Undergraduate Educational Experience

- Second highest retention rate in K-State history
  - 90% by 2025
- Highest 6-year graduation rate ever
  - 70% by 2025
- Largest graduating classes in K-State history over the last four years
- Second highest freshman ACT average
The College of Engineering advisory council, or COEAC, is a group of industrial, business, legislative and professional leaders committed to the vitality of engineering education at Kansas State University. The council helps the College of Engineering strengthen its learning, research and outreach programs; improve its facilities; expand its base of support; and serve its alumni. Council members actively participate in the continual assessment of the college’s progress and development of college/industry partnerships.

**COEAC responsibilities**

The mission of the advisory council is to —

- Advise the college leadership team on programs, policies and operations;
- Facilitate resource development through advocacy for state and federal funding, internal campus budgeting, and corporate relationships and private gifts;
- Assist with placement of students;
- Recognize achievement of alumni and other college supporters;
- Assist with publicity and public relations; and
- Promote a connection among faculty, students, alumni and industry.
Chrysta Castañeda is a 1985 K-State graduate in industrial engineering. She obtained her J.D. in 1991 from Southern Methodist University, and has practiced law as a commercial litigator since that time, both as a partner in some of the world’s largest law firms and most recently as head of her own law firm. Her practice is based in Dallas, but she handles cases throughout Texas and nationwide, specializing in technical matters, and using her engineering training to head up trial teams in oil and gas disputes, products liability cases, intellectual property issues and other matters requiring technical expertise. She also has a companion business as a crisis and litigation communications expert, counseling clients facing public relations issues arising from governmental investigations and bet-the-company litigation.

A huge advocate for K-State and the College of Engineering, as well as a proud Wildcat football fan, Castañeda's enthusiasm stems in part from her unusual college career, which began with two years of study at Harvard where she earned dean's list honors. But she transferred to K-State in order to become an engineer like her dad, and eventually, her three younger siblings. Castañeda found K-State’s engineering school academically rigorous and the campus welcoming. She served in Blue Key, was named to the Knights of St. Patrick and was a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Today, she is an advocate for women in the legal profession and a triathlete. She is married and has two sons, one of whom is a 2014 K-State graduate.

Kevin Burke earned his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering with a minor in business management from Kansas State University. Since joining the Burke Construction Group in 1989, he has held various leadership positions within the organization, culminating in his appointment as president and CEO in 2001. Serving southern Nevada since 1984, Burke Construction Group currently holds licenses/registrations in 26 states. Burke was recognized in 2016 as one of Engineering News-Record Southwest Top Contractors and by Las Vegas Business Press/VEGASINC as one of the top local commercial general contractors. Burke’s portfolio includes projects completed for iconic brands such as PIRCH, Walmart, Credit One Bank, SolarCity, MGM Resorts, Mandarin Oriental and Caesars Entertainment; along with notable clients including Marnell Properties, Peccole Nevada, Focus Commercial and the Clark County School District.

Burke lends his industry knowledge through membership on the board of directors for the Nevada Contractors Association, the board of trustees for the Kansas State University Foundation and the Kansas State University College of Engineering Advisory Council. Additionally, he was the governor-appointed chairman from 2009-12 and continues to serve on the Nevada State Contractors board. Burke is also a member of several professional organizations including NAIOP, the Young Presidents Organization and the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance.

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Jim Coen is a managing member of Compton Construction Services LLC, a commercial general contractor in Wichita, Kansas. The company focuses on projects that involve design-build, new construction, renovations and restorations. Its construction projects involve industrial and hospitality buildings, churches, public and private schools, medical and assisted-care facilities, and retail and government structures.

A native of Wichita, Compton is a 1980 graduate of Kansas State with a degree in construction science and management. He began his career as a field engineer and project superintendent. He quickly moved into the office, gaining experience in operations, estimating and project management.

