Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

October 2026

- I attended the Pratt community meet and greet for the new PCC president, Dr. Carl Smalls.
- We hosted Democratic Gubernatorial candidate Cindy Holscher and her team. We had a great visit, and Cindy expressed her appreciation and support of Barton and Kansas community colleges. It was a great opportunity to highlight our campus and some of our academic programs.
- I presented Student of the Week awards at GBHS, as well as Central Plains, Hoisington, and Ellinwood high schools.
- I served as moderator for the League of Women Voters City Council candidate forum.
- Barton hosted our annual USD partner meeting with superintendents, principals, and counselors from our service area and other schools we have partnerships. We provide updates from Barton, as well as issues at the state level.
- We hosted our Annual Chamber After Hours event at Camp Aldrich. We had over 340 attendees, which is a significant increase from the last couple of years and possibly our highest attendance for this event. It was an outstanding turnout and a very successful event.
- I attended the Great Bend Economic Development Board meeting.
- We held the second President's Open Forum of the year on Thursday. General updates were shared with the College, and we presented Lori Crowther with her retirement brick.
- Barton hosted the Co-requisite Symposium this past weekend. We had approximately 110 attendees, with representatives from 6 of the 7 universities, 17 of the 19 community colleges, and 3 of the 6 technical colleges. Barton has become the leader in the state in this area.
- I testified in front of the Legislative Budget Committee on behalf of KACC for SB155 supplemental funding. We are working to receive full funding for those SB155 courses that we taught during the 2025-2026 academic year.