

# Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center



## CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Lauren Smith

We are excited to announce Lauren Smith as this quarter’s Outstanding Participant. Lauren has been a resident of Great Bend all of her life and graduated from Great Bend Senior High. Upon completion of high school, she knew she wanted to further her education, but did not know where to start. A friend of hers referred her to CKEOC saying that CKEOC was very helpful with all aspects of getting into college.

After taking the Career Exploration Inventory, Lauren knew she wanted to pursue some type of vocational/technical career, with a focus in health care. Lauren, who is a single parent balancing school, work and being a mother, has overcome many obstacles to get where she is today. Although she has attempted to go to college before, circumstances prevented her from actually enrolling until this year.

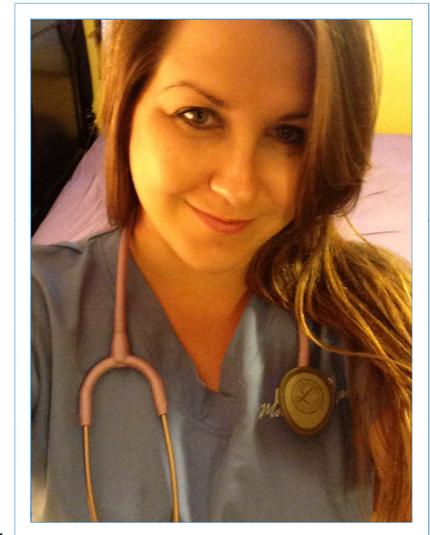
Due to her drive and determination to make a better life for her children, she will be graduating this December with a Medical Assistant certificate from Barton Community College.

When asked to comment about CKEOC, Lauren said, “not only did they guide me in the procedural steps to enrolling, they were always there to guide me through some very rough times while I was attending BCC. The ladies I worked with believed in me when I wasn’t so sure I could continue on with my education. They were a great support, which I am so very thankful for.” She deemed CKEOC staff as “lifesavers” and stated “They had the knowledge I lacked when it came to enrollment, admissions, and financial aid. They made sure I had all my i’s dotted and my t’s crossed.”

Lauren explained that juggling her children, classes, homework, internship and work has made her college experience very challenging. She also acknowledges that it has absolutely been worth the struggles that she and her children faced. During times she wanted to throw in the towel, she would come to the CKEOC office for a pep talk. In the midst of all her frustrations, she always managed to keep a smile on her face.

In addition to working at The Rack, a local restaurant, Lauren is fulfilling her internship requirement at Dr. Marshall’s and at Central Kansas Orthopedic Group. She enjoys the interaction with patients and is eager to put her education to use.

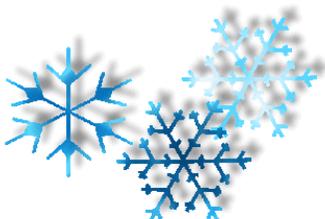
Lauren has 2 children, Damian – 12 and Jada – 9 as well as a dog, Mya, who is 4. She jokingly says that Mya is her third child. When not focusing on her studies, she loves spending time with her children, going to the lake, weekend getaways, watching movies, and just making dinner with her family.



December – February 2015

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## Fort Riley Education Center Consortium Spotlight:



For this quarter's Fort Riley Education Center Consortium Spotlight, we would like to highlight Barton Community College (BCC). BCC is a regionally accredited public community college based in Great Bend, Kansas and is the host institution for several TRiO programs including Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center (CKEOC). Since being established in 1965 it has grown to include satellite campuses in Grandview Plaza, Fort Riley, and most recently, Fort Leavenworth. BCC distinguished itself by becoming the first post-secondary school to have a presence on Fort Riley in 1984 and was one of the original members of the consortium. Recently we sat down with Ashley Arnold, Dean of Military Academic Services, to learn more about BCC's unique offerings on Fort Riley.

Arnold indicates, "One of the things that is unique about BCC Fort Riley is its ability to offer Leader Skill Enhancement Courses (LSEC)." LSEC courses are provided during the duty day and were implemented to assist soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers with advanced skills. These classes are fully funded by a scholarship, and since the books are loaned, eligible students can attend them at no cost. "LSEC classes are available on most other military installations nationwide," Arnold explains, "but what is truly unique about what BCC does here, is to offer the classes not only to active duty soldiers, but to make them available to the "Total Army Family" which also includes Reservists, National Guard, Retirees, military family members and DOD civilians and their family members." "Since there are seven 6-week cycles of these classes available each year and because students may take up to three classes per cycle, it is possible for a student to obtain an associate's degree in one-year." According to Arnold, the LSEC program alone saved active duty and their family members over 4.4 million in tuition during the 2014-15 school year alone.

