

1997 Distinguished Service Award  
Don & Phyllis Whelan

The Distinguished Service Award was created in 1981 by the Barton County Community College Foundation to recognize individuals who have shown genuine regard for, and performed outstanding service to Barton County Community College. The Foundation Board of Directors selects the recipient from nominations received.

Don & Phyllis Whelan have a long history of involvement in both the community and Barton County Community College. Don served on the first board of directors of the Barton County Endowment Association and in 1982 he and Phyllis established the Don and Phyllis Whelan Scholarship. Don is presently on the board of directors of the First United National Bank and Cedar Park Place and serves on the Golden Belt Home, Health and Hospice advisory board. He is a member of the Service Corps of Retired Executives and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce. He has been associated with the First National Bank, now First United National Bank, for 45 years, rising from teller to vice-chairman of the board. He worked with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce for ten years as public relations representative. He is past president of the chamber and the Barton County Knife and Fork Club. He has also served on numerous advisory boards and councils and had volunteered time to multiple fund raising efforts. Phyllis, too, has been active in the community. She has served as a Girl Scout leader and co-leader and volunteers for the Multiple Sclerosis Society fund-raising drives.