



The Andover Update

ANDOVER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 385



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Schools is to prepare learners for a lifetime of responsible living and learning in a changing society by creating partnerships, high expectations and meaningful educational opportunities.

The mission of Andover Public

Photos courtesy of Lifetouch and various photographers at Andover Public Schools

For our students and teachers, we hope you will Raise a Star & donate to Andover Advantage!

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AAF is a 510(c)(3) non-profit and all donations are tax-deductable.



Because of the generosity of our donors, the Andover Advantage Foundation has:



Funded nearly 1,000
Academic Advantage Grants
& 6 special district-wide projects



Given more than \$870,000 over the past 19 years



Awarded grants to every school in Andover, providing educational opportunities that would not have been funded otherwise















District Goals and Growth



The 2015-16 school year is off to an outstanding start and both teachers and students are settling into the expected routines and procedures to make this another successful year. As you are well aware, Andover has an outstanding reputation for educational excellence. What I like best is our willingness to embrace that excellence and then continue improving to meet society's growing demands. With our long-range strategic action plan setting the course,

this year we are focusing on several aspects for improvement.

Student Achievement: The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards that have been in place for several years challenge our students and require new ideas and teaching styles. Because of that, we rewrote our curriculum, adopted new teaching materials and are determining multiple ways to assess student growth. The new Andover Data Dashboard helps us monitor our system against an established set of metrics and provides us with information we need to make mid-year adjustments to enhance our school district.

Educator Effectiveness: Our students are achieving at all-time highs thanks to a highly trained group of teachers. To ensure our teachers continue to grow professionally, we built time into our school calendar for teachers to learn and practice together.

As part of the Andover Data Dashboard, we monitor the effectiveness of these teacher learning sessions to ensure our educators get what they need to be successful.

<u>Culture and Climate:</u> School safety has always been important and we continue to educate our staff on the realities of 2015. To ensure our schools remain safe, the District Safety Committee works closely with the Andover Police Department to constantly review procedures and most recently, train staff how to react in challenging situations. This year, with financial support from the City of Andover, we added two new school resource officers who are assigned to the middle and elementary schools.

<u>Communication</u>: The schools do a nice job communicating about their activities, but as a district we are focusing on system wide communication in order to meet all stakeholder needs. We strive to provide our community with the most upto-date information via various channels. Our updated website has received positive feedback, district social media reach is growing and this Andover Update appeals to those of you who prefer information in print. I've also entered the social media realm by starting a Twitter account. Follow me @AndoverSupt.

I'm so proud of our students, staff and school district, but let me extend a special thank you to our community and parents. You are what makes Andover such a great place to live and raise a family. Your support of our schools makes a tremendous difference.

W

Greg Rasmussen Superintendent of Schools



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ARE INVITED TO GRIZZLY SENIOR DAYS

ANDOVER Campus Friday, November 20, 2015 5000 Building Student Union 715 E. 13th St. Andover, KS 67002

EL DORADO Campus Saturday, November 21, 20152000 Building Welcome Center
901 S. Haverhill Rd.
El Dorado, KS 67042

To register, visit butlercc.edu and click on **Grizzly Senior Days** or call 316.322.3391. Please register by November 16.

Let's Take
TOMORROW

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Seven high school seniors recognized by scholarship program



L-R: National Merit Semifinalists Grant Karber, Hanna Watson and Renton Williams

Three Andover students were named Semifinalists and four were commended in the 61st annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Grant Karber and Renton Williams of Andover Central High School and Hanna Watson of Andover High School became National Merit Semifinalists by scoring in the top 0.5 percent in the state when they took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) during their junior year. Grant Huslig and Erik Jacobson from Andover Central High School and Regan Mousley and Grant Willford from Andover High School scored in the top five percent in the nation and were named National Merit Commended students.

About 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. Approximately 16,000 of these students are named Semifinalists and about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level. Merit Scholar recipients are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Karber, Watson and Williams have the opportunity to continue in the competition for nearly 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered next spring. Finalists will compete next spring for 2,500 National Merit Scholarships of \$2,500. Scholarship winners will be announced beginning in April and concluding in July. For more information, visit nationalmerit.org.

