TIMELINE

1997: 300 South College Street was purchased as the future home of the Center for Women's Leadership.

1999: The first leadership class was offered at Cottey College, taught by Dr. Helen Washburn, Dr. Inez Byer, and Kris Korb using the Phi Theta Kappa curriculum.

2000: The Grand Opening of the Center for Women's Leadership was held.

2003: The Leadership, Experiences, Opportunity (LEO) certification program was created through a collaborative effort of student life and leadership staff to recognize students' leadership efforts on campus.

2004: The first LEO students were recognized at the Honors and Awards ceremony.

2004: Upon the retirement of President Dr. Helen Washburn, the Board of Trustees renamed the Center for Women's Leadership the Helen and George Washburn Center for Women's Leadership.

2005–2014: Under the direction of Dr. Judy Rogers, the Presidential Leadership Program was created in partnership with Nevada High School.

2010: The Cottey Institute for Women's Leadership and Social Responsibility was created to support baccalaureate degree programs.







2014: Through the generosity of Thelma Serenbetz, the Institute was renamed Serenbetz Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness. The Institute was moved within the Helen and George Washburn Center for Women's Leadership.

2015–2018: Working with the Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the Girls Leadership Program was developed to educate and empower high school girls from the Kansas City region to be confident leaders and philanthropists in their communities and beyond.

2015: The first Serenbetz grants were awarded.

2015: The Certificate in Organizational Leadership program was first offered.

2017: The Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership program was first offered.

2017: Cottey's leadership program was reorganized into one unit reporting to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The programming was streamlined into one program for all students.

2017: The First-Year Writing Seminar was created to bring together the threads of women's leadership, social responsibility, and global awareness through a writing course required of all first-year students.

2019: The first baccalaureate students graduated with an Organizational Leadership degree.







Morgan Brown Class of 2019 First OLS degree

Morgan is currently pursuing a M.S. in Organizational Change Management with plans to become a leadership coach and consultant.