

COWLEY COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2023  2024



TYLER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER

Grand Opening Celebration
August 16th, 2024 | 3:00 p.m.



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.

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.

The 2023/2024 Academic Year saw Cowley College shine, academically and athletically.

One of the highlights of the year was the fall theatre production of *Young Frankenstein*. The production was outstanding in acting, costumes and set design performing in front of a large audience in the Brown Center Theater. The Visual and Performing Arts department continues to provide quality education to students and excellent performances in music, theatre and arts.

Cowley athletic teams had an excellent year, highlighted by three National Championships. Women's Volleyball won the big tournament in Cedar Rapids, IA, with an undefeated season. Women's Cross Country took home the National Championship trophy by winning the meet at Huntsville, AL. Women's tennis team took home the title at the NJCAA DI national championship in Texas. In addition, the College Quiz Bowl team placed 10th at Nationals and 2nd at state, while Phi Theta Kappa was again honored as a five-star chapter.

Numerous events were hosted by the College, both educational and inspirational. The annual youth Robotics Challenge was held at the Sumner campus, providing a day of fun and learning to local middle school students. Cowley Mulvane hosted a fall and a spring event for students and the community. The College hosted the Cowley C.A.R.E.S for Teaching Professionals, with 52 early childhood educators in attendance. These are just a few examples of the community outreach of Cowley College.

This year, we will celebrate the grand opening of the new Tyler Technical Education Center. With the completion of the new career and technical education building, two



programs that have called Ireland Hall home, will be moving to the new facility. Criminal Justice and Cosmetology programs will experience a new custom design to better serve students in the programs. The College continues to make facility improvements to enhance the learning experience for our students.

Notable guests on campus this year have included senator Roger Marshall, making a visit in September, and representative Bill Rhiley, taking in the sites of the new technical education center.

The 101st Commencement ceremony featuring Outstanding Alumni Dr. Kermit McMurry ('65), and former student Hannah Nicolaisen ('22) as the speaker was held in May. In addition to the campus ceremony, two graduation events were held at the

Winfield Correctional Facility where 47 degrees were awarded. A total of 672 students earned 867 awards (degrees and certificates) during the year.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Schoon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Schoon



PEOPLE

Cowley Names Daniela Salcedo the 2024 Student of the Year



Cowley Sophomore and Pre-Med major Daniela Salcedo was named Student of the Year during the Academic Awards Banquet for the 2023-2024 school year. With a 3.7 GPA and a place on the Dean's Honor Roll, Salcedo hopes to become a clinical lab technician.

Salcedo, a Queen Alalah finalist, was also our November Student of the Month. During that conversation, we learned that she has "lived in Arkansas City for the past ten years and graduated from Arkansas City High School in 2022." At ACHS, she involved herself in band, concert band, AC Players, Arkettes, Ark Highs, Usherettes, cheer, symphonic choir, and the National Honor Society.

After coming to Cowley, Salcedo

became involved in Cowley College Singers, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, and Concert Band. In addition, she became a Student Ambassador and an On-Campus work-study for the Cowley College Bookstore.

As if that wasn't enough to keep anyone busy, Salcedo also actively participates in many of our Clubs and Activities. A member of Act One Drama Club, she has been involved in both fall musicals and Spring plays on the stage in Brown Theater. Other clubs Salcedo is a member of include Phi Theta Kappa, the International Student Organization, and Voices Heard.

In her November interview, Salcedo shared that she is a first-generation college student driven to succeed

despite personal and economic challenges she faces. At home, Salcedo has obligations and responsibilities to her family that are not expected of many students her age.

Director of Auxiliary Services Shannon O'Toole expressed, "I believe her dedication to her family is also what makes her such a dedicated student; she simply doesn't know how to be anything other than devoted."

After the award banquet, Salcedo called receiving this honor "absolutely surreal." Sharing, "I'm so proud of everyone there last night, and I can't wait to see where life leads them and the amazing things they do. The energy in the room was astronomical."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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



Educate the State: A Partnership To Address the State Teacher Shortage



The five female Presidents of the Public - Private schools in the Educate the State partnership. (From left to right: Dr. Michelle Schoon [Cowley College], Dr. Kimberly Krull [Butler Community College], Dr. Elizabeth Frombgen [Southwestern College], Dr. Amy Bragg Carey [Friends University], Dr. Kathleen Jagger [Newman University]).

Public-private educational partnership makes teaching degrees more affordable for future Kansas teachers.

A group of five area colleges have announced a new partnership called Educate the State aimed at positively impacting the current teacher shortage in Kansas.

The new public-private agreement brings together Cowley College, Butler Community College, Friends University, Newman University, and Southwestern College. By working together, the institutions have created a seamless and more affordable transfer option for

Secondary Education majors.

In 2022, the Kansas Independent Colleges Association (KICA) announced a global transfer for any Kansas community college graduate earning an Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degree to transfer as a junior status directly to any Kansas private university.

Educate the State takes it a step further as these institutions also guarantee a lower tuition rate at the private university level for those wanting to become K-12 teachers.

Tuition per credit hour is discounted to \$300 per credit hour at the university

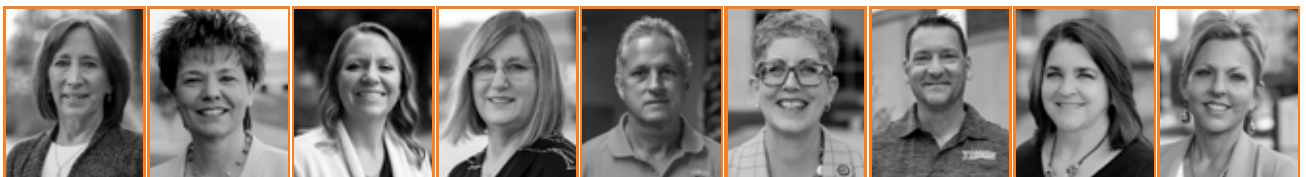
level for Educate the State students. That equates to a \$22,000 scholarship at Friends University.

