

## CHAPTER 5: ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE

*Criterion Five: Engagement and Service. As called for by its mission, Kansas Wesleyan University identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.*

When it was first founded, Kansas Wesleyan University reflected the emphasis on education of The United Methodist Church, and the role of faith and education in the city of Salina. It continues to do this.

The church founded Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina to provide central access to members of churches in the region, and by founding a school, showed its commitment to education. At the time, Salina positioned Kansas Wesleyan University as the anchor of four educational institutions, surrounding the town in the form of a cross; this showed the community's emphasis on faith and education. Now, as the city of Salina has expanded, Kansas Wesleyan University is at its core, and continues to demonstrate its connection with the community and the church with its relationship to University United Methodist Church and continuing to anchor the historic Santa Fe Avenue district of Salina.

Kansas Wesleyan University serves several key constituencies. On campus, the University strives to meet the needs of students, faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees. Off-campus, the University endeavors to meet the needs of the community of Salina and the surrounding region, including business, health, and educational communities, The United Methodist Church, and alumni, as well as the broader constituencies of the state, nation, and world.

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the ways in which the campus is involved with the greater Salina community and other external constituencies; how Kansas Wesleyan University discovers, and makes the commitments to successfully respond to the needs of those the University is able to serve.

*Core Component 5a. Kansas Wesleyan University learns from the constituencies it serves and analyzes its capacity to serve their needs and expectations.*

Kansas Wesleyan University has several mechanisms with which to assess the needs of external constituencies.

- The Dean of the Chapel meets regularly with the “Salina 7,” the group of United Methodist ministers in Salina and the surrounding communities, to coordinate activities between the campus and local congregations, in order to hopefully meet the needs of both.
- The alumni are surveyed as part of the University Assessment Plan. In addition, the President, Director of Alumni Relations, and other University officials regularly meet formally and informally with individual and groups of alumni to get a sense of alumni needs.

*Off-campus, the University endeavors to meet the needs of the community of Salina and the surrounding region, including business, health, and educational communities, The United Methodist Church, and alumni, as well as the broader constituencies of the state, nation, and world.*

*Many Faculty and Administrators serve on local and state governing boards and organizations. . .*

- The Director of Career Services, and in some cases, faculty members, contact local and regional businesses to coordinate internships, service learning, and current and future employment opportunities.
- Faculty meet informally with constituents. For example, the English Department periodically has lunch with local English teachers.
- Focus groups are often a part of the curriculum assessment in the departmental program reviews, so that faculty can design curriculum that meets the needs of future employers in their field. Also, several departments with external accreditation (ex. Education) maintain regular advisory councils of community members to provide program oversight.
- Many Faculty and Administrators serve on local and state governing boards and organizations, including the Salina Arts Commission, the Fine Arts Council, the Salina Community Theater Board, the Salina Symphony Board, United Way, Focus on the Future, Rotary Club, Lions Club, the Salina Heritage Commission, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Salina Municipal Band, the Center for Spirituality and Leadership, Kansas Addiction Educators, State Science Standards Committee, etc.

***Core Component 5b.*** *Kansas Wesleyan University has the capacity and the commitment to engage with its identified constituencies and communities.*

Kansas Wesleyan University demonstrates its capacity and commitment to being involved with the community and its other constituencies in a number of different ways. This section will review some of those interactions.

### *Commitment to Incoming and Prospective Students and their Families*

As was described in previous chapters, Kansas Wesleyan University strives to show its commitment to incoming students by making education as affordable as possible. The goal is to minimize tuition and other expenses, and provide as much aid, particularly among the target ideal populations, so as to make the out-of-pocket costs competitive with regional state universities.

The commitment to incoming students is also illustrated in transfer policies that strive to be fair but generous. Faculty are encouraged to make use of course substitutions whenever equivalency of content can be determined. Articulation agreements support the University's commitment to the seamless transfer of Liberal Studies credits.

Once students arrive, the University shows its commitment to academic excellence and personal responsibility through the Academic Alert Program, which identifies students at risk early in the semester, and then

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encourages changes in behavior so as to improve academic performance. Better performance results in higher academic self-efficacy, better retention, greater likelihood of not only avoiding dismissal but increasing financial aid, and ultimately matriculating.

Programs are structured to aid degree completion. The vast majority of students complete their degree within eight semesters, sometimes less depending on the students' course load. The University, in 2006, instituted a process by which students may pre-enroll for courses two years in advance. In addition to aiding planning for administration and faculty, this allows students as spring sophomores to have an audit that they know will lead to timely graduation.

### *Commitment to Educational Peers*

Kansas Wesleyan University is one of six founding members of the Associated Colleges of Central Kansas (ACCK). This association is now celebrating its 40th year of existence. One of the reasons for establishing this consortium arrangement was to provide technology to each of the campuses in the most cost effective manner possible. The consortium recently invested \$1.8 million to enhance administrative technology at all the campuses by providing Web portals for student, faculty, and staff usage.

Another purpose for the consortium was to provide methods for cooperative academic programming. Currently, the special education program and the secondary methods courses for all six institutions are provided through this consortium. In addition, three of the institutions are collaborating on an athletic training program. Students at ACCK schools are allowed reciprocal cross registration or tuition exchange, allowing enrolling in courses which may not be offered locally.

ACCK is currently exploring the possibility of additional course exchanges that would enable students at several institutions to enroll in a course at another campus via technology as a cost-effective way of delivering a larger array of academic courses and programs. Leadership of the ACCK Board is done on a rotating basis, and the President of Kansas Wesleyan University currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the ACCK.

Kansas State University at Salina is also celebrating its 40th anniversary. It was originally established as a technology school, and it became part of Kansas State University in the 1980s as its only branch campus. Originally, the plan was for K-State Salina to offer technology courses only, and Kansas Wesleyan University would offer Liberal Studies courses to the students at K-State Salina to complete the degree programs. This arrangement never transpired, and currently both institutions offer courses to their respective students. The missions of the two institutions are reasonably different, so there is little overlap in academic programming. The one exception for

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cross-enrollment is in the fine arts, and several K-State Salina students enroll in Wesleyan classes.

There are other examples of collaboration. Both institutions have collaborated to provide an extensive intramural program, where each institution has its own league but also competed in an overall championship. K-State Salina has no intercollegiate athletic program but has an outstanding softball field, which it will make available to Kansas Wesleyan University for our intercollegiate program.

Kansas Wesleyan University traditionally attracted only a limited number of transfer students from Kansas community colleges. In talking with those institutions, it became evident that one of the reasons for the absence of transfer students was the difficulty of transferring credits into Kansas Wesleyan University programs. Two significant changes occurred: first, the Liberal Studies Program at Kansas Wesleyan University was revised to provide more flexibility and bring it in line with liberal studies programs at most other institutions; second, Kansas Wesleyan University established articulation agreements with many of the area community colleges, such as those in Allen County, Barton County, Butler County, Cloud County, Colby, Dodge City, Hutchinson, and Seward County. These articulation agreements make it easier for students who complete an associate of arts or associate of science degree at a community college to transfer to Kansas Wesleyan University. The University also has designated an admissions officer to work collaboratively with Kansas community colleges to assist transfer students.

