

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



COWLEY
COLLEGE

CORE VALUES

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

PEOPLE

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

ACCOUNTABILITY

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

INTEGRITY

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

LEADERSHIP

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VISION STATEMENT

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



WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Reflecting on 2015/2016 academic year, I am astounded by our progress and achievement. We have much to celebrate and much to anticipate in the coming years.

A key accomplishment for Cowley was demonstrating our institutional excellence through third-party assessors. During the fall semester, the College's financial aid services as well as management of fiscal affairs were assessed.

The College passed with flying colors on both accounts. During the spring semester, the Higher Learning Commission visited Cowley College. The evaluators applauded Cowley's commitment to student success.

Another key accomplishment for Cowley this academic year was solidifying the leadership team. During the fall semester, we hired two Vice Presidents. Our Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Arnett, secured a major training grant with a global company, Newell Rubbermaid, and developed two new programs of study (i.e. Milling and Fire Science) and Dr. Walker, the Vice President of Finance and Administration, has reenergized the finance and administration areas of the College.

Fundraising emerged as a central goal for Cowley because of our commitment to keep student costs affordable while providing quality education. Accordingly, Cowley is actively exploring fundraising initiatives. Please strongly consider participating in one of these important upcoming opportunities.

A concluding accomplishment for Cowley is the development of

partnerships to promote student success. Cowley is a highly sought partner for major universities and for industries because of the high caliber of our training programs and our graduates. Recently, Cowley College partnered with Fort Hays State University to develop Tiger2Tiger pathways which guarantees scholarships to eligible Cowley College graduates who transfer to Fort Hays State University.

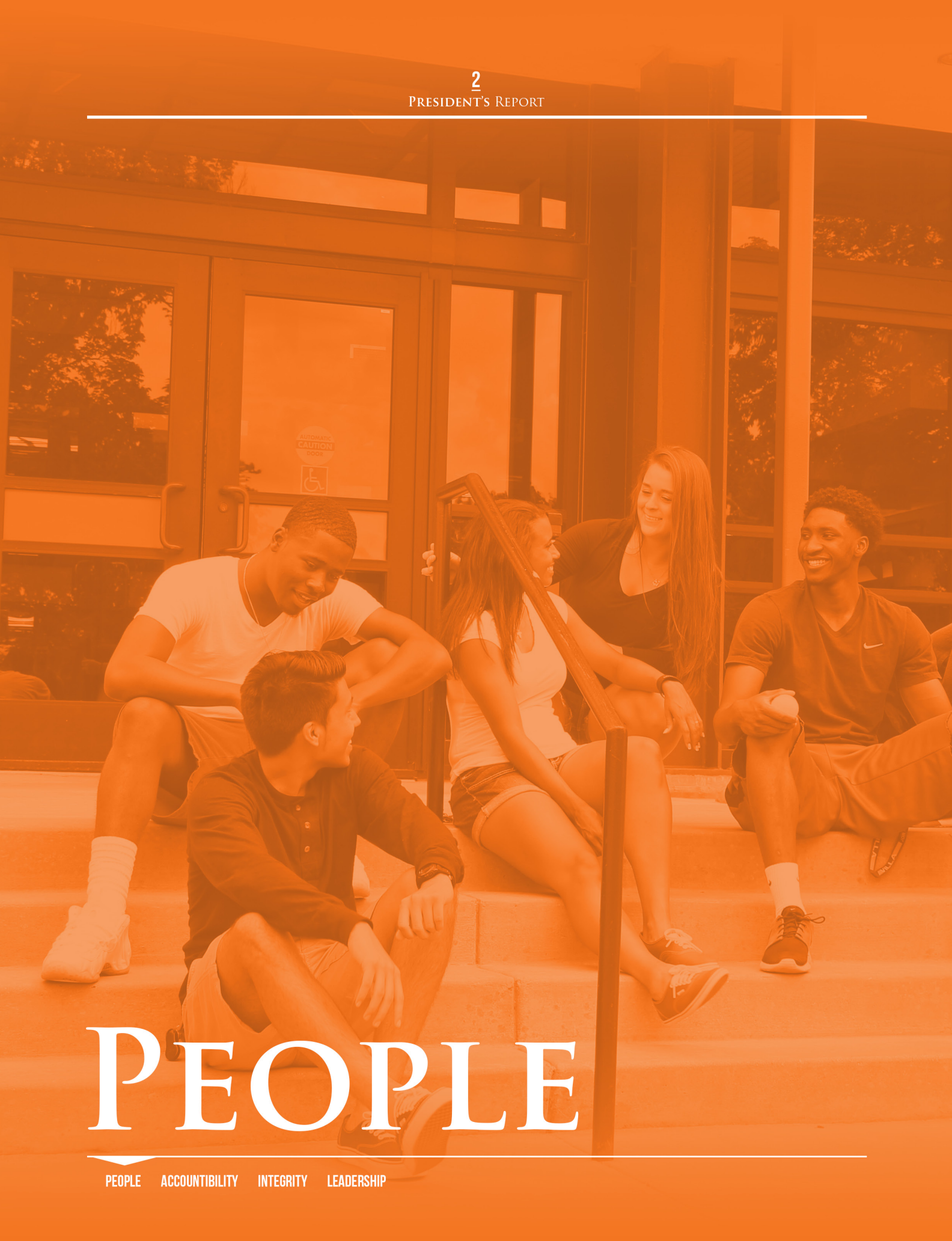
Tiger Trademarks:

- 1) Cowley College graduates rank in the top 15% of annual earnings (Brookings Institute).
- 2) Cowley graduates, who transfer to universities, tout an average completion rate 10% higher than all community colleges nationwide (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center).
- 3) Cowley College is ranked among the top-50 two-year schools nationally for quality and affordability (BestColleges.com).
- 4) Cowley College recognized as one of the Top-150 two-year colleges in the country (Aspen Institute).
- 5) Cowley College continues its recognition as one of the top athletic programs in the country.

In closing, Cowley continues to be a leading institution of higher education which offers a comprehensive learning experience at a fraction of the cost. Cowley offers more than 80 programs of study in face-to-face, hybrid, and online formats. The successes of Cowley College are because of the commitment of our Students, Faculty, Staff, Administrators, Community Members, and Board of Trustees. GO TIGERS!



Dennis C. Rittle
Cowley College President



PEOPLE



BOARD HONORS GODSEY, PATON FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

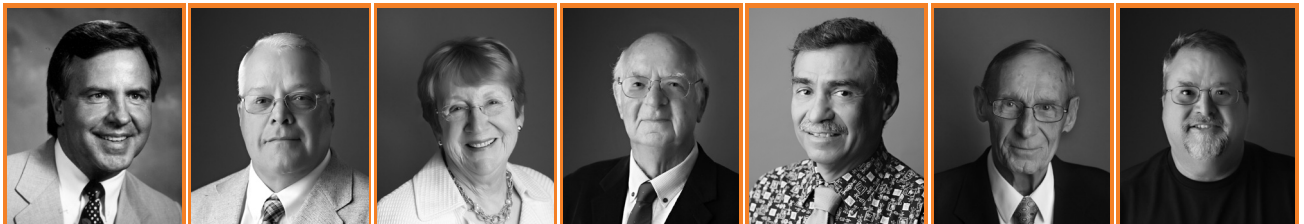
Serving in various roles on Cowley College's Board of Trustees, Ron Godsey and Mark Paton took part in their final meeting June 14, 2015 in the McAtee Dining Center. Godsey had served on the Board since 1995, while Paton had been a Board member since July 2003. Both men watched the college grow dramatically during their time on the Board, with Cowley adding four dormitories and several new facilities including the Webb-Brown Academic Center and the Travis Hafner Training Center.

Paton, who graduated from Cowley College in 1972, is proud to have spent the past 12 years on the Board. "The college means so much to me and my family and is a great asset to the community and the county," Paton said. "I want to see the college succeed and continue to move forward." Godsey echoed those sentiments. "I thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Board," Godsey said. "I met some amazing colleagues across the United States and gained a lot of leadership knowledge." Cowley College Board Chair Dennis

K. Shurtz presented Godsey and Paton with a gift near the end of the meeting in honor of their years of service to the Board. Shurtz also presented former interim president/executive vice president of business services Tony Crouch with a customized limestone rock in recognition of his 20 plus years of service to the college. Crouch retired from the college on June 30, 2015.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dennis K. Shurtz - Chairman | Bob Juden | JoLynn Foster | Ned Graham
Jim Ramirez | Sid Regnier | Brian Sanderholm



COMMUNITY MEMBERS TURN OUT FOR PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION



photo by mr. b

With current and past college and university Presidents on hand, as well as past and present Cowley College Board members and many local and state dignitaries, Dr. Dennis Rittle was sworn in as Cowley College's fifth President during a presidential installation ceremony held Sunday, November 15 inside the Robert Brown Theatre on the school's main campus in Arkansas City.