How to Access Educate the State:

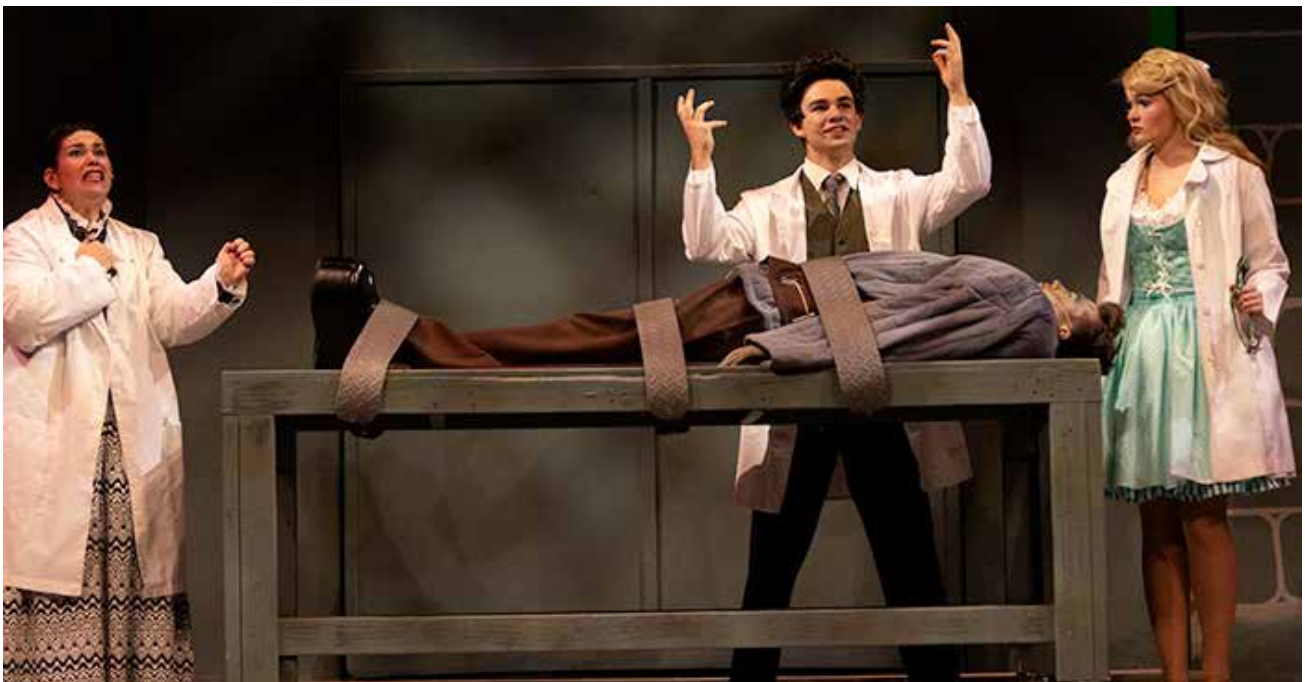
1. Earn a Secondary Education associate degree from Butler or Cowley with a 2.75 minimum GPA.
2. Transfer to Friends, Newman or Southwestern based on subject matter emphasis as a full-time Secondary Education major.
3. Receive the discounted \$300 tuition rate for final two years regardless of the four-year institution selected.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

President - Dr. Michelle Schoon | Dr. Rachel Bates | Holly Harper | Janice Stover
Paul Erdmann | Debbie Phelps | Jeff Fluty | Stefani Jones | Kristi Shaw



Cowley Theatre Puts on an Electrifying Performance of *Young Frankenstein*



The Cowley College Theatre Department brought to life the production of the Mel Brooks Musical, *Young Frankenstein* on October 13-15 inside the Robert Brown Theatre.

“Our season theme is that of rebirth and reinvention, and this piece was chosen for just those reasons,” Director of Theatre Nick Albrecht said.

Young Frankenstein is a tale of a man struggling against a family legacy that is less than positive but ends up discovering his true self in the same legacy. With the help of a hunchbacked sidekick named

Igor, played by Evan Quiett, and a leggy lab assistant named Inga, played by Reese Pappan, Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, played by Spencer MacLaughlin, finds himself in the mad scientist’s shoes of his ancestors. “It’s alive!” he exclaims as he brings to life a creature to rival his grandfather’s.

Eventually, of course, the monster, played by Nyle Franklin, escapes, and continued hilarity ensues.

“I am incredibly proud of the cast, crew, and production team,” Albrecht said.

CAST:

Dr. Frederick Frankenstein: Spencer MacLaughlin

The Monster: Nyle Franklin

Igor: Evan Quiett

Inga: Reese Pappan

Elizabeth Benning: Gwyneth Abrams

Frau Blucher: MJ Harper

Inspector Hans Kemp: Curtis Bogner

The Hermit: Bryson Stoner

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Kinzie Pappan - Sep. | Ndack Mbengue - Oct. | Daniela Salcedo - Nov. | Emma Badley - Dec.
Aigiza Nasyrova - Jan. | Bruno Nhavene - Feb. | Journey Catlett - Mar. | Stellar Young - Apr.



