



*Middle of*  
**EVERYWHERE**  
JUNE 15-18  
WICHITA KS  
2026



## Speaker Line Up - Part 1



**Ron Wilson**

*Rural Development Specialist at Kansas State University*

Ron Wilson is a member of NACDEP, a rural development specialist at Kansas State University, and a cowboy poet. He grew up on the Lazy T Ranch near Manhattan, Kansas, where he and his family live today. He was proclaimed as "Poet Lariat" (not laureate) by the Governor of Kansas. Ron is a spokesman for the National Day of the Cowboy organization; an Ambassador for the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Fort Worth, Texas; an inductee into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame; and the national president of Western Wordsmiths. He says his poetry is "fun, family-oriented, patriotic, relates well with people, and most of the time, it even rhymes."



**Marshall Stewart**

*Executive Vice President for External Engagement and Chief of Staff*

Marshall Stewart serves as Kansas State University's first executive vice president for external engagement and chief of staff, leading major university partnerships and initiatives at the local, state, national and global levels. He works closely with university, government and community leaders to advance K-State's strategic engagement efforts and supports key institutional areas including communications, corporate engagement, government relations and extension. Stewart also oversees the Landon Lecture Series and collaborates on special projects that strengthen the university's mission as a next-generation land-grant institution. He holds bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in agricultural and extension education from North Carolina State University.



**Mayor Lily Wu**

*First Asian American Mayor of Wichita, Kansas*

Mayor Lily Wu became Wichita's 103rd mayor in January 2024, making history as the first woman elected to a full term in Kansas' largest city and the first Asian American mayor in the state. A longtime Wichitan, she immigrated from Guatemala in 1993 and went on to become an award-winning local television journalist. Mayor Wu is a proud alumna of Wichita Public Schools, Wichita State University, and the University of Hong Kong. As mayor, she champions an inclusive vision for Wichita, focusing on public safety, economic growth, government trust, and building a united community.