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Tyson Center for Faith and Spirituality in the  
Workplace Annual Report

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2014

## Annual report for the Tyson Center for Faith and Spirituality in the Workplace, 2014

Sam M. Walton College of Business. Tyson Center for Faith and Spirituality in the Workplace

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## Annual Report for the Tyson Center for Faith and Spirituality in the Workplace

Daniel E. Harris – Managing Director

This has been a year of transition for the Tyson Center for Faith and Spirituality in the Workplace. Founding Director Judi Neal retired in June 2013 and Dean Eli Jones appointed Daniel Harris as Interim Director in August. The Dean instructed Harris to build on the excellent work of his predecessor and to propose approaches to expand and sustain the Tyson Center.

After consulting widely, Harris proposed a plan constructed around mutually-supportive value propositions for four constituencies: students, business leaders, scholars and the Walton College. In March 2014, the Dean, after consultation with John Tyson, accepted the blue print. The three overarching goals are to:

- Stimulate a significant, on-going dialog about faith (core beliefs) and values in the workplace among students on the campus of the University of Arkansas, and to share learning with other institutions;
- Ensure the sustainability and impact of the TCFSW by creating and facilitating mutually supportive value propositions for business, students and scholars;
- Contribute to moving the Walton College into the top 20 Public Business Schools by 2020.

In April, the Tyson Center conducted a pilot elective with 10 students, in conjunction with Mr. Raymond Perrier, Director of the Jesuit Institute of South Africa, which has been conducting similar courses at secular universities. This pilot has been scaled up to a three-hour elective for the Fall Term called *Authentic Leadership in a Multi-faith Workplace: Remaining True to Yourself in a Professional Kaleidoscope*. Students will be guided to reflect deeply on their faith (core beliefs) and values. They will then consider how remain true to themselves in the workplace, while engaging successfully with others who may operate from very different belief systems and world views. As a result, students should make better career choices, adhere more closely to their beliefs and values, and lead more effectively in a diverse workplace. The Tyson Center has invited Mr. Perrier to be our first visiting scholar and to co-lead the course.

In June, 2014 the Dean appointed Daniel Harris as Managing Director of the Tyson Center. Harris will work with key stakeholders to recruit a Board of Directors drawn largely from the business community. The directors will meet with thought leaders to explore ways in which innovative approaches to faith and spirituality in the workplace can address pressing issues, such as employee engagement, ethical conduct and managing differences. Scholars and board members will outline priorities for research and promote promising scholarship. Directors will also be invited to engage with and mentor students in areas such as authentic leadership, articulating personal beliefs and values appropriately, and producing optimal results in an increasingly globalized workplace.

The Tyson Center will thus serve as a nexus where students, scholars, business executives and thought leaders explore faith and spirituality as a means to address practical issues in the workplace. Together, they will integrate scholarship, university curriculum and best practices in ways that enhance the beneficial impact of faith and spirituality in the workplace for employees, communities and companies.