

Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

November 2024

- This month we continued the President Meet and Greet sessions with several stops. We were in Ellsworth and Larned and we had a good turnout at both locations.
- We met with several of our K-12 school district partners as well this month. We had visits to Otis-Bison, Lyons, and Central Plains. There was great discussion on additional dual credit options, particularly in the area of CTE. Follow up discussions are already happening with some of our partners.
- VP Simmons, Dean Teal, and I visited Fort Leavenworth. We met with the Garrison Commander and members of his staff. The Colonel is very happy with the current level of support and programming offered by Barton. We also met with Education Services Officer who mentioned several times that when she needs assistance from any of the institutions on the base, Barton always steps up to help. We finished the day meeting with the Barton team.
- The Ellsworth Correctional Facility Learning Celebration was held on November 6th. This was a great opportunity to see the wonderful work our staff and faculty are doing with the residents at ECF. I really appreciated attending this event for the first time and watching the pride that the students displayed as they walked across the stage.
- Several Barton staff and myself attended the SOFTwarfare open house. The Barton staff has had conversations with the SOFTwarfare leadership team for the past two years to discuss ways we can partner and assist with workforce development.
- The Council of Presidents had our weekly Zoom calls. Some of the primary topics that we continue to discuss are the “First Fifteen” and corequisite/remedial education. These are priority initiatives with KBOR and we continue to discuss funding and best practices for implementing these initiatives.
- I traveled to Clarksville, TN this past week to watch the Lady Cougar volleyball team compete in the national volleyball tournament. The team had a great run, winning their first two games in straight sets before losing to Miami Dade in the semi-finals. We played Colby for 3rd place on Saturday evening and fell short. The team had a great season, winning the KJCCC and Region VI Championships, and finishing 4th at the NJCAA national tournament. We are all very proud of their efforts.
- The TEA has approved our MLA request, which will now head to KBOR for the next level of approval. Also during the meeting, there was discussion on educational opportunities for military students. Barton was recognized by KBOR staff as a leader in military education in our state.