Kansas Wesleyan University's Memorial Library also has an active reciprocal relationship with libraries across the U.S. The Library participates in Interlibrary Loan with libraries that are fairly close, such as the Association of Central College Libraries, across the state and the entire U.S. This greatly expands Kansas Wesleyan University's ability to provide the campus community with resources unavailable in Memorial Library's collection. Materials can be obtained in a day or two from the ACCL group or, at most, 7-9 days. Memorial Library is a member of the Private Academic Libraries of Kansas consortia buying agreement for a portion of the databases the Library purchases. This group facilitates much better pricing than the Library could receive as a single entity.

### *Commitment to Alumni*

The Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association was an association in name only during 1997. There had been no meetings for over a year, no officers elected, and when local alumni were contacted they had no idea who had been the most recent officers. At the time, the only record that could be located in the Institutional Advancement Office was a file that contained the Constitution and By-Laws from 1994.

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In 1997, a faculty member, also an alumnus, was asked to help resurrect the Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association. After drafting changes to the constitution, developing a Web Page, and meeting with local alumni, the Association became active with support services being provided through the Institutional Advancement Office. In 1998 the Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association had eighteen members and a budget of \$500. As of July 2006, the Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association has a membership of 532 with dues generating \$10,160!

The growth, activities, and interest of alumni and the Alumni Association occurred as the result of the Institutional Advancement Office making alumni services a priority. During campus visits, alumni voiced interest in the campus activities and willingness to help with some activities. This informal assessment drove the Institutional Advancement Office to redefine the priority of alumni relations. After establishing stability in personnel in the Office of Alumni Relations, the services and activities have grown substantially.

The Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association has become increasingly involved with the University. Some of the activities during 2005-2006 included:

- Sponsoring two of the Sunday evening “Buck Meals” for the Kansas Wesleyan University students at the University United Methodist Church
- Providing the continental breakfast and snacks at Homecoming
- Hosting the Fall Graduation Party
- Providing ushers at the Spring Commencement
- Sponsoring the reception following the Spring Commencement
- Providing gifts for the graduating class (a cup and car tag that have “KWU Alumni” printed on them)
- Purchasing a camera for the yearbook staff and an umbrella and strobe lights for portrait shots
- Purchasing materials to protect the archives in Memorial Library
- Providing funding for the Nursing Education Department’s first Nursing Reunion (for cups and helping pay for the speaker)
- Providing Project H.E.R.O. volunteers with a lunch (Project H.E.R.O. was an outreach into the Salina Community by students as a volunteer day)
- Providing some of the funding for a Kansas Wesleyan University student who was selected by the American Youth Scholarship Foundation to represent Kansas in Washington D.C. at the Model House of Representatives (he subsequently won the award as first speaker)
- Providing a pledge for funding an office in the new Student Activities Center

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Alumni have also started to become effective recruiting agents for Kansas Wesleyan University. One example is an alumnus who was a Criminal Justice major and a member of the Kansas Wesleyan University Soccer Team. Now a member of the Los Angeles Police Department, this young man is directly responsible for recruiting seven students (2005-06) for the Kansas Wesleyan University Soccer Team, the Criminal Justice Program and several other majors.

Through cooperation with the Alumni Office, the Office of Career Services has begun to network with alumni to provide alumni career assistance as well as alumni mentorship for current students.

### *Commitment to the Church*

Kansas Wesleyan University has maintained a covenant relationship with The United Methodist Church that can easily be seen through the relationship with University United Methodist Church (UUMC). Across the street from campus, UUMC was founded over ninety years ago by a congregation primarily made up of faculty, staff and students of Kansas Wesleyan University. The first building was built after faculty pledged 20% of their salary for five years. The mission statement of UUMC is "Serving Christ, Campus, and the Community." Coupled with the mission of Kansas Wesleyan University, their respective histories have continued the engagement of mutual beneficial activities. As new buildings were being constructed on campus, classes met at the church. During church construction, services and/or church school was held on campus. The last nine years have demonstrated that both organizations have the capacity and commitment to work together to meet individual and community needs. They have worked together to sponsor the Family Concert Series, United Methodist administrative meetings and conferences, serve as locations for church service learning and internships, and the Opening Convocation and Baccalaureate Service each Spring. The church provides campus specific programming such as "Buck Meals" on Sunday nights, an informal dinner for students when the cafeteria is closed. The campus supports the church in planning and landscaping.

In 2005, Kansas Wesleyan University re-established a campus chaplain position, now titled Dean of the Chapel. One of the responsibilities of the position is to strengthen the relationship between the University and the United Methodist denomination. Upon recommendation from the President and the Dean of the Chapel, the Board of Trustees approved changing the name of the Board standing committee to the Church Relations Committee to reflect this new effort.

The Church Relations Committee includes three Superintendents of The United Methodist Church. Through meetings of the Committee, and discussions with the Bishop of the Kansas West Conference, Kansas Wesleyan University is taking responsibility for two critical needs of the Conference:

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strengthening lay leadership in rural churches and in small congregations, and recruiting and training the next generation of leaders for the Kansas West Conference. Kansas Wesleyan University will conduct two summits a year for the purpose of educating the laity of small membership congregations for leadership in their local churches.

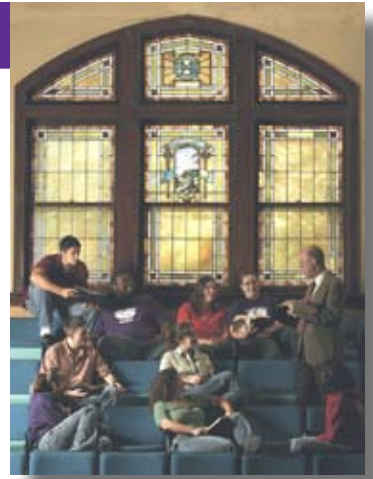
Religious life on campus has taken many different forms. At the time of the last comprehensive accreditation visit, campus Chapel was held once a week at a time when no classes were scheduled. Since then, it was moved from campus to the University United Methodist Church across the street, and scheduled at a time during which classes also met, and most recently the day chapel service has been discontinued in lieu of periodic evening services. Outreach ministries from local churches have also changed since the last comprehensive visit. In recent years there have been evening campus ministry programs led by local Catholic churches (Newman Club) and Evangelical congregations (Xtreme Impact). Those ministries have been phased out, and the Dean of the Chapel has reinstated Theophiles, a historical campus Bible study club, and begun The Calling, which has attempted to merge campus chapel and outreach ministries in addition to providing small group fellowship ministry. These examples illustrate how the campus is committed to the spiritual growth of the campus community and strengthening its connections with its Methodist heritage.

The Spirituality Resource Center in Salina is a community organization that has actively connected with many faith-based interests of the University and has also broadened Kansas Wesleyan University's relationship with the greater Salina area. Several of the SRC programs and lectures over recent years have been hosted by Kansas Wesleyan University. Many of those have also been concerned with psychological topics and their connections with religious and faith concerns. They illustrate another unique aspect of the commitment of the institution to faith in the community.

### *Commitment to Community*

**Career Services.** Prior to 2005, career services was a part-time function of the Student Life Office, but in response to Exit Interviews and concerns expressed in the 2003 Focused Visit, a full-time position was created for 2005-2006 and efforts were made to improve the visibility and effectiveness of career services on campus.

Since that time, the Office of Career Services has developed relationship networks with a number of Salina businesses to cooperatively improve student development, interviewing skills, job shadowing and internship opportunities, and part-time employment. The employment board has also been placed online, and openings are emailed to relevant faculty and interested students as they become available. The Career Services webpage also has increased its offerings of career advice and other tips.



