Former President George W. Bush Visits With Garden City Community College Students

Twelve Garden City Community College students were given chance to meet former President George W. Bush during an invitation-only luncheon held at the Clarion Inn and Conference Center in Garden City on April 28.

The GCCC students met privately with President Bush prior to the luncheon and had the opportunity to ask questions. Students commented that he was approachable, down to earth and very knowledgeable. They enjoyed his sense of humor and his forthright answers to questions.

Non-Traditional Student Starts Fresh At Barton

Barton Community College Natural Gas student Tina Shaw took a leap of faith. In the middle of an already successful career, she went back to school to chase a new dream and lifestyle.

“Life begins at 40!” she said. “I wanted a career that could support my lifestyle. Everyone needs to know, but especially women, that they can work in non-traditional fields and it is never too late to try something new.” Shaw already had a background in production agriculture and had worked as a farmer for 12 years, so she viewed Barton’s program as a perfect complement to her skills and experience. She graduated in July of 2014, and immediately found work at Wehling Construction in Colorado, working on a Tallgrass Energy project as a Safety Representative, Materials Handler and Office Coordinator.

“Within a week of graduating, I went to work,” she said. “I didn’t even apply, they called me.” Barton’s Natural Gas Program has two tracks: The Natural Gas Transmission and Distribution Certificate is 33-credit-hours and the Gas Measurement Certificate is 30-credit-hours. Both are obtainable in conjunction with a 64-credit-hour Associate of Applied Science degree.
Fire Science Center Dedicated At Hutch

Public Safety Education took a giant step forward for both Hutchinson Community College and Reno County with the official opening of the new Fire Science Center. The official dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility at Hutchinson Community College was held on Sunday, April 26, in conjunction with the annual Presidential and Presidential Leadership project presentations and reception. The ceremony began at 2 p.m. at the new facility, located at the Hutchinson Fire Department Fire grounds on Fourth Street, with a large crowd of area public safety personnel, students, faculty and staff in attendance. Speakers from both HCC, and the Hutchinson Fire Department were on hand for the dedication ceremony. A reception immediately followed allowing the crowd to tour the new facility, which was completed in early December.

JCCC Student Researchers Selected To Travel To Russia

The Johnson County Community College team of Kait Bridges, Megan Gladbach, Kendyl McDougald and Emily Reno was selected to take part in the International EcoReps student exchange in St. Petersburg, Russia, in May. Student teams from across America submitted sustainability research; JCCC’s project was a semester-long investigation into what JCCC students know about sustainable features on campus and how students describe their interactions with those features.

This international EcoReps exchange program is administered by KU’s Center for Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES) and is funded by a grant from the United States Department of State U.S.-Russia Peer-to-Peer Program.

In St. Petersburg, the JCCC team will describe their research and present to peer groups along with teams from the University of Oregon and University of Kansas. Students from St. Petersburg joined the JCCC team here on campus in April for conversation and campus tours employing the brochure the JCCC students designed.

The JCCC team was coached by Kristy Howell, coordinator in JCCC’s Center for Sustainability.

Cowley Only College To Offer Difficult Airway Course

One of the few paramedic programs in the nation and the only one in Kansas to offer The Difficult Airway course as part of its core curriculum, Cowley College conducted the intensive two-day, national level course designed for paramedics, critical care transport nurses, physicians and other advanced providers, May 19-20 in Arkansas City.

Fifty students took part in the course. Students were from Cowley College’s paramedic program cohorts in Winfield and its online program, and were also from several different states and various service areas around the area.

The course was designed to help individuals learn the important airway algorithms and mnemonics. Individuals in the course are also using all of the proven airway devices in small group sessions, while practicing decision making and airway techniques in Code Airway Stations.

Participants were presented with facing challenging patient scenarios such as elevated ICP, pulmonary edema, cardiogenic shock, status asthmaticus, foreign body in the airway, direct airway trauma, and multiple trauma with shock.

The didactic and hands-on training is covering RSI (Rapid Sequence Intubation), prediction of the difficult airway, difficult airway interventions using video laryngoscopes and other devices designed for EMS, and surgical airway techniques. The group used advanced patient simulators to mimic airway problems.
Alysia Johnston began work as the president of Fort Scott Community College on June 1, 2015. The FSCC Board of Trustees named Johnston president at a special March 12 meeting.