Compton Construction was founded in January 1997 with just one employee — himself. Today, he manages 20 employees as well as day-to-day operations. In recent years, completed contracts average more than $20 million, with projects located throughout Kansas and Oklahoma.

Compton takes time to give back to the construction industry and K-State in many ways. He is currently a member of the KSU Foundation board of trustees and athletic advisory council. Locally, he serves on the Wichita alumni board. He has served as a past member of the KSU Alumni Association board of directors, CNSM advisory board and co-president of the Wichita Catbackers Club.

He and his wife, Brenda, a 1977 graduate of K-State and retired teacher, share a passion for K-State. At the annual KSU Foundation board of trustees meeting held April 2017, they were awarded the Kansas State University Medal of Excellence recognizing exceptional service, leadership and philanthropic contributions. They reside in Wichita.

Jim Coen serves as vice president of MVP Holdings LLC, a diversified energy midstream company headquartered in Wichita, Kansas. MVP provides purchasing, aggregation, transportation, and storage solutions to oil and gas producers and other energy market participants throughout the Midcontinent region.

A native of Ottawa, Kansas, Coen earned bachelor’s degrees in civil engineering and business management in 1982 from Kansas State University. He began his career with Exxon Company USA in Midland, Texas, as a reservoir engineer in the Permian Basin of West Texas. After eight years of successive engineering roles with Exxon, he joined Koch Industries in Wichita, Kansas, as a pipeline engineer. Following stints in business development, market analysis and commercial marketing, he served as vice president of crude oil marketing for Koch Oil Company. After the sale of Koch Oil in 1998, Coen held various energy midstream roles with EQTT Energy and SemGroup Corporation before helping to form MVP Holdings in 2008, where he works today using his experience and expertise to assist with commercial marketing, trading and risk management.

Coen is married to Ann (Peterson) Coen, a 1982 graduate of Kansas State with a degree in education. They have three daughters who are also K-State graduates. The Coens reside in Wichita but enjoy trips to Manhattan to attend football and basketball games with family and friends.

Gib Compton is a managing member of Compton Construction Services LLC, a commercial general contractor in Wichita, Kansas. The company focuses on projects that involve design-build, new construction, renovations and restorations. Its construction projects involve industrial and hospitality buildings, churches, public and private schools, medical and assisted-care facilities, and retail and government structures.

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Lynda Mumford Dawson graduated from K-State with a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering in 1983. After graduation, she remained at home to raise her three children. In 1992, she joined W.L. Cassell and Associates as a plumbing engineer and, in 2000, switched to electrical engineering. In 2008, she was named an associate of the firm.

As a senior engineer and associate with W.L. Cassell, Dawson handles all phases of large and complex projects from preliminary design through construction observations, specializing in higher education, healthcare and government facilities markets. In addition, she was instrumental in the design of two Kansas City flagship projects — the Nelson Atkins Museum of Art and the Kaufman Center for the Performing Arts.

Dawson has remained active at K-State since her graduation in not only the engineering department, but also the alumni association and athletic department. In addition, she has been active in her church, holding several board positions including board president. She and her husband spent several years as youth group sponsors, taking the group on various mission trips. She has also been involved in fundraising events for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Dawson currently works part-time in order to spend time with her two small grandchildren and looks forward to her retirement later this year.

Darold D. Davis
Retired Transportation Senior Project Manager
Quality Control
Garver

Darold Davis is a retired professional engineer with an accomplished career in transportation engineering in Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Florida. A Kansas State University graduate in civil engineering, he began his career as a transportation engineer for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, also serving as assistant city engineer for Midwest City, Oklahoma. He was then hired as manager of engineering for Cunningham Consultants, Oklahoma City, from where he relocated to Tulsa to open and manage as president of the Cunningham-Davis-Stoldt Tulsa office.

A program management consultant for the Sverdrup Corporation in Tallahassee, Florida, he relocated to Kansas to serve as president of Cook, Flatt & Strobel Engineers. Davis came out of retirement to join Garver in October 2003, leading the Garver Tulsa office.