The Office of Career Services continues to support and promote career days, job fairs, mock interviews, and resume reviews, and is in the process of developing an electronic resume database for students looking for employment upon graduation.

**Service Learning.** One way that Kansas Wesleyan University engages with the community is through service learning components of courses. For example, all courses in the Religion and Philosophy Department and several in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department require students to perform service projects in the community, using service learning criteria established by the Campus Compact and the Ginsberg Center for Community Service Learning of the University of Michigan.

Sites are selected on a number of criteria:

1. Availability of individual contact of student with community members
2. Community need
3. Proximity to students, for ease of travel
4. Presence of a central volunteer coordinator to act as contact person
5. Personal safety of students

The sites are evaluated by the students with end of semester write-ups detailing their experience. They are evaluated by site coordinators and instructors by end of year interviews. The decision to keep or drop sites is based on student and faculty evaluations, and the continuing willingness of the sites to accept Kansas Wesleyan University students.

Of course, other models of service learning exist as well, and many aspects of service learning of which we, as a university, have yet to take advantage.

**Addiction Counseling Workshops and Continuing Education Credits.** For many years, the Psychology/Psychological Services Program has provided a series of educational and training programs for professionals -- the Addiction and Recovery Workshop Series. Traditionally, two of these programs have been provided each year. The programs have included presenters who are nationally known and respected clinicians, social workers, counselors, psychologists, criminal justice professionals, and researchers who have presented workshops on topics that are important (even ground-breaking) to the needs of human service and criminal justice professionals. The topics are wide-ranging but always reflect national and area needs, and areas of training and education that are being served at larger conferences and professional organizations in the country. Evaluations of nearly all of the workshops developed and hosted by the University have been overwhelmingly positive to date. Those evaluations have also been used to assist in choosing future workshop topics and presenters.

Continuing education credits have been provided to attendees of these

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workshops. These credits are approved by state regulatory boards and professional organizations. Attendance for these day-long workshops has ranged from approximately 40 to 200, typically averaging around 70 people.

Students often attend the workshops as well and assist with the many tasks of hosting such major workshops. These tasks offer hands-on experience to students in the processes of developing and hosting a professional workshop, but they also provide students unique cutting-edge knowledge from significant professionals that may be outside the exposure of a normal curriculum.

**Fine Arts.** Other examples of collaboration with community include the University's active involvement with the Fine Arts Council, the joint collaborations between the University's Music and Theatre Departments with the Salina Symphony, the Salina Community Theatre, and the Salina Municipal Band. In addition to the numerous performances by choir and band groups and individuals for campus celebrations, sporting events, regional churches and schools, the leadership of the music faculty and the participation of students and other faculty in these community activities provide students with a broader and richer performance experience and improve the visibility and image of Kansas Wesleyan University in the Salina community.

The University has received a grant from the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission for a collaborative project to produce fine arts programs for cable TV by Kansas Wesleyan University and Salina Community Access TV.

**The Volunteer Connection.** The University's relationship with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) goes back 30 years. The federal government was interested in establishing volunteer clearinghouses in communities. One of the requirements for such organizations was the identification of an existing not-for-profit organization in the community that could serve as the unit's sponsor. Kansas Wesleyan University offered to fulfill this role, and it has served as the sponsoring organization since. All finances are handled through the University, the President is the direct supervisor of the unit's Executive Director, and a member of the University faculty, is the University's liaison to the agency.

**Co-Curricular Activities.** Kansas Wesleyan University has had many activities in 2005-2006 that illustrate a pattern of interaction with external communities. For many years the campus community has hosted Fall Fest, a safe alternative to trick-or-treating, for the Salina community. The event is co-sponsored with Salina Parks and Recreation Department. Different academic clubs, the Student Government Association, and Student Activities Board have different activities for the children to provide a safe Halloween





experience. There is a carnival as well as a haunted house for the older children. The money raised from the haunted house is then contributed to a local charity (i.e., American Red Cross, United Way, etc.). Each year they typically raise around \$2,000 to give to a charity. The students who help with this event always get a lot out of it as do the children and families in the community.

Elementary education majors are involved in Rolling Hills Wildlife Center EdAdventure Day. Students develop hands-on science lessons at a selected grade level K-7th. They then spend a day at Rolling Hills presenting their lessons to students in their selected grade level. This is quite a learning experience for the college students because they have an opportunity to teach their lesson several times. This allows them to evaluate their lesson and make the necessary adjustments to clarify the directions, reorganize the sequence of the lesson or any other changes that would enhance the lesson.

Kansas Wesleyan University's Intramural Program works very closely with the KSU-Salina Intramural Program. The Intramural Directors at both schools coordinate many of the team sport activities and have all the teams play against each other. Most of the events are held on the KSU-Salina campus. KSU-Salina has been very generous in allowing teams to play on their campus. Both teams provide officials and supervisory support. By working together it has allowed both intramural programs to be more successful for the students.

Project H.E.R.O. was a campus-wide community service day for students, staff, and faculty. Over 100 people participated and went throughout the Salina community to help different people. Students, staff, and faculty were split into a variety of groups and worked on different service projects. The following is a list of several of the events:

- A group of volunteers helped residents plant flowers in cups at a local retirement home and spent time visiting with the residents.
- A group of children who had not been paired up with a Big Brother or Big Sister yet came to campus and participated in a variety of planned activities.
- A group of volunteers helped plant trees along the river at The Land Institute.
- A group of volunteers helped an elderly woman who was unable to do yard work by trimming the trees in her yard.

**Educational Programs.** Each year the Office of Career Services coordinates with other ACCK colleges to host the I-135 Career Fair and the ACCK Teacher Interview Day. Businesses from across the state come to one centralized location to talk with students about possible jobs. The location generally rotates from one school to the next each year. The same process is set up for the ACCK Teacher Interview Day. Schools from across the state of

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Kansas are brought to a centralized location where students from each of the ACCK colleges come and have set times to interview with different schools across the state. This allows the students the opportunity to interview with other school districts and allows the school districts to interview students from the area colleges. It has been very successful over the years because it benefits students as well as the school districts that participate.

In 2003, the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean and members of the Divisional Council implemented a process of coordinating campus lectures, workshops, and programs under a single umbrella vehicle with the intent of increasing the outreach of the University into the Salina community. THE EXCHANGE has the stated purpose of providing “an environment to enrich the campus and region through a dynamic exchange of ideas and visions which promote a vibrant and intellectual life.” Since its implementation, a variety of lectures, presentations, and programs have been promoted under its auspices. Gradually, the original intent of enhancing the visibility of Kansas Wesleyan University’s academic and intellectual contributions to the area is being realized, although improvements are still being made to try to more fully publicize these events and integrate them into the campus community.

A large and diverse number of lectures open to the public have occurred on campus since the last full accreditation visit: from Ward Connerly and his discussion of ending affirmative action to Bernard Lietaer and the future of money; from Bill Kurtis and what he has learned about the death penalty to Ed Meese, former U.S. Attorney General under President Ronald Reagan.

The Ethics in Public Life Series, part of the Kansas Wesleyan Exchange Program, provides special presentations each semester for the continuing education of the campus and surrounding community. The purpose of the Ethics in Public Life series is to bring in distinguished speakers from around the state to provide insights into living, vibrant issues in religion, philosophy, and current events. The presentations are designed to be challenging and thought provoking, and give each person who attends a chance to view the world from a new perspective.