Andover's first Hometown Hero



The City of Andover created the Hometown Hero Award this year to honor and recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond for the good of the Andover community. The Hometown Hero Award is sponsored by Butler Community College and Kansas Medical Center, LLC.

Out of eight nominees, Andy Saville, owner of Superior Landscaping, was chosen to receive the Hometown Hero Award. Saville moved to Andover when he was 18 years old. He lives here with his family and has two children who currently attend Andover Public Schools and one that will attend Kindergarten soon. Saville was chosen as Andover's Hometown Hero because of his support of many community activities and causes, through money and time, as well as his work with the Andover Fire Department as assistant chief.

Saville has worked hard to grow his thriving business and supports other Andover businesses. In the words of his nominator, Saville "volunteers his time, money, blood, sweat and tears to be on the front lines. He is the absolute definition of Hometown Hero – he lives here, spends here, trains here, he FIGHTS here and he SAVES here."

"I was definitely surprised to receive it," said Saville. "I very much appreciate the award and those involved in the process. It truly means a lot!"

ACT scores show continued excellence



Andover students annually produce exceptional results in the classroom. The district's 2015 graduates recorded a ACT composite score of 23.7, which is 1.8 points above the state average. Historically, Andover Public Schools have had the highest composite scores of any public school district in the Wichita-metro area.

"Along with a high composite score, our students recorded a 24.1 reading score which is our highest ever and 1.7 points higher than the state average," says Greg Rasmussen, Superintendent of Schools. "The foundation we have established, collaboration between teachers, our commitment to continuous improvement and education innovation are making a tremendous difference for students."

The ACT is a college entrance exam that tests English, reading, math and science. There were 342 Andover Public School 2015 graduates that took the ACT. Andover students continue to annually record composite scores one to two points above the state average.

There were also 175 Andover students that took Advanced Placement assessments during the 2014-2015 school year. Our overall proficiency rate as a district was 78.8 percent, which is higher than the state (62.1 percent) and nation (60.7 percent).

"Our results on the ACT and AP assessments are two of the many things we have to be proud of," says Rasmussen. "Andover has an incredible staff, dedicated Board of Education and an extremely supportive community. Without their passion for our students, we could not continue to excel in the classroom, on the playing field and on the performance stage."

Student feature: Sunflower Elementary's 540 challenge



By Kate Dare, 5th grader

Here at our great school, Sunflower Elementary, we have a summer reading program. This started a few years ago, but it all began for me in 2010, the first year I went to Sunflower. This program encourages students to read 540 minutes over the summer. The program can be hard, but it gets easier as students grow older.

Every year, Mrs. Deutscher and some really talented kids make an encouraging video to promote reading 540 minutes over the summer. My favorite video was last year's when they changed the lyrics to "Shake it Off."

Students who read 540 minutes get to participate in an awesome party. This year's party was a tailgate. We had pizza and popsicles with the high school cheer squad, soccer, volleyball and football teams! Everyone got to pick who they wanted to hang out with at the party. It was a blast!

I am going to miss this reading program when I go to middle school, but maybe I will get to come back one day when I am in high school!

Intruderology

It is important that schools are viewed as a safe place for students and staff. It is our duty to educate and train staff and students in methods to increase their safety in the instance of a threat or campus violence. With the realities of 2015 in mind, we are changing our philosophies on how to react to campus violence and intruders. This district initiative is called Intruderology. Intruderology is more than a lockdown plan - it explores campus violence and provides the strategies needed to combat this ever-growing threat. Intruderology training provides basic guidelines for intruder response and if ever confronted with a violent intruder or active shooter incident, the ability to quickly respond will save lives. (Intruderology.com)

This new district philosophy expands the lockdown plan to a more thoughtful, proactive process that teaches staff and students to Run, Hide or Fight. If there were an instance of a threat or act of campus violence, students and staff would use the following criteria to decide what the best action is for their safety:



RUN: If an instance where there is direct contact with an intruder, <u>or</u> it is not possible to secure the area <u>or</u> there is a clear escape path to safety that avoids contact with the intruder,

RUN is the method to use.



