Dr. Wade McCamey has announced plans to retire as president effective June 30. Most of his impressive 46-year career in education has been dedicated to Walters State.

“It has been a tremendous privilege to serve as your president for the past eleven years. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with so many dedicated faculty and staff not just as president but also in my previous positions as a professor and administrator,” McCamey wrote in an email sent to faculty and staff. “Because of your great work, I am confident that Walters State is in a strong position to continue to prosper and remain the ‘college of choice’ for our community.”

Chancellor John Morgan, who oversees the Tennessee Board of Regents, had praise for McCamey.

“Having served in Tennessee’s Community Colleges system for more than 33 years, including 15 in an institution leadership role, President McCamey’s indelible mark on higher education is evident in many ways,” said Morgan.

“As president of Walters State, he has made innovative teaching and student success a priority, helping position the institution as a national leader. A piece of the college will surely leave with him. His care and concern for students is represented in all he does and the way he has led the campus. I am grateful for his service and his unwavering dedication to higher education, to our state, and to the communities he serves.”

Under McCamey’s leadership, the college has also experienced growth in facilities at each of its campus sites. Following a successful fundraising campaign led by McCamey’s predecessor, Dr. Jack Campbell, McCamey oversaw the construction of two new buildings at the Sevier County Campus. The college renovated and moved its Claiborne County Campus into a permanent location. The Public Safety Center underwent a $6 million renovation. The Expo Center was expanded with the development of the Ray and Barbara Bible Equestrian Center. A 104,000 square-foot building is under construction at the Greeneville/Greene County Campus; and a workforce training facility recently opened in Greeneville.

The nursing program expanded to the college’s Greeneville and Sevierville campuses, and a new program to train surgical technicians was developed at the Sevier County Campus.

McCamey joined Walters State in 1979. He left only twice – for four years in 1988 when he was elected to a four-year term as Greene County Superintendent of Schools and for four years (2001-2005) when he served as president of Roane State Community College.

McCamey’s career in education began as a teacher and principal in Greene County. He joined Walters State to direct evening and off-campus instruction. He was named assistant dean and later associate dean of that area. Prior to becoming president, McCamey served as chair of the Behavioral/Social Sciences Division and associate professor of education. He also served as chair of the Humanities Division for a year. He achieved the rank of full professor in 1995. He was named vice president of Academic Affairs in 1997 and served in this position until being named president of Roane State.

McCamey earned three degrees from East Tennessee State University, where he has been named a distinguished alumnus. He also has an associate’s degree in business administration from Hiwassee College.

Dr. Wade McCamey, president of Walters State, confers a diploma to Jimi Kyle of Morristown during the December 2015 Commencement ceremony.
A Message From The President

While my decision to retire was difficult in many ways, I will leave knowing that Walters State will continue to prosper because of the college’s talented and visionary faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters. They are the reason Walters State is among the best community colleges in the country.

Our faculty and staff are known for their commitment and the personal attention they give to our students and alumni. They are focused on teaching and the success of their students, both in the classroom and in life. And they are recognized both regionally and nationally for innovative initiatives related to student outcomes.

The most rewarding aspect of being president, and the one I believe I will miss the most, is that every day I get to hear about the incredible accomplishments of our students and alumni. Their stories never cease to inspire and amaze me. Whether it’s a story about a dual enrollment student who graduates from Walters State before receiving a high school diploma or a single parent who earns a college degree while also balancing work and family, it’s been unbelievably fulfilling and humbling to have played a very small role in their achievements.

Throughout my career at Walters State, I have been fortunate to work with numerous individuals from this community who share a passion for providing affordable, high-quality educational opportunities for individuals living in this part of East Tennessee. Past and present members of the Walters State Foundation have greatly enhanced access to education in this region. From campus expansions to endowed scholarships, they are helping to ensure that more individuals living in our communities have the opportunity to attain a college degree.

To the entire Walters State family, it has been an honor to serve as president of this outstanding college. And I look forward to seeing the many great things that will be accomplished at Walters State in the future.