Cowley Hosts Youth Robotics Challenge



The 6th Grade team from Arkansas City Middle School (From Left to Right) Mr. Harper, Reese Pieper, Jasmin Martinez, Aria Ripley, Kayla Hernandez, Felicity Dykes, Kyndel Schwyhart, Finleigh West, and Mr. Soule.

Cowley College recently held its annual Robotics Challenge at the Sumner Campus. The 2024 Robotics Challenge featured 15 schools and 30 teams in an assembly code race and was sponsored by Cowley College, Sumner-Cowley Electric, KanOkla, and Sumner County Economic Development. Students worked hard between assembly day and the event to program and code their machines. They came to the event ready to show their skills and put their knowledge on the line.

By providing opportunities like this challenge, students get hands-on experience with technology and develop problem-solving skills, creativity, and teamwork—all of which are essential in STEM fields and beyond. It is encouraging to see educational institutions emphasizing the importance of STEM education and providing platforms for students to showcase their talents. Events like these can inspire the next generation

of innovators and problem solvers, and Cowley College is proud to host them.

According to their website, “The purpose behind this Robotics Challenge is to engage our younger generation in the STEM side of education. STEM, standing for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, is an ever-changing, increasingly complex world. In today’s day and age, you will see the influence of STEM almost everywhere you go. From the tractors in the field to the weather forecast on the news, STEM research and education is a vital part of everyday life”(Sumner County Robotics).

The panel of judges consisted of Cowley College, KanOkla, Harper Industries, Wellington, and Sumner County representatives. Winners in the Basic Competition included Arkansas City Team Thing 1 in First Place, Arkansas City Team Thing 2 in Second Place,

and Caldwell Team Jaybot 7 in Third Place. For the Advanced Competition, the Winners were Anthony in First, Arkansas City in Second, and Wellington Elementary in Third.

Cowley Vice President of Finance and Administration Holly Harper, who assisted with the event, said, “What an extraordinary event! It’s fascinating to witness the dedication and enthusiasm of these young people towards STEM education. With 178 students competing over the two-day event from surrounding middle schools and even a 5th-grade team. These students are so talented and have a passion for their craft. I truly enjoy watching these students figure out the challenges and enjoy the process. Congratulations to all the participants, as well as their coaches and instructors, for their hard work and commitment.”



Cowley Volleyball Team Presented National Championship Rings During Ceremony

The Lady Tigers defeated the Scottsdale Fighting Artichokes in five sets to claim the 2023 National Championship. It had been 140 days between the championship match and the ring ceremony, and the program was excited that the day had finally arrived.

“This day is the day that our players have been anxiously waiting for since we won the national championship,” said head coach Steven Gream.

The team accomplished numerous feats throughout the 2023 season, including the first undefeated championship season in Cowley history and the second in NJCAA history. The team posted the best winning percentage (1.000) in school history, posted the second most wins by a Cowley Volleyball team, won the conference championship by being unbeaten in the Jayhawk Conference Eastern Division (10-0), and won the

Plains A District championship. The Lady Tigers finished the season with a record of 41-0 and lost only five sets during the season. These honors and more made the 2023 season one of the most dominant seasons in NJCAA history.

The voice of the Tigers, Scott Gurnee, was the MC of the event and was joined by Cowley President Dr. Michelle Schoon, Cowley Athletic Director Jeff Fluty, and head coach Steven Gream, the NJCAA Division II National Coach of the Year, to speak. The crowd also had an opportunity to relive Cowley winning the national championship as they watched the fifth and final set of the win over Scottsdale (AZ). Then, the rings were presented to Cowley administrators, staff, and volunteers, followed by the players and coaches of the 2023 volleyball program.



They did it! Lady Tiger Tennis Captures First National Championship



With four singles national champions and two doubles champs, the Cowley College women's tennis team placed first at the NJCAA Division I National Championships held May 4-8 at the JoAnn Medlock Murphy Tennis Center in Tyler, TX. The title was the first in the history of the program.

Entering the final day of the tournament with a two-point advantage over the defending national champion Hillsborough Community College, the Lady Tigers won five of six final matches against the Hawks to claim the national championship. Hillsborough would finish second and Tyler Junior College placed third.

Arianna Raga, who was a former player at Cowley and an assistant coach to her brother Manuel Raga when Cowley finished as the national runner-up a season ago, was grateful for the opportunity to lead this amazing group of young ladies.

"We have been so close the last couple of years, and it was always my goal to win nationals as a player and to come back one day and help the

team win it all," Raga said. "The girls gave everything they had today and are always willing to do whatever it takes."

After finishing as the national runner-up as a team a season ago, returning sophomores Arina Babenko and Mariana Jimenez were crucial to the Lady Tigers getting the job done in 2024.

"Those two provided guidance to the younger players and were a huge help to the team," Raga said.

Babenko repeated as the national champion at No. 2 singles and teamed with Yerkezhan Arystanbekova to finish as the national runner-up at No. 1 doubles, while Jimenez lost a hard-fought match in the finals of No. 6 singles before bouncing back to team with Serena Pereyra to win the finals of No. 3 doubles.

"Arina always performs well in the clutch," Raga said. "I am so happy for Arina to win back-to-back singles titles and for Marianna to win the doubles title with Serena."

Lady Tiger freshmen Yerkezhan

Arystanbekova, Serena Pereyra and Akari Tomoyose captured titles at No. 1, 3, and 4 singles and did not drop a set en route to their singles titles.

"They are all so talented, and we are fortunate to have them at Cowley," Raga said.

Also new to Cowley this season was Lady Tiger assistant coach Brady Matthews, who, along with Raga, was integral in leading the team throughout the season.

Cowley had already captured the team title before doubles play even started. However, the Lady Tigers captured doubles titles from all three doubles teams.

