K-State President Richard Myers announces retirement

Following a lifetime of public service, Kansas State University President Richard B. Myers plans to retire at the end of this calendar year. Myers has served as the university’s 14th president since 2016. He also is a Kansas State University Foundation professor of military history and leadership.

“Mary Jo and I truly loved our time at K-State and working with students, faculty and staff,” Myers said. “Being president of my alma mater was one of the most fulfilling jobs I’ve ever had. It was an honor to help move K-State forward on many fronts. I’m grateful for the opportunity to work with the many talented and dedicated people who comprise the K-State family.”

During Myers’ time as president, the university has undergone significant changes to prepare for the future. One major initiative was the adoption of a new budget model. The new model is performance-based and supports strategic investments to drive innovation and growth. Now in full implementation, the new model is much more transparent than the historical model the university had used for decades.

Myers also led a comprehensive Strategic Enrollment Management initiative to counter declining enrollment. This included restructuring the entire university recruiting, student success, and scholarship programs, moving to a data-driven strategic approach, and streamlining the tuition structure. Although interrupted by the pandemic, the initiative is showing positive results in establishing a base for future growth.

He and his wife, Mary Jo, served as co-chairs of the Kansas State University Innovation and Inspiration Campaign that raised $1.6 billion. The campaign surpassed its original goal by $600 million.

Myers graduated from the university in 1965 with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and joined the Air Force through K-State’s ROTC program. He received a master’s degree in business administration from Auburn University in 1977. He also graduated from Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in 1977, U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks in 1981, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he completed a program for Senior Executives in National and International Security in 1991.

The native Kansan from Merriam retired as a four-star general in the Air Force. From 2001-2005, he served as the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was the principal military adviser to the U.S. president, secretary of defense, and the National Security Council. In 2006 Kansas State University named the military science building — home of the Army ROTC and Air Force ROTC programs — Gen. Richard B. Myers Hall, in honor of his service and dedication.

The Kansas Board of Regents will announce details on the search to replace Myers at a later date.

K-State’s Hale Library re-opens to campus following devastating fire

Thirty-six months after an accidental fire devastated Hale Library and the K-State community, the five story, well-loved campus building has risen from the ashes.
An enormous amount of effort, labor, skill and patience went into not only renovating the building but also making sure the Libraries still served the community despite the challenge. By implementing the latest technologies and designing spaces to be both beautiful and functional, the Libraries hope that Hale Library will serve as a successful example of a modern, top-tier academic library.

“We truly have a next-generation library on K-State’s campus that will help to position our students, instructors and researchers for success,” said Richard Myers, president of Kansas State University. “With access to cutting edge technologies, collaborative spaces and staff with a vast amount of expertise, our community is now even more empowered to challenge and prepare themselves for a future filled with opportunities.”

In the fall of 2019, the Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons on the first floor was completed, and this spring, floors one through four of the building officially opened with the fifth floor scheduled to follow shortly after.

In addition to familiar, renovated spaces, Hale Library has a variety of new spaces to explore. The Everitt Learning Commons provides a multitude of study spaces including several collaboration rooms, large lecture rooms and individual study nooks.

The second floor serves as the new hub for both the Library and Information Technology (IT) help desks. Having an easily found co-location for both desks makes it easier for patrons to get help.

While construction is complete on most of the building, the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab, which comprises part of both the first and second floors, remains closed to the public while equipment installation continues. The Innovation Lab will open in phases later this spring and fall.

The third floor includes graduate study rooms, and also houses many shelves filled with the beautiful music and art collections, which creates a more traditional library ambiance for students who want to study in a quiet space. In addition, Libraries faculty can make use of the Friends of K-State Libraries Instruction Room. The 60-person room will include desktop computers and allow Libraries faculty to teach research skills to a larger amount of K-State students.

The fourth floor, as the quiet floor, provides study space for those who prefer quiet to concentrate. The floor also features the Academic Learning Center, a space for student athletes to receive tutoring support or study between classes.

The Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections, on the fifth floor, includes an improved reading room layout and the addition of the Kenneth S. Davis Seminar Room. The Davis Seminar Room will provide Special Collections faculty and staff a space to teach using their materials.

When most K-Staters think of Hale Library, their mind turns to beautiful Historic Farrell Library, which includes the Great Room. This portion of the library, built in 1927, spans three floors, and over the last two years crew members have worked diligently to return the space to its former glory.

Historic Farrell Library was one of the most severely impacted areas of the library during the 2018 fire. The three floors suffered heavy water damage. In addition to two holes in the Great Room’s roof from the fire itself, water used to douse the fire seeped into the walls, putting the murals at risk and warping the wooden tables throughout the space. The restoration process included removing every piece of the wooden ceiling beams, including the famous acorn finials, restoring each piece by hand and then reinstalling them in the exact same place. Last spring, after the ceiling was completed, crew members repaired all the plaster and installed new lighting; soon after, the original bookshelves along the walls were repaired and varnished.

Art conservators worked tirelessly to fully restore the four Great Room murals to pristine condition—not an easy task after what the art had been through.

The massive restoration project was overseen by Lori Goetsch, former dean of K-State Libraries. We thank Dean Goetsch for her 17 years of service to K-State and congratulate her on her recent retirement. Dr. Joe Mocnik, an experienced university librarian and administrator, has been named the new dean of K-State Libraries at Kansas State University.

**K-State Polytechnic faculty member wins top aviation maintenance educator award**

A Kansas State University Polytechnic Campus aviation maintenance faculty member is being honored with a top award.
Steven Locklear, teaching assistant professor and option coordinator in aviation maintenance management, has been named the Aviation Technician Education Council Ivan D. Livi Aviation Maintenance Educator of the Year for 2021.

Locklear has been faculty at K-State Polytechnic since 2017. An accomplished aviation maintenance technician, he has a private pilot license, a master's degree in aviation safety and is currently pursuing his doctorate.

Locklear is passionate about teaching and loves helping his students develop a passion for the aviation industry.

"The first day when students arrive in class and they're nervous is great, along with the end of the first semester when they realize they were able to do it," he said. "I love watching my students succeed."

Throughout the pandemic, Locklear developed innovative solutions to deliver quality education to his students — solutions that will stay in use long past online-only education.

"The most difficult part of the pandemic for the students was the feeling that they must teach themselves," Locklear said. "I used every tool at my disposal to communicate with our students and create a connection. The most important thing was to try several methods and if one way failed, try again."

Locklear was nominated for the award by Terry Hunt, K-State Polytechnic department head of aviation.

"Steven is not only a professional; he cares for students, their success and the future of aviation maintenance," Hunt said.

The aviation maintenance industry is pivotal to aviation as a whole. Locklear believes it takes a person with a measure of self-confidence to work on a machine that ensures safety during transportation.

"This gives the students a lot of determination when they enter school," Locklear said. "They're working on understanding and learning, and I simply build the image of the professional that they will become. Telling one story after another about who they can become is fun."

According to the Aviation Technician Education Council, nominations for educator of the year come from across the country to recognize instructors who, either through a single event or over the span of a career, have a direct impact on aviation maintenance students. Locklear is the second educator from K-State Polytechnic to receive this prestigious award since 1990.
the land-grant mission,” said Richard Myers, university president. “His background in higher education aligns well with our strategic direction as we continue to raise our national and international profile as a major research institution. He is an innovator and accomplished communicator who can help drive focus and visibility for our research and economic development efforts.”

Rosowsky, who will begin his new duties in July, will report to Myers and be a member of the president’s cabinet. He will be responsible for encouraging and facilitating the integration and enhancement of research, scholarly and creative activities across the university’s colleges and multiple research centers, and will lead universitywide strategic research growth activities. He will provide leadership for the acquisition of research funding, the planning and development of academic research space, patenting and commercialization efforts, the incubation of new companies and recruitment of corporate research partners, and guiding public outreach.

