



Has the trustee served as an officer of the college's board of trustees?

Yes. Mike Johnson has served as the board's chair for six years of his 18 years as a trustee. He has also served as Vice Chair, Secretary and as a delegate of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees.

In addition to service on the board of trustees, in what capacity has the trustee participated in community life?

Trustee Johnson has a strong record of community involvement. He has served terms on the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Great Bend Community Theater Board of Directors and on the Board of Directors for numerous local youth baseball organizations. He has also shared his passion for fitness with the community, volunteering for local runs and races, and even organizing a bicycle race to draw others to the area.

What has the trustee initiated or helped to develop in the area of innovative programs used in two-year postsecondary institutions?

In the years Trustee Johnson has served Barton Community College, the institution has grown in both size and scope, serving 17,000 students at four campuses and online. His support of the college's addition of numerous technical and career-focused programs has allowed Barton the flexibility and agility to stay relevant to the needs of the local community, state and region. Barton's Natural Gas program stands out as a unique training program that offers contact hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days per week. Instructors are hired one or two weeks at a time straight from the industry, which fits the needs of both Barton and companies in the natural gas industry. Students of this program generally finish a certification in one semester and many are hired or have secured interviews prior to graduating.

Other specific examples include CDL training options that have proven valuable to the many local farmers, oil and gas industry professionals and more.

Welding, weights and measures, beef cattle production and crop protection and many other programs have been implemented with the support of the board of trustees during Trustee Johnson's tenure.

Barton's efforts to serve the military also requires the support of the board. Barton's programs at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth operate on an accelerated seven-semester cycle to accommodate the US Army's deployment schedules so Soldiers can finish their coursework.

Further, Trustee Johnson issued a letter of support in 2012 and 2017 for the continuation of a program offering training in Occupational Safety and Health Administration safety practices and compliance.

Has the trustee served on technical or special committees serving two-year postsecondary education?

Yes. Trustee Johnson serves on the Technical Education Authority for the state of Kansas.

How has the trustee been a factor in influencing legislation for two-year postsecondary institutions, and how has the trustee been active in communication and advocacy with state and national legislators?

The state's funding model has historically favored colleges designated as technical versus community colleges. Trustee Johnson has been a champion for a more equitable model in Kansas higher education, particularly as an appointee to the state's Technical Education Authority.

Trustee Johnson has also spent countless hours in Topeka, Kansas, the state's capitol, meeting with the KACCT lobbyist and numerous legislators at both the state and national level to discuss issues facing higher education and spread awareness of the work being accomplished by Barton and the other community colleges.

What has the trustee contributed overall to the two-year postsecondary concept, and how did this affect the college's total impact on the community, state, or nation?

Previous answers allude to the many formats used to offer training, stepping beyond the academic side of education to offer career and technical education programs that are designed to fit the needs of particular industries and communities. Trustee Johnson's support for the development of these programs has allowed the college to grow and change in ways that have helped Barton thrive and emerge as an institutional thought-leader in Kansas.

How has the trustee provided leadership in helping to solve challenges facing two-year postsecondary education?

Trustee Johnson's involvement with the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees has allowed him interaction with elected officials from institutions across the state and beyond. In this role, he has been generous with his time and willing to share his knowledge and experience with colleagues when it's relevant and helpful.

As mentioned previously, Trustee Johnson also frequently visits area legislators to discuss issues and spread awareness about the changing needs and evolving role of community colleges. He also makes a concerted effort to keep the community aware of challenges. Recently, Trustee Johnson delivered a presentation titled "Concealed Carry on College Campuses" to the local Kiwanis Club in an effort to educate community members on what Barton is doing to prepare for legislation that will make it legal for concealed weapons to be carried on campus. He also presented at KACCT Quarterly meetings.

How has the trustee been active in developing, organizing, or supporting state two-year postsecondary associations, and what kind of leadership role has the trustee played in state, regional, or national associations?

Trustee Johnson has been an active and involved member of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees for 15 years. He has served twice as President (including at

present), once as Vice President and twice as Secretary for the KACCT. He has also attended ACCT National Legislative Summits on numerous occasions.

Has the trustee given presentations or published articles on two-year postsecondary education?

Each year, Trustee Johnson writes a letter outlining the major improvements, additions and changes at the college. This is included in the Community Report, a publication that illustrates with data and anecdotes how Barton has performed at the end of an academic year. The publication's content is guided by the Board of Trustees' goals and plan.

He also presents to local civic groups, including Kiwanis, Rotary and more, about Barton's Workforce Training and Community Education programs.

He initiated and guided the development of a brochure that highlights the key points of what community colleges in Kansas, Barton Community College in particular, are doing for the state.

The brochure was developed to give legislators a summary of the benefits of community colleges at a glance and has been widely distributed in the Capitol Building in Topeka.

A presentation was also developed based on the brochure contents to be delivered as opportunities arise.

An economic impact study was conducted to quantify Barton's impact on the state and its communities in terms of job creation, income added to the region and more. This report has been used to illustrate the return on investment local taxpayers are getting for each tax dollar invested.

Association of Community College Trustees,

The Barton Community College Board of Trustees intends to nominate its Chair, Mike Johnson, for the Regional Trustee Leadership Award via the Association of Community College Trustees.

Throughout his 18-year tenure on the Board, Chair Johnson has gone above and beyond to ensure the board operates efficiently and effectively, and that Barton is well represented in the community and Kansas community colleges are well represented in Topeka.

Chair Johnson frequently speaks out in support of community colleges and their missions, and people in his community listen to and respect what he has to say. It's been said actions speak louder than words. Mike's tremendous integrity means what he says and what he does are aligned.

Seeing the time he takes out of his work and personal life to devote to Barton, traveling the three hours one-way to Topeka for routine committee meetings or impromptu visits with legislators, it's apparent this college holds a special place in his heart, and to him this work of advancing accessible education is obviously a worthy cause, locally and on a larger scale.

With this letter, the Barton Community College Board of Trustees outline our support for Chair Mike Johnson that he may be considered for the Regional Trustee Leadership Award.

Sincerely,

Carl R. Heilman, President

Leonard Bunselmeyer, Trustee

Mike Minton, Trustee

Gary Burke, Trustee

Don Learned, Trustee

John Moshier, Trustee