

Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

February 2025

- I met with Barton's Faculty Council to update the group on legislative issues and strategic planning updates.
- I participated in the AACC meeting to hear the legislative priorities of AACC this year at the federal level. Some of the highlights include advocating for increasing the Pell Grant by \$200 per student, implementing Pell Grants for students enrolled in short-term training programs, and enhancing some federal grants including the Strengthening Community Colleges Grant.
- I participated in a KBOR led meeting to discuss the changes/updates to the 2025 KHEDS system. KHEDS is the data collection system we use for all KBOR reports.
- KBOR hosted a First Fifteen meeting on Wednesday. The community college presidents were allowed to comment during this meeting, and we shared the concerns we have with this initiative.
- I attended the Great Bend Chamber "Elevate Great Bend" Capital Campaign Kick-Off event.
- We had our first design meeting with Mammoth Construction on the Physical Education/Cougar Den renovation. We reviewed the scope of the project, reviewed initial design concept, and walked the space to provide Mammoth with more insights into the HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems.
- Last Wednesday was filled with KBOR meetings. I had the Council of President's meeting, listened to the Academic Affairs meeting, and the full KBOR meeting.
- I attended the Barton Community College Foundation meeting.
- Last Thursday morning I attended the GB Chamber Coffee event at Straub's Powersports.
- I had a meeting with the Center for Rural Innovation and Sara Arnberger of the Great Bend Economic Development.
- Our staff had a meeting to discuss the Title III Grant. We are developing our case statement to apply for the Title III Grant which is a federal grant designed to strengthen institutions.
- Last Friday we hosted Junior Day aimed at recruiting juniors early in their college decision making process. It was a great day with over 270 kids in attendance.
- I Participated in an AACT webinar related to the Trump administration Dear Colleague Letter which was sent to all colleges last Friday, February 14th. We are actively reviewing all of our programs to ensure Barton is in compliance. We do not

anticipate any issues, although we are still awaiting final guidance before we can confirm.

- I attended the Ellinwood Chamber Coffee which was held at the new Ellinwood Hospital.
- I participated in annual negotiations training provided by KACC.
- I attended Barton's Theater Department production of Sing, Sing Blues on Friday night. The play was written by Barton's own Psychology faculty member Eric Smith.