HIDE: If there is indirect contact with the threat <u>and</u> the area is able to be secured effectively, HIDE is the method to be chosen. When hiding in the secured area, it is important that entry

areas are barricaded to deny access to the threat.



FIGHT: This action is a LAST RESORT. If the threat is in direct contact <u>and</u> you cannot run <u>and</u> there is a risk to your life, FIGHT is the method to be used. It is important to resist and fight the

threat until safety can be achieved.

With this philosophy being a district initiative, all staff were trained on the Intruderology method in the 2014-15 school year. Both last and this school year, the District Safety Committee has made a priority for buildings to experience an Intruder Drill with simulated live fire inside the school building. These drills provide experience of the possible sounds a threat in the building could contain and inspire conversation between staff and administrators to explore all possible actions taken in a violent situation, no matter the scenario.

In conjunction with the Andover Police Department, District Safety Committee and Administration, further implementation of Intruderology includes exploring additional training opportunities, possible infrastructure upgrades and continued education of staff, students and community. PG 6 The Andover Update Fall 2015

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Cross country teams from Andover High School and Andover Central High School cut the ribbon at the Redbud Trail grand opening in July. Both cross country teams are adapting to the switch from girls 4K to 5K and are performing extremely well at their meets.



Meadowlark Elementary first graders Skyped with Maria, an interactive animated character from Wondergrove Learn, about good choices and behavior.



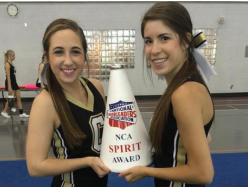
Wheatland Elementary counselor Austin Bohanon, 4th grade teacher Raven Genereux and principal Elton Armbrister enthusiastically welcomed students back to the first day of school. The 2015-16 school year is sure to be a good one!



Andover Advantage Foundation President Andrew Chaney welcomed guests at Local Harvest, a fundraiser farm to table dinner. The AAF event raised money to fund Academic Advantage Grants and Andover students.



The Andover Middle School band performed at the Kansas State Fair. Their performance was met with great enthusiasm and was on par with many of the high school bands who also performed the same day.



The Andover Central High School cheer squad received many awards and distinctions at cheer camp, including 17 athletes nominated for the All-American team, three named All-American athletes, spirit sticks, blue ribbons, a leadership award, a nationals bid, a certificate for technical excellence in stunting, second place for the JAM routine and the spirit award.



First graders at Prairie Creek Elementary work on letter skills with OSMO technology that teaches interactively by scanning letter tiles. OSMO was received through a grant from the Andover Advantage Foundation.



Martin Elementary students don't just read about science, they experience it! Students made rafts out of foil and tested how many pennies the rafts could hold before sinking.



Andover Middle School's yearbook program was named a 2015 Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence for creating an inclusive yearbook, generating engagement and managing the creation process.



Cottonwood Elementary students built cup towers during a team building exercise. The catch? They couldn't touch the cups!



Sunflower Elementary's Meet Your Teacher Night featured a treat from Rita's Italian Ice truck. Now that's a sweet way to start the school year!



Andover eCademy students enjoyed a field trip to the Sedgwick County Zoo where they learned about veterinary programs and many different species of animals.



Trojan Nite, Andover High School's annual student council fundraiser, took place Sept. 19. Each class competed to be named champion. After a grand entrance and various field events, the senior class took first place; their theme was "Fear the sky, a storm is nearby," and they dressed up as ancient Greeks. The sophomore class took second place with their theme, "Can't beat the heat."



Cottonwood Elementary teacher Shelly Barnes was awarded a \$513 gift card from Walmart, which is the average amount teachers spend out of pocket on classroom supplies annually. Principal Shari Rooks and Shelly's fellow teachers were there to surprise her.



Andover Central High School's first football home game against Valley Center had a Hawaiian theme, and the enthusiastic student section went all out! *Photo by Bryn Harding.*



Andover Central Middle School started the 2015-16 school year with a Back to School Dance, and of course, it's not a party without silly hats!



