



**Ambassador**  
*Nurturing the life of the Institute*

# Ambassador Update

## Institute for Discipleship

*Ambassadors nurture the life of the Institute for Discipleship through their prayers, advocacy, and financial support, advancing the Kingdom of God worldwide.*

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### February 2026

There are a lot of ways to make a positive difference in this world. I am so pleased to help expand the impact of the Institute because its work ripples out to so many over time.



I believe the Institute's work results in three main areas for those whose lives it touches:

1. People grow in their faith
2. Congregations become more effective in their ministry
3. The body of Christ becomes more connected, supportive and empowered.

To financially undergird the Institute's amazing work, I am going on the fundraising campaign trail. I will visit with as many people as I can in the "Where Disciples Grow" campaign. It will celebrate the steady growth of the Institute for the last 25 years with a clear focus and commitment to serving, taking the work of the Institute to a whole new level.

I am looking forward to each conversation because I love to share what God is doing within the mission of the Institute. I also love hearing what

concerns God has placed on other hearts. I believe some concerns can be addressed through supporting the Institute's work.

My hope is that you and others like you will embrace this effort and share in the fruit it will bring to so many peoples lives.



Steve Wilke  
Emeritus Executive Director



We hope you'll be able  
to join us in  
Winfield, Kansas

We are celebrating **25** years of  
Ministry and feeling inspired  
for the next **25**!

FRIDAY  
6 PM

10

APRIL  
2026

*Invitation to follow*

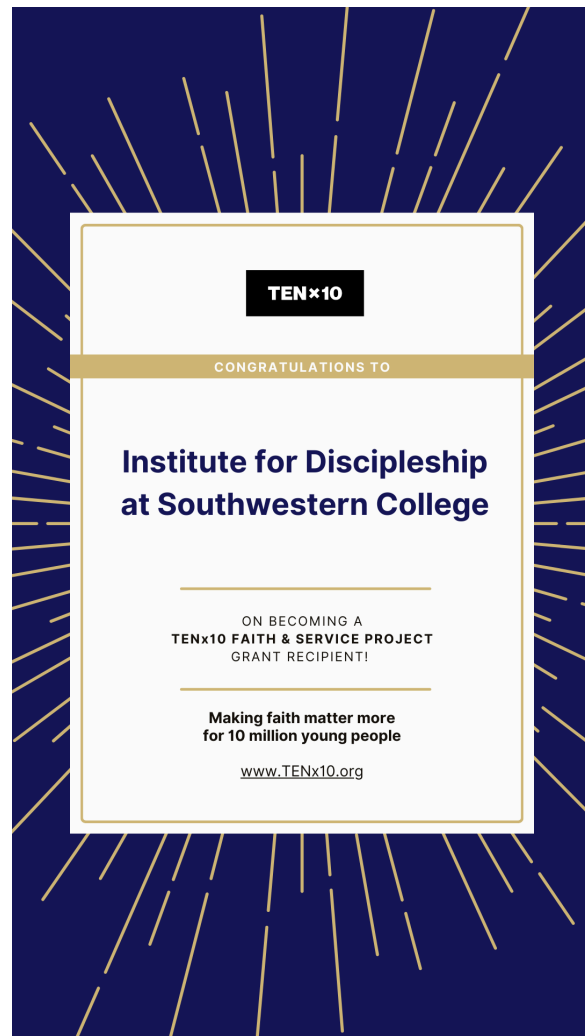
THE RICHARD AND JULIA WILKE  
**INSTITUTE FOR DISCIPLESHIP**  
AT SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

## ***Institute receives grant to support study for youth and young adults***

A \$26,000 grant to the Institute for Discipleship will be used to support a new 12-week study for youth or young adults. The grant was made by Tenx10, which is hosted by Fuller Seminary and funded by Lilly Endowment. Tenx10 is committed to engaging teenagers in intentional acts of service and justice

The funds will support recruitment, training, and support for 15 people to lead a 12-week study with youth or young adults, six weeks in the book of Luke and six weeks in the book of Acts. The study also requires each group to discern a community need and address that need with a service project.

This grant will be conducted in collaboration with the Great Plains Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.



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