His project experience includes the I-244 multi-modal, double-deck bridge over the Arkansas River; I-44 widening and interchanges; US 169 widening; US 400, US 75, I-70, I-135 and I-435 numerous interchanges and intersection layouts; I-44 Turner Turnpike corridor study; and the current Midwest City I-40 widening study. Several of these included city bypass routes with significant public involvement and justification studies. Professional affiliations include American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, and serving as an officer for American Council of Engineering Companies and Institute of Transportation Engineers.

He and his wife, Debbie, live at Grand Lake where Davis continues to consult for Garver.

Lynda L. Dawson
Senior Electrical Engineer and Associate
W.L. Cassell and Associates

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Dawson currently works part-time in order to spend time with her two small grandchildren and looks forward to her retirement later this year.
A native of Wamego, Kansas, Roger Farrell earned a bachelor’s degree, magna cum laude, in civil engineering in 1975 from Kansas State University. He is currently chairman of the board of Intensity Midstream LLC, a private equity-backed natural gas gathering and processing company with significant midstream assets in the South Central Oklahoma Oil Province, or SCOOP, a top-five U.S. shale play.

Prior to Intensity, Farrell was CEO of Xplorer Midstream LLC, a start-up gathering and processing company in the SCOOP, and prior to that, president and COO of Southern Union Gas Services, a multi-billion dollar midstream business in the Permian Basin. Previously, Farrell was president and CEO of Enogex, the predecessor of Enable Midstream Partners, a natural gas pipeline company that owned both interstate and intrastate natural gas pipelines, as well as significant midstream assets. During his leadership, Enogex grew into one of the largest pipeline networks in the country.

Early in his career, Farrell was responsible for engineering designs on a diverse set of projects including a jet fuel terminal, refined products pipeline, tailings disposal and water-recovery system at a large open-pit copper mine, and a proprietary slurry fuel system aboard large crude oil carriers.

Farrell has served on the boards of directors of several profit and not-for-profit companies including Continental Resources, Oklahoma Energy Explorers, Infant Crisis Services of Oklahoma, Gas Processors’ Association, Southern Gas Association, Kansas Senior Living Inc. and SunPorch of Smith Center Inc.

Roger and his wife, Trish, have five children and live in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Rick Fornelli, P.E., a Lawrence native, is a Kansas State graduate in civil engineering, B.S. 1972 and M.S. 1973. He retired as a CH2M senior program manager in 2014. Fornelli’s career was primarily focused in water resource and environmental projects. He served CH2M in multiple engineering career roles including designer, project manager, construction manager, area manager for several offices and the initial USA western regional manager for CCI — CH2M’s design-build construction company. He was involved in numerous major municipal water/wastewater projects and led implementation of several of CH2M’s technically innovative projects, serving as planning and delivery director, and later as construction director, for Puerto Rico’s island-wide improvement of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Fornelli managed implementation of dust control for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s Owens Lake 110-square-mile lake bed, dry since the city of Los Angeles started diverting water from the Owens Valley in 1908. It was the largest single source of PM10 pollution in the United States. He was also the program manager to develop a wastewater master plan for the city and county of Honolulu, Oahu Island, and assisted with reaching a settlement with U.S. EPA.

His final program before retirement was the 25km Thames Tideway Tunnel CSO project in London, U.K., where he managed the program implementation plan for the £4.2 billion ($6 bn) project to augment the 1865 Victorian sewers built by Sir Joseph Bazalgette.

