

2024 - 2025
COWLEY COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S

Report

SENATOR JERRY MORAN
VISITS COWLEY COLLEGE

STUDENT OF THE YEAR
COLTON BROWN

2024 QUEEN ALALAH
HADLEY O'TOOLE



GRAND OPENING OF
TYLER TECHNICAL
EDUCATION CENTER

TIGER HEART AWARD
JIM AILEY



As we begin a new year at Cowley College, I'm proud to share highlights from 2024–2025 that reflect both our dedication to students and the strength of our community.

One of the year's most meaningful achievements was our reaffirmation of accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), a milestone in the ten-year cycle for higher education institutions. This accomplishment highlights our ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality education that makes a lasting impact.

Our employees gave us much to celebrate. Adult Education instructor LaVaughn Scheurich and Adult Educational Navigator Matt Thomas were recognized as Contract Staff of the Quarter at Winfield Correctional Facility. Jim Ailey received the

Tiger Heart Award, and Roxanna James earned the Ben LeClair Staff Excellence Award. Their hard work and heart show the very best of Cowley.

The Tiger spirit was also on full display in the community. The ACES (Academic Civic Engagement through Service) program transitioned under the IMPACT program, giving students and staff a full year of service opportunities. Cosmetology and Criminal Justice students partnered with IXL Elementary School, while Construction Trades students put their skills to work on a local Habitat for Humanity home. And at Arkalalah, we came together to cheer as sophomore Hadley O'Toole was crowned Queen Alalah, with students and staff even entering the festival's first-ever soapbox derby.

We strengthened important partnerships. The opening of a new nursing simulation center at William Newton Hospital, developed in collaboration with Butler Community College and Southwestern College, expanded healthcare training opportunities. Cowley also teamed up with Cowley County Economic Development and the Workforce Alliance to host job fairs, connecting students with local employers and future careers.

Whether in competition, on stage, or in the classroom, our Tigers excelled. Athletics finished the year ranked 8th nationally in the NATYCAA Cup, competing among more than 200 two-year colleges. Our Collegiate Quiz Bowl team captured first place at the state tournament and advanced to nationals, while DECA students also made it to the national stage in San Francisco. Theater audiences were treated to standout performances of *James and the Giant Peach* and *Murder on the Orient Express*.

More than 800 prospective students visited our campuses to explore career pathways, and the year concluded with our 102nd Commencement ceremony. It was a proud day as we honored Outstanding Alumni Joe Woodard and welcomed former student Avery Osen ('15) as keynote speaker, who reflected on the lifelong value of a Cowley education.

I'm deeply grateful to our donors, community partners, and alumni. Your support makes these successes possible. Together, we continue to open doors, change lives, and shape the future—and I'm excited for what the coming year will bring.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Schoon".

Dr. Michelle Schoon
President, Cowley College

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



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

President - Dr. Michelle Schoon | Holly Harper
Paul Erdmann | Dr. Scott Layton | Deborah Phelps
Kristi Shaw | Jeff Fluty | Stefani Jones



Report

Report

3 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.

Colton Brown, our 2025 Student of the Year



Cowley sophomore and Criminal Justice major Colton Brown is Cowley College's 2024-2025 Student of the Year. Previously recognized as December's Student of the Month, Brown's consistent leadership, strong work ethic, and dedication to his field have made him a standout member of the Cowley community.

A graduate of Field Kindley Memorial High School in Coffeyville, Brown chose Cowley specifically for its highly respected Criminal Justice program.

"I knew I wanted to go into law enforcement, and Cowley was by far

the best place for me to go," he said.

That decision has paid off—Colton graduated from Cowley with a 3.4 GPA, valuable real-world experience, and a job offer from the Coffeyville Police Department.