The Andover High School Trojans and the Andover Central High School Jaguars faced off in the much anticipated annual Crosstown Showdown Sept. 11. Area news outlets, alumni, students, staff and community members were there to enjoy the game and cheer on the athletes. The Jaguars won 37-13, but both teams played their hearts out. It was a fun night for Trojans and Jaguars alike! *Photo by Steve Adelson*.

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Kansas Teacher of the Year Nominees



The Kansas Teacher of the Year Award program recognizes excellent teachers in Kansas' elementary and secondary classrooms. Its mission is to build a network of outstanding instructors who lead school improvement, student achievement and teaching excellence. The Kansas Teacher of the Year receives awards including learning scholarships.

Each year, Andover nominates one elementary teacher and one secondary teacher for the Kansas Teacher of the Year Award. The 2016 nominees are Susan Mueller of Wheatland Elementary and Amber Fetters of Andover Middle School.

Mueller and Fetters were honored Sept. 12 at the Region 4 Kansas Teacher of the Year banquet, where Mueller was named a Semi-Finalist. Congratulations to both educators!

National School Principals Month



October is National School Principals Month and Andover is fortunate to have 17 fantastic principals who have dedicated their lives to educating children and preparing them for a lifetime of responsible living and learning.

Mark Templin is the principal of **Andover eCademy**. He has worked in Andover schools for 26 years. Mr. Templin is excited to be a part of Andover eCademy as they look for new ways to utilize technology to better serve students.

Cheryl Hochhalter is the principal of **Andover Central High School**. Ms. Hochhalter advises her students to persevere and view obstacles as an opportunity for growth. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and spoiling her dogs.

Brian Gregoire is the assistant principal of **Andover Central High School**. Mr. Gregoire loves that each student and staff member helps make ACHS a community. He enjoys watching both professional sports and those played by his children.

Doug Carr is the assistant principal of **Andover Central High School**. Mr. Carr has been in Andover Schools for 18

years. He encourages students to be lifelong learners and not let their education end when they walk out the school doors.

Bob Baier is the principal of **Andover High School**. His favorite part of being principal is visiting with students. Mr. Baier takes pride in making AHS a better place and hopes that all students enjoy their experience and are successful.

Amanda Grier is the assistant principal of **Andover High School**. Her favorite part of her job is working with teachers to help students become successful. Mrs. Grier also loves to spend time with her husband and son.

Brent Riedy is the assistant principal of **Andover High School**. He enjoys the unique opportunities and the fact that no two days are the same. Mr. Riedy encourages students to realize what they do establishes habits that stick with them for life.

Tim Hayden is the principal of **Andover Central Middle School**. His favorite part is seeing student growth between sixth and eighth grade, from children to young adults. Mr. Hayden also enjoys hunting and watching students participate in activities.

Janelle Tittsworth is the assistant principal of Andover Central Middle School. Her favorite part of being a principal is building relationships and positively impacting students and staff. Mrs. T spends her free time being with her family and enjoying the outdoors.

Debra Regier is the principal of **Andover Middle School**. Her advice to students is to stay positive because everyone has setbacks and how we respond defines our character. In her spare time, Mrs. Regier enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Brent Jones is the assistant principal of **Andover Middle School**. He is most proud of AMS because the students care not only about themselves, but others. Outside of school, he likes to exercise, play golf and watch his sons play sports.

Shari Rooks is the principal of **Cottonwood Elementary**. She is glad to be a part of Cottonwood's family and is proud of the outstanding staff and supportive families who care deeply about their students.

Jody Baker is the principal of **Meadowlark Elementary**. She loves her students' sillly jokes and insatiable love for learning and enjoys working with staff on innovative ideas for the classroom. She enjoys cheering on K-State and walk her dog.

Shelley Jonas is the principal of **Prairie Creek Elementary**. She advises students to be respectful, honest, compassionate and responsible in order to achieve their dreams. Mrs. Jones takes pleasure in spending time with her husband and children.

Crystal Hummel is the principal of **Robert M. Martin Elementary**. Her goal is to do whatever she can to make her school and the district better. One of her favorite sayings is "Words make worlds, so choose them carefully."