He served as a U.S. Army combat engineer officer. He and wife, Linda, live in Carlsbad, California.
Charles “Chuck” Grier has been president and CEO of UCI since 1991. After graduating from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in construction science, he began his career as a field engineer, working his way to project manager with a separate company before taking a position as general manager at Utility Contractors of Oklahoma Inc. He also graduated as a commissioned officer in the USAR-COE and spent eight years as a reserve combat engineer officer. Grier is a past president of state chapters of the Associated General Contractors of America in Kansas and Oklahoma. Within AGC of America, he has served on several committees and is a lifetime national director. In 2013, he co-authored the paper “Construction Kata: Adapting Toyota Kata to a Lean Construction Project Production System.” Over the years, Grier has been involved in the Wichita community having served as president of the executive board of the Quivira Council-Boy Scouts of America and on a number of other boards, including the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, Heartspring, Goodwill Industries along with several other chapters of local business-affiliated organizations. He currently serves as a director on a local/regional bank board.

Don Glaser
Retired Vice President, Product Development
Glendo LLC

After graduating from K-State in 1974 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Don Glaser then earned his master’s in mechanical engineering from Purdue as a graduate research assistant under an NSF grant. In 1975, he was hired by Procter & Gamble to join an advanced engineering group in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1977, Glaser co-founded a new product development and manufacturing company, Glendo Corporation, in his hometown of Emporia, Kansas. Glendo specialized in producing hand and power tools for jewelry production, watchmaking, hand engraving, fine assembly work and related fields. Beginning in 1988, he expanded Glendo’s marketing outside the United States with extensive personal travel and international trade exhibitions. A unique training center was also created for accelerated customer education with instructors and attendees from around the world. Today, the business actively sells its U.S.-made products in more than 70 countries. In 1998, Glendo received the Kansas Governor’s Exporter of the Year Award in recognition of its successful international business. Glaser holds 16 U.S. patents, 14 of which are used in commercial products. In 2013, he was asked to consider selling his business; the sale was concluded in 2014 and Glendo Corporation became Glendo LLC. Glaser’s strengths include new product development, product management and small- to medium-quantity manufacturing processes. In 2017, he and his wife, Linda, moved to Manhattan to retire. All three of their children are successful graduates of K-State. Glaser enjoys snow skiing, motorcycle touring, metal-working projects and family get-togethers. He does not consider himself retired.
Kevin Honomichl is vice president, government relations, for ONEOK Inc., responsible for oversight of company representation related to state and federal, legislative and regulatory activities for the 15 states where the company has operations.

Johnson began his career in 1975 as an engineer with the Gas Service Company, which later became Kansas Gas Service. In 1997, he was named executive director of rates and regulatory for Kansas Gas Service. He also served as manager of government affairs for the company and was promoted to director of government relations ONEOK in 2008.

Johnson has served as campaign chairman and president of the board for the United Way of Douglas County in Lawrence, Kansas, and has served on the board of directors for the Overland Park and Lawrence chambers of commerce. He has served as chair of the board of trustees for Leadership Kansas. He is a member of the Kansas State University Foundation trustees and a former member of the Kansas State University Alumni Association board of directors.

A native of Kansas, Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering in 1975 from Kansas State University and an MBA degree in 1979 from Pittsburg State University. He is married to Ann (Oldfield) Johnson, a graduate of K-State with a degree in early childhood education; and both of their children, Lesley and Christopher, are graduates of K-State.

Kevin Honomichl, P.E., P.S., is president of BHC Rhodes, a civil engineering and surveying firm headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas, that he co-founded in 1992. He received his bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University and master’s from the University of Kansas, both in civil engineering.

Honomichl began his career as a structural engineer at Black & Veatch where he performed structural steel design for power plant projects and led design projects for portions of AT&T’s initial transcontinental fiber-optic cable projects. He joined Ross Stephenson & Associates, Modesto, California, and continued his focus on fiber-optic telecommunication projects throughout the western United States. With colleagues, he launched Brungardt Honomichl & Company P.A. in June 1992, which they later rebranded to BHC Rhodes.

A 2011 graduate of Leadership Kansas, Honomichl served on the board of directors of the American Council of Engineering Companies-Kansas, including a term as national director, and is currently the group’s national political action committee chair for Kansas. He also chairs the board of directors of the Wyandotte County Economic Development Corporation, and has served 13 years on the De Soto, Kansas, planning commission, including three years as chairman.