With close to 300 people in attendance, the formal swearing in was conducted by Cowley College Board Chair Dennis K. Shurtz.

"I was delighted by the turnout of the community," Dr. Rittle said. "I appreciate the warm embrace the

community has extended to me and my family."

The event featured guest speakers Ray Frederick, Jr., Chairman of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, and Linda Fund, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (KACCT).

The Reverend Christopher Clem also spoke at the event.

"Their words were very humbling and touching," Dr. Rittle said.

Mr. Bill Docking, a member of the Kansas Board of Regents from 1995-2005 and a current Board member of the Cowley College Foundation, provided the welcome address.

Mr. Edward Gilliland, a member of

the College's first Board of Trustees and the first president of the Cowley College Endowment Association (now Cowley College Foundation) provided the invocation. While, Dr. Nick Rogers, president of the Cowley College Foundation Board, led the benediction.

Ms. Amy McWhirt, the College Education Association (CEA) President, presented Dr. Rittle with the Presidential mace, which symbolizes the Office of President of the Institution. The mace was cast by Ricky Squires, Machine Tool Instructor, and Cowley student Daniel Brooks. The walnut used in the mace came out of Maple Grove, a schoolhouse north of Winfield, KS. Dr. Harold Arnett, Cowley College Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Gloria Walker, Cowley College Vice President of Finance and Administration, were joined by Cowley College Department Chairs and the school's Administrative Council in the processional.

The American Legion Post 18 Color Guard were also on hand for the event, while special music was provided by the CC Singers and Ms. Marcia Wieland and accompanist Mr. Stephen Butler.

Dr. Rittle was overjoyed to be installed as Cowley College's fifth President and happy his family and friends could share in the event.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Dr. Dennis C. Rittle | Dr. Harold Arnett | Paul Erdmann | Ben Schears
Dr. Gloria Walker | Josh Cobble | Jason O'Toole | Shane Larson



MADISON MCDOWELL NAMED STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Madison McDowell, a sophomore secondary education-math major with a 4.0 GPA, was presented with the 2015 Student of the Year award at Cowley College's annual Honors and Awards ceremony held in the Earle N. Wright Community Room.

McDowell, along with the school's other 2014-2015 Student of the Month selections, were up for the prestigious honor of Student of the Year.

McDowell is the daughter of George and Heidi McDowell of Arkansas City. She has a sister, Jordan, and four brothers, Zach, Mason, Hunter, and Trevor.

At Cowley, McDowell was a student ambassador, a Cowley Tutor, and was in Phi Theta Kappa, FCA, Cowley Activities Awareness Team, and participated in intramurals. She was a member of the President's Honor Roll and the All Kansas Academic Team. Prior to being named Student of the Year, McDowell was crowned Queen Alalah LXXXIII.

"This school year was more than I could have ever wished for," McDowell said. "I am so glad to have had the opportunity to spend two years at Cowley. I love Cowley and all it has done for me."



During the Honors and Awards ceremony a representative from each department at Cowley College honored students that excelled during the 2014-15 academic year.

Kristi Shaw, director of student life, organized the event. While, Great Western Dining provided the meal.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Michael Meloy - September | Amanda Krook - October | Ian Branna - November | Emily Loehner - December
Madison McDowell - January | Kayla Krane - February | Kandice Wright - March | Laura Petersburg - April