Of course (LSEC) classes aren't the only course offerings provided by BCC on post. It provides College Program classes as well. College program classes are 8-weeks long, meet once or twice a week and are held on evenings and weekends. Many of the College program classes are hybrid classes, meaning there is some online content that must be completed along with the in-class portion of the class. Although there is a cost attached to the classes, the books are loaned to the students, making them very affordable. Many students use the College program classes as a cost-effective means to completing courses that are not available through LSEC.

In addition to the above mentioned course offerings, BCC can help Commanders and Senior NCO's train their units. Barton is the key provider of training for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's Military School where soldiers are provided vocational training to advance their military careers. Leadership can also employ BCC to train their troops by bringing the classroom to them through unit classes. Leadership can contact BCC and make arrangements to have an instructor sent to their unit to provide requested training.

Through its Fort Riley office, BCC supports and provides academic advisement for eight different degree programs. Several other degree programs are also available if students consider including some 100% online classes as part of their class schedule. Online classes also provide a venue for deployed soldiers to continue to work toward their degree when overseas. In addition, online options are great for anybody that would like to take a class, but can only do so during non-traditional hours due to their job or need to care for their children.

Barton works closely with other colleges including consortium members Upper Iowa University, Southwestern College and Kansas State University to allow those who obtain their associate's degree to continue their education towards a bachelor's degree. Several options are available for students to fund their education at Barton including: Army Tuition Assistance (TA), Gi Bill, MyCAA and Title IV funding such as Pell Grant and Student Loans.



## Fort Riley Hiring and Education Fair a Success



On Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> Fort Riley held its annual Hiring and Education Fair at Riley's Conference center and Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center (CKEOC) was excited when the Army Education Center asked us to participate. The event was an overwhelming success. Approximately 708 participants including 366 active duty, 158 military spouses 64 retirees, 126 civilians, 43 military family members and 39 others showed up to meet with over 140 hiring and education vendors at the fair.

On the education side of the fair, over 70 institutions along with a blending of VA resources, counseling programs, and Financial Aid resources made the event a one-stop shop for those participants interested in education. Not only was it a success in terms of turnout and service to the community, but it was also deemed a success by the vendors with 99% of vendors and participants rating the fair as well organized. CKEOC is proud to have served Fort Riley and its neighboring communities by participating in the fair and is looking forward to participating in future events.



Marti Oliveras, Administrative Support Specialist for Army Education Services and Kristina Springer, Program Manager, ERP for Army Community Services work the sign-in table at the Hiring & Education Fair





## Home @ SATC

Salina Area Technical College's Outreach Program *HOME@SATC*-(*Helping, Outreach, Mentor, and Educate at Salina Area Technical College*) educates low-income individuals in Salina for local, skilled jobs. The goal of the *HOME@SATC* Outreach Program is for the students to achieve a "living wage" in Salina. This program will help SATC and its partners educate the workforce that is already present in Salina by positively impacting poverty rates, enhancing the local economy and improving career opportunities.

Salina Tech is driven to serve its local region as all community and technical colleges in Kansas are. Salina Tech is special because its leadership, faculty and staff care to promote strong communities in its service area by helping reach the hardest to help--those in poverty. It's atypical for a college to respond with action and resources to create a successful outreach program to suit its community's needs. Salina Tech hopes to positively impact Salina's growing poverty rates. There are above minimum wage jobs available and able bodied youth and young adults or adults to fill the jobs--*all right here in Salina*. The *HOME@SATC* program seeks to remove the barriers or the 'why not' for the workforce in Salina and connect them with skills they need for the career they want, *right here in Salina*.

Often the 'why not' is merely *the lack of confidence to be the first in a family* to attend college. Other times it is debt, childcare, transportation or a criminal background holding a person back. *HOME@SATC* addresses these barriers and helps the 'why not' turn in to a 'why' a person should go to college.

*HOME@SATC* incorporates two one-credit psychology courses (PSY100 & PSY102). PSY100 covers the skills needed to remove barriers allowing individuals to attain better careers. Participation in *HOME@SATC* includes support with life outside of academics, connections to community resources and individualized career advising. PSY102 prepares students for the job search and interview process from start to finish. The course is designed to help the student make a plan towards a better future. This could be a plan for them to advance in their current job or plans for them to go on to school to get a certificate or a degree to help them achieve a better life.

Currently, the program serves approximately 10 adult students and 70 high school students in 8 sections of the PSY100 class. Course sections are offered at Heartland Programs with the Head Start Facility which include prioritized enrollment for parents with children 0-10 years old. The other course sections are taught at Salina's High Schools (South, Central and West) inside the Jobs for America's Graduates program or *JAG*. The *HOME@SATC* curricula line up with *JAG* curriculum to enhance high school completion and post-graduation success in college, career, or military pursuits.