Honomichl served on the K-State civil engineering advisory council and is a member of the board of trustees of the KSU Foundation. He received the Professional Progress Award from the K-State department of civil engineering and the Distinguished Service Award from Kansas State University.

He and his wife, Diane Honomichl, P.E. (CE 1986), have one son, Mikolas.

Steve Johnson is vice president, government relations, for ONEOK Inc., responsible for oversight of company representation related to state and federal, legislative and regulatory activities for the 15 states where the company has operations.

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Karl Miller is a solutions-focused senior executive with more than 30 years of success spanning construction, engineering and utilities, leveraging extensive experience in leading business turnarounds, and initiating management planning and training. A valuable asset for public and privately owned companies encountering compliance issues, stagnant sales, requiring talent management or acquisition integration, Miller’s broad areas of expertise include sales strategy, financial planning, process improvement implementation and compliance reporting.

Throughout his executive career, he has held leadership positions with Jingoli Power, Granite Construction, Kenny Construction Company, and Black & Veatch. He has been responsible for building sales from zero to more than $400M, leading changes in safety reporting to reflect actual incidents — changing processes and improving safety, and launching a new business in China. Additionally, Miller has started three successful companies and led efforts to increase sales to $435M. He has managed workforces of 1800 employees, and drafted operational and financial reporting plans that improved the corporate culture and increased profits. He is a proven leader, successfully integrating multiple acquisitions at companies.

Miller earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering with an emphasis on power from Kansas State University. As a seasoned board member, Karl has held board positions with Farm Team and Vistage. He is a member of the advisory council for the mechanical engineering department at K-State. His company hires, and offers management and vocational training to U.S. military veterans. Miller is a registered engineer in eight states.

Warren Kennedy joined Burns & McDonnell in 1990 and was named senior vice president of Houston operations for the oil, gas and chemical division in 2014. Prior to this, he had spent more than nine years as director of business development for the division, where he contributed greatly to the diversification and success of the group in the oil and gas, chemical, biofuel, and food and consumer product industries. Kennedy joined the company as a process engineer after completing a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from K-State in 1990. After six years, he transferred to the project management department, and spent eight years as a project engineer and project manager. He was named director of business development in January 2005 and promoted to vice president in 2008. In 2014, he relocated to Houston, Texas, and was named senior vice president.

Holding a seat on the board of directors of the Engineering and Construction Contracting Association, he is also a member of AIChE and NSPE. He has been active in the Construction Industry Institute and has served on the K-State chemical engineering department advisory board, including a term as chairman. In 2010, he was honored by K-State College of Engineering with the Professional Progress Award. Kennedy received an M.S. degree in engineering management from the University of Kansas in 1995. Kennedy and his wife, Gisela, have two children, Cameron, a K-state graduate, and Brianne, a K-State student. He and his wife are avid sports fans, holding season football tickets at K-State.

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Karl Miller
CEO
Jingoli Power

Warren Kennedy
Senior Vice President, Houston Regional Office Operations
Oil, Chemical and Gas Division
Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company Inc.

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Robert W. Reichenberger is president and founder of Solar Prime LLC, a Colorado-based renewable energy development and services company that he started in 2012. While heading up Solar Prime, he has led the development of more than 1,000MW of large-scale solar projects, including three operational projects totaling 400MW. Through Solar Prime’s services group, he created asset management platforms and conducted in-depth, solar project investment due-diligence for financing firms.

Prior to this, as head of SunEdison’s utility business in North America, Reichenberger led a $400M P&L responsible for securing and executing on solar power projects. Before embarking on his renewable energy career, he spent 16 years in the telecom industry in various sales and operations leadership roles.

Reichenberger holds a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering with honors from Kansas State University and an MBA from the University of Colorado. He lives in Denver, Colorado, with his wife, Becca, and two dogs. He enjoys food and wine, volunteering, snow skiing, hiking and various other outdoor activities.

