever more fulfilling," Nancy said. "I know under their leadership that the college will flourish." To contribute to the future efforts of Cowley College and the success of its students please visit www. cowleyfoundation.org.

# CHAMBER COMMITTEE PRESENTS OPEN ARMS AWARD TO ACES ORGANIZATION



**LEADERSHIP** 

The Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce awarded Cowley College's ACES (Academic Civic Engagement through Service) organization with the Open Arms Award.
The Open Arms Award is presented by the chamber of commerce's Membership Services and Awards Committee. It is a quarterly award

given to nonprofit organizations for their contributions to the Arkansas City community. The committee chooses the winner of the award for "exemplary achievement in community aid, advancement, development, expansion, involvement or other outstanding accomplishments." The quarterly recipients are eligible for the annual Open Arms of the Year Award, which is given at the chamber's annual banquet.

ACES works with many different agencies within the community and focuses not only on the service being delivered, but also the learning taking place.

James Fry (pictured with award) serves as the coordinator for the ACES program.

# COWLEY COLLEGE NAMED MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL AWARD RECIPIENT

owley College has been named a Gold-level Military Friendly® School Award recipient for 2017.

For more than a decade, Military Friendly® ratings have set the standard for companies and colleges demonstrating positive employment and education outcomes for veterans and their families.

"All of our Military Friendly® award recipients set the standard for excellence," said Daniel Nichols, Chief Product Officer of Victory

Media and head of Military Friendly® development. "They offer exceptional examples of what it means not just to build a program that meets federal requirements, but one that serves the military and veteran community from classrooms to careers."

Companies and schools had to successfully complete a 2017 Military Friendly® survey and been designated as a 2017 Military Military Friendly® School to be considered for the Awards program.



# COWLEY COLLEGE AND KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY SIGN NEW 2+2 AGREEMENT

epresentatives from Cowley College's Academic Affairs met with representatives of Kansas State University to sign a pair of new agreements, adding to the list of 2+2 programs that are already in place. The new agreements are for Science Nutrition and Health and Dietetics. Dr. Harold Arnett, Cowley College vice president of academic affairs, said this is another demonstration of benefit from the College's relationship with K-State. Cowley College department chairs-Chris Cannon and Dr. Michelle Schoonworked with Devin Graves and Janice Stover to work out the details of these agreements for Dietetics and for Science Nutrition and Health. "These articulation agreements help make things work more smoothly for students transferring to the university," Dr. Arnett said. "They also save students time and money by assuring that the students take the courses they need and can use in completing a four-year degree. Every course they can take here at Cowley saves them money



because of our much lower tuition rates."

Duane Dunn, Associate Dean of the K-State Global Campus, is pleased that these programs are available for individuals who are interested in careers in nutrition and dietetics. "This agreement enables the full program to be completed online without having to relocate or change employment," Dunn said. "Great

career advancement is available for the graduate so we are excited to provide these agreements with Cowley College students."

Those pictured are, front row from left, Duane Dunn, Cowley president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, and Dr. Harold Arnett. And back row, from left, Josh Cobble, Devin Graves, Jennifer Pfortmiller, Janice Stover, Janice Nikkel, and Tina Grillot.



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Notice of Non-Descrimination: Cowley County Community College and Area Vocational-Technical School is dedicated to providing equal opportunities to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital status, political affiliation or other legally protected category.

the conlege will provide an qualified intollations reasonable accommodations in the work and educational environment and ensure equal access to all College programs, activities and facilities.

prohibited under applicable law

ordinating under applications law.

This prohibition against discrimination applies to College employees, students, contractors, or agents of the College and to anyone participating in a College-sponsored event or activity. Inquiries concerning the college's compliance with its non-discrimination policies may be referred to the Executive Director for Student Affairs or the Director of Human Resources at 125 S Second St, Arkansas City, KS 67005 or by colling 620-442-0430.