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Kansas Health Foundation selects Coen as next leader

Wichita Business Journal - by [Josh Heck](#)

After reviewing more than 100 applications, the **Kansas Health Foundation** decided to choose one of its own as its next president and CEO.

Steve Coen was named to the position Thursday after a search that lasted several months.

Coen gets a promotion after serving the past decade as the foundation's vice president for administration and being a member since 1987. He will assume his new duties Sept. 15.

"Steve Coen is an outstanding leader and we are honored to have him as the foundation's next president and CEO," said Ron Holt, chair of the Kansas Health Foundation Board of Directors, in a written statement. "His background and experience make him the perfect person to lead the foundation into the future."

The foundation, a statewide private philanthropy organization based in Wichita, says Coen has long been an advocate for Kansas communities.

During his time with the organization he has been instrumental in the development of many major initiatives, including the **Kansas Health Foundation Fellows** program, the **Kansas Community Leadership Initiative** and the GROW Community Foundation program.

"I'm humbled by the faith the board is placing in me to lead the organization," Coen said in a statement. "But more than anything else, I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Kansas."

A native of St. John, Kan., Coen graduated from **Emporia State University** and later earned a law degree at **Washburn University**. His professional experience includes working for former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, both in Kansas and in Washington D.C.

In 2007, the health foundation gave \$11.2 million, topping a **Wichita Business Journal** list of charitable trust and foundations. The grant and gifts in 2007 amounted to \$4.1 million more than the organization gave out the previous year.

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