

## President John W. Bardo

John W. Bardo was appointed president of Wichita State University in 2012 by the Kansas Board of Regents. He has dedicated his administration to building a student-centered, innovation-driven modern university that will be an ally with residents, entrepreneurs, industry and government in growing the local and state economy.

He has articulated a vision that is also an invitation to students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members: “Envision being part of a university where innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and technology are making the future. That is Wichita State University.”

Wichita State’s Innovation Campus and applied learning initiatives have drawn positive national attention because of the partnerships forged with local and international companies including Airbus, Dassault Systems and Koch Industries. The university has a long history of working with industry through its National Institute of Aviation Research and National Center for Aviation Training.

Prior to returning to Wichita State, President Bardo served 16 years as chancellor at Western Carolina University and held previous leadership appointments at Southwest Texas State University, the University of North Florida and Bridgewater (MA.) State College.

He grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio received a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Cincinnati. He earned a master’s degree in sociology from Ohio University and a Ph.D. in sociology from Ohio State University. He also attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard in 1987.

His first academic appointment was at Wichita State as an assistant professor of sociology. He also worked and taught in the Hugo Wall Center for Urban studies. During his time at Wichita State, he also obtained a Fulbright to Australia where he and his wife, Deborah, studied Americans as migrants and he had a sabbatical appointment at the University of Wales at Swansea in social policy.

His academic interests involve the relationships between higher education, the economy, and quality of life. He speaks regularly on issues associated with the New Economy and building competitiveness. When he is not working, he enjoys international travel and working with stained glass.

For more information, contact [president@wichita.edu](mailto:president@wichita.edu)