



*Pictured: Skip Smith with his mural honoring LCC's 1960 National Championship men's basketball team.*

## **"Skip Smith, We are Deeply Sorry"**

At Labette Community College's Founder's Day celebration on September 12, 2023, we overlooked someone who should have been publicly recognized for his monumental contribution to the project.

We sincerely apologize to Skip Smith for this terrible oversight!

We are so fortunate to have such an extremely talented and generous person in our community. Skip spent months creating a phenomenal mural to honor LCC's 1960 National Championship men's basketball team. This beautiful tribute to our student athletes is prominently displayed in the Spirit Tunnel in the main entry, where all athletes and spectators access our renovated gymnasium. We should have publicly recognized Skip for his important contribution during the building dedication ceremony.

Skip has been an integral part of our college for many years. He's a 1972 graduate, a 2009 LCC Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, a past adjunct art instructor, a past member of the LCC Foundation and Alumni Association Board, and he has donated many paintings to our college, including the focal artwork in the Zetmeir Health Science Building. We are extremely grateful for Skip's outstanding contributions.

We should have given Skip the public recognition he so clearly deserved when we had the opportunity last week. We offer our deepest apology to Skip, everyone who knows and loves him, and the Black community as a whole.

LCC is committed to doing better going forward. We want to learn from this mistake, and continue to improve and we invite you to help hold us accountable by pointing out when we miss the mark.

*Sincerely,*

**Mark Watkins**  
**President**  
**Labette Community College**

**Lindi Forbes**  
**Executive Director LCC Foundation**  
**Labette Community College**