Mark Nyquist, P.E., is the CEO of DynaTen Corporation — a mechanical contracting, service and engineering company located in the center of Dallas-Fort Worth. DynaTen’s market is centered on large healthcare infrastructure projects, hospitality, high-rise living units, offices and industrial projects. Nyquist graduated from K-State with a Bachelor of Science degree in construction science in 1980. He began his career in the engineering design and consulting business in Houston, Texas, and then pursued a career in the mechanical contracting business, beginning in 1982 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Nyquist and his wife, Jody, have two daughters and two grandsons, and live in Colleyville, Texas, in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

Robert W. Reichenberger
President and Founder
Solar Prime LLC

Mark Nyquist
CEO
DynaTen Corporation

He joined DynaTen in 1994 as the chief operating officer leading all engineering, pre-construction estimating and construction operations in the company. He became the chairman and CEO of DynaTen in 2004. In 2014, Nyquist led the company through a merger with Comfort Systems U.S.A., a publicly traded mechanical contracting and service business that operates in 80 cities throughout the U.S. and employs more than 8,000 people.

Nyquist and his wife, Jody, have two daughters and two grandsons, and live in Colleyville, Texas, in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.
Mark Schonhoff
Retired Vice President Software Development
Cerner Corporation

Mark Schonhoff retired from Cerner Corporation in January 2015 as a vice president in its RevWorks Intellectual Property organization. In that role, he was responsible for leading Cerner’s development efforts related to its revenue cycle solutions. He worked closely with a team of industry experts who focus on defining the roadmap for the software development organization and ensuring the engineering team delivers world-class software.
Schohnoff joined Cerner in 1988 as an application developer. He quickly moved into an engineering leadership position as Cerner began offering a patient management solution.

He became an engineering director when Cerner moved into the health information management area. Since then he has held a number of engineering executive positions across a variety of Cerner organizations. Schonhoff earned a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Kansas State University in 1988.

Sabrina Schriner
Founder and Principal Consultant
Business Excellence Consulting Inc.

Schriner graduated from Kansas State University with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. She began her career at Texas Instruments’ defense systems division as a guidance and control engineer, designing closed-loop control algorithms while validating a highly complex six-degree-of-freedom simulation. Following the design phases, she led the field test and evaluation program to successful customer acceptance.
Next, Schriner was recruited to General Electric where she held several leadership roles. As system engineering leader for the transportation division, she was responsible for the development life cycle of safety-critical rail control systems. Schriner then joined GE’s capital division leadership team, responsible for management of a $9 billion reinsurance asset that required coordination with global legal entities. Next, she was promoted to quality leader of GE’s environmental services division, formed from multiple acquisitions in various stages of integration. She was responsible for quality and reliability of a worldwide portfolio of emissions control technology with remote monitoring and diagnostics services. Meanwhile, she completed her M.S. in engineering management.
Schriner was recruited to Microsoft Corporation as senior director, delivering revenue and productivity gains by implementing strategic programs across global sales and services. Her portfolio included expansion of the partner ecosystem and increasing deal velocity for enterprise agreements. She then founded Business Excellence Consulting Inc., which specializes in delivering measurable revenue growth through business analytics and advanced process performance. Her current interest is in artificial intelligence applications. Schriner enjoys scuba diving and skiing getaways with her husband and sons; she is based in the Seattle area.
Mitch Snyder was named Bell president and chief executive officer in October 2015. Snyder joined Bell in 2004 and has held several leadership positions with the company. Most recently he served as executive vice president, military business, where he was responsible for providing strategic direction, overall management and performance for all government programs. Throughout his career at Bell, he has led a number of the company’s most strategic initiatives, including overall direction of the V-22 Osprey program.