During his time at Cowley, Brown held two key student employment roles: Resident Assistant in Kimmel Dorm and Student Assistant to the Director of Criminal Justice, Frank Owens. He also served as a Lieutenant in Cowley's Student Patrol program, dedicating hours each week to maintaining campus safety and

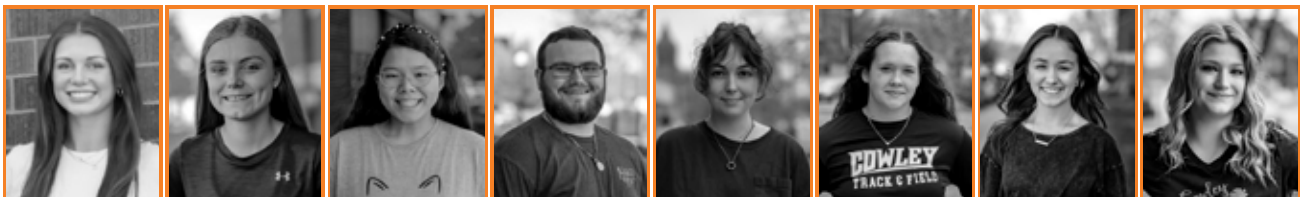
assisting with criminal justice recruiting efforts throughout the region.

Colton's professionalism and drive have earned the respect of peers, faculty, and staff alike. Reflecting on the honor, he said, "It's an honor to receive this award. It means the world to me to represent Cowley College and Cowley Criminal Justice in this way."

With a clear focus on a future in law enforcement and a genuine commitment to service, Colton Brown truly embodies the values and spirit of Cowley College.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Jessi Ritchhart - Sep. | Riley Perdue - Oct. | Kelley Lowe - Nov. | Colton Brown - Dec.
Cole Batten - Jan. | Brianna Lee - Feb. | Hadley O'Toole - Mar. | Ashlyn Thomison - Apr.



TYLER TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER OPENS,

Marking a New Era for Cowley College



Cowley College proudly celebrated the grand opening of its new Tyler Technical Education Center on August 16, 2024. The event brought together distinguished guests and community supporters to mark a significant milestone in advancing technical education across South Central Kansas.

Dr. Michelle Schoon, President of Cowley College, welcomed attendees including Robert and Gwen Tyler, Kansas legislators, members of the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), the Technical Education Authority (TEA), the Cowley College Board of Trustees (BOT), and representatives from the Arkansas City Commission, Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce, and Visit Ark City.

The construction of the Tyler Technical Education Center was made possible by the Cowley College Foundation, which raised \$4 million to match the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant awarded to Cowley College, along with generous contributions from Robert and Gwen Tyler, the Robert and Gwen Tyler Charitable Foundation, and the Sutherland Foundation.

Robert Tyler, founder of Husky Liners and the largest donor to the center, said, "Our involvement with the Tech Center consisted of our financial contribution and our belief in the importance of providing a skilled workforce to

community businesses. The facility will provide students with an active learning environment where they can master trades that will have a profound impact on their lives. The education they receive will prepare them for successful careers in their chosen fields."

Dr. Kori Gregg, President of the Cowley College Foundation, expressed gratitude to the donors, stating, "Without your very generous support, we would not be standing in front of this state-of-the-art facility today. To our donors, you believed in the power of education, and you believed in Cowley College, and we are so very grateful for your contributions. Thank you for working with us to create a brighter future for our students."

Kansas State Senator Larry Alley emphasized the center's significance, noting, "This facility will be a tool Cowley College can use to educate new workers for the jobs that are out there. Timing was everything for this project. It all worked out, and we are glad it did."

Keith Humphrey, President and CEO of Jet AirWerks, shared his appreciation: "It wouldn't have been possible for me to start my business in another part of the country, I am convinced of that. The new Tyler Technical Education Center at Cowley College is leading the way in South Central Kansas, and as a local small business owner, I am truly grateful for that."

In celebration of Cowley College's recent 100th anniversary, a time capsule was dedicated during the event. Created in partnership with the Cowley College Foundation, it contains a collection of centennial memorabilia and is mounted on the entryway wall of the Tyler Technical Education Center. The inscription reads:

"To honor and preserve the legacy of the Cowley College centennial, dedicated this 16th day of August 2024, to be opened by a future generation of Cowley Tigers."

Following the dedication of the time capsule, the official ribbon-cutting ceremony formally opened the Tyler Technical Education Center. Guests toured the facility, exploring the cutting-edge resources and dynamic learning environments now supporting students in Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Construction Trades, and Welding programs.

The evening concluded with a donor appreciation dinner, during which Cowley College expressed its gratitude to everyone who made the Tyler Technical Education Center possible through their generosity and commitment.

Looking ahead, Cowley College is excited about the positive impact this new center will have on students and the community, advancing its mission to deliver exceptional technical education and workforce training.



