

Leslie (Les) Wyatt, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin, 1974.
- M.F.A. University of Texas at Austin, 1971.
- B.F.A. University of Texas at Austin, 1969.
- B.A. Abilene Christian University, 1968.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Professor of Higher Education and Art, Arkansas State University, August 2013-present

- Courses taught:
 - CSPS 6383 College Student Personnel Services Practicum (Graduate)
 - ELAD 6333 Organization and Administration of College Student Personnel Services (Graduate)
 - CSPS 6363 Development and Advancement in Higher Education (Graduate)
 - ELAD 6323 Organization and Governance of Higher Education (Graduate)
 - Art 2503 Fine Arts Visual (Undergraduate)

Sabbatical Leave granted by Arkansas State University, January-July 2013

Senior Consultant, Academic Partnerships, July 2010-December 2012

Academic Partnerships provides marketing, enrollment, technology, and student-success strategies to public universities and university systems. Detailed information is available at www.academicpartnerships.com.

- Reported directly to Mr. Randy Best, Chairman and CEO, Best Associates LLC.
- Responsibilities included:
 - Provided information to the company and universities about issues, policies, regulations, and practices in higher education.
 - Met with faculty, staff, administrators, and organizations about qualitative issues, marketing, technologies, and success strategies.
 - President, American University System, Washington D.C.
 - Provided counsel for the expansion of Witney University System, LLC, a private-equity company incorporating higher education institutions in Latin America, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.

- Collaborative accomplishments:
 - Increased the number of public university and system partners from three to forty, and increased revenues, profits and EBITDA of company.
 - Improved quality of online course offerings by adoption of Quality Matters rubrics and continuous assessment techniques.
 - Met with faculty, staff and executives at 100+ universities and systems.
 - Improved financial support for faculty and campus operations, increased student retention and completion rates, and reduced costs of enrollment.
- Left Academic Partnerships to return to academic appointment as professor, Arkansas State University.

President, Arkansas State University System, July 2005-June 2010

The Arkansas State University System was created in 2005 to include a comprehensive residential research university, community colleges, technical colleges, and economic development and research institutes. The system operates in fifteen communities and is the second largest system in the state with 22,000 students and 2,500 faculty and staff. A Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor and approved by the Arkansas Senate governs the system and hires the president. Detailed information is available at www.asusystem.edu.

- Reported directly to the Board of Trustees, Arkansas State University.
- Responsibilities included:
 - Selection and direction of the campus chancellors.
 - Selection and direction of the system staff including the vice- presidents and directors for operations, internal audit, legal affairs, government relations, and university foundation.
 - Recommendation and implementation of board-approved policies and procedures.
 - Coordination of system and campus planning activities.
 - Coordination of financing, construction, maintenance and operation of new university facilities.
 - Recommendation and implementation of annual and biennial operating budgets.
 - Organization and oversight of regional and discipline-based accreditation activity.
 - Recommendation and implementation of academic and staff professional development, personnel appointments, employment conditions and employee benefit programs.
 - Development and implementation of legislative, governmental and external private support efforts.
 - Internal and external constituent and stakeholder relations.
 - Primary public representative for the university and higher education in the state, region and nationally.
 - Thesis and dissertation committee participation.

- Collaborative accomplishments:
 - Completed successful transition to system president and campus chancellor arrangement.
 - Developed vision for a higher education system based on collaboration of campuses to increase access, productivity, quality, and value.
 - Created a system of public higher education with dedicated appropriations and operating authority.
 - Established four campuses with separate accreditation, appropriations and administrations.
 - Merged two independent colleges into the system.
 - Developed statewide formula funding model to address new campuses.
 - Developed workforce partnerships with international and domestic corporations and businesses.
 - Developed technical training and economic development institutes.
 - Completed campus facilities and infrastructure projects detailed in master plans.
 - Completed university centennial celebrations.
 - Achieved research campus designation within state funding plan, and completed provisions for Arkansas Biosciences Institute.
 - Initiated online degree offerings at two and four-year campuses.
 - Created economic development relationships with state that led to international industrial and corporate recruitment, plant location and education programs at several system campuses.
- Named President Emeritus, Arkansas State University.
- Left position of President, Arkansas State University System to become Senior Consultant, Academic Partnerships.

President and CEO, Arkansas State University-Jonesboro, July 1995-June 2005

The Jonesboro campus of Arkansas State University was created in 1909 as a regional institution. The campus enrolls 15,500 students, many of whom are first-generation participants who are academically unprepared. The university has 70,000 alumni worldwide, an annual operational budget of \$250,000,000, an endowment of \$15 million, annual grant activity of \$40 million, instructional sites in twelve locations, and 3,000 students online. 45 degrees and certificates in 160 fields of study are offered. Detailed information is available at www.astate.edu.

- Reported directly to the Board of Trustees, Arkansas State University.
- Responsibilities included:
 - Leadership for a residential campus with full services.
 - Oversight of high-quality and affordable student-centered programs in face-to-face and distance teaching and learning.
 - Development of applied and sponsored research activities.
 - Selection and direction of campus officers, vice presidents, and directors.