Wade B. McRaney
McClure Bringing Light to Cocke County WWI Hero

Dr. Marc McClure, associate professor of history, presented research on World War I hero Kiffin Rockwell to Tennessee’s Great War Commission this fall. Rockwell was a native of Cocke County. The commission has been established by Gov. Bill Haslam to mark the centennial of the first world war.

“I saw on his gravestone that he was an aviator who died in France in 1916. After walking by, I realized that we were not in the war at the time,” said McClure. With just a little research, McClure learned that Rockwell earned the first aerial victory for the legendary Lafayette Escadrille. The unit consisted of foreign pilots, mostly Americans fighting for France, before America entered the war. McClure also found a book published by the family containing his letters home.

One of McClure’s students, Gary Brooks, then gave McClure a tour of all the sites in Cocke County related to Rockwell, including his childhood home. McClure next traveled to Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., to look at Rockwell’s original letters. He also found that the university housed a large collection of photographs from the Lafayette Escadrille and an extensive collection of newspaper clippings.

McClure wanted to compare the original letters with those published. He found only minor changes and noted that most of the editing was insignificant and involved inappropriate or “colorful” language.

Rockwell was the first member of the Escadrille to bring down a German plane. He fought throughout the next six months as a battle raged for control of the skies. Rockwell was noted as the most active pilot in the fight squadron, and though his aviator days lasted less than a year, he earned an international following for his war exploits. He was shot down near the town of Luxeuil, France, on Sept. 23, 1916.

While Rockwell is still revered in France, McClure fears his legacy here in East Tennessee is falling into the dusty archives of history as another generation passes since World War I.

“I want to push Kiffin’s legacy back into the public arena,” McClure said.

September 2016 will mark the 100th anniversary of Rockwell’s death. The town where he died has marked the sad occasion every year over the past century. McClure hopes to be in Paris when a monument erected by France to honor the American Escadrille will be rededicated.

‘Professor Emeritus’ Bestowed on Bach, Hayes

Walters State bestowed a rare honor on retired professors Dr. Orville E. “Butch” Bach and Dr. Harold Hayes. Bach was named professor emeritus of business and economics. Hayes was named professor emeritus of psychology and developmental studies.

Bach joined the faculty in 1976 as an instructor of business and tourism. He retired in 2006. He brought a chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) to the campus, which provided many students with professional development skills and travel opportunities. The teams finished as high as second in national competitions. Bach was known for championing financial literacy not just on campus but in the community.

Hayes joined the faculty in 1978 with the initial challenge of resurrecting the child development and early childhood education program. He went on to make major contributions in the behavioral health and remedial studies departments. Hayes published over 30 research papers. After his retirement, he advised the Walters State alternative energy team, which won top honors at national Department of Energy competitions.

Previous honorees are Dr. Anne Armstrong, professor emeritus of English; Dr. James Ford, professor emeritus of physics and mathematics; Dr. Judith Hector, professor emeritus of mathematics; the late Dr. Samuel R. O’Dell, professor emeritus of history; and the late Dr. Darrell Simmons, professor emeritus of technology.

Apple Honors Walters State Third Time

Walters State has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished Program for 2015-17. This honor is reserved for programs that demonstrate innovation, leadership and education excellence with a clear vision of exemplary learning environments. This is the third time Apple has recognized Walters State. To learn more, look for a free multi-touch book titled “mEngage: Our Mobile Learning Story” in the iBooks Store.

Members of Walters State’s mEngage team include, from left, Sandra Paduch, director of website design and front-end development; Dr. Wade McCamey, president; Dr. Lori Campbell, vice president for Academic Affairs; Dr. David White, assistant dean of online instruction and professor of English; Darlene Smith, associate professor of education; Dr. Matthew Smith, assistant professor of chemistry; Julie Lewis, reference/emerging technologies librarian; and Candace Justice, interim department head, English and coordinator of reading and writing.