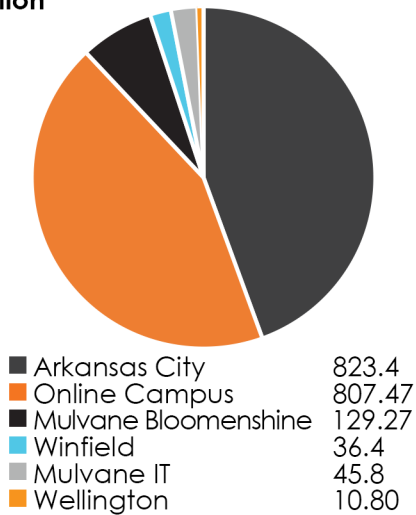




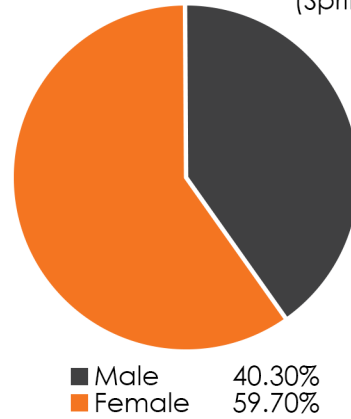
ACCOUNTIBILITY

WHO WE SERVE

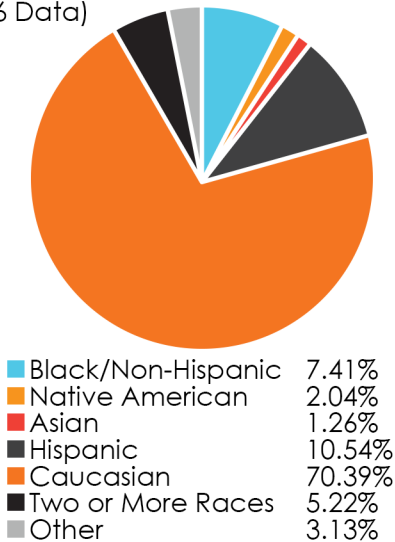
Spring 2016 Semester
FTE by location



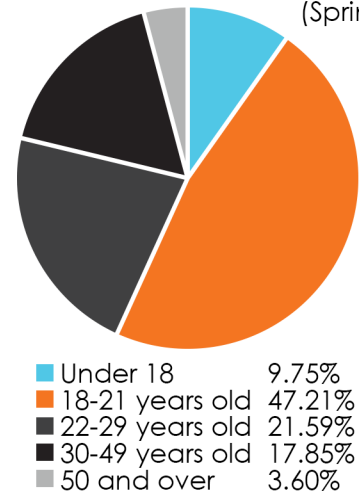
Percentage by Gender
(Spring 2016 Data)



Percentage by Ethnic Group
(Spring 2016 Data)



Percentage by Age
(Spring 2016 Data)

