

# UNIVERSITY TO INAUGURATE 15TH PRESIDENT



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## 1 Nathan Jackson Morrison (1895-1907)

President of Fairmount College — Nathan Morrison was the first president of Fairmount College, and was responsible for putting the first library on campus and one of the first libraries in Wichita, according to the Wichita Eagle. In 1906, Fairmount College received a \$40,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation to build the library, according to the Wichita Eagle.



## 2 Henry Ernest Thayer (1907-1914)

President of Fairmount College — Henry Thayer, a previous minister with the Plymouth Congregational Church spent his time as president trying to fix the college's budget issues, as well as continuing the vision that Morrison had of a college with Christian values that resembled a New England college.



## 3 Walter Huntington Rollins (1914-1921)

President of Fairmount College — Rollins became president after Thayer retired, and faced the same fight of fixing the school's financial problems. On May 20, 1916, he sent a letter home to parents asking for financial help to cover expenses for Fairmount college. After failing to solve these problems, Thayer retired with a sense of being unappreciated in Wichita.



## 4 John Duncan Finlayson (1922-1927)

President of Fairmount College and the Municipal University of Wichita — Finlayson entered into his term as president with a population of 500 students, and funding problems for the university finally came to a head with the decision to become the Municipal University of Wichita, to avoid moving or closing the college. The public was divided on this decision.



## 5 Harold Waldstein Foght (1927-1934)

President of the Municipal University of Wichita — With the school now being controlled by a Board of Regents representing the city commission and the School Board, enrollment numbers quickly shot up with 1200 students in 1931. New colleges were added including a college of fine and applied arts and graduate school and Foght launched a major building campaign.



## 6 William Marion Jardine (1934-1949)

President of the Municipal University of Wichita — Jardine returned stability to the university and contributed to improving the standing of the university in many ways during his term, with the onset of the Great Depression and community members criticizing the "liberal" tendencies of faculty and sport "boosters" trying to control the sport programs.



## 7 Harry Finch Corbin (1949-1963)

President of the Municipal University of Wichita and University of Wichita — The first alumnus to be appointed president, enrollment topped 5,000 in 1956 after World War II ended. A battle to include the school in the state system began after the city could not support the University without charging a higher tuition. The university also continued to develop, with new buildings, dorms, and research becoming part of the mission.



## 8 Emory Kempton Lindquist (1963-1968)

President of University of Wichita and Wichita State University — On July 1st, 1964, the university officially entered into the state system of higher education and became one of the six state universities today governed by the Kansas Board of Regents.



## 9 Clark David Ahlberg (1968-1983)

President of Wichita State University — Ahlberg saw the university advance rapidly during his term, with enrollment going from less than 7,000 in 1963 to over 17,000 in the early 1980's. New programs such as computer science were added, the College of Health Professions, and the addition of one million square feet of new buildings and a new perimeter roads system.



## 10 Warren Bruce Armstrong (1983-1993)

President of Wichita State University and The Wichita State University — As enrollment began to decline due to the expansion of local community colleges, WSU focused on adding new doctoral programs and getting rid of two-year certificate programs. Part-time and international student enrollment rose, while other new additions included the Elliott School of Communication and the National Institute of Aviation Research.



## 11 Eugene Morgan Hughes (1993-1998)

President of The Wichita State University and Wichita State University — During his term, Hughes was focused on a campaign called "The Metropolitan Advantage," to redefine WSU's connection to the community. With the idea that universities need to evolve with their community, he opened off-campus centers.



## 12 Donald Lee Beggs (1999-2012)

President of Wichita State University, Beggs accomplished many things in his term, including establishing and strengthening relationships with the City of Wichita and local employers. He also brought Koch Arena to campus, the Marcus Welcome Center, a multi-million dollar renovation of the RSC, and the continued development and growth of the National Institute for Aviation Research.



## 13 John William Bardo (2012-2019)

President of Wichita State University — Bardo started with a mission called the Bardo Five: improve overall quality of education, increase enrollment, enhance research, pursue technology in partnership with industry and improve the quality of student life. Some accomplishments included new infrastructure and housing facilities and the Innovation Campus.



## 14 Jay Golden (2019-2020)

President of Wichita State University — Golden started in December 2019 and resigned in September 2020. He was never inaugurated. Three months in, he led campus through the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. His resignation came roughly three months after donors threatened to pull funding if the Board of Regents didn't fire him over his decision to move Ivanka Trump's WSU Tech commencement speech from keynote to optional. The board gave no explanation for his resignation.



## 15 Richard Muma (2021-)

Muma has been at the university since 1994, when he was hired as a Physician's Assistant Program professor. He became the associate vice president for strategic enrollment management in 2016 and was promoted to provost in 2018.

When former President John Bardo died in 2019, Muma served as acting president until KBOR named Andy Tompkins interim president. When Golden resigned last year, Muma became acting president again and was later named interim president.

Muma is the first openly gay president of WSU. An advocate for the LGBT population during his time at WSU, with his husband, Muma established an

equality scholarship for LGBT individuals.

"I think it's historic, I think it's important for Kansas," Muma said at the presidential announcement in early May of this year. "I think it'll say a lot of things to a lot of different people in different ways about inclusions diversity and just the way our society is. "Anybody can be in any position. I think the more that we send that message around and the more that we model it I think the better we will be as a society."

Muma said in an interview with The Sunflower that he will be focused on access and providing as much need-based aid to students as possible. He will also be making sure that students have paid applied learning experiences and focus on researching at the university.

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**Inauguration ceremony for  
Richard Muma at 2:30 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 29, in the Hughes  
Metropolitan Complex, located  
at 29th Street N. and Oliver.**

The ceremony will be  
livestreamed on YouTube and  
WSU social media channels.