The Richards Lecture Series was established to honor the ministry of the late Rev. George Richards, a longtime Kansas West Conference Pastor, District Superintendent, and Interim President at Kansas Wesleyan University. In 2005, the Richards Lecture featured a speaker from The United Methodist Board of Discipleship. At the request of the Salina District Superintendent, Kansas Wesleyan University provided a continuing education class on the subject of Invitational Preaching to meet the assessed needs (by the Salina District Superintendent) of the Kansas West Conference of United Methodist Pastors. Thirty pastors from the Kansas West Conference participated.

The campus also hosts and co-sponsors several reputable programs with

the Spirituality Resource Center. These have involved major researchers, authors, and internationally-known teachers who have served to enrich the intellectual environment of the campus as well as the larger community. These programs have also been used for supplemental course projects. Many of these programs involve inter-disciplinary themes and have also attracted attendees from across the state and from major state educational institutions as well.

**Publicity.** *Contact*, the University magazine, is distributed four times a year to a variety of constituent groups, including alumni, United Methodist Churches in Kansas, state and national United Methodist Church officials, friends of the University, and select local and national media. In 2003, approximately 7,500 copies of each edition were printed and distributed. With the Summer 2006 edition, 9,400 copies were printed and distributed. This increase is due in part to Institutional Advancement improving its database of current alumni addresses. Institutional Advancement also has increased the number of United Methodist Church officials/churches receiving the magazine in order to better inform those constituency groups about Kansas Wesleyan University.

The current television advertising consists of two commercials featuring a series of student testimonials. Because of how the University purchases advertising, the commercials are shown throughout the state of Kansas and into parts of Colorado and Oklahoma. Additionally, the University is one of two sponsors (and the only higher education sponsor) in the state for Prep Friday, a high school football scoreboard show that airs on the top rated television station in the state. The University's television advertising is attracting attention, as numerous persons – from alumni to prospective students to friends of the University – have mentioned that not only have they seen the commercials but that they believe the commercials well represent the University. Specific to Prep Friday, not only have the above mentioned persons noted that they have seen the University's sponsorship of Prep Friday, but other higher education institutions in the state are contacting the television station to see how Kansas Wesleyan University was able to sponsor the show and how they (other institutions) can get the sponsorship. Much to their chagrin, they are told that Kansas Wesleyan University has right of first refusal for the program.

Another unique publicity opportunity was that Kansas Wesleyan University had a small role in the Universal Pictures motion picture "Friday Night Lights," which opened nationwide on October 8, 2004. In one scene, two Kansas Wesleyan University recruiters are seen visiting with the Odessa Permian (Texas) star quarterback about attending the University. Additionally, the recruiters, in Kansas Wesleyan University clothing, can be seen in at least one of the stadium scenes.

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### *Commitment to Global Involvement*

The Summer 2006 issue of the *Contact* illustrates ways in which Kansas Wesleyan University is engaged with the world. It describes student trips to China and Wales; alumni teaching in Turkey, South Korea, China; ministering in Costa Rica; and engaging in educational collaboration with the U.S. Virgin Islands.



**Core Component 5c.** *Kansas Wesleyan University demonstrates its responsiveness to those constituencies that depend on it for service.*

### *Responsiveness to Students*

Kansas Wesleyan University shows responsiveness to student needs by providing courses at times and in ways that accommodate the learner. For example, the Adult Professional Studies Program was originally designed as a degree completion program for working students. Other courses are scheduled at a time that accommodates schedules of local high schools so as to be able to provide transferable college credit for pre-freshmen. The University calendar is also structured around local school district schedules and vacations to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff with school-aged children. Many faculty also allow students to bring children to class on days when the children have conferences or other childcare conflicts.

Policies at Kansas Wesleyan University are designed to facilitate transfer of credits earned by students at other institutions in ways that (a) recognize valid prior learning and (b) assure sufficient prior learning for future success. Credits are accepted from accredited institutions where they can be applied reasonably to University program requirements. Decisions are made by the Director of Enrollment and Financial Services (Registrar) for the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean and in consultation with appropriate faculty. Program requirements are occasionally modified to meet reasonable needs of transfer students. Of course, students without adequate prior learning are unlikely to succeed, so University policies attempt to assure equivalency of transfer courses. Examples include the insistence that transferred science courses have comparable credit hours and laboratory experiences

**Fall 2006 Programming Interest Survey.** Many times it is difficult planning events for the students. The Student Life Office staff believed it was important to gather information from new students about what social and educational programs they would like to see at Kansas Wesleyan University. In early July 2006, interest surveys were mailed to all new students along with their residential housing contract. Many interest surveys have been received back and the Student Life Office plans on working with the Resident Assistants on developing programs for their floors based on the survey information.

**Fall 2005 Student Life Survey.** In the Fall of 2005, the Student Life Office sent out surveys to the residence hall students to assess what services students would like to see on campus. The following are a few things that students wanted to see: YMCA privileges, health care on-campus, and a Safe Ride Program. After reviewing the cost that the YMCA would charge per student it was not fiscally possible to allow students to utilize the YMCA. Students will use the current wellness center until the new facility is built. The Student Life Office and the Student Government Association have already spoken about looking into a Safe Ride Program for the 0607 year.

**Fall 2003 Focus Groups.** In the Fall of 2003, two focus groups were conducted for residence hall students, separated into male and female groups. Each student who attended was given a focus group questionnaire and then discussion followed. Through the focus groups, several changes have occurred over the last few years. Here is a list of the changes that occurred in the residence halls:

- Visitation hours were examined and it was decided to change the starting visitation hours from noon to 10 a.m. This allows students to study with others earlier in the morning.
- Because of the increase in students in the residence halls, Wilson Hall has been changed to a co-ed hall. On weekends, the upper class students have 24 hour visitation in Wilson Hall only.
- Wilson Hall
  - o New furniture has been placed in Wilson Hall
  - o Kitchens and laundry rooms have been added to each floor
  - o New lighting has been added to the main lobby
- Wesley Hall received 4 new washing machines and 4 new dryers to help accommodate the number of students in the building.
- Cafeteria is now open longer hours from 7:15 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

The Student Life Office also looks at serious issues that are affecting students and attempts to provide educational programs to help educate students. In 2005 a student was sexually assaulted on campus. In response, the Student Life Office planned for a counselor from DVACK (Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas) to come and speak to the female students about acquaintance rape and what to do if they or their friends ever find themselves in that situation. In order to educate both the males and females about possible miscommunication between men and women, “SEX SIGNALS” was brought to campus. Blending a unique combination of improvisational comedy, education, and audience participation, “SEX SIGNALS” provides a provocative look at the issues of dating, sex, and ultimately, acquaintance rape on college campuses. The two-person show explores how mixed messages, gender role stereotypes, and unrealistic fantasies contribute to misunderstandings between the sexes. All the resident assistants were required to bring the students on their floor to the program. One RA wrote on her evaluation form, “The program was awesome and allowed everyone to get a little bit of humor out of a very serious subject.”

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A number of other formal and informal programs are in place to assist students who are far from home. Several local churches help coordinate Adopt-an-Athlete Programs, and similar programs exist for international students. The President and his wife have also modeled the campus family atmosphere, with hosting students in their home for holidays or informal social gatherings.

