

2015 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 **Brad & Sarah Shirer** as the 2015 Distinguished Service Award recipients.



Brad and Sarah Shirer were born and raised in Barton County; Brad in Hoisington and Sarah in Great Bend. Although higher education and employment opportunities drew them away from the area, both responded to the strong pull to return to the place they always called home.

Brad is CFO at Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, and is an antique car enthusiast in his spare time. He is an alum and proud supporter of K-State and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. An accomplished vocalist and musician, Brad has played the pipe organ at a number of area churches since the age of twelve. Sarah recently retired from a lengthy secretarial career with various schools, churches, and chambers of commerce. This new life style allows her quality time for family and community activities; especially church, PEO, and Prairie Godmothers. She also serves on the boards of the Golden Belt Community Concert Association and the Great Bend Zoological Society.

The Shirers' involvement with Barton Community College began with Sarah's father, Grant Hoener, who was instrumental in raising funds to finance the publicity campaign that brought a favorable vote from the community to establish a college. Grant accepted, three weeks before his death, the position of co-chairman of an organization to establish an endowment fund at the college. Following his untimely death in 1968, the first endowed scholarship at Barton County Community Junior College was established by friends and family in Grant's memory, designated to benefit students in the Business Department. When the Barton campus finally became a physical reality, his family was proud to represent Grant at the ground breaking ceremony.

In 2006, Brad and Sarah established the Bill Sowles Memorial Scholarship in memory of Sarah's first husband, who was a member of the initial BCCJC graduating class. This scholarship is specified for Criminal Justice or Psychology students.

Over the years, Brad and Sarah have experienced Barton from the perspective of students, employee, community advocates and benefactors. They take special pleasure in supporting the programs and various projects that benefit the Fine Arts Department, especially the recent auditorium renovation.

Because of their years of support and involvement, the Barton Community College Foundation is proud & grateful for this opportunity to honor Brad & Sarah with the 2015 Distinguished Service Award.