

RESUME SUMMARY

LESLIE WYATT

1995 - 2010 - President, Arkansas State University System

- Reports directly to Board of Trustees appointed by Governor.
- Chief Executive Officer of a system of higher education institutions, including a comprehensive residential campus, community college campuses, technical college campuses, and economic development and research institutes.
- Responsibilities include: selection and direction of chancellors; executive staff selection and direction for university foundation, operations, internal audit, attorney, and governmental relations; recommendation and implementation of board-approved university policies; coordination of system and campus planning activities; coordination of financing, construction, maintenance and operation of university facilities; recommendation and implementation of annual and biennial operating budgets; recommendation and implementation of policies regarding academic and support program development, personnel appointments, and employment conditions; development of legislative, governmental and external support efforts; internal and external constituent relations; primary public representative for the university; leadership for the university and higher education in the state, region, and nationally.
- Affiliations include: Professional development and governmental affairs committees – American Association of State Colleges and Universities; Associated Council for Excellence; Arkansas Museum Association; American Council for Education; corporate and public boards and commissions.

1995 - 2003 – Chief Executive Officer, Jonesboro Campus, Arkansas State University

- Reported directly to Board of Trustees appointed by Governor.
- Responsibilities included: leadership for the residential campus offering associate-doctoral degrees; student-centered programs in residential and distance teaching/learning; campus, community, regional and statewide services; and applied and sponsored research activities; selection and direction of campus officers, vice presidents, and athletic director; development and oversight of campus mission, accreditations, and strategic planning processes; development of campus master plans; recommendation and implementation of annual budgets, fiscal management systems, financing and bonding programs, and fiscal reporting; recommendation and implementation of academic and support program policies, personnel appointment, promotion, tenure, retention, and employment conditions; oversight of shared governance system; development and implementation of campus fundraising programs and capital campaign planning; primary public representative for the campus.
- Academic appointment as tenured Professor of Higher Education and Art History.

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

- Reported to Chancellor R. Gerald Turner, Ph.D.
- Responsibilities included: day-to-day administration of chancellor's office; coordination of vice chancellors for academic affairs, finance and administration, student affairs, university development, university medical campus (Jackson), and directors reporting to chancellor; intercollegiate athletic program oversight; planning oversight for 17 facility construction or renovation projects, campus master plan, and landscape master plan; university-wide committees; executive staff recruitment branch campus development (Southaven and Tupelo); organization of shared governance system; legislative liaison.
- Academic appointment as Professor of Art History.

1983 - 1988 – Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, The University of Arkansas at Little Rock

- Reported to Chancellor James H. Young, Ph.D.
- Responsibilities included: development and implementation of external relations units; chief university development officer; legislative liaison; external constituent relations; intercollegiate athletic program oversight; university foundation director.
- Academic appointment as Associate Professor of Art History.

1977 - 1983 - Academic Dean, College of Fine Arts, The University of Arkansas at Little Rock

- Reported to Provost James Fribourgh, Ph.D.
- Responsibilities included: personnel and program development in five academic departments; community school administration; facilities construction and renovation; coordination with local and statewide governmental and cultural organizations.
- Academic appointment as Associate Professor of Art History.

1975 - 1977 - Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts, The University of Texas at Austin

- Reported to Dean Peter Garvie.
- Responsibilities included: capital facility planning and development of Harry Ransom Center, art museums, classroom and laboratory spaces, and the UT performing arts center; graduate adviser; honors program director; student recruitment; and museum exhibition curator.
- Academic appointment as Assistant Professor of Art History and Adjunct Professor, Lyndon B. Johnson School for Public Affairs.

1971 - 1975 - Assistant Dean, College of Fine Arts, The University of Texas at Austin

- Reported to Dean E. W. Doty, Ph.D.
- Responsibilities included: coordination of college student office; student recruitment; and museum exhibition curator.
- Academic appointment as Instructor of Art History.

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

BIRTHDATE: August 24, 1945

FAMILY: Married to Jeanne Cogburn Wyatt
Three grown children

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Dr. Leslie Wyatt
President
Arkansas State University System

I am Les Wyatt, president of the Arkansas State University System in Jonesboro, Arkansas. I want to tell you how EDA grants have built capacity at our university, how that new capability has resulted in economic development in our region, and finally I will describe a tangible outcome of this activity which will affect the lives of you and your children.

I live in the First Congressional District of Arkansas, represented by Congressman Marion Berry, a member of the House Appropriations Committee. This district is in the Mississippi River Delta of Arkansas and has some of the richest land and poorest people in America. Our regional economies have traditionally been based upon agriculture and manufacturing, two economic sectors which have declined in profitability and have lost many jobs over the last century. Our region's products have had value added and profits taken outside our region, and most recently by off-shore interests. As the result, our communities are dwindling, our schools are inadequate, our future is challenging, and our prayers are constant.