NATIONAL CHAMPION COWLEY VOLLEYBALL TEAM REFLECTS ON UNBEATEN SEASON



The Cowley College volleyball team had a historic 2024 season, becoming the first team in NJCAA history to win back-to-back undefeated national championships. Their 40-0 record marked the third undefeated season in NJCAA history, the program's best winning percentage ever, and extended their record-setting win streak to 81 matches. The Lady Tigers also swept the KJCCC Eastern Division, conference, and Plains A District titles, cementing themselves as one of the most dominant teams in NJCAA history.

The team was honored by the Kansas Senate and House, while Head Coach Steven Gream received the Gene Stephenson Coach of the Year award and multiple national coaching honors. Under his leadership, the Lady Tigers have developed into a powerhouse

program built on consistency, discipline, and elite-level talent.

Sophomore Laura Bonomi earned NJCAA National Tournament MVP, NJCAA and AVCA National Player of the Year, and led the nation's top offense with standout kill and scoring stats. Bonomi's 560 kills and 660 points ranked among the best in the nation, while her .338 hitting percentage and 15.06 kills per set fueled Cowley's dominant attack. She finished her career as one of the most decorated players in school history, helping secure back-to-back titles.

Cowley volleyball now holds four national championships, tied for second all-time in NJCAA Division II, and 16 national tournament appearances. Over the past four seasons, the Lady Tigers have compiled an extraordinary 162-6 record, including two national titles, a runner-up, and a sixth-place finish.



More Students Choose Cowley: Increase in Fall 2024 Enrollment

According to the official Fall 2024 enrollment report released by the Kansas Board of Regents, Cowley College experienced a notable increase in student enrollment compared to the previous year.

The college reported a total of 2,248 students, marking a 3.8% increase from Fall 2023. Full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment also rose significantly, reaching 1,628 students—a 6.1% increase.

Of the total student body, 82.7% were Kansas residents, underscoring Cowley College's strong in-state appeal and regional impact.

"We were pleased to see the upward progression with enrollment at Cowley College," said Dr. Michelle Schoon, Cowley College President. "We launched a robust enrollment management plan in 2023 and currently had five different project groups involved with developing and implementing enrollment strategies. Seeing this outcome with enrollment growth is a testament to these teams and their dedication to the mission and vision of the College."

Cowley College continues to offer a wide range of



degree and certificate programs designed to prepare students for both the workforce and continued academic study. As enrollment grows, the

college remains committed to providing students with personalized attention, quality instruction, and valuable hands-on learning experiences.

Education Opens Doors: Cowley and Winfield Correctional Celebrate Resident Success

The Winfield Correctional Facility recently celebrated the achievements of its residents with a combined graduation ceremony honoring those who completed educational programs during the Fall 2024 semester. The event recognized residents who earned their Kansas State High School diplomas and completed technical certificates in Welding Technology and Electromechanical Maintenance, all through Cowley College.

A total of 56 residents graduated. Twenty-two residents earned their Kansas State High School diploma (since June 2024).

Sixteen residents earned a Certificate A in Welding Technology. Eighteen residents earned a Certificate A in Electromechanical Maintenance.

Among the graduates, one resident was awarded a \$500 scholarship for future college courses based on his outstanding GED test scores. Additionally, one resident completed his GED and a Certificate A in Welding Technology within the 2024 calendar year.

This graduation marks a significant milestone for the graduates, highlighting their dedication and resilience in furthering their education.

The ceremony attendance was approximately 150 people, including residents, their family guests, Cowley College faculty and staff, representatives from the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) Central Office, and staff from Winfield Correctional Facility. The event underscored the importance of education and workforce development programs in preparing individuals for successful reentry into society.

Dr. Michelle Schoon, President of Cowley College, conferred the technical certificates to graduates in Welding Technology

and Electromechanical Maintenance. In her address, Dr. Schoon emphasized the value of education in creating new opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Cowley College and Winfield Correctional Facility are committed to supplying individuals with educational opportunities to prepare them for the workplace and future endeavors. These educational opportunities also aim to decrease the rate of recidivism by providing residents with the skills and knowledge needed for stable employment and successful reintegration into society.

Community Comes Together: A Heartwarming Success at the ACES Pulled Pork Fundraiser

The ACES Pulled Pork Fundraiser, held in October, was a tremendous success—celebrating more than 20 years of cherished community tradition!

