

# THE CAMPUS AND STUDENT LIFE

## THE CAMPUS

Nevada, Missouri, is the small community Virginia Alice Cottey chose as the home for her college. Today comprising 8,400 citizens, Nevada is the major population center between Kansas City and Joplin. Located in a residential section, Cottey's campus has 15 buildings on an 11-block tract and a scenic 33-acre wooded area, **B.I.L. Hill and Lodge**. The Hill is a favorite place for campus gatherings and retreats, and serves as a nature laboratory.

Historic **Main Hall**, built in 1884, is the College's original building. Completely renovated in 2002, it currently houses administrative offices, the Service Center, and the Bookstore.

The **Rubie Burton Academic Center** is composed of two wings. **Alumnae Hall**, built in 1974 and renovated in 1998, contains classrooms, faculty offices, the student art gallery, and the computer lab. Offices for Academic Affairs, the registrar, and the **Kolderie Academic Assistance Center** are also in this building. **Grantham Hall**, completed in 1998, houses well-equipped science and computer laboratories, the majority of the classrooms and faculty offices, and student and faculty lounges.

**Neale Hall**, built in 1922, was renovated in 2015 as part of the construction of the Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building. Originally constructed as a gymnasium, today this beautifully repurposed facility houses the studios and offices of the dance department.

**The Judy and Glenn Rogers Fine Arts Building**, built in 2015, was constructed to bring all of the fine arts together under one roof. Joined to the renovated Neale Hall by an atrium, the facility houses the music and art departments. It includes studios for the visual arts and practice rooms for the music department as well as classrooms and faculty offices. It is joined to Main Hall by an elevated glass walkway.

The central place for academic research is the **Blanche Skiff Ross Memorial Library**, constructed in 1963. It houses over 50,000 books, covering the breadth of the arts and sciences on the undergraduate level, including the Women's Studies Collection, the Juvenile Collection, and the Popular Reading Collection in addition to music scores and recordings and over 1,200 videos and DVDs. A conference room and group study rooms provide a variety of meeting spaces. All three floors have study tables, easy chairs, private study areas, and computers.

**The Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts**, completed in 1989, provides facilities for the performing arts. It features a 495-seat auditorium, a climate-controlled art gallery, a recital hall with seating for 150, and a large scenery shop and costume shop.

The **Chapel**, built and donated in 1956 by the BILs, seats 480 in the nave and houses the Dysart Memorial Organ, a 21-rank Hammer-Reuter organ, and the Nell Farrel Stevenson Grand Piano. The Chapel, which is nondenominational, also contains a smaller side chapel and parlor (the Canadian Room).

**Hinkhouse Center**, built in 1971 and renovated in 1992, houses a gymnasium, swimming pool, fitness center, classrooms, and faculty and coaches' offices. The spacious student lounge and the Chellie Club coffee house were refurbished in 2011. The Student Life Center is housed in Hinkhouse Center. The complex also includes three tennis courts, softball and recreational fields, and the Vanek Family Memorial Softball Field, dedicated in 2013.

**The Cottey House** (renovated in 2013), located to the east of Main Hall on Cherry Street, is used to house guests of the College.

**P.E.O. Hall** (1939), first building erected after Cottey was accepted as a gift by the P.E.O. Sisterhood in 1927. Approximately 100 students live in ten suites: Arkansas, California-Gardner, California-Remy, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, Pope, and Yellowstone.

**Reeves Hall** (1949), named for Winona Evans Reeves. Approximately 100 students live in ten suites: California-Weller, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Rubie, Seaboard, Texas, and Washington.

**Robertson Hall** (1959), named for Elizabeth Robertson. The Bessie Raney Dining Room is on the lower level. Robertson Hall houses approximately 150 students in 14 suites: Arizona, Colorado-Minear, Colorado-Thompson, Dakota, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Rosemary-Alumna, Santa Barbara, Southeastern, Wallace, Wheatlake, and Wisconsin. This facility is partially accessible to individuals with physical mobility disabilities and is air-conditioned.

**The Helen and George Washburn Center for Women's Leadership**, acquired in 1998, is located just south of the campus at 400 S. College. The beautiful home and grounds are used to host campus retreats, seminars, and to house visiting faculty. It is also home to the Serenbetz Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness.