Cowley captured doubles titles from its No. 2 doubles tandem of Roselida Asumwa and Akari Tomoyose, as well as its No. 3 doubles team of Mariana Jimenez and Serena Pereyra.

With six of Cowley's eight players being freshmen, the Lady Tigers should enter next season ranked No. 1 with a chance to repeat as national champs.

Women's Cross Country Team Nabs Second National Title in Past Four Years



Nothing was going to stop the Cowley College women's cross country team from accomplishing their goal of being national champions, not even a flu bug that ran through the team leading up to the race. The Lady Tigers placed five runners in the top-25 and claimed its second national championship in the past four years by winning the 2023 NJCAA Division II women's cross-country national championship held Saturday in Huntsville, AL.

This was the second DII National Title in school history and the third overall with the team capturing the 2010 NJCAA Division I national championship. The Lady Tigers completed a historic performance, finishing the day with 66 team points. Heartland (IL) came in a close second with 71 points. Paradise Valley (AZ), Mesa (AZ), and Des Moines Area (IL) rounded out the top 5 finishers.

"Our girls had themselves a day, they were every bit of incredible," Cowley head coach Cameron Rieth said. "If people knew of the backstory leading

into this race, how six of the seven girls were battling the flu the last 10 days of the season and some barely were able to practice going into nationals. They were still not 100 percent on race day. Talking with our trainer Blake Smith the morning of the race, I told him, our girls' team is feisty, if they are going to go down, they are going to go down swinging. As soon as that gun went off a pack of orange shot straight to front of the pack."

Dheniffer Vaz, the lone sophomore on the team, finished eighth with a time of 18:46.50 in the 5,000-meter race and earned Second-Team All-American honors for her efforts. Kayli Myers, Leticia Belo, Britannia Willis, and Lakota Schultz also ran amazing races and earned Coaches Association All-American honors.

"With how sick they were coming in, I honestly did not know what to expect and do not know how they pulled it off, other than just willing themselves to it. I am at a loss for words," Rieth said. "Heartland almost reeled us

in at the end, and I don't think I would have been too upset if they did, because we really ran all out from the start. That type of effort is all you can ask for as a coach and it was amazing to see and be a part of."

Lake Michigan College's Olivia Ippel won the 5,000-meter race with a time of 17:56.6.

Cowley Women's Results: Dheniffer Vaz, 18:46.50, eighth; Kayli Myers, 19:18.10, 16th; Leticia Belo, 19:19.10, 18th; Britannia Willis, 19:30.60, 20th; Lakota Schultz, 19:43.80, 25th; Britt Hunter, 20:51.40, 82nd; Tavarie Campbell, 20:51.60, 83rd.

Top-10 women's team scores: (1) Cowley, 66; (2) Heartland, 71; (3) Paradise Valley, 115; (4) Mesa, 125; (5) Des Moines Area CC, 162; (6) Daytona State College, 172; (7) Pasco-Hernando State College, 184; (8) Wallace State, 254; (9) Southeastern CC, 274; (10) Florida Gateway College, 292.



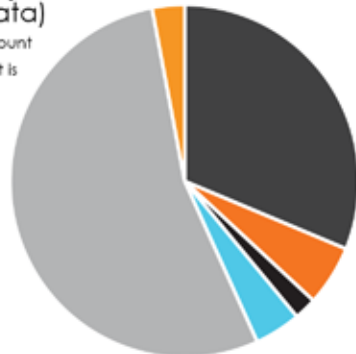
ACCOUNTABILITY

PEOPLE ACCOUNTABILITY INTEGRITY LEADERSHIP

WHO WE SERVE

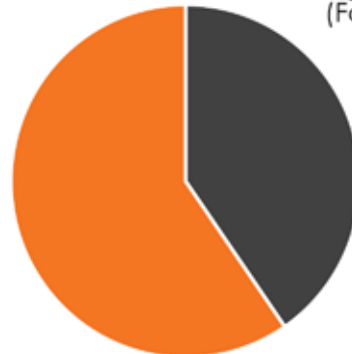
Enrollment by location (Fall 2023 Data)

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



■ Arkansas City	855
■ Mulvane SEA	152
■ Mulvane Tech	57
■ Sumner Campus	117
■ Virtual Campus	1,472
■ Winfield	82

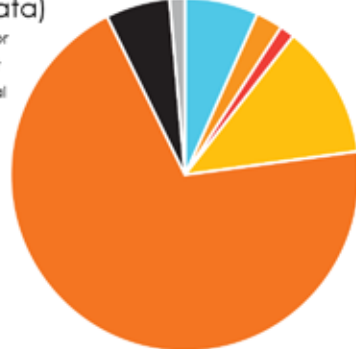
Percentage by Gender (Fall 2023 Data)



■ Male	40.4%
■ Female	59.6%

Percentage by Ethnic Group (Fall 2023 Data)

(Headcount used for numerator does not include international students)

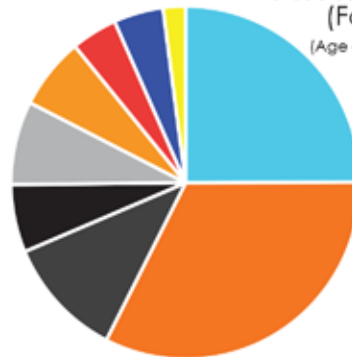


■ Black or African American	6.80%
■ Native American	2.48%
■ Asian	1.36%
■ Hispanic Latino	12.24%
■ White	69.76%
■ Two or More Races	5.95%
■ Other	1.41%

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

Percentage by Age (Fall 2023 Data)