### *Responsiveness to Alumni*

The Institutional Advancement Office staff has increased efforts to address the needs of the alumni from several directions. One need is the ability to keep the alumni updated on the progress of Kansas Wesleyan University, as well as each other. The Institutional Advancement Office collects news about deaths, births, weddings, and engagements from emails, letters, and the local newspaper, and publishes these in the “KWU People” section of the *Contact*. This allows alumni to find out what has happened to each other, and also gives alumni a moment of recognition. This is a popular part of the magazine. But the *Contact* serves another need for the alumni, and that is informing them about the campus community through a feature story about the school, or feature stories about successful alumni that relate to the theme of the magazine. For example, one *Contact* magazine featured the Department of Behavioral Science and Human Services at Kansas Wesleyan University, and included several stories about students and alumni successfully working in that field.

The Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association is also addressing the issue of connecting alumni with the University. The monthly meetings now include speakers from different areas of the University. For example, members of the Alumni Association visited the Children’s Science Lab and heard how it was funded by a grant to encourage children to enter sciences as a career. At another meeting, the yearbook adviser demonstrated how to create a yearbook layout on the computer.

Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Gatherings are hosted in various locations where alumni either live or have an interest in meeting at, such as Goodland (KS), Wichita (KS), Dallas (TX), Kansas City (MO), New Jersey, Lakeland (FL) and Russell (KS). The President attends these gatherings and provides an update regarding the University by not only speaking about the latest campus news and events, but also by visiting with the alumni present. Prospective students and their parents who live in these areas are invited to the gatherings as well. This allows the local alumni an opportunity to talk about Kansas Wesleyan University with the prospective students.

The web page is another avenue for the alumni to connect with the campus and each other. There is an online directory that can be searched by class year. Information about upcoming Alumni gatherings and the Homecoming brochure are also available online. Computing resources are being redesigned

to allow alumni to create a personalized calendar of events and sports as well as to search for alumni by state, sport, or class year. Alumni will be able to update their information, and they will be able to make contributions to the University online. There will also be an opportunity to establish regional groups online.

The need to stay informed is one level for alumni to stay involved with the University, but there are many alumni and friends of the University who will volunteer time. The Alumni Association has created some projects that use alumni volunteers. The alumni have set up refreshment tables, baked cookies, packed gifts, ushered at Commencement, hosted a couple “Buck Meals” for students at University United Methodist Church, and were greeters at New Student Orientation Weekend. Other volunteer alumni have come into the classroom during Homecoming Weekend and shared with the students about their careers. Several alumni have given lectures about their scientific expertise or missionary experiences. The Admissions Office used a panel of young soccer alumni to discuss their time as students at Kansas Wesleyan University during Homecoming. The Office of Career Services is also beginning a mentoring program for students with alumni that are willing to share time about their careers.

Alumni volunteered to help with Homecoming and Alumni Gatherings. The class agents provided, coordinated, and communicated about the reunions. These volunteers also spent countless hours emailing and phone calling their friends and former classmates. The best way for an event to be effective is to have friends communicating with each other, but it also provides an important job for the alumni.

Kansas Wesleyan University provides places and times for the alumni to visit with each other. Homecoming’s main purpose is to provide a weekend filled with things to do that are appropriate for the age groups, with good food, access to see students of today, and have places and times for visiting. The Alumni Gatherings are also a time to allow the alumni to have a good time, whether golfing, attending an opera, or having a dinner in botanical gardens. Every event focuses on that particular group, and what they enjoy.

Honoring our alumni is very important as well. There are two events set aside at Homecoming just for this purpose. The Alumni Dinner has three different categories: the Alumni Service Award, Young Alumnus Award, and the Alumni Achievement Award. The Athletic Hall of Fame Award recognizes alumni who were involved with athletics at the University. This recognition is presented at a breakfast called the W Clan Brunch. The list of alumni award winners can be found on the University web site at [www.kwu.edu/alumni/alumawards](http://www.kwu.edu/alumni/alumawards).

Lastly, the University encourages its alumni to become part of the campus through their financial gifts. In fund raising for the new Student Activities Center there were opportunities for alumni to name an area for a family

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member, past faculty members, or themselves. A brick campaign allowed people to feel a part of the project by placing their names or the names of loved ones in a permanent location.

### *Responsiveness to the Church*

The University is collaborating with the leadership of the Kansas West Conference of The United Methodist Church to pursue several initiatives on developing lay leadership and respond to the needs of young people in the Church. Kansas Wesleyan University established a Center for Church Leadership in August 2006. The Center will serve as the administrative arm for the development of church leaders, and will employ a local church consultant who will serve as the Center's Director and report to the Dean of the Chapel.

### *Responsiveness to Community Needs*

Faculty and administration respond to community needs at a variety of levels. Some serve in leadership roles in community organizations, such as Rotary Club, Salina Community Theater, Friends of the Smoky Hill Museum, Salvation Army, Salina Symphony, or Focus on the Future Foundation. Many actively belong to local churches with some taking leadership roles as pastors, preachers, members of church councils, or sharing academic and/or spiritual expertise for adult Christian Education. Faculty in the departments of Business and Behavioral Science serve as research and/or statistical consultants for local businesses and agencies. Some serve the local school district by judging forensics, debate or Junior Academy of Science competitions. Students and faculty created the Salina Unites Program, which helped provide tutors for USD 305 classrooms. Many faculty and staff donate time, money, and other gifts to local agencies and organizations. The Art Department has hosted workshops for students and community members and has formed a discussion group for area artists, as well as regular open houses and discussions in the campus Art Gallery. The Communication Studies and Theater Arts Department hosted the State Speech and Drama Festival which was attended by sixty-three high schools. The Teacher Education Department hosted groups of gifted students from Salina middle schools for a science workshop, and the Health Physical Education and Recreation Department assists with athletic training and Presidential Physical Fitness testing at local schools. Students and faculty from the Nursing Division have assisted with disaster preparedness training for local businesses. A faculty member in the History Department is currently involved in coordinating (on an annual basis, in cooperation with local organizations) a Holocaust Remembrance Week and a Hispanic cultural event.

**Communications.** The Communications Program has been involved in many levels of responding to community needs, while at the same time providing educational experiences for students. Some examples include:

*The University is collaborating with the leadership of the Kansas West Conference of The United Methodist Church to pursue several initiatives on developing lay leadership and respond to the needs of young people in the Church.*

*Another educational project is Project Diversity, a partnership between the Salina School District (USD 305) and Kansas Wesleyan University.*

- A video compilation used to represent affiliated United Methodist universities in the state for the annual Kansas West Conference, and the footage will be re-edited for use for other Kansas United Methodist conferences.
- The Mikado brought the operatic theatre experience to the public, and resulted in a professional-looking authored DVD.
- The Food for Thought series began production in 2006, and aired its first episode in October of 2006.
- The All Access program, which focuses on local arts and artists wrapped up pre-production work in Spring 2006, and began producing regular episodes that Fall.
- The University continues to work with Community Access Television of Salina, Inc. in developing strategies for employing new media models as supplements for emerging programs that concern the arts and humanities, including the creation of an Arts and Humanities weblog, a Google map which highlights arts and humanities-related attractions in the area, and the exploration of IP based technologies as content management systems for educational and non-profit websites.
- The University is in the post-production phase of a television project featuring the works of Belgian economist Bernard Leitaer and his thoughts on the issue of complementary currencies.

**Education.** For several years Education students have volunteered for Read Across America activities in the elementary schools in Salina. Secondary and PreK-12 students joined with Elementary Education majors in this task. Students selected books, developed activities related to the book and spent about an hour in a classroom interacting with the elementary students. They read the book and involved the students in the activity.