Faculty Activities

Larry Clifton, associate professor of speech, presented “The Cinema of Fright...and its Categories of Aesthetic Shock” in “Insight Publishing.”

Steve Alcorn, assistant professor of English, presented “Situational Artillery: Using Pop Culture (and Whatever Else) in the Classroom” at the Two Year English Association of Tennessee Annual Conference.

Taylor Richard, associate professor of speech, presented “The iPad as a Vital Teaching Tool in the Classroom” at the Tennessee Communication Association Annual Conference.

Dr. Jeff Horner, dean of natural science, was part of a joint TBR-Walters State presentation on mobilization at the Rhodes House in Oxford, England.
Four Graduates Receive Distinguished Alumni Awards in 2015

Professional Achievement Award

David Helton
Helton is a 1975 graduate of Walters State, with a degree in business. He transferred to East Tennessee State University and earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering and surveying. From 1978 to 1982, he worked at the TVA as a surveyor. Since 1986, Helton has been the President/CEO of East Tennessee Investments/Subway, with eight Subway locations. He is a major supporter of Walters State and has been named to the college’s President’s Trust. His community service includes serving as honorary chair of the 12th Annual Heart Gala for Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System, of which he also is a committee member. He is on the board of directors for the Hearts of Christians Children’s Ministry – Belize Central America; director of disaster relief for Grainger Baptist Association; volunteers for Baptist Builders and is director of the Jackie Long Memorial 5K. He also operates a 50-acre beef cattle farm. Helton was honored with the Walters State 2015 Distinguished Alumni in Professional Achievement Award.

Civic Achievement Award

Jimmy Dunn
Dunn graduated from Walters State in 1976. He majored in criminal justice and proudly counts himself as one of the college’s early graduates. Dunn was working at a tire service store when he heard about a new college that would be offering classes in a church basement. Since then, he has enjoyed a long and distinguished career, serving in many capacities related to law and order. He spent 10 years with the Tennessee Highway Patrol Division and then served as an instructor at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy in Donelson. He earned his bachelor’s degree from ETSU and then accomplished what he thought was just a dream—he graduated from the Nashville Law School and passed the Tennessee bar exam. Dunn practiced for three years before joining the fourth Judicial District as a prosecutor. The district includes Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson and Sevier counties. He served for 17 years, until the retirement of long-time district attorney general Berkeley Bell in 2006. Even though he had never run a political campaign before, Dunn entered the race and won his first eight-year term in 2006. He was re-elected in 2014.

Dunn is a member of the Tennessee Public Safety Coalition, the Tennessee Sheriffs Association, and the Tennessee District Attorney Generals Association. Dunn’s community service includes serving as a past president for the Boys and Girls Club of Newport, the Kiwanis Club of Newport, and the Cocke County Bar Association. Dunn was honored with the Walters State 2015 Distinguished Alumni in Civic Achievement Award.

Athletic Achievement Award

Joanie D. Mungro-Pitts
Mungro-Pitts graduated from Walters State in 1998 with an associate of science, general degree. She transferred to Clemson University, where she earned a degree in speech and communications, with a minor in sociology. Since graduating from college, she has worked as a Pre-K teacher for 14 years. Joanie is among the most outstanding basketball players to ever wear a Lady Senators uniform. She was the first Lady Senator to be named a two-time All-American, and the first two-time state MVP. And she is the all-time leading scorer for the Lady Senators. After her record-breaking career at Walters State, Mungro-Pitts signed a full athletics scholarship with Clemson University, where she received the Annie Tribble Leadership Award for her contributions on the court as a Lady Tiger. Mungro-Pitts was honored with the Walters State 2015 Distinguished Alumni in Athletic Achievement Award.