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



■ Under 18	24.93%
■ 18-19 years old	32.58%
■ 20-21 years old	11.12%
■ 22-24 years old	6.21%
■ 25-29 years old	7.65%
■ 30-34 years old	6.58%
■ 35-39 years old	4.26%
■ 40-49 years old	4.59%
■ 50 and over	2.08%

2023-2024 Enrollment Data (Fall and Spring Semesters Only)

Annual Unduplicated Headcount Including Sumner
Unduplicated Headcount Fall 2023
Unduplicated Headcount Spring 2024
Full-time Equivalent Students Fall 2023
FTE Students Spring 2024

3,130
2,266
2,191
1,575.67
1,484.27

Annual Unduplicated Headcount Without Sumner (2023-24 Fall and Spring Semesters Only)

2867 Unduplicated Headcount

YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Revenues by Sources

	<i>Cash Basis</i>
FY 2022	\$7,559,104
Student Sources	10,729,764
Federal & State Sources	6,498,417
Local Sources	1,024,696
Other Sources	\$25,811,981
Total Revenues by Sources	

Expenditures by Sources

	<i>Cash Basis</i>
Instruction	\$9,038,980
Academic Support	668,853
Student Services including Athletics	4,398,280
Institutional Support	5,481,908
Operation & Maintenance	4,549,333
Scholarships/Grants	1,983,500
Transfers	-
Total Expenditures by Sources	\$26,120,854

Foundations Balance Sheet

	<i>Accrual Basis</i>
ASSETS	
Total Cash and Investments	\$9,506,461
Accounts Receivable	881,802
Interest in Trust	485,935
Total Assets	\$10,874,198
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Total Liabilities	188,211
NET POSITIONS	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	-
Restricted	\$4,576,421
Expendable	\$5,160,679
Non-Expendable	948,887
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$10,874,198

College Balance Sheet

	<i>Accrual Basis</i>
ASSETS	
Total Cash and Investments	\$16,196,433
Inventory	397,229
Accounts Receivable	1,147,579
Prepaid Expenses	353,650
Capitalized Assets	35,402,832
Total Assets	\$53,497,723
Deferred Outflows of Resources	769,468
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$54,267,191
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Total Liabilities	13,479,719
Deferred Inflow of Resources	2,338,511
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	25,644,117
Restricted	
Expendable	31,625
Unrestricted	12,773,219
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$54,267,191

Economic Impact analysis



Alumni impact

Impact of the increased earnings of Cowley College alumni and the businesses they work for

\$179.4 million
Added income

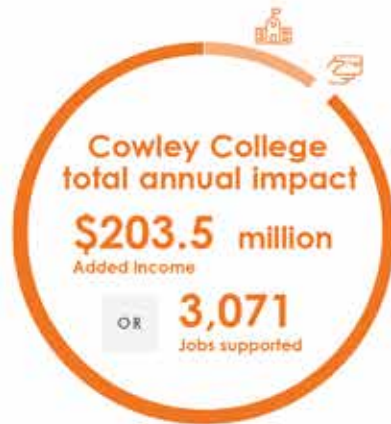
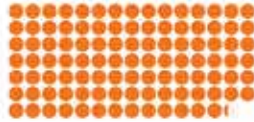


An economic boost similar to hosting the World Series
28x

OR

2,582

Jobs supported



Impact of annual payroll and other spending



Enough to buy **430** new cars

OR

\$20.3 million
Added income

421

Jobs supported



● = 25 jobs * = family of four



Student spending impact

Impact of the daily spending of Cowley College students attracted to or retained in the region

\$3.8 million Added income



Enough to buy **305** families* a year's worth of groceries

OR

68 Jobs supported

Investment analysis



For every \$1...



Students gain **\$10.70** in lifetime earnings



Taxpayers gain **\$2.20** in added tax revenue and public sector savings



Society gains **\$8.00** in added income and social savings



The average associate degree graduate from Cowley College will see an increase in earnings of **\$14,000** each year compared to someone with a high school diploma working in Kansas.



Sources: Lightcast Economic Impact Study, <https://www.bizjournals.com/washington/news/2017/10/14/whs-cash-flow-yankovs-er-actor-in-world-series.html>
<https://www.cowley.edu/collegesuccess/2015/03/03/college-management-ide-prize-47302-149621960-the-provost-awards-education/whs-cash-flow-yankovs-er-actor-in-world-series.html>





INTEGRITY

Robert & Gwen Tyler Honored by Cowley College



Robert and Gwen Tyler will be honored this August when the newly constructed Cowley College Career and Technical Education building becomes the “Tyler Technical Education Center.” The Tyler’s leadership gift of \$2,000,000 to Cowley College has made the project possible. The Cowley College Board of Trustees approved this new name at its May board meeting.

“Words can not adequately express our thanks and gratitude to the Tylers,” said Dr. Michelle Schoon, College President. “Their leadership gift helped leverage a \$4 million ARPA grant from the State of Kansas and created the energy needed to push towards \$8 million for the project.

As the Founder of Husky Liners, based in Winfield, Kansas, Robert Tyler became an industry leader in manufacturing automotive aftermarket products designed to protect cars and trucks inside and out. Tyler believes the new technical center will provide opportunities to build a skilled local and regional workforce. “We need more students who want to enter the skilled workforce,” Tyler said. “We hope this gift will help the college

leverage opportunities to provide much-needed training for our region.”

The new Tyler Technical Education Center will produce a more skilled workforce for the region and create meaningful employment. “Those graduating and being certified from the new center will be qualified for some of the best-paying jobs in the region,” said Cowley College Foundation Board Chair Mike Munson.

