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From the Dean of the Kansas City Center

The Kansas City Center of Ottawa University has celebrated its tenth anniversary. In its ten years of existence in Kansas City, the Center has helped over 1300 students earn bachelor's degrees. Many more have continued their education in various forms through the Center. Many of the Center's graduates have gone on to earn advanced degrees in graduate schools, and seminaries across the nation. They have advanced in their careers in businesses, hospitals, schools, churches, and a variety of other organizational settings.

Averaging nearly 40 years of age, the students of the Center are significantly older than the students traditionally found on residential college campuses. This year, the students range in age from 22 to 72 years. The typical student has approximately two and half years of college work upon entering the Center's program. Most are employed. Over half are being reimbursed at least partially by their employers for their educational expenses.

The mission of the Center is to serve these "non-traditional" students. Although the Center is concerned with the development of the whole person, it is fundamentally concerned, as is any college and university, with the intellectual development of the student — an intellectual development which informs and interacts with the other dimensions of a person's development, including the social and the religious dimensions. This mission is carried out in the context of the liberal arts and Christian heritage of Ottawa University.

The faculty is at the core of the programs of the Center. The Center has a faculty of excellence. The six who serve as full-time faculty of the Center represent the humanities, the social, behavioral and natural sciences. Their average length of service with the University is nearly nine years. The full-time faculty teach the general education sequence of courses required of all degree-seeking students and serve as advisors to these students. Vital to the success of the programs are the five full-time staff members who

work with students in the areas of admissions, financial aid and academic records.

In addition to the full-time faculty members and staff, the Center has approximately 60 adjunct faculty who serve as instructors on a part-time basis. The adjunct faculty have not only the academic background but also work experience in the areas in which they are teaching. The adjunct faculty includes presidents and vice-presidents of businesses, government administrators, a school superintendent and principal, and the director of a Presidential library. Faculty from the residential campus in Ottawa also teach for the Center.

As with the residential campus program, the curriculum of the Kansas City Center is student-centered. It is based upon the fact that the students of the Center bring with them experiences from work, family, and church which are valuable in the educational process and that they are capable of being self-directed learners. Most students take their major programs in business, healthcare and administration, healthcare and education, or human services. A significant number of students pursue programs related to their future work in the church. A number of students pursue majors which are individualized in nature. All students completing the degree must successfully complete a series of general education



courses.

The Kansas City Center is looking forward to its next ten years. Recently, the Center moved its offices and classroom facilities to Corporate Woods, which is located in Overland Park, Kansas. Corporate Woods is one of the leading office parks in the nation and is located in the fastest growing area in metropolitan Kansas City. Over 4000 people are currently employed in Corporate Woods, which is expected to double in size in the next decade. The numbers of students involved in the program continues to grow each year. The faculty and staff of the Center are looking to the future with optimism and vigor. ■