- Development, implementation and oversight of a participatory shared governance system.
- Development, distribution, and creation of broad public awareness of the mission of the university.
- Attainment of discipline-based and regional accreditations.
- Development of strategic and campus master plans.
- Recommendation and implementation of annual budgets, fiscal management systems, financing and bonding programs, audits and financial reporting.
- Recommendation and implementation of academic and support program policies, personnel appointments, promotion, tenure and retention decisions, employment conditions, and employee benefits.
- Development and implementation of fundraising and capital planning initiatives.
- Primary public representative for the university.
- Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in art history and education.
- Collaborative accomplishments:
 - Developed vision statements for growth and transformation of the university based on stakeholder values and aspirations.
 - Increased undergraduate, graduate and transfer student enrollments, and FTE student participation.
 - Changed from an open admissions system to a more selective admissions system, which improved academic quality of entering students, and increased retention and graduation outcomes.
 - Developed and implemented a shared governance system that included faculty, staff and students.
 - Developed a representative system for campus-wide planning and budgeting.
 - Gained approvals for masters and PhD programs and obtained grant funding and appropriations to support them.
 - Expanded access to programs through creation of face-to-face degree granting centers across the state.
 - Converted the former commuter campus to a pedestrian-focused residential campus with student housing, student activities and academic support centers, food services, bookstores, recreational facilities, parking facilities, transportation system, emergency services, student health center, private religious centers, Honors College student housing, and Greek system housing.
 - Created the Office for Diversity and Ethnic Affairs and appointed its director as Special Assistant to the President.
 - Developed faculty and staff performance recognition and incentive rewards systems.
 - Expanded student government to include minority student and graduate student representation and participation.

- Developed advisory and visitors groups for all academic colleges, departments and programs.
- Completed a capital campaign and obtained the largest individual gifts, many foundation and corporate grants, and the largest state and federal earmarks ever directed to the university.
- Worked with governors to create a statewide initiated act to direct tobacco settlement funds to education and research programs, and to create the Arkansas Biosciences Research Institute housed on the campus.
- Developed NCAA division 1 athletic program for women's and men's teams.
- Created the presidential evaluation system.
- Obtained new and continuing accreditation authorizations for the campus and its academic programs.
- Left position of President, Arkansas State University-Jonesboro to become President, Arkansas State University System.

Vice Chancellor for Executive Affairs, The University of Mississippi, July 1988-June 1995

The University of Mississippi was created in 1848 and is the flagship campus of the state higher education community. The main campus in Oxford is an historic residential, doctoral degree-granting research university with ten colleges including law and pharmacy. The University of Mississippi Medical Campus is in Jackson, and houses programs in medicine, nursing and dentistry. The university enrolls 21,000 students, including many multi-generation family participants. Ole Miss has an endowment of \$470 million, and is designated as a space and sea grant university. Four branch campuses award certificates and associate degrees. Detailed information is available at www.olemiss.edu.

- Reported directly to Chancellor R. Gerald Turner.
- Responsibilities included:
 - Coordination of and frequent interaction with vice chancellors for academic affairs, student affairs, finance and administration, the medical campus, University Counsel, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, and Director of Computing and Information Services.
 - Governmental relations officer.
 - Directed offices of University Planning and Research, Affirmative Action, Compliance, Internal Audit, and Master Planning.
 - Oversight of renovation and new construction.
 - Direction of university-wide committees.
 - Executive staff recruitment.
 - Oversight of development strategy for increased university access.
 - Coordination and oversight of the Oxford campus shared governance system.
 - Coordination of the University Planning Committee.

- Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in art and business.
- Collaborative accomplishments:
 - Achieved diversity in executive administrative positions.
 - Supported federal authorization and funding for five national centers for sponsored research.
 - Supported authorization and funding for the School of Dentistry.
 - Oversaw and coordinated the development of three University Centers for associate degree and transfer students.
 - Oversaw development of campus supercomputer project and implementation of personal computing and server-driven networks.
 - Coordination of campus master plan with a vision for future growth and development of the Oxford campus.
 - Oversight of renovation or construction of seventeen buildings, including five antebellum structures, effective traffic and circulation systems, and prize-winning campus landscape developments.
 - Creation of University Staff Council.
- Left the University of Mississippi to become President, Arkansas State University.

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, July 1983-June 1988

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock was created in 1969 as a comprehensive metropolitan university. UALR enrolls 13,000 students in over 100 areas of study, and awards associate through doctoral degrees. The UALR Law School is located in downtown Little Rock. The university shares programs with the Clinton School for Public Service. The central mission of the university is to provide education, service and research for Little Rock, the state's largest city, seat of state government, and business center of the state economy. Information can be found at www.ualr.edu.