According to Cowley College Foundation President and CEO Dr. Kori Gregg, the Tyler’s leadership gift gave legitimacy and energy to the campaign. “Foundations, individuals, and businesses have been encouraged and inspired by the fundraising campaign. Now they know who lit the fuse,” said Gregg about the Tyler’s gift. “To date, we have raised \$7.8 million.”

The facility is a significant investment in the future of Cowley College students and the community at large. By providing access to high-quality career and technical education, the center will create a pipeline of skilled professionals who will drive economic growth, innovation, and success in the region.

“There is a ripple effect when diverse trade skills go unfilled,” Dr. Michelle Schoon said. “From home and commercial construction to the oil fields, and from manufacturing to electric companies, the economy is slowed when businesses can not find qualified employees. This project creates employment – a profession – for hundreds, builds businesses, and grows the economy.”

“We are still engaging alumni, friends, businesses, and foundations to help complete the Tyler Technical Education Center campaign,” said Dr. Kori Gregg. “Seldom does the college have a capital project of this importance. For decades to come, students and the regional economy will benefit. We are thankful for all the donors who have chosen to invest in this important endeavor.”

A grand opening celebration has been scheduled for August 16th, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Tyler Technical Education Center on the main campus of Cowley College.

Cowley College Opens Gaming Lounge



The people have spoken and the newly named Tiger Vault is now open to all currently enrolled students.

This gaming lounge is located on the Arkansas City Main Campus in the basement of Galle-Johnson.

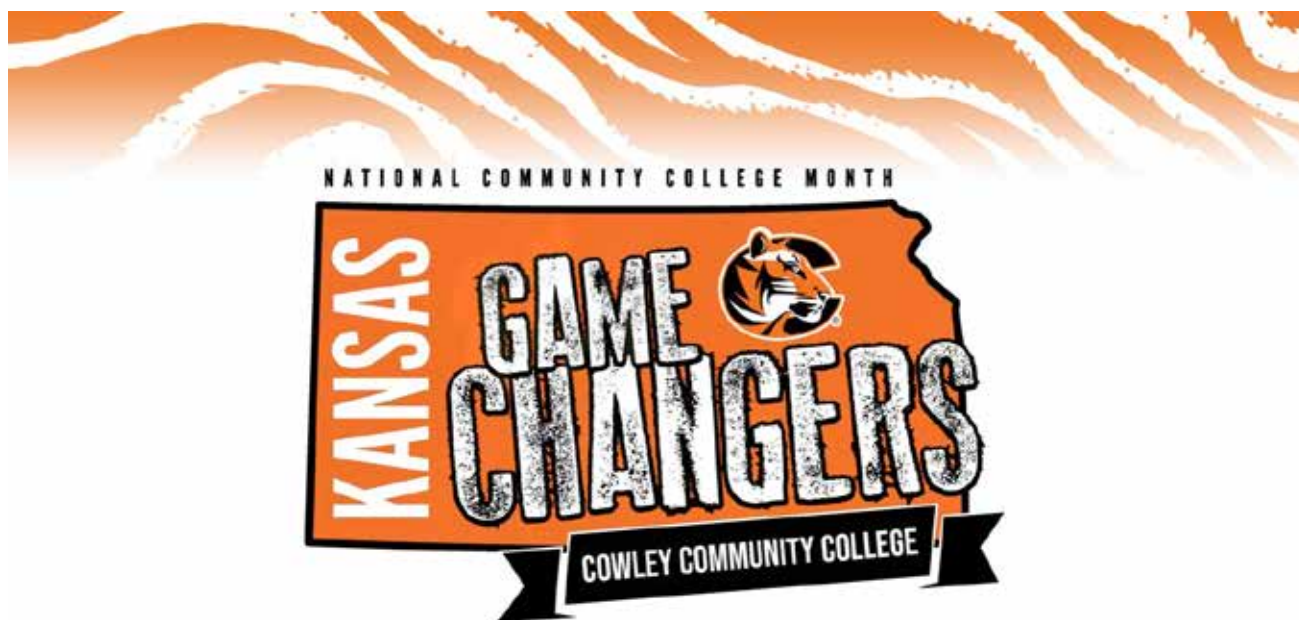
The hours of operation for this fun and exciting new addition to our campus will be...

Sunday - Thursday: 2 pm to 10 pm

Friday & Saturday: 2 pm to 11 pm

The Ribbon Cutting was held Thursday, March 28th with the Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce and KSOK present as well as members of the Cowley Gaming Club.

Community Colleges Celebrate Impactful Contribution to the Kansas Economy



Elevating affordable transfer programs and career and technical education, Kansas community colleges invited citizens to join them in celebrating National Community College Month this April. With community colleges spread across the state, these institutions drive economic growth, provide the workforce critical to the state's economy, and foster educational opportunities that make possible prosperous economic futures for students.

An economic study released in November 2023 by Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm, found that between 2021 - 2022 Kansas' community colleges added \$6.7 billion in income to the state economy, or approximately 3.3% of Kansas' gross state product (GSP).

The affordability of community colleges is a major financial advantage to students. Kansas' robust network of community colleges served more than 90,000 students in 2023.

"Kansas community colleges are undoubtedly the best value in higher education—whether a student is seeking a pathway to a four-year degree or wants to receive the education needed to go directly into a skilled trade, Kansas community colleges are ready to serve students of all ages at an affordable price," said Heather Morgan, executive director of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges.

