



# ROTARY NOTARY

## My Rotary Moment:

Chris Kibler recalled the day in 2013 when Ric Wolford asked her to serve East Wichita Rotary as president-elect, followed by president. She knew that her employer, the Intrust Bank Arena, encouraged community involvement and service. She also knew it would require a significant time commitment, because, as she says, "Every week there is a Wednesday."

With the support of her employer Chris said yes to Ric's request. Her acceptance of this leadership opportunity led to another: being promoted to the position of Assistant General Manager of the Intrust Bank Arena.

## Quote of the Week:

You don't lead by pointing and telling people some place to go. You lead by going to that place and making a case.

—Ken Kesey

## HOW WSU'S INNOVATION CAMPUS IS CREATING A BETTER WICHITA

John Tomblin, Ph.D., came to Wichita 24 years ago as an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Engineering. Today he is the Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer at WSU and the Executive Director of the National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) at WSU. He is also a Sam Bloomfield Distinguished Professor of Aerospace Engineering at WSU.



John Tomblin didn't originally plan to wipe out the Braeburn golf course on the WSU campus. For one, it was the only area golf course where he could play for free. More important, when he was asked to lead the new Innovation Campus he didn't know just how quickly the project would grow beyond the first few buildings he'd visualized along 17th Street, replacing the former Wheatshocker Apartment building.

The Innovation Campus brings together students, the university, and industry in a setting that is a win-win-win for all. Engineering students receive an education not

only in classrooms but the workplace, which benefits industry by having a supply of engineers with real-life work experience upon graduation. And the university benefits by creating an environment that supports big ideas, leading the way to economic growth and opportunity in the region.

Following the Great Recession that led to the loss of 35,000 aviation industry jobs locally beginning in 2009 (and at least four times as many other jobs), the big aviation employers were cautious about replacing the lost jobs. To save money, they planned to hire contract workers from overseas.

But Tomblin knew that WSU's engineering students could provide a low-cost labor force and in turn, receive valuable experience that would qualify them for local jobs upon graduation.

He proposed the idea to Beechcraft for the production of their King Air twin turbo-prop plane. He told Beechcraft executives that WSU students could outperform the engineers from India in terms of cost, quality of work, and time.

Beechcraft accepted Tomblin's proposal, which gave 80 engineering students 26 hours/week of work at Beechcraft. In Tomblin's (cont'd on p. 2)

**Coming up this month:**

Our next EWR Mixer of the year will be **Thursday, May 25** at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill. Join your fellow Rotarians for appetizers, adult beverages and fun. Guests are welcome—bring a friend!

**More At Rotary Today:**

**Greeter:** Schoen Fitzgerald

**Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:**  
Mick Cayless

**Clever Promo for Kentucky Derby Party:** Written by Ryan Heikes, presented by Brian Blackerby

**Dues Invoices** for the Rotary Year beginning July 1 will be mailed May 25.

## WSU INNOVATION CAMPUS (CONT'D)



Airbus Americas Engineering held an open house last week at the new Airbus Wichita Engineering Center, located on WSU's Innovation Campus. This site replaces the Airbus Engineering site established in Old Town in 2002. It is the company's largest engineering office outside of Europe.

words, the students “beat the socks off the Indian workforce.” Once they graduated, 35% of those students continued to work at Beechcraft. 83% remained in Wichita and overall, 96% had jobs upon graduation. These percentages apply with small businesses as well.

The Innovation Campus is growing faster than anyone had anticipated. The site plan evolves on an almost weekly basis. The Experiential Engineering Building is the home of the world's largest 3D printer and the world's largest simulation center, which can simulate an aircraft or a surgery. Future plans include restaurants and a Westin Element hotel. But the best news of all is that already the Innovation Campus is helping to return opportunity and jobs to this community.

## CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO!



In honor of Cinco de Mayo (minus Corona beer or margaritas) Rotarians enjoyed the always popular Mexican buffet. L to R: John Hurst, Justin Baxter, and Randy Summers. Olé!

**Next Week:**

**NO ROTARY** due to our Kentucky Derby funDRaiser on Saturday, May 6. **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO BUY TICKETS FOR THIS FUN, NEW EVENT!!**