Community and/or Voluntary Service Award

Sharon K. Hayes
Hayes graduated from Walters State in 1979 with a degree in business management. She transferred to Carson-Newman University, where she received a degree in business administration with a minor in psychology. After graduating from college, she owned and operated Property and Casualty Insurance Agency and the Optimus Health Club and Physical Therapy. Since 2007, she has served as the coordinator of Volunteer Services at Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System. Hayes is extremely active in supporting the community through volunteer work and civic organizations. She has served on the following boards: Keep America Beautiful; Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce; and the Hamblen County Senior Citizens Board of Directors. Hayes was the first chair of the Hamblen/Jefferson Arthritis Foundation Walk to raise awareness and funds for arthritis and was president of the Jefferson County Rotary Club, which named her a “Paul Harris Fellow.” Hayes was honored with the Walters State 2015 Distinguished Alumni in Community and/or Voluntary Service Award.

In Memoriam

Gregory M. Kyle Jr. passed away last year. Kyle was an alumnus of Walters State and, as the college’s official photographer for 27 years, recorded much of Walters State’s history. Many of his photographs appeared in this publication. His family has established the Gregory “Greg” Manual Kyle Jr. Scholarship for the Arts to provide financial assistance to art students at the college. This fund remains open for contributions. For more information, contact Wanda Harrell, assistant director of alumni affairs and annual giving at Wanda.Harrell@ws.edu.
The television show “CSI” fascinated audiences and made many elementary school students want to be crime-solving scientists. One of those students never gave up on that dream and is now a respected, up-and-coming scholar in the area of DNA research.

Brooke Morgan, who earned an A.S. in Chemistry from Walters State, completed a prestigious summer internship conducting DNA typing and profiling research at the National Institute for Standards and Technology in Washington, D.C. Her research has been used to help set strict standards for DNA submission.

“Labs report DNA results in different ways. The program I worked with is trying to establish more stringent procedures for reporting those important findings,” she explained.

“Of course, the process is nothing like it is on television,” Morgan said. “You don’t just push a button and get the results. The process is more like a puzzle. You solve it a piece at a time.”

This is a great time to be studying DNA, according to Morgan. DNA is contained in an individual’s skin, bodily fluids and hair. In the past 20 years, the discovery and use of the genetic substance has revolutionized criminal investigations. Many prosecutors call DNA the “finger of God” pointing at suspected criminals.

Morgan, though, says we are just at the beginning of discovering everything DNA can tell us about people — whether it is criminals or missing children.

“DNA recovery is a growing field and has helped solve many crimes once thought unsolvable,” Morgan said.

“Under the right conditions, you can multiply a very small amount of DNA to get a usable amount. New ways of recovering DNA are also being discovered.”

For Morgan, one of the most fascinating aspects of research is moving from the genotype (genetics) to the phenotype (physical) testing of DNA.

“Right now, we look at the genotype and we can match DNA to a person as long as we have that person’s DNA,” she said.

“In the future, we will be able to also learn the phenotype from DNA. This will tell us their physical characteristics like height and hair color. We may even be able to draw a sketch.”

She credits her chemistry instructors at Walters State with keeping her interest in forensic science strong.

“I was in the honors program at Walters State. Being able to work one-on-one with chemistry professors and conducting real experiments was amazing. I knew this was what I wanted to be.”

Morgan said her chemistry professors also gave her a solid background that she relies on even today. Her education at Walters State was paid for by a Walters State Foundation Scholarship, the Hope Lottery Scholarship and the Aspire Scholarship. When it came time to transfer, Middle Tennessee State University also extended generous scholarship offers.

“Financially and academically, Walters State was the best move for me,” Morgan said.

Morgan holds a B.S. from MTSU. For her undergraduate honors project, she developed and taught a forensic science lab, complete with seven experiments and a lab manual.

Morgan plans to eventually complete her Ph.D. For now, she just wants to finish her master’s and get out into the real world of forensic science.

**WSCC Alumna Making Contributions to DNA Research**

**First Culinary Arts Reunion Draws More than 100**

When the Rel Maples Institute for Culinary Arts opened its doors for its first alumni reunion, 100 people showed up. The reunion was held Saturday, May 2, 2015. The date marked the 15th anniversary of the program’s start.