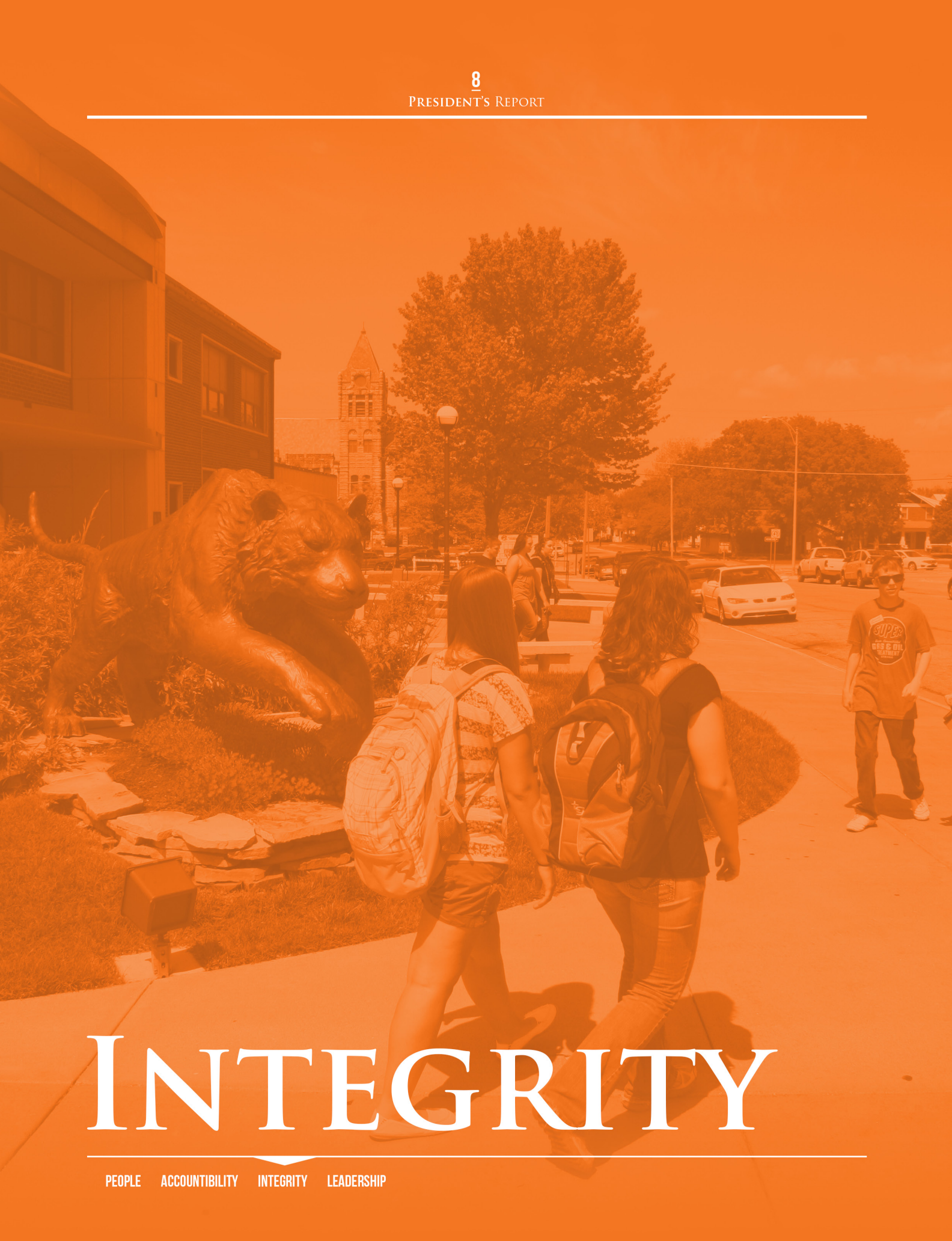


2015-2016 Enrollment Data

Unduplicated Headcount Fall 2015	3,121.00
Unduplicated Headcount Spring 2016	2,802.00
FTE Fall 2015	2,259.93
FTE Spring 2016	1,993.13

International Student Enrollment (Spring 2016 Academic Year)

77



INTEGRITY

COWLEY NAMED AS ONE OF TOP-150 IN THE COUNTRY

Highlighting the critical importance of improving student success in America's community colleges, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program recently named Cowley College as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges.

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

Nearly half of America's college students attend community college, with more than seven million students – youth and adult learners – working towards certificates and degrees in these institutions across the country. “Community colleges have tremendous power to change lives, and their success will increasingly define

our nation's economic strength and the potential for social mobility in our country,” Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program said. “This competition is designed to spotlight the excellent work being done in the most effective community colleges, those that best help students obtain meaningful, high-quality education and training for competitive-wage jobs after college. We hope it will raise the bar and provide a roadmap to better student outcomes for community colleges nationwide.”

Cowley College and the other community colleges on the list were selected from a national pool of over 1,000 public two-year colleges using publicly available data on student outcomes in three areas: performance (retention, graduation rates including transfers, and degrees and certificates per 100 full-time equivalent students), improvement (awarded for steady improvement in each performance metric over time), and equity (evidence of strong completion outcomes for

minority and low-income students). “The success of Cowley College in these types of metrics, which measure student achievement, illustrates the unified efforts of faculty and staff across the College to put students first,” Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle said. “This national recognition from the Aspen Institute captures the truth which all Cowley College employees embrace, Cowley College cares deeply about the success of its students.”



COWLEY COLLEGE RANKS FIRST IN SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS IN ONLINE DELIVERY

Known as the first community college in the state of Kansas to receive membership in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), Cowley College recently ranked first in South Central Kansas in online delivery based on quality and affordability of the online training according to the Kansas Board of Regents.

Being able to obtain exemption or authorization for all of Cowley College's online programs in all 50 states and three additional territories was a mission for the school. Earlier this year, Jennifer Parks,

director of the Midwestern State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) mentioned how rare and impressive Cowley's accomplishment is.

“The state authorization team at Cowley College has achieved a rare feat in the world of higher education compliance,” Parks said. “To gain proper exemption, registration, notification, and/or authorization in all fifty states is something very few of the large national on-line institutions accomplish.”

Cowley received additional good news when the Brookings Institution

released its “Beyond College Rankings” report which showed Cowley College was in the 87th percentile for occupational earnings power for graduates of the Cowley College programs of study. Dr. Dennis Rittle, president of Cowley College shares, “These types of unbiased national reporting agencies clearly demonstrate a truth that all Cowley College faculty, staff, and students, recognize, namely, a Cowley education offers its graduates a profound return on their education investment or, simply, a lot of bang for the buck.”