Guests enjoyed mouthwatering pulled pork prepared by dedicated volunteers from the Optimist Club, Central Christian Church Ladies, Fresh Ideas, and Cowley ACES students.

A special highlight of the evening was a generous donation from the Early Birds Lions Club—a powerful reminder of the strong community support behind this event.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part—whether you dined in,



picked up a meal, or volunteered your time. Your generosity keeps this impactful tradition alive and thriving.

The night was filled with laughter and connection as friends, families,

and neighbors came together for a meaningful cause. Proceeds directly supported the Cowley College ACES food packaging initiative, helping local families in need.

#CCMonth: Cowley Celebrates the Value of Community Colleges

April 2025 marked a nationwide celebration of Community College Month (#CCMonth), a campaign designed to highlight the value and impact of community colleges. During this month, students, alumni, and community members were encouraged to share their experiences and showcase how Cowley College helps pave the way to success.

“Attending a community college isn’t just a smart financial decision—it’s an investment in a personalized education,” said Dr. Michelle Schoon, Cowley College President. “Students who start at Cowley can save thousands while benefiting from smaller class sizes and one-on-one instructor support.”

National education data shows

Kansas students can save nearly \$20,000 by beginning their academic journey at a community college before transferring to a university. This affordable option allows students to complete foundational courses while receiving valuable academic support.

Beyond academics, Cowley College partners with local businesses to equip students with in-demand skills, helping reduce student debt and strengthen the local economy.

The #CCMonth campaign, organized by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), seeks to dispel common misconceptions about two-year colleges and emphasize their crucial role in higher education. Each year, the campaign reaches millions through social media with support



from public figures and education advocates.

To promote the importance of affordable education, students, alumni, and community members were invited to join the conversation using #CCMonth and #BestDecisionEver.

Arkansas City's own Hadley O'Toole Crowned Queen Alalah

Cowley College's own Hadley O'Toole was crowned the 92nd Queen Alalah during the 2024 Arkalalah celebration. At just 19 years old, Hadley exemplifies outstanding leadership, service, and community spirit—truly embodying the heart of this cherished tradition.

Hadley comes from a family deeply connected to Cowley College. Her parents, Jason and Shannon O'Toole, met while attending the college—Jason as a standout baseball player and Shannon as a former Queen Alalah. Inspired by their legacy, Hadley follows in their footsteps, supported by her two older brothers, Hunter and Haden.

Hadley graduated from Cowley College in May

2025 with an Associate of Science degree, earning a 3.4 GPA. As a Pre-Nursing major, she was actively engaged on campus as Student Senate President, a Student Ambassador, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She also showcased her talents in the arts, starring as a lead in *James and the Giant Peach*. Beyond campus, Hadley contributed to the community through Sacred Heart Catholic Church and worked at the Cowley Wellness Center.

This fall, she will attend Pittsburg State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), with a goal to make a meaningful impact in healthcare and her community.

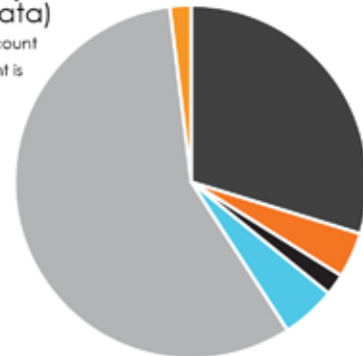


Report

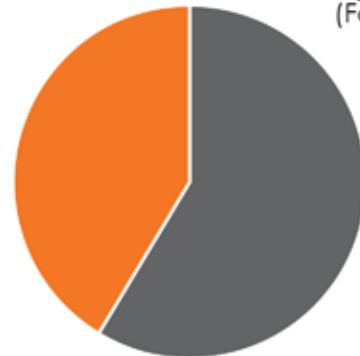
ACCOUNTABILITY

- * 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.