Chefs were met by faculty and staff, including Chef Catherine Hallman, program head, and Joe Fall, head of hospitality management.

Students are planning a large reunion in 2020 to mark the program’s 20th anniversary. A meet-and-greet is also being discussed.

Over 400 students have earned certificates or diplomas in culinary arts. For more information on future reunions, contact Wanda Harrell, assistant director of alumni affairs and annual giving at Wanda.Harrell@ws.edu.

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**Walters State Alumni Celebrate Day of Giving**

Walters State celebrated the National Day of Giving on Dec. 1 by giving back to the college’s alumni. Wanda Harrell, assistant director of alumni affairs and annual giving, and Louise Dyer, a two-time WSCC graduate and a Foundation trustee, delivered gift bags and alumni T-shirts to alumni at Morristown Hamblen Healthcare System. Over 100 alumni, all employees of the hospital, were recognized. The alumni also enjoyed refreshments in the hospital cafeteria.

The trip was especially meaningful for Dyer. She retired from the hospital after working 25 years as a registered nurse. Dyer graduated from Walters State in 1975 and came back for the nursing program. She graduated from that program in 1978.

The alumni office plans to make this an annual event, with activities rotating through the college’s service area.

“We want to show our appreciation to our alumni once they enter their professional careers. This is one way for us to give back,” Harrell said.

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**Spring Commencement**

**May 7, 2016**

**Over 100 people attended the first reunion of graduates of the Rel Maples Institute for Culinary Arts at Walters State’s Sevier County Campus.**
Make WSCC Better! Participate in the QEP!

Walters State will soon embark on a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) in accordance with the reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. This accreditation is an affirmation that Walters State provides a quality of education recognized by the higher education community. Accreditation also assures prospective students, employers and other institutions that Walters State meets recognized academic standards.

The QEP Development Committee – made up of faculty and staff – is now seeking input from the alumni community. Where should we focus quality enhancement? Based on feedback from college constituents, the committee has narrowed hundreds of suggestions to six general areas:

- Academic advising
- Customer service and communication techniques
- New student orientation and college literacy
- Student’s digital literacy of institutional student systems
- Student engagement and campus attachment
- Understanding and use of teaching technologies among disciplines.

We need your valuable input! Go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/6YRC6WL to rank the above topics and how you feel they would impact student learning outcomes or the environment that supports student learning. Participants will be entered to win a $50 gift card. Be on the lookout for the results and eventual topic selection later this spring.

Tennessee Career Center Moves

The area’s comprehensive career center has moved from Talbott to Morristown. It is located on the corner of Liberty Hill Road and East Andrew Johnson Highway. If you’re looking for a job, this is the place to start. Walters State’s Center for Workforce Development administers the center, which is funded through the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Follow the center on Twitter at @TNCCMorristown for daily updates. The center is also on Facebook.

WSCC Named ‘Military Friendly College’

G.I. Jobs magazine has again named Walters State a “Military Friendly College.” The choice was based on services available to veterans and students on active duty or in the reserves/National Guard. Services will expand this fall to include regular meet-ups for veterans and faculty/staff mentors. Over 200 veterans now attend Walters State. Veterans can be easily spotted during commencement ceremonies by their red, white and blue tassels.
Walters State Athletics

Carlyle Reaches 800th Win Milestone
Coach Bill Carlyle notched his 800th career win with the Senators on Jan. 13. And the win was a memorable one. Walters State came from behind in the last two minutes of play against conference rival Chattanooga State – at Chattanooga State.

The win was celebrated in front of the home crowd on Jan. 16, with Dr. Wade McCamey, president, presenting Carlyle with a commemorative basketball.

Carlyle has been coaching the Senators since 1977. He was honored in 1997 by then-president Dr. Jack E. Campbell and J.B. Shockley, Morristown mayor, for his 400th win. He was inducted into the TJCCAA Hall of Fame in 2000.