LEADERSHIP

SEVEN TIGER ATHLETIC PROGRAMS NAMED NJCAA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

The National Junior College Athletic Association national office honored athletic programs finding success off the playing field with the announcement of the 2014-15 NJCAA All-Academic Teams. Cowley College had seven athletic programs make the distinguished list. The minimum grade point average requirement for consideration is a team GPA of 3.00. Tiger athletic teams to make the list

were, volleyball (3.49 GPA), women's outdoor track and field (3.10 GPA), women's soccer (3.08 GPA), softball (3.07 GPA), women's basketball (3.05 GPA), women's indoor track and field (3.05 GPA), and men's tennis (3.03 GPA). Cowley College athletic director Shane Larson is proud of the work done by the student-athletes, coaches and faculty. "These seven programs are indicative of the high expectations we have for

our student athletes here at Cowley," Larson said. "Our coaches do an amazing job of guiding and overseeing the academic process, and we have an amazing group of faculty that understands the challenges a collegiate student athlete faces. Our Coaches and Faculty work well together to ensure we are providing our student athletes with every opportunity to have success both in the classroom and in athletic competition."



PTK STUDENTS HONORED AT AWARDS LUNCHEON

Top community college scholars from the state of Kansas, including four from Cowley College, were honored February 11, 2016 in Topeka at the annual Phi Theta Kappa Honor's Luncheon. Representing Cowley were Samantha Twenhafel and Hannah Twenhafel from the Arkansas City campus, and Taylor Swarts and Tabitha Slater from the Mulvane Center. Each student went through a rigorous application process in order to be selected by the committee to represent Cowley College on the All-Kansas Academic Team. The students were judged on their academic achievement, leadership qualities and service work. Each is

also a nominee for the 2016 All-USA Academic Team, sponsored by USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa and the American Association of Community Colleges. Cowley College PTK advisor Deborah Layton said, "These students are some of Cowley's brightest and best. Their determination to succeed and commitment to improving the world around them beyond all the many interests in which they are involved are quite admirable. We were proud to have them represent Cowley at our state's capitol." Fellow PTK sponsors Scott Layton and Tiffany Corley attended the luncheon as did Cowley President Dr. Dennis C.

Rittle, Executive Director of Student Affairs Jason O'Toole, and Board of Trustees member Bob Juden. Students met several state representatives during the luncheon and were presented with medals. In addition, the members of the 2016 All-Kansas Academic Team, sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and the Kansas Council of Community College Presidents each received \$300 for their continued excellence. Phi Theta Kappa is a nationally recognized honor society for students attending community colleges.

COWLEY AEC TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Winning eight of nine rounds in Salina in 2015, the Cowley College Academic Excellence Challenge team captured its first state championship since 2001. Cowley brought home a large silver trophy and a first place plaque for their efforts.

“What an incredible year for this team,” AEC sponsor Dianne Flickinger said. “These students are outstanding and have represented Cowley at the highest levels throughout their season.”

In the finals, Cowley played Garden City, an undefeated team, whom Cowley had lost once to in the preliminary rounds.

Garden City had the advantage going

into the finals where they only had to win one game; whereas, Cowley had to win two. However, Cowley won both games defeating Garden City 420-170 and 260-190 and won the Kansas Academic Excellence Challenge championship.

“Congratulations to Dianne Flickinger and her Cowley team on their first state championship since 2001,” National Academic Quiz Tournament CFO Chad Kubicek said. “Garden City entered the final as the higher seed, but Cowley dominated the first game, winning by a 420-170 margin and forcing (for the fifth straight year) a one-game winner-take-all showdown. Both teams understandably displayed some nerves in a closely-contested

contest; Cowley led by only 30 points after 16 tossups, but then grabbed the next four tossups to secure the title.” Cowley’s wins in the preliminary rounds came against Dodge City (360-90), Coffeyville (380-100), Neosho County (430-90), Allen (480-60), Cloud (230-220), and Johnson County (250-230).

Cowley AEC team members were Anthony Maldonado, Amy Austin, Alex Geurin, Desiree Abernathy, Shane Kieffer, Aniya McGowan, and Quentin Noland.

Malonado, Austin, Geurin, and Abernathy were part of the AEC winning team.