Two-time former president, Dick Hedges was feted on the afternoon of May 29. Hedges had been interim president since July of 2014.

Johnston most recently served as Vice-President for Academic Services at Coffeyville Community College. Johnston began working at CCC in 1986 as a biology instructor. Johnston has served as a founding member of the Kansas Board of Regents Transfer and Articulation Advisory Council, on the KBOR Strategic Plan advisory committee and the Chair of the KBOR system Council of Chief Academic Officer. Johnson has twice been the President of the Kansas Council of Instruction Administrators.

Johnston studied at Kansas State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science. Johnston later attended Pittsburg State University where she earned a Master of Science in Biology.
Independence Community College Hosts Innovation Summit

On May 1, 2015 ICC hosted the esteemed Kansas Innovation Summit at Independence Community College West Campus. The exciting event, co-partnered by Project 17 and Innovate Kansas, brought together innovative, entrepreneurial minds to discuss the benefits and future of innovation in business and education. Fourteen local, national and international speakers presented, including such respected entrepreneurs and innovators as Clifton Taulbert, Jorge Zuniga, and Rodney Walker. Pulitzer nominated author Clifton Taulbert presented the keynote presentation, focusing on “Entrepreneurial Thinking – 7 Strategies for Breaking the Code”. Throughout which he discussed the importance of ‘entrepreneurial thinking’, both in a business and community context, and how it is readily available to everyone. Rodney Walker, too, spoke on entrepreneurial thinking but from a more intimate perspective, discussing the challenges of growing up in 15 different foster homes, entering high school with a 1.2 GPA, and facing a school system he believed had no relevance to him. His life, however, changed upon his introduction to entrepreneurship, which has since culminated into his recent graduate degree from Yale University. Heather Morgan, executive director of Project 17, said “We are very pleased with this year’s line-up of presenters. Every presentation and the networking of the day will contribute greatly to our efforts to improve the economic opportunities and quality of life in Southeast Kansas and beyond.” Following the presentations, an “After Party” and informal tour were provided at the new Fab Lab ICC.

May Is The Month Of Accomplishments At Butler

To celebrate the conclusion of the spring semester, Butler Community College held numerous certificate and degree-granting ceremonies honoring the accomplishments of Butler students. Miquel Swann, a non-traditional, international student from the Bahamas who has shown leadership skills beyond compare as a resident assistant, Phi Beta Lambda member and officer, student worker, and president of the Student Government Association, was named the Hubbard Award of Excellence Scholarship recipient during Butler’s 88th Commencement held May 16. Swann plans to transfer to Newman University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Accounting with a minor in Information Technology. Swann received a scholarship for four semesters to Newman University. In addition, Butler’s IT Institute held a certificate ceremony May 7 recognizing 44 students who earned a total of 64 different certificates of completion. This is up from 23 completers last fall. The institute opened with the goal of having 400 students by 2016, currently there are 580 students enrolled in the institute. The IT Institute was created in 2013 through a Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant (TAACCCT). Butler was awarded a 2.6 million dollar grant to provide TAA-eligible displaced workers and veterans an opportunity to re-enter the workforce. Six certificate programs are offered including Cyber Security & Internetworking Management, Database Administration, Digital Media, Interactive 3D Technologies, Software Development and Windows Administration. Other celebrations included the Nurses Pinning Ceremony, Order of the Purple ceremony and recognition of Order of the Gold candidates at Commencement.
Cowley College's two Wichita centers will be combining forces to offer more centralized and accessible services to its student base in the greater Wichita area. The property, located downtown at 532 South Market Street is about 3,500 square feet larger than the college's current Eastside and Westside Centers. Along with the increase in space, the building is in a high visibility area and sits north of Kellogg on Market Street.

"This building gives us the size, location, visibility and opportunity to have a bigger footprint in Wichita," Cowley College interim president/vice president of Business services Tony Crouch said. Cowley College's online team will move from the Westside Center to the new facility, while the student services staff currently at the Eastside Center will relocate to provide assistance with enrollment, financial aid, transcripts and placement testing. A computer lab will also be available on-site for students to use.

