

Dr. Donald Claycomb

July 1993 – Present

For 18 years, Dr. Donald Claycomb has been president of Linn State Technical College, a title he has held longer than any of his predecessors.

Claycomb is amazed at the college's accomplishments when he looks back on the past 18 years. "I believe we have manifested Mr. Willett's dream to offer education that prepares students to go to work," said Claycomb. "We wouldn't be here today if not for the many administrators, industry advisors, donors, state departments' staff, elected officials, faculty, staff and alumni that have paved the way for the future of technical education."

During his tenure, the college became the state of Missouri's only public two-year technical college with a statewide mission. Claycomb will always remember the sight of the green lights on the voting board in the Missouri House of Representatives. It meant that Linn Technical College's long battle for state governance was finally won.

It came in the last hours of the last day of the 1995 legislative session. Claycomb, staff and supporters had spent much time during that session convincing legislators of the need for a state technical college. He fondly recalls watching the final vote in the House.

When he was appointed president of Linn Technical College in 1993, one of the goals given him by the Board was to define the college as a legal entity separate from the Osage County R-II School District. The 1995 law bringing the college under the umbrella of the state's higher education system has been a milestone in Claycomb's tenure, as well as the college's history.

Claycomb has overseen a time of tremendous change at the college. Under his leadership, the institution has undergone major changes in program development, accreditation and facility development.

Since taking his role as college president, Linn State has developed over 60 percent of the academic programs offered at the college. The college increased its focus to acquire external accreditations and certifications. Thirteen of the academic programs are accredited by the Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE). In addition, more than 15 other program level external accreditations and certifications have been achieved.

Under his guidance, Linn State earned initial candidacy with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in 1998 and obtained a ten year accreditation with no follow up. Seven years later the college has been selected as a participant in the HLC "Pathways Demonstration Project" that is piloting the proposed new model of continued accreditation.

In addition to program development and program accreditation, Linn State has increased emphasis on student outcomes. The college has utilized student achievement data to convince the general assembly to appropriate capital funding. In 2009, the college took further steps to ensure students were prepared for the workplace beyond their technical training. An initiative driven by the more than 350 advisory council members, a program known by its AJA[™]LSTC acronym encouraged students to become proficient in three areas: academics, job readiness work ethic and attendance. In 2009, Linn State was

the first college to develop student transcripts that showed not only academic grades, but also class attendance percentage and a job readiness work ethic score.

Throughout his years as president, Claycomb has witnessed the construction of numerous academic and student services facilities such as: Multipurpose Building in 1997; Advanced Technology Center in Mexico, Missouri in 1998; Student Housing Phase I in 2000; Information Technology Center in 2001; Engineering Technology Wing in 2001; Airport Phase II in 2003; Student Housing Phase II in 2006; Airport Hangar in 2006; Activity Center in 2008; and Vehicle and Power Center in 2010.

In addition to facilities, Claycomb has led the charge to improve the campus infrastructure with the addition of paved streets and parking lots, a water tower, sewer system, a network operations center and management information system for the campus.

According to Claycomb, the bigger accomplishment for him has been maintaining the historical integrity of the college as a technical institution that prepares students for profitable employment.

“That’s also been the biggest challenge – to make certain that through all of this change we did not lose sight of what our real purpose in the state was and is to be,” he said.

While state designation brought respect and stability to the college, Claycomb believes the success of the college’s graduates in the workforce that has built Linn State’s reputation.

“It is the reputation of our graduates, what they have done after they graduated and what they did out in the workforce that has made it possible for Linn State Technical College to be the higher education institute that it is today,” commented Claycomb.

“The good things that have happened in the recent years at Linn Tech are also due to a hardworking, dedicated group of employees,” said Claycomb. “This is definitely not a one man show.”

Claycomb remains an invaluable member of the educational, economic development and civic communities. He serves as a consultant-evaluator with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, National President of Alpha Gamma Sigma, and is a member of the National Board of the Consortium of Collegiate Agricultural Student Organizations. He is also a board member of the Meramec Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), Meramec Regional Community Foundation (MRCF) and Connecting Our Regional Economy (CORE). Claycomb is actively engaged in the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts of Missouri, Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland and the Rotary Club of Jefferson City.

Over his career Claycomb was on the faculties at Kansas State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia in addition to having served as executive director of the Missouri State Council on Vocational Education. Claycomb, who was president of both the Missouri Association of Adult Continuing and Community Education Association and the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education.

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