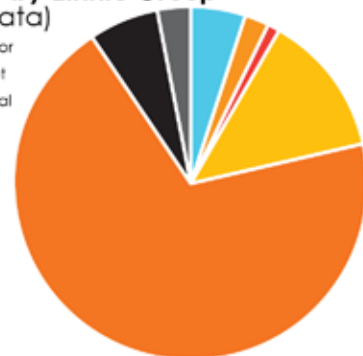
WHO WE SERVE

Enrollment by location
(Fall 2024 Data)(Duplicated headcount
where each student is
counted for every
location category
where they are
enrolled)

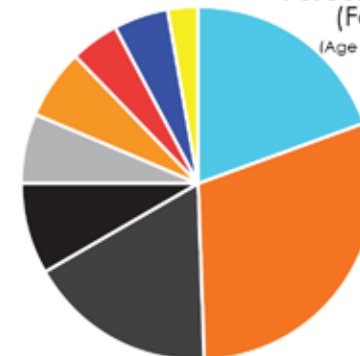
Arkansas City	861
Mulvane SEA	120
Mulvane Tech	59
Sumner Campus	145
Virtual Campus	1,647
Winfield	55

Percentage by Gender
(Fall 2024 Data)

Male	58.7%
Female	41.3%

Percentage by Ethnic Group
(Fall 2024 Data)(Headcount used for
numerator does not
include International
Students)

Black or African American	5.10%
Native American	2.19%
Asian	1.21%
Hispanic Latino	12.96%
White	69.33%
Two or More Races	6.35%
Other	2.86%

(This category includes Native Hawaiian or
Other Pacific Islander and Unknown)Percentage by Age
(Fall 2024 Data)(Age on 20th day of the fall
term to be consistent
with federal reporting)

Under 18	19.66%
18-19 years old	30.0%
20-21 years old	17.14%
22-24 years old	8.25%
25-29 years old	6.54%
30-34 years old	6.33%
35-39 years old	4.49%
40-49 years old	4.96%
50 and over	2.65%

2024-2025 Enrollment Data
(Fall and Spring Semesters Only)Annual Unduplicated Headcount Without Sumner
(2024-25 Fall and Spring Semesters Only)

Annual Unduplicated Headcount Including Sumner
Unduplicated Headcount Fall 2024
Unduplicated Headcount Spring 2025
Full-time Equivalent Students Fall 2024
FTE Students Spring 2025

3,187
2,340
2,295
1,673.33
1,576.33

2,930 Unduplicated
Headcount

YOUR RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Revenues by Sources

	Cash Basis
FY 2024	\$8,529,510
Student Sources	10,434,420
Federal & State Sources	6,540,690
Local Sources	1,086,251
Other Sources	\$26,590,871
Total Revenues by Sources	

Expenditures by Sources

	Cash Basis
Instruction	\$8,193,230
Academic Support	733,155
Student Services including Athletics	4,327,038
Institutional Support	5,273,773
Operation & Maintenance	3,639,732
Scholarships/Grants	2,984,212
Transfers	-
Total Expenditures by Sources	\$25,151,140

Foundations Balance Sheet

	Accrual Basis
ASSETS	
Total Cash and Investments	\$10,467,435
Accounts Receivable	797,739
Interest in Trust	504,496
Total Assets	\$11,769,670
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Total Liabilities	535,087
NET POSITIONS	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	-
Restricted	\$4,621,443
Expendable	5,411,733
Non-Expendable	1,201,407
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$11,769,670

College Balance Sheet

	Accrual Basis
ASSETS	
Total Cash and Investments	\$15,429,396
Inventory	361,365
Accounts Receivable	3,299,391
Prepaid Expenses	552,176
Capitalized Assets	38,551,946
Total Assets	\$58,194,274
Deferred Outflows of Resources	634,408
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$58,828,682
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Total Liabilities	11,971,233
Deferred Inflow of Resources	2,188,689
NET POSITION	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	31,947,979
Restricted	-
Expendable	-
Unrestricted	12,720,781
Total Liabilities and Net Position	\$58,828,682

Economic impact analysis



Alumni impact

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

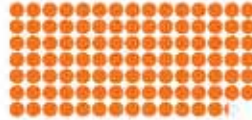
\$179.4 million
Added income

2,582
Jobs supported

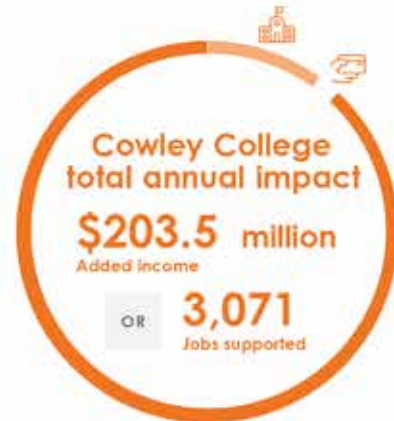


An economic boost
similar to hosting
the World Series

OR



28x



Impact of annual payroll and other spending

\$20.3 million
Added income

421
Jobs supported



Enough to buy
430 new cars

OR



● = 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.kipnews.com/washington/news/2018/10/16/katy-could-see-gain-over-10-years-in-world-series.html>
<https://www.cowley.edu/news/2018/09/20/average-associate-degree-graduate-earnings>
<https://www.kipnews.com/washington/news/2018/10/16/katy-could-see-gain-over-10-years-in-world-series.html>





Respect

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.