Rita Decker is the principal of **Sunflower Elementary**. Mrs. Decker is so proud of her school because students are respectful, kind, and eager to learn. Her advice for all of her students is to stay positive and be responsible and caring.

Elton Armbrister is the principal of **Wheatland Elementary**. He believes student success is due to stakeholders' collaboration. In his free time, Elton enjoys playing racquetball and spending time with his two sons and his daughter.

Board of Education Meeting Recap

July 13, 2015

 Melinda Fritze was elected as President and Josh Wells was elected as Vice President. Jamie Bohannon was re-elected as Clerk of the Board and Nicole Gibbs was re-elected as Assistant Clerk of the Board. Sherame Kneisel was reappointed as Treasurer.

Aug. 10, 2015

- The Board approved refinancing \$6,495,000 in Series 2005 bonds to capture savings in interest for the remaining debt service period. The net savings in interest to the district is \$242,630. The district will capture the savings over the remaining four years of the debt schedule. The bonds were issued and closed on Aug. 24, 2015.
- Business Manager Sherame Kneisel presented the 2015-16 budget recommended for adoption. The BOE voted to increase the mill levy to 65.286 mills, an increase over last year of 1.368. This increase is in the Bond & Interest Fund in order to accommodate the District's aggressive debt schedule as we enter the final years of bond payments. All bonds are currently scheduled to be paid in full by the end of 2019.

Sept. 14, 2015

- Each month, Andover High School, Andover Central High School and Andover Education Association present to the Board of Education on current school and association activities.
- Asst. Superintendent Brett White provided an overview of current certified and classified staffing levels, as well as student enrollment and class size information. The total certified teaching staff equals 334.3 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) and a headcount of 347. The total classified staff FTE is 209.9. There is a headcount increase of 21 students at the elementary level and there is no change at the secondary level. The Andover eCademy FTE is projected to have a headcount of 675 this year, which includes an increase of 90 students attending full time.















L-R: Pres. Melinda Fritze, Vice Pres. Josh Wells, Matt Forney, Marci Fugarino, Carly Haynes, Dr. Linda Hope, Scott Wilson

• The past few months the Board has been discussing the Neighborhood Revitalization Program that the City of Andover proposed in July. On Aug. 25, 2015 the City of Andover passed the proposed program and asked for approval from the Andover Board of Education. The City of Andover, Kansas Neighborhood Revitalization Plan shall take effect on Jan. 1, 2016 and is intended to promote the revitalization and development of certain areas within the City of Andover in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City. The motion to approve the support of the Neighborhood Revitalization Project carried 5-0.



Proud supporter of Andover Public Schools



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What's happening in

Update from City Councilman Troy Tabor



It's no secret that Andover Public Schools are leaders in the area in terms of educational satisfaction and student achievement. Every person involved, including the school board, students and staff, collaborates to meet the schools' mission of preparing learners for a lifetime of responsible living.

Over the years, USD 385 and the City of Andover have identified and implemented partnerships to help contribute to our district's astounding success.

Exceptional safety in our schools is a major focus that the district and city work together to achieve. The safety of our students and school staff is evaluated by several city and district groups on a continuous basis. The city helps in the training and cost of school resource officers, is a member of the Traffic Safety Committee and conducts emergency exercises through the Andover Police Department.

Through combining resources, the City of Andover is able to provide four school resource officers (SRO) to the district. The presence of SROs in the schools helps to maintain a sense of safety and stops many problems before they start. They are there as security, informal counselors and expert advisers regarding security matters. All students should get to know their SROs and feel free to ask them questions.

The Traffic Safety Committee is made up of stakeholders from the community including businesses, the school district, Andover Police Department, City Council and city traffic engineering staff. The committee meets several times a year to review motor vehicle accidents, traffic complaints and the Andover Police Department's traffic enforcement efforts. The committee makes recommendations to the City Council and the Board of Education and takes actions such as removing the speed limit sign next to the School Zone light on Central. This proactive approach to reducing crashes has been featured in the Kansas Local Technical Assistance Program's Newsletter.

