

Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

May 2025

- I participated on Cougar Pause, sharing updates on events going on around the college this spring.
- VP Simmons, Dean Teal and I traveled to Fort Riley to meet with the Garrison Commander and his staff.
- I attended the Assessment Institute graduation and the Instructional Excellence Academy graduation recognizing those who participated in these year-long training classes.
- KBOR held a First 15 meeting. The idea of offering free classes has been put on hold by KBOR due to the financial concerns. They are still pushing for an “affordable” First 15.
- VP Simmons, Dr. Kottas, and I traveled to Ellsworth to meet with the members of the hospital administration team to discuss their workforce needs and any program needs they currently have.
- The Performing Arts Endowment Concert was held earlier this month and we had an outstanding turnout. It was an outstanding concert by our faculty and students.
- We held our Graduation Day ceremonies on May 9th. I attended the MLT and Nursing Pinning ceremonies and Paramedic Cording ceremony, followed by Commencement. It was a great day and I have to thank all of the Barton faculty and staff for their efforts in organizing these celebrations.
- Trustee Burke and I traveled to Ellsworth to tour Maico Industries and visit with Dave Cox, CEO of Maico.
- I attended the United Way Board meeting. Kacie and I are serving as Co-Chairs of the campaign this year.
- We traveled to Fort Riley to attend the PTK Ceremony and Graduation Ceremony. There were approximately 70 graduates total for all of the colleges, with 41 of those graduates being from Barton. It was a proud day for Barton.
- Last week we held our last graduation ceremony of the season at Leavenworth for the Fort Leavenworth graduation. Barton had 16 students walk in the ceremony, which was over half of the recipients. It was another great celebration for our college.
- On Thursday, I traveled to Topeka with Melissa Feist to meet with KBOR staff. Each institution that has an Adult Basic Education grant was required to meet with KBOR to discuss our most recent grant application, student outcomes, growth strategies, partnerships with local business and industry partners, and changes to the grant.