



Barton Community College Strategic Plan Project Charter

3.3 - Increase and promote student, faculty, and staff involvement in communities throughout the college's service area.

Purpose (The why of the project/current state):

The initiative speaks to increase community engagement and implement the tracking of community engagement. An initial intake needs to occur to determine who is volunteering, where they are volunteering, and how many hours individuals are volunteering. This would include internal stakeholders like students, employees, and staff as well as community members like the Board of Trustees, advisory boards, theatre productions, and those that support College initiatives like the Cougar Closet and the Food Pantry.

The initiative will utilize Get Connected, a software that Volunteers in Action utilizes to accurately collect data, discern diversity of community engagement, and analyze volunteer impact.

By understanding who, where, and how much volunteerism is happening across the College, Barton can establish methods and opportunities to increase community engagement.

Artifacts: (The evidence being used):

- Volunteers in Action Software – The Get Connected volunteer management platform provides a scalable, centralized system for volunteer engagement, including recruitment, onboarding, communication, and impact tracking. When consistently utilized across campus, the platform can:
 - Expand student, faculty, and staff engagement in meaningful service
 - Strengthen coordination with community partners
 - Provide measurable data to demonstrate community impact and return on investment
 - Align volunteerism with institutional priorities such as civic engagement and workforce development
- “Volunteer service represents a significant economic contribution to the state. According to Independent Sector, the estimated value of a volunteer hour in Kansas is approximately **\$30.86 per hour** based on the most recent state-level data. This valuation provides a widely accepted method for quantifying the financial impact of volunteerism and demonstrating return on investment to stakeholders and funders.”
- from Linda Hogg Email
- [Volunteers in Action Website](#)



Overview (Summary of what will be done):

- Collecting data to assess who is volunteering, where volunteering is happening, and what is the impact that Barton employees are making within the community.
- Assessing institutional impact of student and employee community engagement.
- Identify barriers and opportunities to increase student and employee community involvement.

Project Addresses Strategic Initiative:

3.3 - Increase and promote student, faculty, and staff involvement in communities throughout the college's service area.

Goal (Desired result/the data point you want to move):

- Phase 1:
 - Collect data on employees, students, and community members who are volunteering, where they are volunteering, and how long they volunteer.
 - Determine the economic impact of [Barton employees and students](#) on the community by utilizing the approximated value of a volunteer hour in Kansas as indicated from Independent Sector: \$30.86 per hour.
 - Determine the economic investment of [service area community members](#) back into the College by utilizing the approximated value of a volunteer hour in Kansas as indicated from Independent Sector: \$30.86 per hour.
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- Phase 2:
 - Remove/decrease barriers and identify alternative opportunities for Barton employees to increase their community involvement by 5% by the end of Spring 2028.

Project Description or Scope of Work:

Two Phases:

- Phase 1:
 - Collecting data to assess who is volunteering, where volunteering is happening, and what is the impact that both Barton employees and students are making within the community and the community is investing in the College. This will be done using the Get Connected software and app.
 - Assessing institutional impact of student, employee, and community member engagement and report results via alternative routes like the Foundation Report and/or the Community Report.



- Phase 2:
 - Take steps to remove/decrease barriers and identify alternatives to further support student and employee community involvement.

Starting Date:
Fall 2026

Milestone Dates:

- Phase 1:
 - Fall 2026:
 - Collecting data through the use and promotion of the Get Connected software and app.
 - Spring 2027:
 - Assessing institutional impact of student, employee, and community member engagement and report results via alternative routes like the Foundation Report and/or the Community Report.
- Phase 2:
 - Spring 2027:
 - Take steps to remove/decrease barriers and identify alternatives to further support student and employee community involvement.
 - Identify opportunities to provide employees (specifically club or co-curricular leads) and students to offer information and training on resources through the Get Connected software.
 - Fall 2027/Spring 2028:
 - Implement a minimum of two solutions identified to remove barriers that would increase employee and student community involvement.
 - Organize or collaborate with another organization to create at least two opportunities for community engagement.

Impact (How the goal is reflected in a defined population):

- Overall, employee and student community involvement has a positive, visible, and measurable impact on the community as is the investment that the community puts back into the College. By collecting and determining a calculation for economic impact, Barton can utilize that data to further demonstrate institutional value and continue to position itself as a leading community partner.



- Employee and student volunteers will be impacted as to the personal development and experiences volunteering can offer.
- Barton visibility in the community and further awareness of where and how far Barton employee and student impact reaches.

RACI (Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed) Chart:

- [See RACI Chart Spreadsheet](#)

Plan for Sustainability (Where will project “live” after implementation):

- Linn (lead)
 - Organize with people to create opportunities to sign up into the system
 - Train for software use for employees, sponsors, and students.
 - Further support the college by identifying barriers and opportunities for volunteering.
- Angel (IR) - GC Administrator
 - Pull data and establish benchmarks for current employee participation and student participation as represented in the Get Connected software.
 - Identifying where employees/students are volunteering and how much.
 - Setting an estimated economic impact for employee/students’ volunteer hours.

Additional Relevant Information:

Identified Institutional Values: (For 4.3 SPI, what institutional values are demonstrated by this initiative? (Honesty, Fairness, Respect, Courage, Trust, Responsibility)

Proposed Values: Fairness, Respect, Courage, and Trust