Another educational project is Project Diversity, a partnership between the Salina School District (USD 305) and Kansas Wesleyan University. The Project was funded by a grant from the Kansas State Department of Education through Kansas Recruitment and Retention. The goals of the Project are to:

- Encourage diverse students to choose teaching as a career including:
  - students of various racial and ethnic backgrounds
  - female students in science and math
  - students with special needs
  - male students in elementary education
- Aid the University in retaining students of diversity by providing a support system through campus, school, and community efforts.
- Involve students in such programs as tutoring at Sunset Elementary and the former Roosevelt-Lincoln Middle School, Breakfast Buddies, Salina Community Programs, and state and national conferences.

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The building of relationships among students of different ages is one focus of the Project, and the various programs at the elementary, middle school, high school and college levels assist in this endeavor. Recruitment of teachers of diversity for the Salina schools is an important outcome of the Project. It is hoped that as college students in Teacher Education consider job opportunities that their positive experiences with students through this Project will make them choose to stay in the community and teach. A diverse teaching force is essential for meeting the educational needs of students in the 21st. century.

**Cooperation with the City of Salina in Promoting University Development.** Kansas Wesleyan University is working closely with the City of Salina in examining its future growth and potential impact on the city residents. Below are several examples:

- The University requested a variance from the Zoning Commission to permit an increased number of parking spaces in a vacant lot on the northwest corner of Highland and Claflin Avenues. The Commission did not approve the request, so current plans have been put on hold for the time being, as the number of spaces permitted did not justify the costs. The additional requested spaces would have made the project justifiable.
- As soon as it was decided to undertake the project to build a new Student Activities Center, the University made contact with the City to discuss the project and to make certain they were aware of the University's plans. A Development Review Team (DRT) was established that included leaders of all of the City departments whose operations could be affected by the project, representatives of the University, and the architect. This group has met on three different occasions during the development stage of the project to determine if there were any issues and what needed to be done about them. This was the group, for example, that determined the number of additional parking places that would have to be added to support the building and suggested entering into parking agreements with University United Methodist Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church as a way of solving this parking issue. When it became time for a building permit to be issued for the project, all of the issues related to City concerns had been addressed and the permit was issued without difficulty.
- The University also has been working with the City to examine traffic flow around campus, especially given the increase in the enrollment of the University. Kansas Wesleyan University and the City entered into an agreement to share the costs of a traffic study that examined the impact of closing 4th Street between Cloud Street and Claflin Avenue, as well as the impact of closing Claflin Avenue from 4th Street to Highland Avenue. A separate Development Review Team was established for this activity. The two entities made a preliminary report to the City Commission

discussing the results of this study. The initial proposal requested the elimination of through traffic between Cloud Street and Claflin Avenue, permitting expanded parking in these areas. The report recommended expanding the width of Osborne Street between Cloud Street and Claflin Avenue to handle the diversion of traffic. The proposals regarding closing either or both blocks of Claflin Avenue vary in method and timing, and these will require some additional study.

- The University and the City of Salina continue to discuss the feasibility and timing of proposing a University Zone around the campus, similar to the recently enacted Hospital Zone, to handle future growth of Kansas Wesleyan University. This will be undertaken after the decision concerning 4th Street is made.
- The President meets on a monthly basis with the City Manager and other city leaders, such as the Superintendent of USD 305, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, and the Executive Dean of Kansas State University-Salina to keep communication among key organizations in the community open.

These are among the numerous examples of Kansas Wesleyan University's interaction with the community and responding to its needs.

### *Responsiveness to World*

Responsiveness to world needs takes place in many different ways. One way is through promoting educational programs which explore concerns of a global nature. This could take the form of a course, such as Global Demography, Race & Ethnicity, or Environmental Awareness; public lectures on personal and national debt, spirituality, or peace and hunger initiatives; or leadership in charitable organizations such as United Way, Relay for Life, or Souper Bowl Sunday collections for hunger issues.

The University and the MBA Program has residents and graduates from Taiwan, China, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Jamaica, Holland, and Mexico. The international as well as the American students share and receive a global perspective of business, leadership, communication, culture, research, and technology. On three separate trips, Kansas Wesleyan University administrators, faculty, and students have visited Taiwan and China to meet prospective students, adjunct faculty, and other university administrators. Kansas Wesleyan University personnel have witnessed and experienced cross-cultural business, industry, and higher education.

***Core Component 5d.*** *Internal and external constituencies value the services Kansas Wesleyan University provides.*

### *Valued by Students*

A student who completed an internship at a juvenile correctional facility

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stated, “I felt confident because of what I learned in my classes at Kansas Wesleyan.” Another student who now works with the Texas Department of Public Safety stated, “Wesleyan did a wonderful job of preparing me for my career.” A third student who was the first Kansas Wesleyan University student to complete an internship with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation was praised for her critical thinking ability.

These testimonials are reflective of the sentiment of graduates. Data from both Graduation Surveys and Exit Interviews demonstrate that students have experienced the mission and experienced improvement in aspects of their life related to it, and feel well prepared for future endeavors, either employment or advanced education.

### *Valued by Alumni*

One method to evaluate the value of the University is by measuring alumni participation. Event attendance has been growing for the past five years. In 2001, the annual Donor Dinner had 80 in attendance, but by 2006 the total was 214 alumni and friends. The major changes to this event have been in presentation. Focus on presentation of food, decorations and flow of the event has been of supreme importance. The University was known for inexpensive events, but comments now suggest that Kansas Wesleyan University knows how to put on classy events.

Homecoming is also growing. Before 2001 it was a reasonably small event. Again, more focus was put on a good schedule, appropriate for different ages. Presentation of food, decorations, and music was very important. It now has become a three-day event. Efforts have been made to promote student events that attract alumni such as the Wesleyan Showcase talent show, which began with approximately 100 attendees in 2001 and grew to more than 500 in the audience in 2006. Homecoming alumni events have grown; in 2001 there were only 35 at the Alumni Dinner. But by moving the day and time of the event, the event has had more than 100 people in attendance for the last five years. Homecoming in the past celebrated very few ages, mainly the 50-year class. Homecoming now includes celebrations for 25-year classes, 40-year classes, Home Economics alumni, alumni from the 1960s, football teams, and soccer teams, among others.

Homecoming is also used to celebrate individual persons who have connections to the University. Some of these events have included celebrations for long-time professors who have retired from Kansas Wesleyan University and a celebration for a popular former coach and faculty member. Each of these events attracts different alumni and allows them to experience the university that they love. Homecoming is now attracting around 175 alumni a year, which is a new experience for Kansas Wesleyan University.

Fifteen to twenty alumni have been regularly attending meetings of the Kansas Wesleyan University Alumni Association. The use of a postcard

announcing the upcoming meetings and invited speakers has been successful in encouraging more alumni to attend meetings of the Alumni Association.

As stated earlier, initial attempts at collecting alumni survey data had a small response rate, so results should be interpreted with caution, but data suggests that while alumni were more satisfied with advising and individual attention, relative to the national average, their ratings of educational quality and student services tended to be lower than the national average.

### *Valued by Church*

The United Methodist Church demonstrates different degrees of value for Kansas Wesleyan University. In one sense, financial realities within the Church have necessitated an elimination of funding from the Conference to the University. However, congregations and individuals have shown that they value Kansas Wesleyan University through participation in the newly formed *Wesleyan Society*. Also, the fact that the Bishop requested that Kansas Wesleyan University establish a Center for Church Leadership on its campus indicates a recognition of the services that the University is able to provide the Church.