## STUDENT LIFE CENTER MISSION AND GOALS

The student life staff is committed to the development of the whole person. While the formal academic experience is the centerpiece of collegiate life, the student life staff strives to support and complement the academic program to make it as meaningful as possible. Our primary mission is to assist students in making a successful adjustment to collegiate life.

In order to promote the greatest possible learning and developmental growth of students within our academic community, the staff members are committed to creating an environment that encourages learning, involvement, introspection, maturation, and a balanced lifestyle. To fulfill our mission, we will strive to achieve the following goals:

### **To Provide Services**

- and resources designed to assist students in making a successful adjustment to collegiate life.

### **To Increase Awareness**

- of personal, community, and social issues and encouragement to respond to those issues.
- of different or divergent opinions and ways of life which lead to a better understanding of and tolerance for others.

### **To Create Opportunities**

- for inquiry and expression on matters of interest to students.
- to form self-governing student groups that initiate and pursue activities of interest to students.
- to be active contributors toward positive change through leadership, teamwork, and civic engagement.
- that promote personal growth and development.
- that encourage lifetime health and wellness.

### **To Offer Activities**

- that promote interaction among students, faculty, staff, and the larger community both on and off campus.
- that foster an appreciation of cultural and ethnic diversity in our global community.
- that enhance student learning through active participation.

### **To Conduct Assessment**

- as a means of identifying students' needs and continuously improving services to meet them.
- to document the student learning outcomes gained through participation in student life programs.

## NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Throughout a student's time at Cottey, she will have the assistance and support of the College community. The first year at college is a time of change and growth for both students and families. All new students and their families are encouraged to participate in the New Student Orientation program held before each semester. The goal of New Student Orientation is to help the new student and her family make a successful transition to college life. New Student Orientation includes academic and student life programs for the new students and their families.

## HEALTH SERVICES

Cottey College contracts with local physicians to provide limited health services for students. The semester health fee allows a student to see the physicians in the Health Services Office during the scheduled time with no office visit charge. They provide treatment for minor illness and injuries, health counseling, and referral services. The student (or her family) is responsible for medical expenses involving additional consultations with physicians outside of the normal health services hours, X-ray and laboratory work, prescription medications, and other medical procedures or services as required. Health services offered by the College should not be viewed as a substitute for health insurance. Students who experience a serious illness or injury may be referred for treatment, at their expense, to the Nevada Regional Medical Center, located only 12 blocks from campus. The College reserves the right, if parents or a guardian cannot be reached, to make decisions concerning emergency health problems for any student.

## COUNSELING OFFICE

Cottey College counseling services is committed to fostering the growth and development of Cottey students. By providing mental health services in a safe, supportive, and confidential environment, the counseling staff strives to help students acquire the skills, attitudes, and insights that will enable them to meet the challenges of life in an academic community. The counseling staff encourages personal, campus, and community responsibility, and promotes the wellness of the whole student - emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual, physical, environmental, and occupational. Counseling sessions at Cottey support diversity and inclusivity and are a safe zone for all students.

The Peer Empowerment Program (PEP) consists of second-, third-, and fourth-year students who have been carefully selected and trained and have volunteered to help their fellow students with problems. Members listen open-mindedly, assist students in sorting out issues, and make referrals when appropriate. Peer listeners will not tell you what to do, but they can help you decide on a course of action. Peer assistance is private and confidential. Peer listeners are supervised by the coordinator of counseling.

## RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Residential life at Cottey provides students a vibrant and dynamic learning environment. Although a very small number of Cottey's students commute to campus from home, most come from other parts of the country or world and live on campus. All first- and second-year students must secure and maintain campus residency throughout their enrollment unless they can commute from their homes, or an individual exception to the requirement has been approved by the College administration. Third- and fourth-year students may choose to live on or off campus. The unique suite-style living contributes to the development of interpersonal skills and thus adds to the pleasure and value of a Cottey education.

Residential students live in **P.E.O. Hall**, **Reeves Hall**, and **Robertson Hall**. These halls are divided into suites which are comfortable and beautifully decorated, made possible by P.E.O. chapters, individual donors, and others. Individual suites house eight to 16 students from diverse backgrounds and geographic locations in single, double, or triple rooms. There is a computer suite in each residence hall with eight to ten networked computers, printers, and scanners available on a 24-hour basis. For students bringing personal or laptop computers, the option of accessing a high-speed wireless network system within the residence halls and campus wide is available. All residence halls are nonsmoking and Robertson Hall is air-conditioned.