In addition to the SROs and the Traffic Safety Committee,

the Andover Police
Department conducts
emergency exercises
with school district staff
at least once per year.
Emergency exercises
can vary from an active
shooter drill, such as
the one conducted
in September for
teachers, or table top



exercises that involve small teams being presented various scenarios and discussing procedures to address them.

Joint use of recreation facilities on campuses and in the parks are another example of the district and city partnership. The schools allow the city's boys' and girls' basketball programs to use the gymnasiums and the 13th Street Sports Park and Central Park facilities are used for various school sports practices and competitions. There are even current talks of how an amphitheater in Central Park might be used for school concerts and plays.

On Sept. 14, the Board of Education agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Andover to be a part of a Neighborhood Revitalization Program starting Jan. 1, 2016. The purpose of this program is to promote the development of certain areas in the city by offering property tax rebates for certain improvements or renovations of property.

As you can see, the City of Andover and Andover Public Schools continually work together in many ways. From safety to sharing facilities, the city and schools are united in pursuing enhanced opportunities for the district and city alike.

I am honored to serve as the City Council's liaison to Andover Public Schools, a member of the Site Council for Andover eCademy and a parent of students in two of our schools.

If you have ideas or suggestions on how the city and the schools can collaborate for the betterment of our community, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at ttabor@andoverks.com.

Troy E. Tabor, II City Councilman

the City of Andover



Hometown Christmas: Dec. 10, 2015, 5:30-8 p.m.



Hometown Christmas has been bringing the community together for 37 years to celebrate the holidays. The event has grown from a simple spaghetti supper in a local shopping center to an evening full of family fun. Hometown Christmas takes place in Andover Central Park and includes City Hall, The Lodge, and the Public Library. The park becomes a winter wonderland with illuminated trees and activities for the whole family. The evening kicks off with a tree lighting ceremony and the arrival of Santa Claus. Following that, Hometown Christmas has a chili cook-off, hot beverages around a fire pit with Andover emergency responders, and much more!

The Hometown Christmas event benefits the entire community. Attendees of Hometown Christmas donate toys, canned goods and cash to benefit the local Caring & Sharing program and the Andover Food Bank.

Hometown Christmas is made possible by generous sponsorships. Look for more information in the coming weeks at <u>andoverks.com</u>, "City of Andover KS" on Facebook and @CityofAndoverKS on Twitter.

Burying Westar Power Lines

This year, a significant improvement to the aesthetics of Andover Road will occur with the burial of overhead power lines. This improvement to Andover Road was recommended in the city's comprehensive development plan that was compiled in 2014 and approved on Dec.

30, 2014. This is something in which Andover citizens can take pride as an improvement to the "front door" of their city. Besides the obvious visual improvement, this upgrade will also



make winter storms less likely to cause power outages for Andover residents.

Franchise fees will pay the debt service for the city's portion (\$3.75 million) of this project. Westar franchise fees will increase in the City of Andover beginning Oct. 1, 2015 to 6 percent.

Westar will begin phase 1 of this project in October. Phase 1 consists of the street burial of overhead power lines along Andover Road from 13th Street to Central Ave. Phase 2 will begin in February or March of 2016; it will resume at Central Avenue and continue south all the way to Kellogg. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by July 2016.

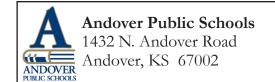
New Council Member Appointed

At the July 28 City Council meeting, Quentin Coon was appointed by Mayor Ben Lawrence to fill the vacant council position. His appointment was approved by the City Council by a vote of 5-0. Coon fills the seat left vacant after Council Member Byron Stout IV passed away in June.

Previously, Mr. Coon served 16 years on the planning commission; for 12 of those years, he served as chairman.



Council Member Coon, an aerospace engineer by profession, moved to Andover in 1989 and has lived here for 35 years. He has been married to his wife Laura since 1981 and has raised three children in Andover.



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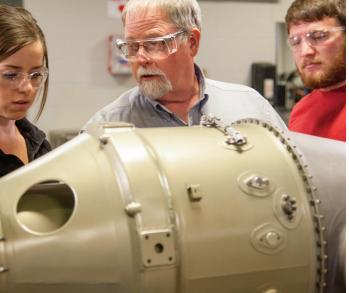






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