### *Valued by the Community*

From Fiscal Year 2004 to Fiscal Year 2006, the University's advertising budget has increased \$17,500 to \$100,000. Likewise, headcount enrollment has increased 91 students. (The advertising budget for Fiscal Year 2007 is \$110,000.) While the increase in advertising is not totally responsible for the enrollment increase, it does play an important role. For instance, in Fiscal Year 2004, a large portion of the advertising budget was used for advertising in the local newspaper, not a hotspot for attracting the attention of teenagers considering which university to attend. Since that time, the University's advertising budget has been realigned so that more of the budget is spent on television and radio advertising, which not only attracts the attention of traditional aged potential students, but also their parents.

Although the Institutional Advancement Office does not currently conduct any formal measures of public relations, informal comments from alumni, community members, colleagues at other higher education institutions and conferences, and others suggest that the image of Kansas Wesleyan University is positive and has been improving significantly in recent years.

Salina businesses have begun to contact the University on a regular basis with any employment needs they have and the Office of Career Services has developed ways of informing Kansas Wesleyan University students, alumni, faculty and staff. A bulletin board provides a current listing of all job opportunities that come in to the Office of Career Services. The Kansas Wesleyan University website now has an employment board on the Career

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Services web pages that is updated at least weekly. Additionally, Career Services emails all students as new jobs, internships, fellowships, volunteer, and educational activities come to the University's attention. The Office of Career Services conducted a study of May 2005 graduates of the traditional undergraduate Baccalaureate Programs. One hundred and one graduates of the 105 were able to be contacted. As of December 2005, 80% of those contacted were employed full-time in their field, 10% were enrolled in graduate programs, 8% were employed full-time out of their field, and 2 were still seeking employment.

**Facilities Usage.** The educational diversity is supported by Kansas Wesleyan University through the direct sponsorship of various educational opportunities as well as making the facilities available to other groups and organizations that encourage debate and dialogue of various issues of local and national interest.

The University makes available its facilities for a wide range of external groups. Conferences and workshops are regularly hosted on campus for groups such as the Kansas Teachers of High School Psychology, the United Methodist Women, the American Association of University Women, the Kansas West Conference Youth Ministry, the Kansas College Chemistry Teachers, the Kansas State High School Activities Association, the Kansas Independent College Association, the Kansas National Education Association and the United Methodist Health Ministry Foundation. Many of these workshops or conferences provide an opportunity for earning additional education credits for individuals and are attended by not only Salina residents, but persons from across the state. The campus also hosts regular rehearsals for the Salina Chorale and Salina Youth Symphony.

Other external groups also take advantage of the University's facilities. Events such as the Heart of America Sports camps, Science Day camps, Language camps, Debate and Forensics camps, and United Methodist Church camps provide opportunities for members of the University community to participate, but also members of the public - including children. These events are not only enjoyable, but educational. The University benefits from the interaction of the participants, and the constituents appreciate the services provided.

In addition, a variety of community organizations utilize the University's facilities. The University's intramural program cooperates with K-State Salina in sharing facilities for the team competitions. Under an agreement between Kansas Wesleyan University and Sacred Heart Jr/Sr High School, the Glen L. Martin Stadium on campus is shared with Sacred Heart High School for football games and various practices such as track, etc.

Memorial Library has hosted the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for many years until it had to relocate due to the University's need

*Kansas Wesleyan University has built a strong image regionally in the state of Kansas, especially in the North Central part of the state.*

for the space. The program is now housed at University United Methodist Church. For many years the Salina Symphony was housed on campus, until they relocated to the Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts in 2005. The Salina Chorale uses the facilities in Sams Hall of Fine Arts for their weekly rehearsals. The University was able to step in and help a local church who had lost their building due to fire. They held their services in Sams Chapel each week until a new church could be built. The members of that church were very appreciative of this assistance.

*Valued by the Region and the World*

One area of improvement for Kansas Wesleyan University is name recognition. While Kansas Wesleyan University activities are well-publicized in the immediate region and athletic conference, the University is less well-known in communities to the east and in other states. While graduates have been accepted at graduate schools in other states, they have had to prove themselves by their experience rather than by reputation of and awareness of the University itself.

However, when people in other regions or countries know of Kansas Wesleyan University, the image is good. Kansas Wesleyan University has built a strong image regionally in the state of Kansas, especially in the North Central part of the state. Attending Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina makes it especially appealing to those who want to stay closer to home as well as offering a regional city that provides above average health care, shopping, and a variety of other amenities that service several smaller towns in North Central Kansas.

Kansas Wesleyan University currently hosts international students from nine countries. A majority of these students come from Taiwan to study in the MBA Program. After a recent trip to China by the President, the Kansas Wesleyan University Choir, and other friends of the University, it appears that the MBA and undergraduate programs are in demand from mainland China students. Kansas Wesleyan University currently works with an agent who represents interests in Taiwan and mainland China. She has indicated that the MBA Program offers a substantial level of convenience to her prospective students. The University has just accepted its first class of undergraduate students from mainland China. The success of this recruitment plan will be evaluated in the near future.

### **Strengths**

- The University is a vital participant in the Salina Community.
- The University has responded to needs of the United Methodist Church
- The University is attractive to transfer students through liberal transfer policies and articulation agreements.
- The University provides educational programs which benefit international students.

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## Concerns

- There are some student concerns for services that have not yet been fully addressed, such as on-site health services, campus security, tutoring and remedial assistance, improvements to lab spaces and facility access.
- The University could make greater use of the potential for service learning in the community.

## Recommendations

In light of the findings from our self-study of our engagement with our communities and service activities, we have formulated institutional recommendations regarding ways to improve and projects to undertake. These self-recommendations (see chart below) have been reviewed and refined by the President, the Vice Presidents, the Deans, and faculty, staff, and student groups.

<b>CRITERION FIVE: SELF-RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATOR</b>
1. The University should continue to examine the needs for additional student services that are not adequately being addressed at present.	President's Cabinet
2. The University should better define and support service learning opportunities, including internships.	Vice President for Academic Affairs/ Academic Dean

## CHAPTER 6: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Kansas Wesleyan University meets the four themes for accreditation, as established by the Higher Learning Commission. The University also recognizes areas for improvement on those themes.

### **Kansas Wesleyan University is a future-oriented organization.**

#### *Strengths*

- Kansas Wesleyan University engages in strategic planning.
- Kansas Wesleyan University has a clear statement of mission.
- Kansas Wesleyan University understands social and economic change.
- Kansas Wesleyan University focuses on the future of constituents (students, faculty, staff, administration, organization, community).
- Kansas Wesleyan University strives to provide new technologies, such as current computers, Learning Management software, and distance learning facilities.

#### *Concerns*

- All constituents do not feel equally included in planning processes. Planning is not yet consistently informed by assessment, and strategic planning goals may be achieved through means other than specified plans or sub-goals.
- Evidence is sometimes unclear about the degree to which the mission permeates the actions and plans within the Institution.
- It is not always clear how Kansas Wesleyan University actively responds to perceived social and economic change.
- Academic quality and faculty development could both be improved.
- Access, training, and support for the use of new technology by faculty and students could be improved.
- The University has experienced three years of record enrollment; however, preparations in infrastructure e.g. (staffing and facilities) have not kept pace.”
- The University relies heavily on tuition revenue for financial solvency. Growing the endowment, in order to be stable in the long term, is advisable.

