Larry Duffy Announces Semi-Retirement from Western Oklahoma State College

Larry Duffy will retire from his role as Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations at the end of August. A reception celebrating his 35 year career as an educator, musician and administrator will be held Friday, August 23rd from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Center at Western.

Duffy earned his Associate in Arts degree from Western Oklahoma State College and completed his Bachelor and Master of Music Education degrees at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He joined the WOSC faculty in 1978 as a music instructor for vocal and instrumental activities. In 1990, Duffy assumed the responsibility of promoting the existing WOSC Foundation, Inc., and continued with his work in the Music Department as Chairman. In 1995, Larry became full time Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, relinquishing his teaching and administrative positions in the music department. Then, in 1998, Larry was appointed Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, the position he currently holds at Western. Larry, along with two other vice presidents, serves on the President’s Executive Council.

Larry has had many accomplishments during his tenure at Western Oklahoma State College. In the music field, they include serving on the committee for the design and development of the WOSC Performing Arts wing which includes the Herschal H. Crow Fine Arts Auditorium; directing and co-producing 15 all-school Broadway productions; music composing/co-arranging and co-directing the original play, Higher Ground, written by Cecil R. Chesser for the Altus Centennial; coordinating musical events for WOSC; organizing and managing the WOSC Young Artist Series; organizing the Oklahoma Junior College Choral Festival for the Oklahoma Junior College Association; serving as Vice President for Higher Education Choral Music for the Oklahoma Music Educators Association and President of the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association. His accomplishments for the WOSC Foundation include securing bond funding, construction completion and lease agreement for a $1.5 million residential housing facility on the campus of Western Oklahoma State College through the combined efforts of the WOSC Foundation, Inc., Trustees, the President of the college and the Board of Regents; established the WOSC Alumni Association Hall of Fame wall and annual recognition event which began in 1996 and continues to the present; initiated, raised private funding, designed and supervised the construction of The Cecil R. Chesser Redbud Lane Project that was dedicated on July 7, 2001; promoted and served as Chair of the Altus Rotary Club’s Rotary International Centennial Committee with the design, completion and dedication of the Rotary Courtyard in 2005 at Western Oklahoma State College; designed, implemented and raised funds through the WOSC Foundation, Inc., to establish the Western Oklahoma State College Foundation, Inc. Partners in Education Excellence donor recognition wall; managed, improved and supervised the sale of the WOSC Foundation owned rodeo property for the purpose of expanding the agriculture and
rodeo programs at Western; and worked with the Director of Alumni Relations and the WOSC Alumni Board on the installation of an Alumni and Friends Lifetime Membership Recognition Tree wall.

Reflecting back on these career accomplishments he has had, Duffy said, “These achievements at Western Oklahoma State College were all due to the cooperative spirit of people with whom I have worked. No one single person is able to accomplish his dreams and goals without the efforts of those that share your dreams.”

Duffy’s civic accomplishments include nearly forty years of service to the United Methodist Church music ministry as choir director and vocalist. A Rotarian since 1979, Duffy served the Altus Rotary Club as President in 1984-85 and has served in numerous capacities for the Altus Club with a primary emphasis on The Rotary Foundation. Duffy was District Governor 2000-2001 for Rotary District 5770. During his year as District Governor, he received one of fifty 21st Century Challenge Awards presented by the President of Rotary International for membership development. He has served District 5770 as a member of the combined District 5750 and 5770 Foundation Board and the combined district Rotary Foundation Annual Banquet Committee. He has served as Permanent Fund Chair and on the Ambassadorial Scholarship Selection Committee. Currently, Duffy is serving as Annual Giving Chair and Paul Harris Society Chair. Duffy has served on the Zones 21b and 27 Institutes 2006 through 2012 Planning Committees. He also served as Song Leader and Director of the Zone Tones for the Institutes. He has served previous Institutes as a Discussion Leader and Co-presenter. A multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Major Donor and Benefactor, Larry has served at the international level as Literacy Resource Coordinator for Zone 26; Song Leader for the 2003 and 2006 Rotary International Assemblies in Anaheim and San Diego, respectively; President’s Representative to District 6200, District 5030 and a Discussion Facilitator during the 2006 International Convention in Copenhagen-Malmö.

In addition to Rotary service, he is a past president of the Altus Chamber Ambassadors, Altus Jaycees, Shortgrass Arts and Humanities Council, Altus Band Parents, Crime Stoppers, and the Western Oklahoma State College Faculty Association. He served on the boards for District Boy Scouts of America, the American Heart Association, the Salvation Army and the United Way. Duffy established the WOSC Community Chorus’ annual Messiah performance and served as the chorus director for 20 years.

His wife, Sharon, is a retired fourth grade elementary school teacher having taught in the Altus Public Schools for thirty-seven years. They have two children. Their son, Michael, is an attorney in Altus. Mike and his wife, Christy, have one daughter named Kristin. The Duffy’s daughter, Kimberly, is married to Jack Duerksen and is a secondary vocal music teacher with the Weatherford (Oklahoma) Public Schools. The Duerksens have two daughters, Addison Cate and Lyndi Ray.
Duffy will remain the Executive Secretary for the WOSC Foundation, Inc. Under Duffy’s leadership, the foundation has grown from $525,000 to slightly below $7 million in total assets. Basically, the financial growth increased from the two original endowments to the current operating structure of 92 endowment funds. The foundation also manages additional designated and undesignated funds, including over 60 student and campus organization activity funds. The day-to-day management of the foundation will be ongoing in Duffy’s new part time leadership role.