



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

Emporia State University Presidential Search Committee Member Bios

Greg Kossover, Chair

Gregory H. Kossover has served as Executive Vice President of Equity Bank since October 2013, as Chief Financial Officer from 2013 to 2020 and COO beginning in July of 2020. Kossover has served as a member of the board of directors since December 2011. Prior to joining the company, Kossover was President of Physicians Development Group, a builder and manager of senior living facilities in the Wichita area. He was Chief Executive Officer of Value Place, LLC, one of the largest economy extended-stay lodging franchises in the United States. Kossover previously served as Treasurer of Western Financial Corporation, a publicly held thrift holding company. Kossover graduated from Emporia State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and has successfully completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountants exam.

Cynthia Lane

Dr. Cynthia Lane has more than 36 years of professional experience in the field of education. Dr. Lane is currently the CEO of Evolve Education Leadership, LLC, and serves on both the Governor's Council of Education and the Advantage Kansas Coordinating Council. Dr. Lane was the superintendent of Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools from 2010 to 2018, and received her Ed.D. from the University of Kansas along with her M.S. and B.S. Ed. from Pittsburg State University. Dr. Lane was appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents in June 2021.

Blake Flanders

Blake Flanders serves as President and CEO for the Kansas Board of Regents. The Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state's six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (seven public universities, nineteen community colleges, and six technical colleges). In addition, the Board administers the state's student financial aid, adult education, GED, and career and technical education programs. The Board also authorizes private proprietary schools and out-of-state institutions to operate in Kansas.

Prior to serving as President and CEO, Blake served as the Vice President for Workforce Development for the Board of Regents and as the liaison between the Board and the Kansas Department of Commerce. Blake is a graduate of Colby Community College and Kansas State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, Master of Science in Animal Science, and Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction. Before joining the Board office, he served as Vice President of Instructional

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Services at Manhattan Area Technical College, and as a member of the faculty at Butler Community College. Blake and his wife, Risa, have three children and reside in Topeka.

Joan Brewer

Dr. Joan Brewer currently serves as the Dean of The Teachers College at Emporia State University. Prior to becoming Dean, Brewer held the role of Associate Dean, leading the University through a successful Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation. As a result of this accreditation work, ESU was recognized as an inaugural recipient of the Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement, an award recognizing those institutions that receive no areas for improvement or stipulations. Brewer is a full professor in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and has served as a department chairperson. An ESU alum (BSE '91; MS '94), Brewer has been a faculty member at ESU for 20 years. She has numerous publications and presentations, including a multi-sport curriculum used by the USA Triathlon Association. Brewer has received the American Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) Mabel Lee Award, the Central District AAHPERD Honor Award, an ESU Teachers College Outstanding Recent Graduate recognition, and the Ervay Family Award for Applied Scholarship. Brewer is a Kansas licensed teacher in mathematics, physical education, and computer studies. She is also a Certified Exercise Physiologist through the American College of Sports Medicine.

Brenda Koerner

Dr. Brenda Koerner is the President of the Faculty at ESU. Prior to her election to Faculty Senate leadership, she served as the chair of the Academic Affairs committee for two years, and has been a member of Faculty Senate since 2016. She is also an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at ESU, teaching courses in ecology, botany, and biology education. Her current areas of research are management of invasive plant species, fire ecology, and plant-microbe interactions. She has been a member of the faculty at ESU since 2005.

Greg Larson

Greg Larson is the Budget/Project Coordinator for Information Technology at Emporia State University. He has worked in several positions during his 30-year career at ESU, including MU Bookstore manager, MU Assistant Director for Business Operations, and ESU Ticket Manager. He serves as president of the Staff Senate and led the combining of Unclassified Professional Senate and University Support Staff Senate into one group. He has served on the Memorial Union Board of Directors, the Parking Committee, Faculty Senate (2 terms), the Technology Committee, Emporia Friends of the Library Board, and Messiah Lutheran Church Board of Elders. He has three children and a niece who have attended ESU and have earned six degrees. He also is a member of the Kellogg Society, whose members commit legacy estate gifts to the University.

Erin Mykleby

Erin Mykleby graduated from Luther College in 2012 with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education, while also receiving her Master's Degree from the University of Iowa in Sports Management in 2014. She has served as Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator at Emporia State University since 2021 and currently serves on several national committees with the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Woman Leaders in College Sports, and the Minority Opportunities Athletic Association.

Prior to Emporia State, Mykleby served as the Assistant Athletic Director of Development at New Mexico State University, as well as the Assistant Athletic Director at Saint Leo University. Additionally, Mykleby has previously worked at the United States governing body for Track and Field (USATF), and also gained international experience as a coach and administrator overseas at Antwerp International School.

