

Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

August 2025

- VP Simmons, Dean Kottas and myself traveled to the Ellinwood Hospital to meet with their staff to discuss opportunities to promote the nursing profession and increase the number of nursing graduates in our area.
- We launched our first initiative in the new Barton Strategic Plan. Dr. Brown, Lee Miller, and I attended Dean's Council meeting to discuss Career and Transfer readiness of our students. Dr. Brown presented historical data, and the group began developing strategies for increasing awareness and impact to students regarding transfer and career opportunities.
- Chairman Johnson and I attended the KACC Quarterly meeting at Cowley Community College. There was a lot of discussion on the federal legislation updates, state legislative budget talks, and K-12 funding formula. The K-12 funding formula will impact us through dual credit funding.
- Kacie and I attended the United Way fundraiser this month. Additionally, we have been asked to serve as the co-chairs for the 2026 campaign, which we gladly accepted.
- We held a ceremonial signing in Hutchinson for our partnership with HCC in Respiratory Care. Along with the signing, we were able to tour the HCC healthcare program building which is located away from the main campus. This partnership will provide students from Barton County and the service area to take their pre-requisite classes at Barton, then travel to HCC to complete the Respiratory Care program.
- On Tuesday I toured around Barton County to several businesses with representatives from the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI). CORI is doing an assessment for us to determine the capabilities for developing tech programs and increasing tech labor in our area. We held a meeting on campus with several Barton staff and faculty. Then we visited INA alert, Superior Essex, Fuller Industries, and Softwarefare.
- I attended the Chamber Coffee at Hammeke Electric.
- I was a guest on the Cougar Pause radio show to discuss the start of the fall semester and some of the events happening on campus.
- We held our annual Welcome Back Breakfast and College Updates session to the entire college to share updates and news that impacts the college.
- I had the wonderful opportunity to have lunch with our student ambassadors. We have 17 outstanding students serving in this role, representing Barton to our prospective students and their families.

- I attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting hosted at South Bend Industrial Hemp.
- I attended the Barton Library Open House events this week. The Barton Campus open house was held on Monday and the virtual open house for faculty and staff at other locations was held on Tuesday.
- Saturday night I attended the Barton Community College Big Benefit Auction.