Arkansas State University was created 100 years ago to serve the students of this region. We do so with a wide variety of academic programs which have produced 60,000 alumni. A large majority of them live in the First District where they form the basis for hope for economic growth and sustainability.

We are at the eastern edge of the regional EDA district overseen by Mr. Pedro Garza and his staff in Austin, Texas. Mr. Garza has long been concerned for the economic conditions of eastern Arkansas. He has provided support, expertise, assistance, and encouragement to many agencies in our state, including to our university. Mr. Garza and his staff

are problem solvers and are entrepreneurial in their outlook for our future. They have been patrons when we badly needed patronage. Their investments are paying off, and in a moment I will describe a perfect example of return on investment.

EDA has provided support for economic development centers which are situated on several university campuses in our state. The Delta Center for Economic Development, on our campus, provides assistance and information to small and large businesses, government agencies, communities, and individuals. The Delta Center has also received support from EDA to construct a facility where assistance can be given, where data can be kept and generated, and where a staff is based for outreach across the region. There is no comparable economic engine in our region, and the Delta Center would not exist were it not for EDA support. We, and thousands of citizens in East Arkansas, are grateful for the EDA financial support for the Economic Development Center at Arkansas State University.

The Delta Center staff also works closely with the state's economic development agency, local Chambers of Commerce, and city officials across the region to recruit new business and industry to our area, a process frequently supported by a productive relationship between Mr. Berry; Mr. Garza; our state's governor, Mike Beebe; and a host of other collaborators. Our campus resource, the Delta Center for Economic Development, has been a player in most of these projects across the region thanks to EDA support for staff, programs, and facilities on our campus. The campus-based economic development center is a model you can be proud of.

On a parallel track, our campus also received support from the state to create a research initiative called the Arkansas Biosciences Institute. The purpose of this initiative is to study plant materials which may be produced or modified to improve the lives of Arkansans, often at the intersection of medicine and agriculture. We are particularly interested in health benefits from plants which may be consumed by domestic livestock or humans, for both chronic and acute diseases. The Biosciences Institute is five years old; it has a staff of research scientists from around the world, and is successful in competitive grant awards from a number of federal and health-related agencies.

The Biosciences Institute has also received significant support from EDA to create an incubator facility to move research from benches in the labs toward commercialization of products and processes. Several small companies have been created based on patents received through these research and development activities, thanks again to EDA.

So, I have described support from EDA which sustained the Delta Center for Economic Development, a business organization, and EDA support which created an incubator, a research organization. The two came together for an important economic development project which will affect you and your families and your constituents.

Our state recruited a New York company called Nice-Pak. Nice-Pak has produced billions of disposable wipe products for sanitary, cosmetic, medical, and hygienic applications. You have used these products. Every citizen has used these products at restaurants, medical facilities, beauty shops, retail stores, day-care centers, and nurseries across the country.

The CEO of Nice-Pak, Mr. Robert Julius, worked with the state Economic Development Agency to identify a production facility in our city where he could expand his production lines. During these negotiations, our Delta Center worked closely with company officials to address their questions and provide decision information, using the facility and staff supported by Mr. Garza's grants. Eventually, Nice-Pak located their operation in Jonesboro and is now up and running.

Mr. Julius was rightly concerned about the environmental effect of his products, because a billion foil packets and used wipes will enter our landfills. Mr. Julius and one of their customers, the Wal-Mart Corporation, decided to seek a more environmentally friendly packaging and application material. They turned to our campus for assistance and the value of EDA support became quickly evident.

It happens that researchers in our Biosciences Institute have investigated properties of plant cellulose, primarily for ethanol considerations, but their expertise can also be applied to materials science, as well. Cellulose is abundant in plant materials in our region due to agriculture and fertile soil, but new commercial applications for cellulosic materials in the plants all around us, if developed, could mean new financial gains for our region. So in the incubator facility supported by EDA, these scientists met with the Nice-Pak team to begin to understand how cellulosic materials can be used, instead of foil, to contain the wipes, and how the wipes themselves may be based on plant materials to deliver the product to consumers, one wipe at a time, and many times. The world-wide distribution potential through Wal-Mart and other product vendors is huge.

The outcome of this effort will literally touch millions of users throughout this nation. The aftereffect will be biodegradable materials which can be safely returned to the earth, which will help us preserve the planet for our children. So this is a win-win-win-win-win proposition.

A prime sponsor for all of this has been our regional EDA office, Mr. Garza, and his staff, and because of your appropriations. If I could offer a request, it would be that you continue support for our regional offices of EDA and, through them, the university centers and grants across the United States. The EDA office in our region has an excellent staff, but we need more of them. Finally, a little money from EDA has produced many tangible benefits for many people in a region where even modest improvements are valuable. I thank you for directing the peoples' money for this work, which will benefit the citizens of our country, and bring new prosperity to our region.