

Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

August 2024

August has been a busy month as I have been making rounds on campus to meet faculty and staff, as well as throughout our service area to become acquainted with various partners. Here is a list of those meetings I held this past month.

- Traveled to Hoisington to meet with USD 431 Superintendent, Patrick Crowdis. Mr. Crowdis gave me a tour of each building in the district, including the Recreation Center. I was able to meet some of the building personnel at each stop.
- Attended the USD 428 Open House and Dedication on August 1st.
- I traveled to Topeka for a meeting with Kansas Department of Corrections Secretary Jeff Zmuda, Cris Fanning, and Heather Morgan. We had a good discussion about our partnership with KDOC.
- I welcomed the Barton athletic staff on August 6th during their annual kick-off meeting. Soccer and volleyball are started and in full swing.
- I was a guest on the Cougar Pause show on Eagle Radio with Steve Webster. I spent time discussing some of my priorities for Barton.
- I met with Sara Arnberger with Great Bend Economic Development. We had a great conversation about the new Innovation facility that GBED is raising money for, and how Barton can partner once the facility is completed.
- I played in the Cougar Booster Club golf tournament on August 9th. We had 34 teams participate which was a great turnout. The support for our athletic department is outstanding.
- On Monday, August 12th we had two B&I partnership meetings. Elaine Simmons, Kathy Kottas, Josh Winkler and myself met with the UKHS-Great Bend leadership team on their campus. Next, our group traveled to Hoisington to meet with some of the Clara Barton leadership team. We are already in the process of scheduling a follow-up meeting with Clara Barton to continue conversations.
- On Wednesday, August 14th, we had our welcome back breakfast and campus update meeting. During that meeting I shared with the college some of my vision for Barton and some of my top priorities for the next several months.
- I attended the Barton Foundation Board monthly meeting.
- I had lunch with our Student Ambassador group on August 15th. We truly have an amazing group of ambassadors and I enjoyed getting to have great conversations with the group.

- That same evening, I attended the All Faculty Meeting and provided opening remarks to the group. Our faculty spent the evening participating in professional development activities.
- August 16th and 17th were dedicated to student housing move-in. The Barton team did a wonderful job organizing the event and making the process as smooth as possible for our students to move-in to the residence halls and complete necessary steps to be ready for the start of the semester.
- I met with the faculty in the Academic Division as part of my campus wide listening tour.
- I spent the afternoon on August 21st with Dr. Michael Calvert, Pratt Community College President. We discussed higher education issues in the state, particularly related to the community colleges.
- We had a partner meeting with Maico Industries in Ellsworth. I traveled with Dr. Kottas, VP Simmons, Josh Winkler for the meeting.