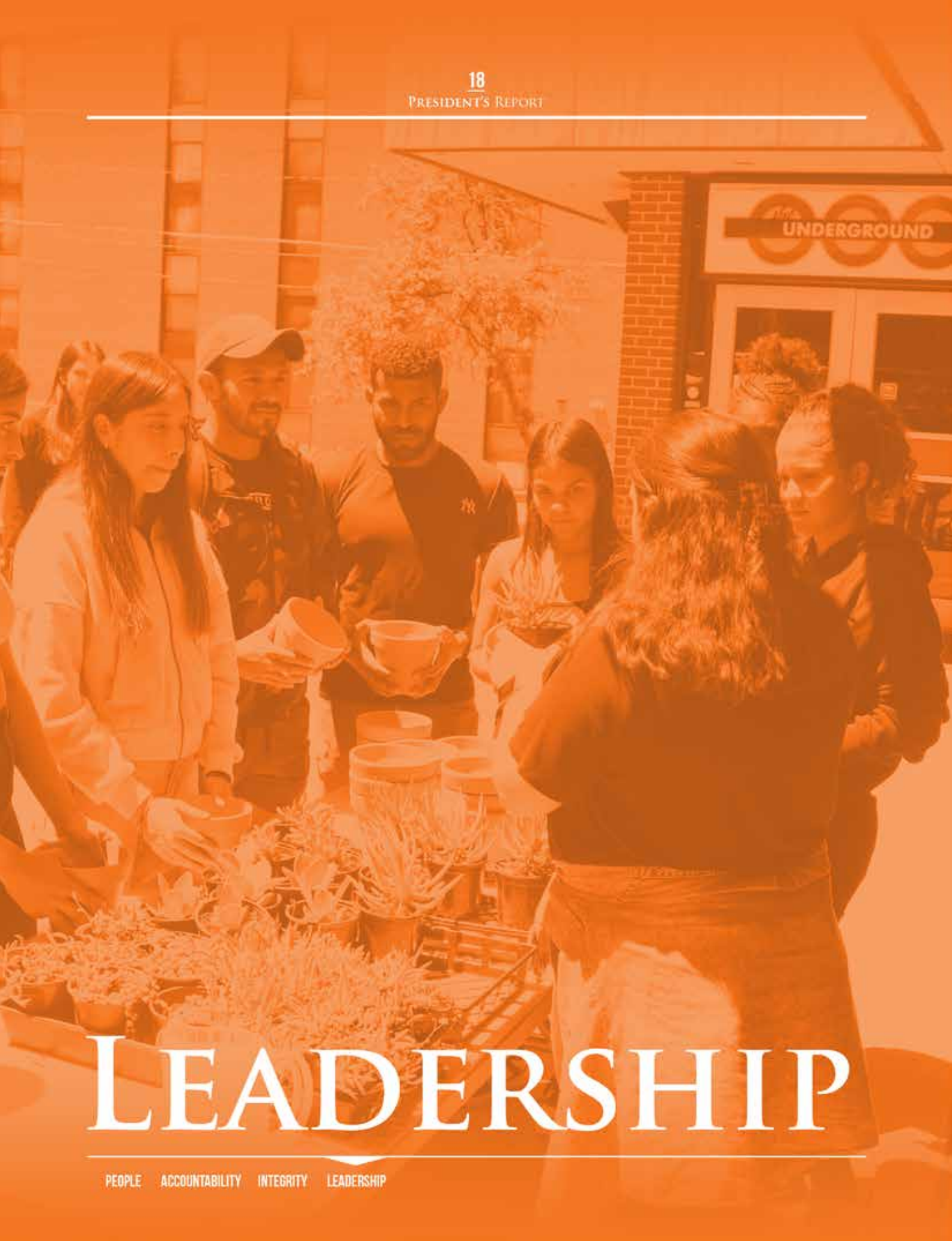
National Community College Month serves as an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the transformative power of community colleges, which continue to bridge the gap between the unskilled and a trained workforce. Career-focused programs, flexible schedules, and lower tuition have afforded thousands of Kansans the opportunity to achieve their educational and professional aspirations.

One of the many ways that Cowley College continues to promote

education is through our career and technical education program. In a continued effort to bolster programs like Criminal Justice, Cosmetology, and HVAC Cowley has undertaken construction of a Technical Education Center to be completed by July of 2024.

"We will have a banner on display in Galle-Johnson on Main Campus and also in the Short General Education Center in Wellington for students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members to sign in support of community colleges nationwide," said Cowley College President, Dr. Michelle Schoon.

Schoon expressed "We are honored to be celebrating National Community College Month alongside the other amazing Game Changer schools in Kansas and want to thank our community for all their continued support."



LEADERSHIP



Cowley Athletic Trainers Honored During Athletic Training Month

National Athletic Training Month (NATM) is held every March to spread awareness about the important work of athletic trainers. At Cowley College, the school is fortunate to have head athletic trainer Blake Smith and assistant trainers like Ainsley Carson.

Athletic trainers (ATs) are highly qualified, multi-skilled healthcare professionals who render service or treatment under the direction of or in collaboration with a physician in accordance with their education, training, and the state's statutes, rules, and regulations. As a part of the health care team, services provided by athletic trainers include primary care, injury and illness prevention, wellness promotion and education, emergent care, examination and clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions.

At Cowley College, students can major in a pre-athletic training associate's degree program based on a science core of classes and recommended electives. Within the program, students will gain knowledge and practical experience in the classroom, athletic training room

clinic, and athletic competitions. Through this educational experience, students will begin to build a solid foundation for their academic and professional future in athletic training or other allied healthcare specializations associated with the physically active.

South Central Kansas Medical Center and Integrity Healthcare Professionals awarded Blake Smith the title of Lifesaver of the Month in January 2020. The decision to award Smith was made following his heroic actions that saved the life of a Cowley College student-athlete.