As vice president for research, Rosowsky will have administrative responsibility for units that support the university’s research infrastructure, including the Office of Research Development, Pre-Award Services, the University Research Compliance Office and more. Several of the university’s independent, interdisciplinary research facilities and research support facilities, including the Biosecurity Research Institute, the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center, K-State Innovation Partners, the Biotechnology Core Facility and the Electronics Design Laboratory, also will report to Rosowsky.

“Kansas State University is one of the nation’s top land-grant universities,” Rosowsky said, “with exceptional faculty, facilities, and both demonstrated and reaffirmed commitments to discovery and impact in service to the people and communities of the state of Kansas, the nation and the world. The three-part focus of this role on research, innovation and economic development is extremely exciting to me, as are the commitments to growth, new partnerships, engagement and impact. I am honored to be joining K-State at this exciting time.”

Rosowsky served as provost and senior vice president at the University of Vermont from 2013-2019, where he drove significant growth in the research enterprise, the launch of several new transdisciplinary centers and institutes, and the creation of a universitywide innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Since 2019, he has been a faculty member in the civil and environmental engineering department where he has been engaged in teaching both undergraduate and graduate classes and research in earthquake engineering and post-disaster assessment. He also writes about the pandemic's impact on public universities and the opportunities for institutions to emerge from the pandemic stronger, more resilient, more accessible and more sustainable. His writing has appeared in Forbes, The Chronicle for Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, University Business, Trusteeship Magazine and several other major publications. As a recognized higher education thought-leader, Rosowsky also has been invited to speak with university leadership teams, boards and foundations on higher education leadership, finances, governance, partnerships, innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly in the context of preparing for the post-pandemic era in higher education.

truly serves as a capstone judging experience for students with its incorporation of so many industry applicable concepts.

The team placed first in the breeding, pork, sheep and market animal divisions of the contest. Individually K-State had four place in the top five overall.

“The Meat Animal Evaluation competition is the pinnacle competition for students who have already demonstrated excellence in animal and/or meat evaluation,” says Dr. Mike Day, KSU ASI department head. “The application of principles that are critical across a wide array of segments of the animal and meat industry, and the links to value-based marketing and other economic aspects of the same, emphasizes the comprehensiveness of this capstone experience. Congratulations to our K-State students for their high level of excellence in this competition.”

The team is coached by Dr. Travis O’Quinn and Chris Mullinix.

Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory exercises readiness for African swine fever outbreak

On May 20, members of the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, or KSVDL, along with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, the Biosecurity Research Institute and many other partners across campus, the state of Kansas and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network took part in a tabletop exercise focused on laboratory activities during the various stages of a simulated outbreak of African swine fever.

The exercise was made possible by a funded proposal as part of the 2020 National Animal Health Laboratory Network, or NAHLN, Funding Opportunity under Section 12101 of the 2018 Farm Bill. The entire proposal encompasses this table-top event along with a functional exercise to follow in early 2022 and the completion of an after-action report that can be utilized by the entire NAHLN network to advance preparedness for an African swine fever outbreak in the United States. The exercises are being written and facilitated by the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University.

As a Tier 1 member of the NAHLN network, the KSVDL serves to provide early detection, rapid response, and appropriate recovery from high-consequence animal diseases, such as African swine fever. While KSVDL has participated in many foreign animal disease exercises sponsored by other regulatory partners, this was the first to focus primarily on the activities of the laboratory itself. The functional exercise will involve actual testing of mock samples and will stress communication with state and federal partners at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and NAHLN. To help prepare for these activities, KSVDL has also formed a Foreign Animal Disease Committee that meets regularly to discuss planning and preparedness for possible emerging disease outbreaks, many of which could have a devastating effect on our state and nation's vibrant agricultural economy.
Rosowsky earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Tufts University and a doctorate in civil engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

The Kansas State University crops team placed first at the recent national invitational crops hosted by Hutchinson Community College.