### **Kansas Wesleyan University is a learning-focused organization.**

#### *Strengths*

- Kansas Wesleyan University has actively collected data on student learning for over a decade.
- Kansas Wesleyan University supports learning by providing a number of academic majors, coursework for pre-freshmen, and liberal transfer policies.
- Kansas Wesleyan University supports scholarship through funding sabbaticals, research travel, and continuing education.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Kansas Wesleyan University creates the capacity for lifelong learning through internships and service learning opportunities and is in the process of exploring the development of an honors program.

### *Concerns*

- Kansas Wesleyan University is still in the process of developing an institutional culture of assessment, where data is used to drive change. Recognition of the utility of assessment is not uniform across campus, both among faculty and among administration.
- Support of learning could be improved by delegating more responsibility for academic decision making to faculty.
- While funding is available, sabbatical opportunities are underutilized by faculty
- Given the University's location, internships could be more widely used. Service learning seems to be compartmentalized to a few programs and applied tangentially to content in many majors, rather than utilized as effectively as they might be.
- Memorial Library has some physical and technological limitations.

### **Kansas Wesleyan University is a connected organization.**

### *Strengths*

- Kansas Wesleyan University is connected to other colleges and the community. Kansas Wesleyan University is a part of the ACCK consortium and has articulation agreements with several area community colleges. Kansas Wesleyan University personnel are actively involved off campus, and the campus hosts numerous community events and educational experiences.
- Kansas Wesleyan University creates a culture of service through providing students and faculty with community service projects and activities.
- Kansas Wesleyan University faculty collaborate for the purposes of improving teaching and developing interdisciplinary curricula. Kansas Wesleyan University students, faculty, and administration collaborate with members and agencies in the Salina community on educational programs, religious involvement, and service projects.
- Kansas Wesleyan University has a representative decision making structure in which healthy internal communication is capable of occurring, and efforts have been made to improve internal communication.

### *Concerns*

- As consultants have suggested, service learning and internship relationships could be increased.
- Internal communication is not as healthy as it could be, both between and within the various constituencies.

**Kansas Wesleyan University is a distinctive organization.**

### *Strengths*

- Kansas Wesleyan University is distinctive in that the University blends professional education with liberal arts education.
- Kansas Wesleyan University is affiliated with The United Methodist Church, which makes it distinctive relative to other public universities and church-affiliated colleges.
- Kansas Wesleyan University maintains diversity in its student body greater than the diversity reflected in the surrounding community.
- Kansas Wesleyan University has an unambiguous mission.
- Kansas Wesleyan University remains in contact with alumni and the community, in order to meet their needs.
- In undertaking this self-study, Kansas Wesleyan University has shown that it is self-reflective, and committed to improvement.

### *Concerns*

- The diversity of faculty, staff, and administration does not reflect the diversity of the student body.
- Kansas Wesleyan University has greater inclusion of international students in the graduate program than in the undergraduate program.
- Kansas Wesleyan University lacks universal requirements for mission, vision, and goal statements for all subcomponents of the institution.

### **Conclusion**

Whereas Kansas Wesleyan University addresses all four themes of accreditation, and achieves them each at least in part, the Self-Study Steering Committee believes that Kansas Wesleyan University is worthy of continued accreditation.

## REQUEST FOR CONTINUED ACCREDITATION

Kansas Wesleyan University, by action of the Board of Trustees and on the basis of its self-examination in light of the accreditation criteria, respectfully requests the continuation of accreditation on the decennial cycle.

It is our firm conviction that in all areas of the life of the University significant achievements are being realized. The University is focused on its mission, has acquired and effectively organized adequate human, financial and physical resources to carry out its educational and other purposes, and is equipped and committed to continue to carry out its mission, in an ethical and self-reflective manner in the next decade.

We request no changes under “stipulations on affiliation status.”

We request no changes under “Degree Program.”

We request no change under “Off-campus Activities.”

## APPENDIX A: FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

### Credits, Program Length, and Tuition

Kansas Wesleyan University awards academic credits in semester hours. Credits and program length are comparable to credits and program length at other established institutions of higher education. Tuition is comparable to the tuition at other established private colleges in the Midwest. Credits, program length, and tuition are clearly stated in the official annual catalog.

### Federal Compliance Visits to Off-Campus Locations

Kansas Wesleyan University does not currently operate any off-campus educational programs.

### Professional Accreditation

Kansas Wesleyan University's Teacher Education Program has been accredited by the National Association for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since 2002, and continuously by the Kansas State Department of Education since 1947.

Kansas Wesleyan University's program in substance abuse counseling has been accredited by the State of Kansas SRS/Addiction and Prevention Services since July of 2003.

The Division of Nursing Education program is accredited by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC-initially NLN then changed to NLNAC) since October 9, 1989 and is accredited to 2012. The Division of Nursing Education has been approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing since March 14, 1988 and is approved to 2012.

The Athletic Training Program is sanctioned by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training. The Program was first approved for Kansas Wesleyan University on July 23, 2004 and will expire on July 31, 2009.

### Compliance with the Higher Education Reauthorization Act

Kansas Wesleyan University's most recent cohort default rates for the Stafford Loan and the Perkins Loan Programs are listed below:

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
STAFFORD LOAN	2.9	3.2	3.9	6.1	7.8	9.3	8.9	10	14.2	15
PERKINS LOAN	12	14.7	20.4	23.2	18.2	17.5	22.1	15.4	22.4	34.7

Kansas Wesleyan University's compliance with Title IV has never been

## APPENDIX A

an item of issue in any compliance audit or program review. All related documentation is available in the Office of Enrollment and Financial Services.

Kansas Wesleyan University's policies on privacy, non-discrimination, equity in athletics, disability services/ADA, sexual harassment, and the Drug-free Schools and Communities Act are detailed in the official annual Academic Catalog and Employee Handbook.

Kansas Wesleyan University established an Institutional Review Board in 2000 for the purposes of reviewing proposed research involving human participants. The Board is registered with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Registration Number IRB00003040), and has maintained requirements for Federalwide Assurance (FWA00004345). Policies were designed to be compliant with the Belmont Report and 45 CFR 46, and are available online at <http://www.kwu.edu/irb/>.

### **Advertising and Recruitment Materials**

To assure accurate consumer information in all publications, advertising, and recruitment materials, monitoring and coordination occurs through the Office of Public Relations with the approval of the appropriate Cabinet Officer for the area from which the material is generated. When Kansas Wesleyan University's affiliation with the Commission is referenced, contact information including the address and telephone number of the Commission is included.

### **Organizational Records of Student Complaints**

The office that handles most student complaints is the Office of Student Life. Complaints surrounding campus housing and discipline are kept on file in that office. Appeals for disciplinary action are heard by the University's Judiciary Committee with records kept in the Office of Student Life.

The office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean keeps all records relating to academic appeals. Some complaints are heard by the Academic Affairs Committee with the records kept in the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Academic Dean. The offices responsible for the policy of non-discrimination and sexual harassment are the Student Life Office and the Business Office. Individuals who believe they have been harassed may file a grievance with the Dean of Student Life or the Vice President for Finance and Administration.

### **Third Party Comment**

Kansas Wesleyan University solicited third party comments. Notices were placed in the Salina Journal and on the University's web site ([www.kwu.edu](http://www.kwu.edu)).

**Supporting Documentation**

Copies of the University Factbook, Assessment Plan, Program Review Policy, Recruitment Matrix, Catalogs, and Faculty, Employee, and Student Handbooks are available in the document room.