A residence hall director and student resident assistants live in each residence hall to supervise and be of assistance to the residents. Residence halls are recognized as student organizations, and officers are elected to conduct hall business. Suite residents also elect a suite chair to act as the coordinator for the suite.

The College has established student regulations, consistent with living cooperatively in a community, designed to support the mission of the College. The use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and repeated disregard for procedures and regulations have a negative impact on the educational process. The possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited on campus. Along with other guidelines for campus living, the specific policies, regulations, and the disciplinary system are contained in the Student Handbook which is available online. Students are urged to become familiar with these policies and regulations and to support them. Enrollment at the College constitutes an agreement on the part of the student to comply with the policies in this catalog and in the Student Handbook.

Eating in **Raney Dining Room** is also a part of residential life at Cottey College. All meals are served in Raney Dining Room which is located in Robertson Hall. Meals are provided three times per day Monday through Saturday and twice on Sunday. Extra care is taken to provide a pleasant dining experience. Weekly special buffets such as make-your-own stir-fry, southern food, and soup, salad & wings are highlights for Cottey students. Lunch and dinner include a wide variety of entrees, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten and dairy free options in addition to soup, salad, and deli bars. A Centennial Room dinner is a special event for suitemates to dine together in a more formal and private setting. Personally prepared by Cottey's chef, students select a six-course meal sure to delight.

The **Chellie Club**, the campus coffee house located in Hinkhouse Center, features deli items and a wide variety of coffees and drinks. A stereo provides musical entertainment, and the adjacent lounge area includes a big screen television and game area.

## SPIRITUAL LIFE AND CAMPUS DIVERSITY

The coordinator of spiritual life and campus diversity provides primary leadership and support for the spiritual life of the campus community, and helps create a community where diversity and inclusion are appreciated, celebrated, and advanced.

The College recognizes spirituality as an important component of personal development. Cottey strives to provide educational opportunities for increased understanding of the significance of spirituality and an appreciation for its many forms by creating opportunities for spiritual development in a nonsectarian atmosphere that is inclusive of a multi-faith perspective reflective of Cottey's diverse cultural, ethnic, religious, and spiritual community. The coordinator of spiritual life and campus diversity provides leadership for Cottey's spiritual life program and collaborates with others to plan activities throughout the year.

Cottey has a long tradition of student involvement with the Nevada faith community. This rewarding relationship remains a cornerstone of Cottey's spiritual life program. Many churches have "host family" programs that serve not only to enrich the experience of the students and families involved, but also enhance the relationship between Cottey and the Nevada community.

The coordinator also offers programs that increase awareness and appreciation of diversity and support multicultural understanding, leadership development, equity, inclusion, social justice, peace, and community building. There are also many opportunities for students to be involved in outreach to the Nevada and surrounding communities that promote diversity and inclusion.

## CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Numerous performers appear on campus. The Student Activities Committee (SAC) plans, promotes, and produces events featuring bands, comedians, coffeehouse singers, and novelty entertainers. The Cottey College Performing Arts Series sponsors performances each year. Performances span the realm of music, theatre, and dance. Students are admitted free to all campus performances, except student organization fundraisers. Some performances will sell out.

Family Weekend is a special weekend created for families to spend on campus with students. Parents, siblings, grandparents, other relatives, and friends are all invited. Family Weekend, traditionally held in early October, is a great opportunity for families and friends to meet suitemates and college friends and get a taste of life at Cottey.

Much of Cottey's character can be attributed to its traditions. Cottey traditions, some of which date back to its founding, serve as a symbolic expression of the rich and unique heritage shared by the College community. Others have evolved through the years and are perpetuated by students. Cottey life is enriched and made more special by many traditions. Participation in student traditions is optional.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Cottey College campus provides a dynamic environment for students to learn and practice leadership through the efforts of the academic and student life programs and the Serenbetz Institute for Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness.

Student organizations are an integral part of the Cottey experience. There are numerous recognized student organizations on campus. All provide additional opportunities for the extension and enrichment of the individual's education. They represent a broad spectrum of interests, ideas, and activities. These organizations make significant contributions to the intellectual, cultural, recreational, social, and spiritual life of students. Students are encouraged to participate in at least one organization, and to serve in leadership positions. Programming assistance, organizational support, and leadership information are provided to student organization officers and sponsors.