John Rich

John Rich is an Emporia State University Professor of Accounting Emeritus (Ph.D & CPA - Inactive) 1968 – 2020. He served as Department Chair, Associate Dean, Interim Dean, and Acting Assistant Vice-President. As a faculty athletics representative, Rich was elected President of the MIAA and chaired the NCAA Division II Academics Requitement Committee. He also co-chaired the ESU Now & Forever Endowment Campaign. Rich received the University and Athletics Service Awards and the Xi Phi Outstanding Faculty Award. Currently he is a member of the ESU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Jerald Spotswood

Jerald Spotswood is a Professor of English and Dean of the Graduate School, Distance Education, and Research and Grants at Emporia State University. Previously, Spotswood served as Chair of the Languages and Literature Department at Eastern New Mexico University, Endowed Chair of Shakespeare Studies at West Texas A&M University, and Assistant Dean of the Graduate School at Fort Hays State University. At ESU, Spotswood has led accelerated online program (AOP) efforts within the Graduate School and open educational resource (OER) efforts across campus.

R. Brent Thomas

Brent Thomas is the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences. He joined the Hornet Nation in 1999 as a member of the biology faculty, and later served as the Department Chair for about six years prior to being named as the dean of the college in 2014. An opportunity to participate in an undergraduate research project outside of the traditional classroom setting had an enormous impact on his career and life. Dr. Thomas believes that high impact learning experiences such as these serve as effective mechanisms to change lives for the common good, and he values ESU's long tradition of providing students with such opportunities. In all his roles at ESU, he has served as a passionate spokesman and effective advocate of building upon this tradition by expanding opportunities for high-impact learning within the Hornet Nation. Dr. Thomas received his bachelor's degree in biology from the University of the Ozarks (Clarksville, Arkansas), a master's degree in biology from Southwest Missouri State University (Springfield, Missouri), and a doctorate from Mississippi State University (Starkville, Mississippi). Prior to joining the Hornet Nation, he served as a member of the biology faculty for seven years in the Department of Natural Sciences & Engineering at the University of South Carolina Upstate (Spartanburg, South Carolina). He and his wife, Stephanie, live in Emporia and are the proud parents of two current students at Emporia State University.

Xavier Cason

Xavier Cason is a senior at Emporia State University who is majoring in elementary education. On campus, Cason serves as Vice President of the Black Student Union group and is an Iron Hornet Officer Team Leader. He was a member of the ESU Track and Field team and is a current member of the ESU football team. In 2020, Carson was recognized as Student Athlete of the Year for the ESU football team and was named Team Captain in Fall of 2021.

Erica Self

Erica Self is currently pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration at Emporia State University. In 2020, she graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Administration and became a member of Emporia State Beta Gamma Chapter for being in the top ten percent of her business school class. Self has received multiple awards and honors for her academic achievements including being named to ESU's Honor Roll (Fall of 2017 to present), School of Business Dean's List (Fall of 2019 to present), and Emporia State Athletic Director's List (Fall of 2017 to present). Self is a dual sport athlete at ESU participating in soccer and track and field. She is also active in various committees and organizations including the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and Phi Beta Lambda.

Lucy Steyer

Lucy Steyer is a senior at Emporia State University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Administration. She has served on Associated Student Government for three years, currently as the acting Student Body President. She also has been involved in the Emporia State Marching Hornets, Alpha Sigma Alpha, and the Honors College.

Rob Gilligan

Rob Gilligan is an Emporia native and a graduate of both Emporia High School and Emporia State University where he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Communication. His undergraduate experience including participation on the ESU Debate Team, Union Activities Council, Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity and Associated Student Government which included service as ASG President. Rob currently serves as the Director of Ignite Emporia with the Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce, focused on community efforts to improve workforce, housing and business sustainability in the Emporia and Lyon County region. Rob is in his third term as a member of the Emporia City Commission recently completing his third term as Mayor. In the past he has served as a member of the Emporia Main Street Board of Directors and the Regional Development Association of East Central Kansas Board of Directors. He lives near the ESU campus with his partner Dr. Kelly McEnerny, Asst. Professor of Psychology at ESU and their two dogs Quinn and Ziggy.

Ted Hollembeak

Upon completion of two years active duty in the U.S. Army from 1959-1961, Ted Hollembeak graduated from Kansas State Teachers College Emporia with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1965. After teaching five years at Goddard Kansas High School, he completed his Master's Degree in History from Kansas State Teachers College Emporia in 1971. He graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law with a Juris Doctorate Degree in 1974. He was in private law practice in Emporia from 1974-2005. In 2005 he was appointed as Judge of the Municipal Court in Emporia and continues to serve in that capacity.

Sally Sanchez

Sally Sanchez is a native Texan who moved to Emporia in 1974 and was a secretary at Emporia High School for 30 years. She has a strong sense of devotion for the non-profit sector and became an advocate for the Hispanic Community. In 1999, she joined the Hispanics of Today and Tomorrow organization and her involvement grew in 2000 when she took the role of Secretary and in 2004 took the role of President. Sanchez was determined to be the voice of her community and began to volunteer. Her leadership expanded to numerous advisory boards within Emporia. She is proud and will continue to implement new platforms and partnerships to better the Emporia community.