Outreach programming at Salina Tech lines up with the college mission: *Salina Area Technical College will meet employment needs of the region by providing a diverse community of learners with the technical and general education skills necessary for employment, personal growth and lifelong learning*. To accomplish its goals, the SATC Outreach Coordinator works with local agencies to help the students remove barriers such as but not limited to: reliance on subsidies to provide food, housing and childcare, overcoming criminal records, and managing personal debt. *JAG* and the Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center's (CKEOC) TRIO program are two such agencies.



JAG is a state-based national non-profit organization dedicated to preventing dropouts among young people who are most at-risk. In more than three decades of operation, JAG has delivered consistent, compelling results – helping nearly three-quarters of a million young people stay in school through graduation, pursue postsecondary education and secure quality entry-level jobs leading to career advancement opportunities.



“JAG is a high school drop-out prevention program. We help students overcome barriers for success. We are fighting in their corner to support them, and that’s huge,” says Kipp Keffel, JAG Specialist at Salina Central High School. “Partnering with Salina Tech is a win-win for JAG in Salina. The students are earning a college credit, learning about technical education, FAFSA processes, decision making, and have the attention of college staff for much more than just a college visit. Lara is here to make sure they know college *can be* the next step, *they can* do it.”

CKEOC partners with HOME@SATC to provide JAG students with a number of services to assist them in furthering their educational goals. One such service is conducting workshops on such topics as Career Exploration Inventory, Financial Literacy, Overcoming Test Anxiety, Study Skills, and Financial Aid which are incorporated into the JAG curriculum. Another important service provided by CKEOC to JAG students is explaining financial aid processes and assisting students and their parents in completing the FAFSA



Services provided by CKEOC help to demystify the complicated FAFSA process and provide parents or students with knowledge of financial aid. This provides options to finance an education at any college they wish to attend, which helps tremendously. Having in-person TRIO services for low income and often first-generation college students can make the difference in gaining access to aid that is designed to assist this target audience.

Eighty percent of Salina Tech students will stay and work in the region after graduation and almost 100% stay and work in Kansas. Salina Tech desires to improve the quality of life in our community today as we create the employees to fuel its economy tomorrow. Assisting with the successes of the JAG programs in Salina and helping low income individuals *consider or reconsider college* is how HOME@SATC will impact poverty in Salina. To learn more about HOME@SATC contact Lara Duran; [lara.duran@salinatech.edu](mailto:lara.duran@salinatech.edu).

Some of Kipp’s recent students with Lara Duran, MS,  
SATC Outreach Coordinator and facilitator of the  
HOME@SATC program. To learn more about JAG visit:  
[www.jag.org](http://www.jag.org).



## FINANCIAL AID



Whether you are a senior in high school, enrolled in a GED program, a post-secondary drop out, or never attended a post-secondary school, you should consider filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you are planning to attend a post-secondary school. The FAFSA is the number one source of financial aid. By completing a FAFSA you are applying for financial aid such as Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), student loans and Work Study. Even though scholarships are separate from the FAFSA and have their own application process, many need-based scholarships require you to complete a FAFSA as part of their application process.

Keep in mind that even though you have completed a FAFSA in the past, you will need to reapply for financial aid every school year. Also, if you are transferring to another school make sure it is added to your FAFSA so your financial aid will transfer as well.

One of the biggest factors in completing the FAFSA is determining if you need to file as a dependent or as an independent.

There are several different criteria that can qualify you as independent:

- ◆ being 24 years of age or older
- ◆ being married
- ◆ having children that receive more than half of their support from the student
- ◆ having been declared a ward of the court, placed in foster care or having both parents deceased after the age of 13
- ◆ being active duty in the military or a veteran with a discharge status other than dishonorable
- ◆ having been an emancipated minor
- ◆ having been placed in legal guardianship by a court
- ◆ being an unaccompanied homeless youth

Once you have determined your filing status, you will need your income tax information and W-2's, and if you are married you will need your spouse's tax information as well – even if you were not married when you did your taxes. If your status is dependent you will need your parents' information, even if you do not live with them.

It is important to have your taxes done as soon as possible once you receive your W2's. Your tax information is needed to determine your eligibility to receive financial aid. The sooner you file the FAFSA, the sooner your financial aid package can be determined and awarded from the school you have chosen to attend. Even though you may think you do not qualify for federal aid, fill out a FAFSA application, because some schools use the information to determine if you qualify for scholarships and possible additional financial aid.

Once your taxes are completed, please call our office to schedule an appointment for assistance with completing the FAFSA. We are also available to answer any questions you might have about financial aid or attending college.

