

Dr. Garstecki Monthly Report

April 2026

- The Barton Welding program collaborated with Nextech and the City of Great Bend to build picnic tables that have solar cell phone recharging capabilities. Our program built four tables that will be placed around the city. The first table was placed at the Zoo and our team attended the photo op/media release with Nextech and Great Bend reps to celebrate the completion.
- On April 10th we had the quarterly KACC meeting. There was a lot of discussion regarding the legislative session, which was still in process as of the meeting. The agenda contained funding updates, changes to SB155 and CEP, and policy bill updates such as property tax caps, freedom of speech on college campuses, and those proposed changes related to undocumented students' tuition rates.
- Dr. Kottas, Elaine Simmons, and I went to Ellinwood Hospital to meet with new CEO Troy Moore.
- We hosted the annual Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony on the Barton campus. Retired Barton faculty member, Rick Bealer was the keynote speaker.
- I attended the Barton County Commission/Great Bend City Council Joint meeting.
- I attended the Friends of Great Bend event at the Brewery to hear updates on the golf course.
- Dean Joiner, Elaine Simmons, and I met with Softwarefare to discuss a potential joint grant application for cybersecurity and AI in our area.
- I attended the Leadership Institute graduation ceremony. This year we had 10 employees participate in this program. This is a great opportunity for these individuals to enhance their leadership skills, engagement in the institution, and network with colleagues.
- This week we had multiple internal meetings to discuss the implementation of the new rules passed by the legislature regarding SB155 student eligibility rules and the Concurrent enrollment.
- I attended the Barton County Farm Bureau Candidate Meet and Greet. Speaker Dan Hawkins, Rep. Brett Fairchild, the entire Barton County Commission, Mayor Alan Moeder, and others were in attendance. There were some great conversations regarding education in the State and discussions about some needed changes in higher education.
- The Barton Music Department held their Spring Concert.
- I attended the LSCF Learning Celebration. Trustee Becker conferred degrees and certificates. Representative Brantley attended the ceremony once again this year. It was a wonderful ceremony, and I appreciate all of the effort from the Barton faculty and staff who helped these residents achieve their academic goals and make this a first-class celebration.
- Last Thursday afternoon I hosted the final President's Forum for this academic year.
- I attended PTK All-Kansas Academic Recognition Ceremony for Barton's three PTK Chapters' Honorees held on the Barton Campus.