

2014 Distinguished Service Award Recipients

The Distinguished Service Award was created in 1981 by the Barton Community College Foundation to recognize individuals who have shown genuine regard for, and have performed outstanding service to Barton Community College. The Barton Foundation Board of Directors selects the recipient from nominations received. The Foundation is pleased to announce **Roger and Mary Lou Murphy** as the 2014 Distinguished Service Award recipients.



Roger and Mary Lou Murphy exemplify what it means to live in Great Bend and Barton County. They have been lifetime residents. Both graduating in 1957 from Great Bend High School, they have seen the area and community at its best and during its most challenging times. Never wavering in their desire to live, work and support the area that they love.

Roger Murphy grew up in an agriculture family with strong ties to both livestock and farming. His love of the land and cattle never changed when he and his stepfather, Pete Kirkman began Great Bend Feeding, Inc. in 1959. The business grew, as did the modern cattle feeding business. Great Bend Feeding stood at the forefront of an emerging industry and has survived to be one of the oldest feeding companies in the United States. Roger was very active in not only the business, but in the industry and the community and has played a key role in the growth of both.

Roger married his high school sweetheart, Mary Lou Fisher, on August 27, 1960. She was the "city girl". She was born in Great Bend and lived a portion of her childhood in Hays. Her father, Henry Fisher, owned a Western Auto store in Great Bend and worked there until his retirement. She was the constant support system and epitome of the homemaker for Roger and the entire Murphy family. They have two children Kayla and Andrew. From shuttle service to den mother to chief cook, she took care of things and provided for those she cared about.

Currently Roger and Mary Lou enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. Steve and Kayla Fischer have two children, Bailey and Bryce, and live in Wichita. Andrew and Megan Murphy have three children, Hadley, Owen and Emmett, and live in Great Bend. Roger remains active and involved in business with Murphy Family Enterprises. Mary Lou remains active with her family and friends.

Whenever an initiative or a need arises within the community, especially if it benefits education or young people; you can count on Roger and Mary Lou being the first to step up. They have and will continue to have an enormous impact on this community and their support of Barton Community College will benefit the lives of more students than they will ever know. We are grateful for this opportunity to thank Roger and Mary Lou, not only for their contributions, but for the legacy their actions will ensure for the future of all the communities served by Barton Community College. Because of their passion for education and their visionary support of the mission of both the College and the Foundation, we are proud to honor Roger and Mary Lou Murphy with this prestigious award.