A native Topekan, Mark Yardley earned a bachelor of business administration with an emphasis in accounting from Washburn University in 1977, graduating summa cum laude. While at Washburn he was a member and treasurer of the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity, and in April 1977, he was honored by the Financial Executives Institute as the outstanding accounting graduate at Washburn.

While a student at Washburn, Yardley worked part-time as a sort supervisor for United Parcel Service. Upon graduation, he joined a national public accounting firm, Fox & Co., where he worked for seven years, holding several auditing positions including as a manager in the audit department. Yardley returned to join the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka as director of internal audit in 1984, where he has spent the rest of his career. During his 32 years at FHLBank, Yardley went on to serve as chief financial officer, executive vice president, chief risk officer and ultimately as president and chief executive officer beginning in 2017. In that role, Yardley has led nearly 250 employees to serve member financial institutions in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma, lending hundreds of billions of dollars toward meeting the liquidity and funding needs of members, a portion of which went toward the completion of affordable housing and for economic development initiatives.

A certified public accountant, Yardley is a member of the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He currently serves as treasurer of Topeka Bible Church, a position he has held for over 30 years. He serves as an elected director on the chairs' council of the Greater Topeka Partnership, where he has served as treasurer since the GTP's formal inception in 2018. He was selected for honorary membership in the business honor society, Beta Gamma Sigma, by the Washburn University chapter in May 2010, and was named the 2018 Alumni Fellow of the School of Business.

Yardley joined the Washburn University Foundation board of trustees in 2014, became a director in 2015, and has served as chair of the audit committee and as part of the executive committee. Yardley and his wife, Sheree, have given generously to Washburn University, establishing expendable and endowed business scholarship funds and donating to many university priorities such as the student emergency fund, softball field improvement project, the Welcome Center, the Indoor Athletic Facility and the School of Business Dean's Fund for Excellence.

He and his wife Sheree live in Berryton, Kansas, and have two grown children and six grandchildren. In his spare time, he heads up a running group at FHLBank and is a classic car enthusiast.