Welding Program Expands at Cowley College's Sumner Campus



In October 2024, Cowley College received a \$41,055 grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Jobs and Innovative Industry Skills Training Grant (JIIST) to enhance its Welding program at the Sumner Campus in Wellington. Combined with \$49,981 in matching funds from the college, this investment has enabled a significant upgrade to the Welding lab.

Since opening in 2018, the welding facility operated with only nine functional stations out of the intended ten, limited by outdated equipment and inadequate fume extraction systems. To meet rising demand and enhance safety, the grant funded seven new welding stations—including modern booths, an upgraded

extraction system, and state-of-the-art welding tables.

Cowley College President Michelle Schoon emphasized the expansion's importance: "The demand for welding skills has continued to increase in our service area, and we have seen a surge in student interest in the program." The improvements will allow the college to train more students in a safer and more efficient learning environment.

Zach Cooper, Director of Cowley College Sumner Campus, noted, "With the grant, we updated some of the equipment that we have in the shop, and we have added two additional seats in the welding classroom to offer opportunities for

more students to grow."

In addition to the grant, Cowley College contributed matching funds, provided in-kind labor for setup, and secured extra metal donations from local businesses. This collaborative effort highlights the college's commitment to addressing workforce needs and expanding educational opportunities.

Cowley College looks forward to the positive impact this expansion will have on students and the community, further strengthening its role in providing high-quality vocational training.

Cowley College and Southwestern College Partner to Launch Groundbreaking Nursing Agreement



Cowley College and Southwestern College formalized an innovative 2+2 Nursing Agreement that creates a seamless pathway for Cowley students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. Leaders from both institutions gathered on December 12, 2024, to sign the agreement, marking a significant step forward in expanding educational opportunities for aspiring nurses in the region.

During the official signing ceremony, Cowley College President Dr. Michelle Schoon and Southwestern College President Dr. Liz Frombgen affirmed their shared commitment to student success and workforce development. This partnership responds to the growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals by providing a clear,

supportive roadmap for students to progress from an Associate of Science (A.S.) in Pre-Nursing at Cowley College to a BSN at Southwestern College.

Under the agreement, students complete the first two years earning their A.S. degree in Pre-Nursing at Cowley College before transferring to Southwestern College to finish the final two years of their BSN degree.

“Nursing is one of our top pathways that students choose as a major, so being able to move from their pre-nursing program into a BSN program is very important,” said Dr. Schoon.

Dr. Frombgen added, “For us, it is a great way to support our local community, our students and the kind of degrees they’re interested in.”

Qualified Cowley College students who meet GPA and program requirements will receive priority placement in Southwestern College’s BSN program. Students transfer as juniors, with all eligible credits (grade C or higher) guaranteed to apply toward their bachelor’s degree. Southwestern College will reserve up to five seats annually for Cowley students meeting the criteria.

This agreement offers students a valuable advantage by ensuring a smooth and supportive transition from a two-year to a four-year institution, while helping to meet the critical national need for qualified nurses.



Cowley College Expands EMS Program with New Simulation Center at Sumner Campus

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) training is advancing with the relocation of the Paramedic and Advanced EMT (AEMT) programs to the Sumner Campus in Wellington. The new Prehospital Simulation Center, housed in the Short General Education Center, features high-fidelity patient simulators and virtual reality technology for immersive, hands-on learning.

Demand for EMS professionals is rising rapidly, with employment expected to grow 5% from 2022 to 2032—translating to about 18,100 annual job openings nationwide. Many agencies are offering sign-on bonuses up to \$20,000, reflecting the urgent need for skilled responders.

EMR and EMT courses, along with space to prepare students to be some of the best first responders in their communities, will continue at the Winfield, Wellington, and Mulvane campuses, providing a clear pathway from entry-level certifications to advanced EMS roles.

