

Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

January 2025

- Chair Johnson and I met with new state representative, Sherri Brantley to share the budget issues and bills that will be proposed during the legislative session. Representative Brantley has extensive background in education here in Kansas, which will be very beneficial in her legislative role.
- Barton hosted Michelle Skurkis from the Ellsworth Economic Development Corporation and Ellsworth High School CTE Director, Karl Dawn Stover. They toured some of our technical program labs and classrooms. Ellsworth High School is very interested in expanding dual credit and career readiness opportunities for their students and there has already been follow up discussions on partnering to develop scholarships for high school students interested in health occupation careers.
- The Barton Board of Trustees, Barton Community College Foundation Board, and the Cougar Booster Club held a joint meeting. Each group shared their priorities, vision, and discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- I joined the System of Council President's meeting and the KBOR meeting by Zoom this month.
- Trustees Johnson, Burke and I were in Topeka for Donuts with the Legislature. We had very productive conversations with the legislators, particularly around the proposed budget that KBOR submitted to the legislature on behalf of the community colleges.
- We met with Mammoth Construction regarding the Physical Education Building renovation approved last month. We are in the process of finalizing the contract with Mammoth.
- I participated in a meeting with the "First Fifteen" task force this week. There remain concerns amongst the community colleges and school districts as to how this project will be funded. There is a follow up meeting scheduled in early February for further discussion.
- We held our quarterly Open Forum with the college on January 23rd. Topics discussed, included: the PACE survey results, a legislative session update, initial state funding updates, and recognizing employees with milestone service anniversaries.