COWLEY RECEIVES CHAMBER CHAMPION AWARD

The Leadership Team from the Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce recently surprised Cowley College with the announcement and recognition of being awarded Chamber Champion for March of 2016 because of the school’s work with Rubbermaid. Each month, the Winfield Chamber’s executive committee chooses a chamber member to be recognized as the monthly Chamber Champion. This program was created in 2013 to recognize chamber members who have had great success, who have made outstanding contributions to the community, and who have encouraged their employees to volunteer with the chamber and other organizations. “Cowley College is deeply humbled and honored by this recognition of Chamber Champion for March of 2016,” Cowley College president Dennis C. Rittle said. “Our collaborative work with the industry

partners in Winfield, such as Newell Rubbermaid, are central to our mission of workforce development and community engagement. We are always pleased to do whatever we can to make our communities better places to live and work. Thank you, Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce, for this honor.”

At the chamber’s annual meeting in January, all chamber champions from the previous year are recognized. Prior to the annual meeting, the chamber

membership will have the opportunity to vote on the Chamber Champion of the Year from the pool of award recipients.

Those pictured are, from left, Chamber Board Vice Chair Daniel YoNash, Chamber Board Chair Renee Price, Chamber Board past Chair Tonya Villar, Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, Chamber Board Chair Elect Mark Taylor, and Winfield Chamber CEO Sarah Werner.





TIGER 2 TIGER ◀ PATHWAYS ▶



FORT HAYS STATE UNIVERSITY AND COWLEY COLLEGE

COWLEY AND FORT HAYS STATE SIGN PARTNERSHIP

Thanks to a new partnership, students who earn an associate degree from Cowley College will now be able to transfer their credits more easily to Fort Hays State University in pursuit of four-year degrees.

Officials from both schools met at the Calder-Bonfy Amphitheatre on Cowley College's main campus in Arkansas City to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that creates the new partnership, which is being called the Tiger2Tiger Pathways in reference to the two schools' athletic teams that compete as Tigers.

Among those in attendance were Cowley College president Dr. Dennis C. Rittle and Fort Hays State University president Dr. Mirna Martin. The partnership is a version of the traditional 2-plus-2 agreement, which assures participating students that

all their hours will transfer when they move from a two-year school to a four-year school. However, the Tiger2Tiger Pathways has additional benefits, including establishing a number of transfer scholarships for Cowley College graduates who have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and who transfer to Fort Hays State. The two presidents initially met in November to discuss ways to reduce obstacles for students.

"Dennis and I started to dream about the endless educational possibilities we could envision for the Cowley Tigers," Dr. Martin said. "Today, through our Tiger2Tiger partnership, the FHSU Tiger family welcomes the Cowley Tigers. Today, the dream that started months ago becomes a reality." Speaking specifically about the Tiger2Tiger Pathways, Dr. Martin continued: "Community colleges play

an essential role in creating pathways to education for many students. They are the 'on-ramp' to education. We are honored to be able to provide a seamless educational opportunity for individuals who wish to pursue degrees above an Associate. We are honored that the Cowley Tigers have chosen to make Fort Hays State University their destination of choice."

Dr. Rittle shared information about the new partnership during the signing ceremony.

"This partnership between Fort Hays State University and Cowley College illustrates the supreme priority both institutions place upon developing forward-thinking solutions which reduce time and cost for students to complete an education and which equip students with relevant skills to better their lives," Dr. Rittle said.

COWLEY SUMMER EMT CLASS HAS 100% PASS RATE

Eleven students successfully completed the Cowley College Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class on July 30, 2015. The class, which began June 1st, had a 100% pass rate - meaning that every student that started the class also successfully completed it. EMS faculty member Steven Storm was the primary instructor for the course.

"This has been a great class," Storm said, "They have been very engaged throughout the program."

Traditional EMT courses last 16 weeks and are taught during the spring and fall semesters. The summer EMT course covers the same competencies, content, and overall hours as traditional EMT classes, but does so in only eight weeks.

"I am very impressed," Chris Cannon, Cowley College Director of EMS Education said. "The summer EMT course is grueling. This is the first group in the five years we've been teaching EMT over the summer semester to have a 100% success rate."

The students learned about many basic life support topics such as airway management, patient assessment, and medication administration. Each student also completed at least two shifts with local EMS services as part of the class. The graduates will now challenge the National Registry written examination and Kansas Board of EMS practical skills exams before becoming certified EMTs.

COWLEY COLLEGE

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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 Center - Mulvane KS | 316.777.3092

Mulvane Industrial Center - Mulvane KS | 316.777.4314

Wichita Downtown 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.