Sumner Campus Director Zach Cooper said, “We have excellent staff, resources, and space to prepare students to be some of the best first responders in the communities they serve.”

Financial aid options include the Kansas Promise Act scholarship and numerous Cowley Foundation scholarships, helping make EMS education more affordable and accessible.

Cowley College Named Among Nation’s Top Trade Schools by USA Today

Cowley College has been recognized by USA Today as one of the Top Trade Schools in the United States, earning an impressive placement among 250 institutions nationwide. The ranking reflects Cowley’s continued commitment to high-quality career and technical education, workforce readiness, and student success.

Cowley was one of only five Kansas institutions included in the prestigious list and was awarded a five-

star rating for excellence. “To be named among the top trade schools in the country—and one of only five in Kansas—is a proud moment for Cowley,” said Daniel Brooks, Department Chair of Career and Technical Education. “It reflects the strength of our programs and the dedication of our students and instructors.”

According to the USA Today article, the rankings are based on data evaluating affordability, student

experience, graduate success, and employment outcomes. The report highlights Cowley’s strong reputation in programs such as welding, automotive technology, electromechanical maintenance, and health sciences.

“This recognition by USA Today is a testament to the work of our faculty, staff, and students, and the partnerships we’ve developed with employers and communities

throughout Kansas,” said Dr. Michelle Schoon, Cowley College President. “Cowley remains committed to delivering quality hands-on training and preparing graduates for in-demand careers.”

The five-star distinction affirms Cowley’s role as a leading institution for technical education in the region and underscores its mission of providing accessible, affordable, and relevant learning opportunities.

Report

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.

Jim Ailey Honored with Tiger Heart Award for Dedicated Service



In January 2025, Cowley College proudly honored Jim Ailey, Auto Technology Instructor, as the recipient of the prestigious Tiger Heart Award. This honor recognizes outstanding individuals who embody the values of dedication, generosity, and commitment to excellence.

Matt Stone, Director of Campus Security and Public Safety and a previous recipient of the Tiger Heart Award, presented the accolade to Ailey, describing him as a shining example of going above and beyond.

“Jim’s impact on this institution and everyone he encounters is truly remarkable,” said Stone. “He doesn’t just complete tasks; he inspires collaboration, trust, and encouragement in everything he does. Jim’s unwavering dedication to helping others and his ability to bring positivity to any situation inspire us all. It was an honor to pass this award to someone so deserving.”

Ailey expressed his gratitude upon receiving the award, stating, “It is a true privilege to receive the Tiger Heart Award. I am thankful to get to work with so many amazing people. I am proud to be a part of the Cowley College family! Thank you!”

Ailey was recognized for regularly going above and beyond—mentoring students, assisting colleagues, and strengthening the sense of community. Whether staying late to complete projects, sharing his knowledge freely, or offering encouraging words, Ailey has made a lasting and meaningful impact on the Cowley College community.

Cowley College Honors Roxanna James with Ben LeClair Staff Excellence Award



Cowley College is proud to announce that Roxanna James, Director of the IMPACT Program, has been named the recipient of the prestigious Ben LeClair Staff Excellence Award. This honor is bestowed upon staff members who exemplify the highest standards of service, leadership, and dedication—qualities Roxanna James displays daily.

Nominated by colleagues Loretta Waldroupe and Katie Ryberg, Roxanna was praised for her unwavering commitment to Cowley College, the IMPACT Program, and most importantly, the students she serves. “It is with great admiration and appreciation that we nominated Roxanna James,” Waldroupe and Ryberg shared. “She consistently goes above and beyond, often giving her personal time and resources to ensure student success.”

Roxanna’s influence is felt far beyond the Cowley campus. She was recently inducted into the MOKANNE TRIO Hall of Fame, recognizing her exceptional contributions to the TRIO community throughout Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Her leadership is marked by vision, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to empowering others.

A model of integrity and accountability, Roxanna carefully stewards the IMPACT Program’s resources, ensuring full compliance with federal guidelines while maximizing benefits for students. Her meticulous attention to detail has fortified the program’s foundation and longevity.

“Roxanna’s impact cannot be measured in numbers or job descriptions,” her nominators said. “She leads with heart, humor, humility, and grace—the very same qualities that made Ben LeClair so beloved.”

Cowley College is honored to recognize Roxanna James for her outstanding service and exemplary leadership. Her legacy is one of lives changed, programs strengthened, and a campus made better because of her presence.

