

Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

August 2026

- The Barton team hosted Joe Newland, candidate for Lt. Governor with Vicki Schmidt. Joe was in town for various listening sessions and he chose Barton for one of his stops.
- Barton hosted the Chamber's Civic Leadership Lab group as part of their community tour.
- I attended the United Way auction.
- Barton hosted KACC earlier this month. We had all twenty-one presidents and trustee representation from each college. We discussed Performance Based Funding, our legislative session agenda, and state appropriations. I received so many positive comments from the attendees on the hospitality they received during the visit. It was truly a team effort across the campus to host the event and Barton put on a first-class event.
- I attended the Open House hosted by Great Bend Economic Development for Crower Cams, a high performance racing parts company, exploring a move to Great Bend.
- I golfed in the Cougar Booster Club tournament which was held earlier this month.
- We held the College Updates session for all employees to kick off the fall semester, the first Open Forum session of the year.
- I attended a meeting with a small group of community and technical college presidents earlier this month on the WSU Tech campus. We discussed state appropriations, our legislative agenda for the upcoming session, and Workforce Pell updates. Both the community colleges and technical colleges have agreed that we need to have a unified voice with our budget and legislative agenda to best promote the two-year college sector.
- I had lunch with the Student Ambassadors.
- We just finished move-in weekend and Welcome Week on the Barton County campus leading up to the first day of classes. I appreciate everyone's contributions to getting the campus ready to go and preparing students for the start of the semester.
- Ray Bechard was inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame last Sunday. I attended the ceremony along with Chairman Johnson and Trevor Rolfs.
- The Barton Foundation hosted the Big Benefit Auction on Saturday. I appreciated all the efforts of the Foundation Board and staff, and other Barton staff who helped make this event such a success.