

FORWARD TOGETHER

Wichita State University

May 2022

Wichita State celebrates Latinx community

This month's "Forward Together" podcast was a lot of fun to record. Not only did I interview two outstanding Wichita State University faculty — Dr. Enrique Navarro, associate professor of Spanish, who discussed his new book, Mexican Americans of Wichita's North End; and Dr. Rocío del Aguila, Wichita State's graduate coordinator and associate professor of Spanish — Dr. del Aguila prepared an array of Latin dishes from around the world, which has to do with her interest and research expertise in food and culture. I hope you'll [tune in to the podcast](#) to hear and see what Dr. del Aguila cooked up.



On a daily basis, these faculty share their expertise with a growing population of WSU students who identify as Latinx. Along the lines of the podcast topic, Wichita State had more cause to celebrate the Latinx community when our record-setting enrollment numbers came out in September 2021. As we drilled down into the statistics, it confirmed that we're reaching new generations and populations of Shockers.

One statistic that was particularly encouraging was that we had a 24.9% growth in first-time-in-college Hispanic students. In total, these new students bring our total Hispanic population to just under 15% — well on our way to reaching our goal to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by the end of this decade.

[Read more of Dr. Muma's message](#)

In the News at Wichita State



Dr. Shirley Lefever named next EVP/provost of Wichita State

Dr. Shirley Lefever was recently named as Wichita State University's next executive vice president and provost.

Lefever has held the role of WSU's interim executive vice president and provost since fall 2020. Prior to that, she was dean of WSU's College of Education, which in 2018 she transitioned to the College of Applied Studies. During her tenure as dean, enrollment in the college grew more than 60%, and several new programs were added — including the Teacher Apprenticeship Program, which remains one of the largest enrolled programs at the university.

[Learn more about Dr. Lefever](#)

FORMER FIRST LADY
DEBORAH BARDO
✦ 1953-2022 ✦



Former WSU First Lady Deborah Bardo dies

Deborah J. (Davis) Bardo, former first lady of Wichita State University, died April 15, 2022. She was 68 years old. Mrs. Bardo was married to WSU's 13th president, Dr. John Bardo, for 44 years until his death on March 12, 2019. She is survived by their son, Christopher.

Mrs. Bardo served as Wichita State's first lady from 2012 to 2019. In that role, she especially enjoyed being around students and supporting the many events that brought the community and university together.

[Read more about Deborah Bardo](#)



Shocker Hall goes green with composting program

There's a whole world living inside your food waste — billions and billions of microorganisms — just waiting to make your landscaping bloom brighter and your vegetables grow heartier. Now Wichita State University is a part of that agricultural miracle thanks to a collaboration among the university, Chartwells catering and [Nudge Compost](#).

Starting this spring, Shocker Hall food waste that was previously being thrown away is instead now being collected and composted, and will soon be recycled as compost to feed the university's signature tulips, which are planted throughout campus.

[Learn more about composting at WSU](#)



Credit Union of America pledges \$250,000 gift, recognized as Champion for College of Applied Studies

Credit Union of America was recognized today as a 2022 Champion for Wichita State's College of Applied Studies, honoring its ongoing engagement and financial support of the future educators of Kansas. CUA has pledged an additional \$250,000 to the college to continue funding the Corbin Connect program, ongoing technology needs, scholarships, and programming for CAS students.

"The College of Applied Studies is thrilled to have Credit Union of America's continued support through the extension of this partnership," said Clay Stoldt, interim dean of CAS. "CUA has already shown a deep commitment to serving educators through Corbin Connect and this gift will allow the College of Applied Studies to build on that strong foundation while expanding our reach to better serve students, faculty and community partners."

[Read more about CUA's gift to CAS](#)



Barton School of Business to award \$40,000 in scholarships to Butler CC students

The W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University is helping Butler Community College students interested in furthering their business education with \$40,000 in scholarships. These scholarships will help amplify and activate the coordinated “2+2” program between the two schools where Butler students can receive their associate's degree and pursue a business degree at WSU.

“The partnership between our schools is vital to giving students accessible opportunities to pursue their educational journeys,” said Dr. Larisa Genin, dean of the Barton School of Business. “We believe this program will give interested students a road map for success by helping them graduate with a business degree and achieve great things in the business world.”

[Learn how the Barton School is helping Butler CC students](#)



Wichita State designated Age-Friendly University for focus on range of learning opportunities

Wichita State University has joined the Age-Friendly University Global Network (AFU), a growing group of more than 90 higher-education institutions around the world that have committed to meeting the personal, educational and career needs of adults of all ages and to creating age-inclusive environments on their campuses.

WSU is the first institution in Kansas to become a member of AFU. Membership in AFU demonstrates WSU's commitment to provide a full range of learning opportunities that include adults at all ages and stages in life, as well as to generate knowledge and innovations that address the second half of the lifespan through research.

[Learn more about the AFU designation](#)



2022 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

WINNERS



CALLIE HARRIS



ZERRIN OELZE

Two Wichita-area teachers who graduated from Wichita State University's School of Education were recently recognized for their outstanding work in the classroom by the White House with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

PAEMST is the highest award kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics and science teachers can receive from the U.S. government.

[Read more about the honored alumni](#)

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