Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update

November 2026

- Chairman Johnson had I lunch with Heather Morgan, and Representatives Kristy Williams and Kyle Hoffman. That afternoon, I provided testimony to the Legislative Budget Committee along with Heather and Seth Carter regarding our supplemental funding request for the SB155 funds we did not receive this past year due to eligibility changes to the program.
- Our HLC peer review team was on campus for 1 ½ days to conduct our Mid-Cycle Review. We are still awaiting our final report, however we received positive feedback from the review team in the Exit Meeting.
- We held our Annual Learning Celebration at Ellsworth Correctional Facility on Thursday. There were approximately 50 completers, including GED, AAS, and Certificates.
- I attended the Great Bend Economic Development meeting.
- Barton hosted the Western Kansas HOSA Regional Leadership Conference on campus, and it was an enormous success. There were over 100 students on campus for healthcare related sessions and competitions.
- I attended the American Association of Community Colleges Fall in DC last week. I was appointed last year to serve on the Small and Rural College Commission. We discussed a number of issues at the Federal level, particularly with the change of control in the House and Senate. Some topics include:
    - College Transparency Act
    - New regulations for PELL and Workforce PELL
    - Restructuring of the Department of Education
    - Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment
    - Budget Reconciliation
- I presented Student of the Week awards at Hoisington, Central Plains, Ellinwood, and Great Bend High Schools.
- This week Barton hosted Senior Day. Approximately 200 high school seniors were on campus with parents and counselors. It was a great day of highlighting our academic programs, student support services, clubs and organizations, and our facilities.
- Dodge City Community College hosted a legislative luncheon on Thursday. Dodge City, Garden City, Seward, and Colby were also represented. There were several state legislators from SW Kansas in attendance, as well as staff from Representative Mann and Senator Moran's offices.