Snyder has more than 30 years of experience in the aerospace and defense industry. Prior to joining Bell, he held several leadership positions with Lockheed Martin in engineering, business development, manufacturing and program management. He also has more than a decade of international experience working with customers in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Kansas State University, where he is a College of Engineering Alumni Fellow and Hall of Fame inductee.

Doug R. Sterbenz
National Speaker, Leadership Coach and Author
Present to Win LLC
Retired EVP and COO
Westar Energy

Retired from Westar Energy, Doug Sterbenz now takes his leadership experiences and helps aspiring leaders reach their full potential, and organizations reach their goals.

Sterbenz never imagined himself as a speaker, but has a passion for sharing the leadership lessons he has learned along the way. He has stories to tell because he has lived them and a proven track record of leading people to achieve success. He is often called to speak on leadership and safety, and has serious credibility on the topic of leadership from the shop floor to the executive suite.

He has a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Kansas State University, holds a professional engineering license and has a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas at Tyler. He believes in continuous learning and growing leaders.

Sterbenz currently serves on the board of directors for Topeka Community Foundation, and is a graduate of Leadership Topeka and Leadership Kansas. He has also served on numerous other boards.

He and his wife, Connie, have three children and live in Topeka, Kansas.
Art K. Umble
Vice President
Global Wastewater Practice Leader
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

Art Umble has a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University and a doctoral degree in the same discipline from the University of Notre Dame. He currently leads the global wastewater practice for Stantec, focusing on municipal and industrial wastewater treatment technologies with an emphasis on converting waste streams to value streams. Umble provides technical analysis and support to design teams for new and rehabilitated wastewater treatment plants, with a focus on nutrient removal and recovery facilities, process optimization for treatment capacity and energy management, wet weather treatment, solids processing and disposal facilities, disinfection systems, and reuse and emerging contaminant removal technology. In addition to consulting, his experience includes university teaching, and managing a publicly owned water and wastewater utility.

Umble is a national leader in initiatives involving promotion of environmentally sustainable systems, from watershed planning to pollution prevention. He serves in numerous state and national forums and stakeholder work groups related to emerging treatment technologies, sustainability in treatment and environmental regulation. He serves on numerous steering committees for the Water Environment Federation, or WEF, including the Leaders Innovation Forum for Technology, and serves as director for the Community of Practice for Resource Recovery for the WEF. He is also engaged in research by serving on the research advisory council for the Water Research Foundation and provides peer review for various collaborative research projects.

Steven Wade
Vice President
Attack Helicopter Programs
Senior Mesa Site Executive
Boeing Defense, Space & Security

Steven Wade is vice president of attack helicopter programs and senior site executive for The Boeing Company in Mesa, Arizona. Named to this position in June 2017, Wade leads the nearly 3,800 Boeing employees who design, produce, and support AH-64 Apache and AH-6 Little Bird helicopters for the U.S. Army and allied defense forces around the globe. Boeing’s Mesa operations are part of the company’s vertical lift business within Boeing Defense, Space & Security.

Prior to transition to Arizona, Wade served for nearly two years at Boeing in St. Louis as director of F-15 Middle East sustainment programs where he led all F-15 direct commercial sales and foreign military sales sustainment programs in the Middle Eastern region. He has worked as director and program manager for all H-47 U.S. military and foreign military sales Chinook programs including the CH-47D, CH-47F and MH-47G, and was responsible for day-to-day execution for business growth and development, manufacturing and delivery aspects for these aircraft.

Previously, Wade was general manager of Global Transport & Executive Systems, and the Boeing Wichita site executive. He joined Boeing in 1987 as a flight test engineer on the company’s military aircraft programs.