- Reported directly to Chancellor James H. Young.
- Responsibilities included:
 - Initiation of external relations functions, including Development, Alumni Relations, publications, public relations, and foundation relations.
 - Organized and completed the first university capital campaign.
 - University liaison to state government and the General Assembly.
 - External constituent and stakeholder relations.
 - Oversaw NCAA division-1 intercollegiate athletic program.
 - Directed university foundation.
- Collaborative accomplishments:
 - Created vision and case statement for growth and development of the university related to civic engagement, teaching, service and applied research.
 - Completed capital campaign exceeding goal.

- Organized master plan project to change from commuter campus to become capable of residential facilities and services developments.
- Relocated the UALR Law School.
- Created advisory, visitors and stakeholders groups to support academic programs.
- Supported reaccreditation and accreditation efforts of academic units.
- Oversaw first athletic team appearances in postseason tournaments.
- Began relationships between local and state chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, industrial development and workforce training departments.
- Left the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to become Vice Chancellor for Executive Affairs at the University of Mississippi.

Academic Dean, College of Fine Arts, the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, July 1977-June 1983

- Reported directly to Provost James Fribourgh.
- Responsibilities included:
 - Personnel and academic programs in four departments.
 - Development of community outreach programs.
 - Facilities construction, renovation and scheduling of public venues.
 - Coordination and effective interaction with local, state and regional organizations.
 - Provided professional development, presentation and exhibition activities for resident faculty, guest artists and exhibitors, and academic forums dealing with history and criticism of the arts.
 - Marketing arts events.
 - Audience development.
 - Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in art history.
- Collaborative accomplishments:
 - Added faculty and staff as enrollment increased.
 - Added fifth department to increase breadth of academic programs.
 - Created the Community School for the Arts, a training program for young students in the schools.
 - Acquired an historic auditorium for performances downtown.
 - Developed partnerships and programmatic exchanges with communities around the state and region.
 - Assumed leadership roles in arts and support organizations at local, state, regional and national levels.
 - Developed professional development support for faculty.
 - Increased attendance at arts programs, exhibitions, festivals and public forums organized by the college.
- Left the position of Dean of Fine Arts to become Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts, the University of Texas at Austin, July 1975-June 1977

The University of Texas at Austin was founded in 1883 and is the flagship campus of the University of Texas System. It is a comprehensive research university that enrolls 51,000 students, has 23,000 faculty and staff, and has an endowment of \$2.8 billion. Detailed information is available at www.utexas.edu.

- Reported to Dean Peter Garvie.
- Responsibilities included:
 - Facility planning for new performance and exhibition venues.
 - Graduate advisor, MFA in Arts Administration.
 - Plan II Honors Program organization.
 - Interdisciplinary degree adviser.
 - Curation of exhibits.
 - Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the College of Fine Arts and LBJ School for Public Affairs, and directed theses.
- Collaborative accomplishments:
 - Developed concepts and plans for the College of Fine Arts Performing Arts facility.
 - Oversaw graduate students in MFA program, LBJ School Public Policy seminar, and thesis students.
 - Developed curriculum for Plan II, College of Arts and Sciences.
 - Curated two exhibits in the UT Art Museum and the Harry Ransom Center.
- Left the University of Texas at Austin to become Dean of Fine Arts, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Assistant Dean, College of Fine Arts, the University of Texas at Austin, July 1971-June 1974

- Reported directly to Dean E. W. Doty.
- Responsibilities included:
 - Coordination of college student academic office.
 - Scholarship student recruitment, audition and award.
 - Museum exhibition curator and juror.
 - Taught undergraduate courses in education, and theses.
- Collaborative accomplishments;
 - Advised degree plans of 2,000 students through matriculation.
 - Auditioned and reviewed portfolios for competitive scholarship awards for 100+ students.
 - Worked with gallery and museum directors to screen, select, prepare and install art in private, public and university galleries in several cities.

- Left Assistant Dean position to become Associate Dean.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Higher Education Organizations
 - Former Member, Higher Education Working Group, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D. C.
 - Former Chair, Professional Development Committee; Former Member, State Representatives Committee, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington.
 - Former Member, Economic Development Committee, American Public and Land-Grant Universities, Washington.
 - Former Member, American Council for Education, Washington.
 - Former Director, Centro Universitario Jorge Amado, Salvador, Brazil.
- Arts and Cultural Organizations
 - Former Chair, Meadows Scholars Recruitment Committee, Southern Methodist University.
 - Former Member, Executive Committee, Meadows School for the Arts, Southern Methodist University.
 - Former Director, Discovery Museum of Arkansas, Little Rock.
 - Former Director, Southern Arts Federation, Atlanta, GA.
 - Former Director, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Kansas City, MO.
 - Former President, Ballet Arkansas, Little Rock.
 - Former Director, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock.
 - Former Director, Arkansas Film Commission, Little Rock.
 - Former Director, Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, Oxford, MS.
 - Former Director, Arkansas Arts Council, Little Rock.
- Philanthropic Organizations
 - Former Director, Arkansas State University Foundation.
 - Former Chair, United Way Annual Campaigns in Jonesboro, AR., and Oxford, MS.