Smith is a native of Dexter who attended both Cowley College and Southwestern College to study athletic training. Following his graduation in 2016, Smith started at Cowley, where he spends his time working with many of the college's young athletes across several different programs.

During Athletic Training Month, Smith recently spoke to students at Caldwell High School about what it takes to become an athletic trainer.

Through its partnership with Kansas State University, Cowley College

receives students in KSU's Master's program to help shadow throughout the spring and fall semesters.

During the fall, Cowley had KSU Master's students Jenna Ficken and Ray Kuhlman assist with the athletic training duties. Ainsley Carson has returned to Cowley for the spring semester and is now on staff as the Assistant Athletic Trainer.

"These three have been huge additions to our program," Smith said. "We have gotten a lot of talented kids from the KSU partnership, and I believe it has been good for Cowley and Kansas State."

Carson, who plans to graduate from Kansas State in May, returned to Cowley because of Blake Smith and former head athletic trainer Jeff Fluty. She also has a good relationship with the Cowley College coaches.

"I would strongly recommend other athletic training students at KSU to follow the path I did," Carson said. "I grew up playing sports, so being able to work with athletes and be involved with healthcare easily fit into what I wanted to do in life."

Cowley VP Honored by the Wichita Business Journal

Holly Harper's recognition in the Women Who Lead editorial by the Wichita Business Journal highlighted her significant contributions to Cowley College as Vice President of Finance and Administration. Her instrumental role with the new Technical Education Center has underscored her commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for students.

Harper's remarks reflected her deep-seated dedication to higher education and the impact it has on students' lives. Her emphasis on witnessing students' growth and passion for their chosen career paths reinforces the fulfilling nature of her work. She also discussed her joy in seeing graduates return to campus and thrive in their

respective fields, which spoke volumes about her investment in their success beyond their time at Cowley College.

In addition to her professional achievements, Harper's willingness to share her knowledge and experiences with younger professional women aligns with the ethos of Women Who Lead. By serving as a mentor and role model, she contributes to the empowerment and advancement of women in business.

Holly Harper's recognition in the Women Who Lead editorial exemplifies her leadership, dedication, and commitment to fostering educational excellence and professional growth within the community.



Absher Named the Recipient of the Tiger Heart Award

Chris Absher, Cowley College webmaster, was recently named the Spring 2024 Tiger Heart Award recipient.

The award is presented each semester to an employee who has gone above and beyond to help a fellow employee, therefore exhibiting the heart of a tiger.

Last year's recipient, Carissa Honkomp, said Absher truly cares about how Cowley is represented in the public and is always helpful when asked for assistance.

Absher, who has worked at Cowley College since May 2016, was surprised to be named the recipient of the Tiger Heart Award.

"I really appreciate receiving this award, it means a lot to me, especially from Carissa, who is a very creative thinker and always gives the extra effort to her work," Absher said. "I have enjoyed working at Cowley College from day one and have always been treated so well by all the employees here, so it's been a real joy to work here and also to get this recognition today."

Past award recipients include Bryan McChesney, Micah Fry, Rikki Hettenbach, Robin Graves, Liz Shepherd, Somsy Sengvixay, Ashley Leighty, Rhoda MacLaughlin, and Carissa Honkomp.





Making an Impact: College Employee wins Award

Cowley College would like to congratulate Director of Student Support Services, Trio-IMPACT's Roxanna James who was recently inducted into the MO-KAN-NE Hall of Fame. MO-KAN-NE is a Tri-State chapter of the Educational Opportunity Association which is - "a non-profit consortium of professionals with the specific purpose of leveling the playing field of educational opportunity for first-generation, low-income, underrepresented, disabled students" (according to the Educational Opportunity Association).

"Roxanna is an outstanding

example of a MO-KAN-NE member who shows commitment, energy, and excellence toward achieving the mission and goals of the MKN organization. She has been among the finest examples of a true professional in our Chapter" said Kristi Bolen, Director of Student Support Services at Emporia State University.

To receive this honor Roxanna first had to remain an active member of MKN for at least 10 years, serve as an MKN officer or committee chair, provide professional development workshops, educational training, or develop model or exemplary programs for the organization's constituency, coordinate a successful major fund-raising activity, and provide

an outstanding contribution to the goals and mission of MKN among other things.

MO-KAN-NE states "Whether through their groundbreaking inventions, transformative leadership, artistic masterpieces, or acts of kindness and compassion, our Hall of Fame winners have enriched our lives and expanded the boundaries of what is possible. We honor not only their accomplishments but also the values they embody - perseverance, creativity, integrity, and a commitment to excellence". Among them now sits Cowley's Roxanna James.



cowley.edu



facebook.com/cowleycollege



[@CowleyCollege](https://twitter.com/CowleyCollege)



[@CowleyCollege](https://www.instagram.com/CowleyCollege)

Main Campus - Arkansas City KS | 620.442.0430 or 800.593.2222

Career & Tech Ed Center - Arkansas City KS | 620.441.5279

Allied Health Center - Winfield KS | 620.221.3392

Mulvane Science, Engineering & Academic Center - Mulvane KS | 316.777.3050

Mulvane Industrial Center - Mulvane KS | 316.777.4314

Sumner Campus - Wellington KS | 620.441.6555

Wichita Center - Wichita KS | 316.683.6013

Email | admissions@cowley.edu



Notice of Non-Discrimination: 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 college will provide all qualified individuals reasonable accommodations in the work and educational environment and ensure equal access to all College programs, activities and facilities.

The College does not discriminate in admissions, educational programs, or employment on the basis of any factor outlined above or prohibited under applicable 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 1253 Second St, Arkansas City, KS 67005 or by calling 620-442-0430.