Jamie Sauder

Jamie Sauder is a lifelong Emporian. He graduated from Baker University with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 2001 and attended the University of Central Missouri for graduate school studying College Student Personnel Administration. He also served as an assistant baseball coach while at UCM and at Emporia State. He has been the Owner and Supervising Broker of Coldwell Banker Emporia Real Estate in Emporia since 2011 as well as founder and owner of ERG Property Management, a commercial and residential property management firm, since 2014. Prior to that he was a sales associate for RE/MAX Select, REALTORS for five years. During his professional career he has served as president of the local association of REALTORS for three terms, he served three terms on the local area planning commission and in 2020 he was elected to serve in his first term as a Commissioner for the City of Emporia.

Diane Beatty

Diane L. (Thomas) Beatty received her BSB with Honors, majoring in Accounting, in 1978 from Emporia State University. Upon graduation she joined ConocoPhillips, obtained her CPA certification, and in 2015, after 36 years in various Director and Manager positions, retired as General Manager, Global Upstream Financial Services. Currently Diane serves as Chairman of the ESU Foundation Board of Trustees, which she joined in 2014. She is a member of the St. Luke's United Methodist Church Finance Committee and serves on the Edmond Campus Pastor Advisory Council. Diane also co-manages the Thomas Family Trust farm assets located in Osage and Lyon counties in Kansas.

Ron Frierson

Ron Frierson serves as Director of Economic Policy for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. Ron's team develops business policy affecting the world's third largest metropolitan economy. His portfolio includes Commercial Real Estate Development, Tech, Sports & Entertainment, Manufacturing, Taxation, Healthcare, and Tourism. Ron also oversees the Convention & Tourism Department, Department of Cannabis Regulation, and the Economic Workforce & Development Department on behalf of the Mayor's Office. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Special Olympics, Urban Land Institute, and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Ron is a proud graduate of Emporia State University and serves on the ESU Foundation Board of Trustees.

Michael Gonzales

Michael is the principal owner of NE&E consulting and travels the country as a consultant, executive coach, speaker, panelist and advisor on Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) topics impacting business and workforce imperatives. As the former corporate leader of Hallmark's D&I department, he was responsible for Hallmark's D&I's strategies and objectives, their internal and external collaborations, partnerships and compliance. He was responsible for the execution of the D&I's priorities regarding, workforce, workplace,

marketplace and community. Michael was also responsible for the company's seven Employee Resource Groups.

Michael is also the co-founder of the Diversity & Inclusion Consortium, a national organization of over 295 D&I practitioners and advocates. The Consortium was created when he saw a need for collaborative thought and sharing. The main objective of the Consortium is to share best practice and to provide each other insights and support regarding D&I opportunities and challenges.

Michael serves on the ESU Foundation Board of Trustees, the School of Business Dean's Advisory Council, and the Business Administration Advisory Council. He and his wife, Carol, have three children.

Burton Tredway

Tredway graduated from Butler County Community College in 1989 with an Associate of Arts degree. He continued his education at Emporia State University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1991 as well as an MBA in 1992. Tredway began his career as an accountant for Koch Industries where he has performed a variety of financial roles including several Controller positions. In 2010, Tredway transitioned into a Procurement Leadership role within Koch that led to his current role as Sr. Director of Procurement for Koch Ag & Energy Solutions.

Jacqueline (Jackie) Vietti

Jackie Vietti, a native Kansan, was born and raised in Eureka, Kansas. Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Kansas State University; a masters in community college teaching from Pittsburg State University; and a doctorate in adult and occupational education from Kansas State University. Her work experience encompasses 43 years in various capacities within higher education, most recently as President, Butler Community College; Interim President, Emporia State University; and Acting President, Kansas City Kansas Community College. Currently, she facilitates the Kansas Community College Leadership Institute, now in its 7th year. Additionally, Jackie serves as a directed field experience supervisor for Baker University and a doctoral dissertation committee member for Baker and for Kansas State University, as well as Chair, The National Teachers Hall of Fame Board of Trustees and member of the Board of Directors, BG Products, Inc.

Dana Walker

Dana Walker graduated from Emporia State University in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in Business Marketing. She also holds an MBA from Washburn University (1994). Dana currently is the Associate Director of Global Digital Procurement for Colgate Palmolive (New York) and is the current President of the ESU Alumni Board.

Before her Global position, she managed the Hill's Pet Nutrition Division's Indirect Procurement organization and served on the Diversity and Inclusion committee. She also held various positions with Payless Shoesource, in the Merchandising and Supply Chain/Distribution functions.