**CALL CKEOC FOR AN APPOINTMENT**



Fall 2015

MAIN CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

Online Classes

Spring Session 1 (9 Weeks)  
January 11—March 13

Spring Session 2 (17 Weeks)  
January 18—May 15

Spring Session 3 (9 Weeks)  
March 14—May 15



Nov 3— Jan. 8—Spring Registration

Dec 10—Close of Fall Semester

Dec 21—Jan 1 Winter Break (no Classes)

Jan 11—Classes Begin

Jan 11—15—Late Registration

Jan 22 - Last Day for Refund

FORT RILEY CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

LSEC CYCLE 2 JANUARY 6—FEBRUARY 20

LSEC CYCLE 3 JANUARY 19—MAY 15

Check with CKEOC for Forthcoming Enrollment Start Date  
1st Day of Class—Last Day to Enroll (All)

COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 2 JANUARY 7—MARCH 10

Check with EOC Staff for Forthcoming Enrollment Start Date  
October 14 (1st Day of Class)—Last Day to Enroll (All)

CKEOC STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH QUESTIONS & EOC SERVICES

Liz Klima—Academic Advisor/DS

Mary Dino—Academic Advisor



Ray Kruse—Coordinator and

Academic Advisor

CENTRAL KANSAS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF  
BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE WHO SUPPORTS OUR PROGRAM AND SERVES AS  
OUR HOST INSTITUTION

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

Barton Community College is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Visit [equal.bartonccc.edu](http://equal.bartonccc.edu) for more information.

## ACT Test Dates

If you or someone you know are planning to attend a post-secondary college in 2016, it is time to mark your calendar for the following dates for the ACT test.

The following ACT test centers will provide the ACT:

Abilene – Abilene High School	Dec. 12	Feb. 6	April 9
Clay Center – Clay Center Community High School	Dec. 12		April 9
Concordia – Cloud County Community College	Dec. 12	Feb. 6	April 9
Great Bend – Barton Community College:	Dec. 12	Feb. 6	April 9
Hays – Fort Hays State University	Dec. 12	Feb. 6	April 9
Hays High School	Dec. 12	Feb. 2	April 9
Hoisington – Hoisington High School	Dec. 12		April 9
Junction City – Junction City High School	Dec. 12		April 9
Manhattan – Kansas State University			April 9
Manhattan High School	Dec. 12	Feb. 6	April 9
Marysville – Marysville High School			April 9
Pratt – Pratt Community College	Dec. 12	Feb. 6	April 9
Russell – Russell High School	Dec. 12		April 9
Salina – Kansas Wesleyan University	Dec. 12	Feb. 6	April 9
Salina South	Dec. 12		April 4
St. John Military School		Feb. 6	
Wamego – Wamego High School	Dec. 12	Feb. 6	April 9

You may register online or by mail. The online address is [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) and you can request a registration packet from ACT.



## GED CLASS ORIENTATION

Contact Information for GED class orientation:

BCC/Great Bend	January 4 – 8	620-793-5794
	March 14 – 16	
BCC/Fort Riley	January 4 – 8	785-784-6066
	March 14 – 16	
Cloud CCC – Geary County Campus	January 5 – 6	785-238-8010
	March 22 – 23	
Hays – FHSU Rarick Hall 328	January 4	785-460-5486
	April 3	
Manhattan	January 13 – 14	785-539-9009
	March 21 – 22	
Salina	January 19 – 21	785-309-4660
	March 21 – 23	

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## CKEOC Staff and Locations

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**Great Bend**  
 1025 Main St  
 620-793-8164  
**Academic Advisor**  
 Mary Dino  
**Academic Advisor/Data Specialist**  
 Liz Klima

**Project Director**  
 Susie Burt

**Junction City**  
 1012 A West Sixth  
 785-238-5200  
**Coordinator/Academic Advisor**  
 Ray Kruse  
**Secretary/ Data Specialist**  
 Mary Shane



1025 Main Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit N. 11

## About CKEOC

The Educational Opportunity Center is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is one of the TRiO programs. TRiO began with Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, in response to the administration's War on Poverty.

TRiO programs include eight outreach and support programs targeted to help disadvantaged students progress from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.



### 33 Counties Served by CKEOC

Barton	Mitchell	Rice
Clay	Morris	Riley
Cloud	Ness	Rooks
Dickerson	Norton	Rush
Ellis	Osborne	Russell
Ellsworth	Ottawa	Saline
Geary	Pawnee	Smith
Graham	Phillips	Stafford
Jewell	Pottawatomie	Trego
Lincoln	Pratt	Wabaunsee
Marshall	Republic	Washington