Senator Moran Sees Workforce Development in Action at Cowley College



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran visited Cowley College to tour the newly constructed Tyler Technical Education Center and highlight the expansion of the college's welding program. The visit on November 25, 2024, followed the August announcement of a \$264,000 Community Project Funding/Congressional Directed Spending grant, secured through Senator Moran's support, to enhance Cowley's welding program.

The federal grant was used to acquire state-of-the-art welding equipment, integrate advanced technologies like robotics, and provide advanced training for faculty. The program's expansion into the Tyler Technical Education Center addresses growing demands for skilled welding

technicians in South Central Kansas.

During his visit, Senator Moran spoke about the importance of workforce development and community colleges preparing students for in-demand careers.

"We're increasing the opportunities for people to be educated in Kansas and then stay in Kansas," said Senator Moran. "It's one of the challenges we face across our state. There are many job opportunities, but there's not a workforce. And what I'm seeing here, what I'm reminded of, is that in our community colleges, a lot of work is being done that sets the stage for Kansas to have a better future."

Cowley College President Dr. Michelle Schoon expressed gratitude

for Senator Moran's ongoing support of workforce development programs.

"Community colleges are at the forefront of technical education in the state, providing opportunities for students to earn certificates and degrees in high-wage, high-demand fields. We are thankful for the continued support of Senator Moran and his focus on building a sustainable workforce in Kansas. The congressional allocation of \$264,000 to Cowley College for new welding equipment enabled the expansion of our welding program, producing more trained workers to meet the needs of business and industry partners."

The expansion of the welding program is part of Cowley College's broader commitment to providing high-quality vocational training that meets the needs of students and local industries. By investing in advanced equipment and innovative courses, the program is equipping students to succeed in today's evolving workforce and contribute to Kansas's economic growth.



Cowley CFO Selected for National Leadership Role

Holly Harper, Vice President of Finance and Administration at Cowley College, serves on the Board of Directors for the Community College Business Officers (CCBO), representing Region 3. She was elected to this position during CCBO's Annual Conference held September 22–24, 2024, in Savannah, Georgia.

As Region 3 Representative, Harper is part of a national network of professionals dedicated to advancing community colleges through strategic leadership and financial

stewardship. She helps guide CCBO's mission to promote professional development and innovation within the business offices of two-year institutions.

CCBO is the only national organization exclusively focused on the continued education and leadership development of community college business officers. Through programs such as the Leadership Academy, annual conferences, and a national webinar series, CCBO helps its members navigate the financial and administrative challenges



facing today's colleges.

Cowley College is proud to have Harper representing both the institution and the region on this distinguished

board, bringing valuable insights from Kansas to the national conversation on community college leadership.

Built by Students, Backed by Community



Cowley College proudly announced the installation of a new bench in the courtyard of the Tyler Technical Education Center, a project made possible through the generosity of Union State Bank and the skilled collaboration of Cowley's faculty and students. Union State Bank sponsored the courtyard through donations made during the planning and construction of

the Tyler Technical Education Center. From the outset, the project was envisioned as a hands-on opportunity for student involvement—aligning with the college's mission of experiential learning. Though the center officially opened in the fall, the completion of the bench was delayed to ensure students could play an active role in the process.

“Union State Bank has long been a valued partner of the Cowley College Foundation,” said Dr. Kori Gregg, Foundation President and CEO. “Their pledge as a major donor to our Career and Technical Education Building campaign exemplified their commitment not only to Cowley College and our students, but to the community as well.”

The bench features the Union State Bank logo within a custom plaque fabricated by Welding Instructor Rick Squires and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department Chair Daniel Brooks. The concrete slab and bench installation were completed by students in the construction trades program under the guidance of instructor Zack Rozell.

Cowley College President Dr. Michelle Schoon praised the effort, stating, “This project is a great example of community partnership and student engagement. Union State Bank's generosity allowed us to create a space that is both functional and symbolic of the teamwork and talent at Cowley.”

Completed in May 2025, the bench now stands as a welcoming feature of the courtyard, providing a place of rest and reflection for students, faculty, and visitors while also showcasing the craftsmanship and collaboration that define Cowley College's Career and Technical Education programs.



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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 Technical Education 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 125 S Second St, Arkansas City, KS 67005 or by calling 620-442-0430.