**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JAMES NEWCASTLE NAMED AS NEW UW-OSHKOSH CHANCELLOR**

OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN (Jan. 1, 2017)- Andrew Leavitt announced his resignation as Chancellor of UWO. Due to family obligations, he will be returning to Georgia to become the provost at the University of Georgia.

The twelfth Chancellor of the University of Oshkosh, succeeding Chancellor Leavitt as of this coming Sept. 1, will be Dr. James Newcastle. He was the previous provost at Ball State University for four years as well as chairman of the department of communications at Indiana State University, where he was also a part of the faculty for 12 years.

With a BA in journalism from the University of Missouri, a Master’s degree in psychology from Stanford University, as well as a Ph.D. in communications from the University of Texas, it is clear that Chancellor Newcastle is dedicated to his educational career.

He has served on more than a dozen state and regional communication association boards of directors as well as serving terms as the National Communication Association vice president. With extensive experience in fundraising, he created a $16.8 million endowment for the Ball State Department of Journalism staffed entirely by students, which is the first of its kind.

Tim Gleason, a professor of journalism and the search chair for UWO stated, “He jumped off the page, so to speak, and was so much more than his resume dictated. He had so many great ideas as to how to help us go forward as a university and yet he respected who we are. So many other people ride in on a platform of change. They want to change everything before they even know anything about a university. Jim didn’t do that. He saw so many great things we were already doing and looked at ways to support and improve them.”

Andrew Leavitt added, “I loved my time here at UWO and I am sad that I’ll be leaving. That said, I know that I’m leaving the university in great hands with the hiring of James Newcastle.” He said, “I think he’s got exactly what this university needs to push us forward into the future. In these times of budget tightening, his fundraising skills will be a definite asset.”

Chancellor Newcastle, 49, lives in Anderson, Indiana, but plans to relocate to Oshkosh in July with his wife, Beth and two sons, Bob and Bill. He looks forward to learning about the city and university before his inauguration.

Paul Ferguson, the president at Ball State University stated, “His legacy on this campus will not be forgotten any time soon, thanks in large part to his fundraising efforts for the journalism endowment. The ‘News of the World’ project will serve as a great opportunity for our students for many years to come. That would not have been possible without Jim’s efforts. I wish him well as chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and I hope he does extremely well for the students and faculty there.”

Out of more than 200 potential candidates, Newcastle was chosen as the new Chancellor of UW-Oshkosh. We look forward to all of the positive changes he will bring in the upcoming years, and welcome him as a growing part of our university.