Dr. Garstecki Monthly Report

February 2026

- I had multiple trips to Topeka this month. I attended the Senate Ways and Means Committee Budget hearing with Heather Morgan. Following that, we attended the House Higher Education Committee to listen to Blake Flanders two-year college funding presentation. Chairman Johnson and I traveled to Topeka for the legislative session on Monday. We attended the House Higher Education Committee; however, the Community College Budget hearing was delayed. We were still able to meet with several legislators about our budget proposal.
- We held interviews with finalists for the Dean of Military Academic Programs, Technical Education, and Outreach. Mr. Jared Hall has now accepted that position.
- I attended the Great Bend Economic Development Board meetings this month.
- I attended the GBED Innovation Center informational session at Dry Lake Brewing.
- The Barton Music Department and Dr. Eric Foley, hosted students from GBHS, Hoisington, and Lyons for choral festival "Women of Note". Over thirty students attended and spent the day with our faculty. I had the opportunity to attend their afternoon performance which was the culmination of the event.
- Barton hosted our 11th annual Career Fair on Friday. We had 537 students from grades 8 - 12 registered for the event. They were able to spend time with our instructors and students, being exposed to different career paths they may be interested in pursuing after high school.
- The Barton team had our initial conversation with the Prison Education Action Research Lab (PEARL). You may remember back in the fall, Barton was one of 20 colleges nationwide selected to participate in the Prison Education Research Initiative (PERI) through the University of Utah to participate in a research project to enhance the data and practice of educating incarcerated individuals.
- I was in Topeka to join with other KACC Presidents and the Air National Guard in the Capitol to sign a MOU for Cybersecurity training. Barton will be a part of this consortium with Butler, Cowley, Hutch, Garden, and Cloud.
- The Barton team met with the Avel eCare planning team on a potential EMS program grant that we will apply for through Rural Health Transformation Grant funds.
- On Friday we hosted Junior Day and over 300 students attended, which is a significant increase from last year.
- The Barton Accreditation Team has been meeting for our HLC Multi-Location site visit coming up in early March. Our team will be meeting with our HLC Peer Reviewer

in Pratt for our nursing program, Topeka (for our AMS location where we provide EMS training) and Fort Riley for Military Schools.

- I presented college updates to the Great Bend Lions Club last week.
- Our Bellwether team attended the Bellwether College Consortium Futures Assembly in San Antonio this past week. While we did not win the top award, we finished Top 10 in the nation in the Workforce Development Category.