Dr. Wade McCamey honored Coach Bill Carlyle’s 800th win with a commemorative basketball.

Five Great Moments from 2014-15 Seasons
1. Baseball Coach Dave Shelton was named the ABCA/Diamond East Central Regional Coach of the Year after guiding the Senators to a 57-12 season and a third-place finish at the JUCO World Series.
2. Freshman outfielder Ramon Osuna was named MVP at the JUCO World Series.
3. Ross Dallas was named a PING NJCAA All-American golfer.
4. Coach Bill Gardner was inducted into the Golf Coaches of America Hall of Fame.
5. The Lady Senators Volleyball team earned a second trip to the NJCAA Region X Tournament. The team went into the tournament with a 9-2 record.

Senators, Lady Senators Receive Academic Honors
Seven Walters State athletes and one team garnered National Junior College Athletic Association academic honors for their work in the classroom during the past year.

Ashli Rogers, a sophomore softball player from Morristown, was given the highest award presented by the NJCAA – the Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence. The Pinnacle Award recognizes student athletes compiling a 4.0 grade point average.

Joining Rogers from the softball team were Olivia Lawson with Superior Academic Achievement (3.80-3.99 GPA) and Amber Cook with Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.60-3.79 GPA).

The Lady Senators softball team was also named an NJCAA Academic Team for the second straight year after earning a 3.22 cumulative GPA for the year. Walters State and Dyersburg State were the only softball teams in the TCCAA to be honored for team academic achievement.

In baseball, three student-athletes were honored. Jason Costa was honored with Superior Academic Achievement, while Colton Provey and Campbell Scholl were honored with Exemplary Academic Achievement.

One basketball player was honored as well, with Stetson Moore receiving Exemplary Academic Achievement recognition.

These academic honors go along with four All-American awards for play on the field. Tanner Nelson was named a second team NJCAA All-American in golf, Emily Kendrick was a third team NJCAA All-American in softball, Ross Grosvenor was a third team NJCAA All-American in baseball and Jephany Brown was an honorable-mention NJCAA All-American in women’s basketball.

Lady Senators Enjoying Red Hot Season This Year
As “The HUB” goes to press, the Lady Senators are sitting pretty...undefeated at 20-0 and a 50-game home winning streak. And this follows the 2014-15 team, arguably the best in the history of the college with a final four national finish.

Coach Dave Kragel, in his 39th year at the helm, doesn’t take anything for granted. “This has been a remarkable season. We had two players who were with us in the national tournament last year – Ant’Tresia Patton and Tasha Magruder – and they did not start. Everyone else is new. I just feel so fortunate with this team,” Kragel said.

“We’ve won a couple of very close games. The kids have played extremely hard. Coach Coleman has done an excellent job and I feel blessed to have this team and I am enjoying this season.”

The team will play for a return trip to the national tournament March 1-5 in the TCCAA/NJCAA Region VII Tournament at Volunteer State. The NJCAA National Tournament will be played March 14-19 in Lubbock, Texas.

Keep up with Walters State Athletics
ws.edu/athletics/
Honor a Loved One with a Lasting Tribute

Most alumni will agree that Walters State campuses are among the most beautiful in the state. A big reason for this is the large selection of native trees. The Honor/Memorial Tree Program provides the opportunity for individuals or groups to create a living memorial in honor or in memory of someone or an event.

For a one-time donation of $300, a donor may select a tree to be planted on the campus of his or her choice. The tree can be dedicated “In Memory of” or “In Honor of” a loved one, a group, or an event and will be marked with a permanent, engraved plaque. For the enjoyment of those unable to visit the arboretum in person, each honor/memorial tree is featured in the college’s online tree gallery on the Walters State Foundation webpage.

The tree will be planted during its dormant phase, either late fall or early spring, at a site conducive to the survival of the tree. The donation includes installation, guaranteed livability and maintenance of the tree as well as replacement if necessary.

The Honor/Memorial Tree gallery, application, and recommended tree list are available online at ws.edu/foundation/tree-program.