The Student Government Association (SGA) is recognized by the College as the official voice of the students. Through SGA, students participate in shared campus governance, in the management of student organizations, and in student discipline. The basic role of SGA is to work cooperatively with the College administration to improve the quality of student life. It also serves as an "umbrella" organization to all other student organizations in terms of determining officer criteria, budget issues, and other common concerns. The SGA president works closely with the vice president for student life and the President on issues of importance to students and is also invited to discuss student life issues with the Cottey College Board of Trustees.

The Serenbetz Institute sponsors the Leadership, Experiences, and Opportunity (LEO) certification program. This four-level leadership certification program provides students opportunities to explore and enhance their leadership philosophy and skills. The learning outcomes of the LEO program are to be able to identify and develop a personal leadership style; introduce students to a network of successful women leaders; exposure to new experiences, ideas, and cultures; and develop leadership skills that are transferable to personal life, community service, and future careers/professions. A personalized approach rich in hands-on experience includes participation in enrichment events, field trips, community service, and the opportunity to build relationships with fellow student leaders make the LEO program distinctive.

## ATHLETICS

Cottey offers intercollegiate athletic programs in basketball, volleyball, softball, golf, and cross-country/track. Cottey is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Members of the Cottey community enjoy supporting the Cottey Comets at home and on the road.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S DISMISSAL

The vice president for student life may dismiss any student if she behaves in a manner that:

- a. creates an unreasonable risk or danger to the safety of herself, other students, or College personnel; or
- b. causes her to disrupt the academic or social process of other students at the College.

When a student who has received this type of dismissal believes she is ready to resume her enrollment at the College, she must make a formal written request to the vice president for student life for readmission.

# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Cotley College is committed to providing equal opportunity to its students and employees in all aspects of campus life. The College does not unlawfully discriminate in educational programs, recruitment and admissions of applicants, school-administrated activities or programs, or employment opportunities, policies, or practices on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by law.

The coordinator for equal opportunity is the director of human resources, Main Hall, Cotley College, Nevada, MO 64772; telephone (417) 667-8181, ext. 2103. Students may contact the coordinator of student disability services, academic advising, and student success programming, located in the Kolderie Center in the Rubie Burton Academic Center, at (417) 667-8181, ext. 2131.

In addition, and in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Cotley College does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs, school-administrated activities or programs, or employment opportunities, policies, or practices.

Cotley College has designated Title IX coordinators to handle all inquiries regarding its efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. As such, the coordinators are the best contact for employees and students who believe they have suffered discrimination or harassment on any protected basis, including sexual harassment and sexual violence. The Title IX coordinators may be contacted as follows:

**Title IX Coordinator Contact: Mark Burger**

Director of Security, Clery, and Title IX Compliance  
Cotley College  
1000 W. Austin Blvd.  
Nevada, MO 64772  
(417) 667-8181, ext. 2292  
[mburger@cotley.edu](mailto:mburger@cotley.edu)

**Employee Title IX Deputy Coordinator:**

**Betsy McReynolds**  
Director of Human Resources  
Cotley College  
1000 W. Austin Blvd.  
Nevada, MO 64772  
(417) 667-8181, ext. 2103  
[bmcreynolds@cotley.edu](mailto:bmcreynolds@cotley.edu)

**Student Title IX Deputy Coordinator:**

**Mari Anne Phillips, Ed.D.**  
Vice President for Student Life  
Cotley College  
1000 W. Austin Blvd.  
Nevada, MO 64772  
(417) 667-8181, ext. 2126  
[mphillips@cotley.edu](mailto:mphillips@cotley.edu)

**Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may also be directed to:**

The Assistant Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-1100

Cotley College seeks to provide an environment where every student and employee will have an equal opportunity to reach her/his full potential and contribute to the College's success. To that end, Cotley College will not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. It is incumbent upon all students and employees to report any discrimination, harassment, or retaliation that exists so that it can be addressed. These reports can be made directly to your supervisor or the director of human resources or to the vice president for student life. Any alleged violation of this policy will be investigated, and disciplinary action will follow as appropriate.

For more information regarding Cotley College's commitment to an environment free of discrimination and harassment and a full explanation of its grievance procedures for students, see the Cotley College Student Handbook at [www.cotley.edu](http://www.cotley.edu) or visit the Cotley College intranet.