Wade earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering technology from Kansas State University. Currently, he is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the American Helicopter Society, the Association of the United States Army and the Army Aviation Association of America.
Beth Ward is senior vice president — supply chain, and a corporate officer at Hallmark Cards Inc. In this role, Ward is responsible for global supply chain planning, manufacturing, logistics, global procurement, product integrity and supply chain technical resources. She is passionate about the role supply chain plays in helping Hallmark win, and the importance of creating great teams to drive continuous improvement and collaboration across boundaries. Ward joined Hallmark in 1996 and has since gained a wide range of living and working experiences across the global organization — from Hong Kong where she served as managing director of Asia Pacific procurement, to Bentonville, Arkansas, where she was retail operations vice president for team Walmart and facilitated the creation of Hallmark’s new Walmart office. She also served as director of logistics services and general manager of order distribution at Hallmark’s Liberty Distribution Center. Prior to joining Hallmark, Ward worked as an industrial engineer for JC Penney. She holds a bachelor’s degree in industrial and manufacturing systems engineering from Kansas State University, and a master’s degree in engineering management from the University of Kansas. Ward has been an active community servant in Kansas City on behalf of the United Way and the Central Exchange. She is also currently a board member for Goodwill and an advisory council member for the College of Engineering at Kansas State University.

Cindy Wallis-Lage is president of Black & Veatch’s water business, and serves as a member of the company’s executive committee and board of directors. In this role, she leads a workforce of more than 2,800 professionals in more than 75 offices located in the United States, UK, Asia Pacific and India. Her responsibilities encompass Black & Veatch’s water-related business strategies, development and operations. As a licensed professional engineer, Wallis-Lage has played a leadership role on projects involving more than 100 facilities worldwide, helping public and private entities successfully develop, enhance and manage their water, wastewater and stormwater facilities, and infrastructure. On the basis of her experience and expertise, Wallis-Lage is recognized as a foremost expert in the treatment and reuse of water and wastewater resources, and she is a champion for water’s true value and its impact on sustainable communities. A dynamic leader of industry- and community-based organizations and programs, Wallis-Lage currently serves on the board of directors for the U.S. Water Alliance and the Water Research Foundation. She is also a strong advocate for education and careers in STEM, and serves as president on the board of directors for the Girl Scouts of Northeast Kansas and Northwest Missouri.

Cindy Wallis-Lage
President, Water Business
Black & Veatch

Beth Ward
Senior Vice President, Supply Chain
Hallmark
Michael R. Wiegers graduated from K-State with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering in 1982. After graduation, he joined King Radio in Olathe, Kansas, to design VHF aviation communication and navigation radios. During his 11-year career with King Radio, he worked in new technology areas such as flight-critical software and electronic display systems. In 1993, Wiegers joined Garmin as the lead engineer in marine product design. During his tenure, he has served in a variety of technical and business leadership capacities in all Garmin consumer product segments. Wiegers was named to his current position of vice president, consumer engineering, in 2010 and directs the day-to-day operations of Garmin’s worldwide consumer engineering group. He was named the College of Engineering 2018 Alumni Fellow at Kansas State University.

Warren K. Wray is provost and vice chancellor emeritus at Missouri University of Science and Technology. He served as provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs there from 2006-14, and as interim chancellor 2011-12. He was provost and senior vice president for academic and student affairs at Michigan Technological University; dean of the Fritz J. and Dolores H. Russ College of Engineering and Technology, and the Cruse Moss Professor of Engineering Education at Ohio University; and chair of the department of civil engineering at Texas Tech University. He is a registered professional engineer in three states; a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and chair of its codes and standards committee; and a diplomate in the Academy of Geo-Professionals. He retired from the USAF active reserves with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Wray has been principal or co-principal investigator in more than 20 geotechnical and transportation engineering research projects, and has published more than 50 technical articles or significant research reports, and one textbook. He has made more than 30 invited technical presentations, and has served as an instructor in 10 short courses on design and construction of slabs-on-ground sponsored by the American Concrete Institute, Post-Tensioning Institute, U.S. Army Engineers Waterways Experiment Station and the World of Concrete. He holds a B.S. in physics from Washburn University, B.S. in civil engineering from Kansas State University, M.S. in civil engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and Ph.D. in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.