Additional space could possibly be used for classrooms or other non-credit training.

A "block party" style grand opening for students, faculty, staff and the community is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, July 11.

KCKCC Wraps Up Successful Debate/Forensics Season

With three national championships, a visit to the final four and numerous other awards, the Kansas City Kansas Community College Debate and Forensics Team has just ended perhaps one of the most successful seasons in the program’s history. To kick-off this year’s round of national tournaments, the team of Matt Casas and Anthony Joseph won the 2015 National Parliamentary Debate Tournament, hosted by KCKCC in March. Not only was the duo the first team from a community college to make it to the final round of the NPDA National Tournament, they won in a close 5-4 decision against Southern Illinois University, whose team won the tournament in 2014. KCKCC's second national title came at the Cross-Examination Debate Association (CEDA) Tournament in April where KCKCC won its 10th Community College National Title in 12 years. Nicole Nave and John Williams secured a third National Title at Phi Rho Pi, making it 12 years in a row KCKCC has won at least one debate event at that National Tournament exclusively for Community Colleges.

“I think a lot of it has to do with the commitment each of these students puts into the team,” said Darren Elliott, KCKCC debate coach. “They work hard to prove themselves. It takes a little bit more to compete against these four-year universities, and I think that determination is what gives them their drive.” “This has definitely been one of the most successful seasons we have ever had,” Elliott said. “In terms of winning a varsity national championship and how we did at the NDT and CEDA; no community college has ever gotten that far in either of those tournaments.”

With almost all of the KCKCC debate team leaving this year due to graduation, next season will be a bit of a rebuilding year. Nave said it is a bittersweet moment leaving the college where she has learned so much, we are all onto bigger, better and beautiful things, and I am not sure what is more beautiful than this team.” Both Casas and Joseph said the time they have spent at KCKCC has prepared them for whatever comes next. “It feels good,” Casas said reflecting on the season. “I have gotten so much out of debate that I feel like even if I exit this activity, I have still been incredibly successful.” Scott Elliott, assistant debate and forensics coach at KCKCC, attributes much of the success in policy debate to the help of Ryan Wash, an Emporia State graduate and former National Champion in CEDA and NDT. Wash served as an assistant coach during the spring semester.
Coffeyville Community College's Allied Health Students Achieve 100% Pass Rate

CCC’s Allied Health Students Achieve 100% Pass Rate

Coffeyville Community College’s Allied Health Students have once again achieved 100% pass rate on their national exams. The Phlebotomy students achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the certified phlebotomy technician exam through the National Healthcareer Association. This is the three years in a row that students at CCC have had a 100% pass rate on the national exam. The students completing the program this semester include: Kyrie Lukens, Stephanie Myers, Hayley Riley, and Lindsay Robertson. The 2015 Medical Assisting class achieved a 100% pass rate for the national certification exam through the National Healthcareer Association for the third consecutive year. The national average pass rate on first attempt for this exam is approximately 68%. The following students completed the program this year: Dana Bechtle, Tiffany DiVall, Melinda Johnson, Kaylee Partain, Katie Phillips, Chasadi Rogers, Christy Ryburn, Kimberly Tipton.

Highland Student Selected For International Technical Competition

When Dustin Mortsolf started taking diesel technology classes at Highland Community College Technical Center while he was still in high school, he had no idea that three years later he would be representing the United States in an international competition. In the three years the Mortsolf attended the Tech Center – two while in high school and one post-secondary – he placed first at the SkillsUSA state level in the diesel equipment competition all three years. Last year at the National competition, he took first on the national level. Based on that performance and follow-up interviews and investigation, Mortsolf was selected for the U.S. heavy equipment team that will be competing in the WorldSkills Competition to be held in August in Sao Paula, Brazil. Mortsolf will be working with the WorldSkills heavy equipment instructors to prepare for the international competition. Following the completion of his studies under Highland’s diesel technology instructor Fred Moranz, Mortsolf went to work for Foley Equipment Company in St. Joseph, MO, and they are supporting him as he prepares for the competition.

Fort Scott Community College is pleased to announce that it has replaced their main website design using the Drupal Content Management System. Use of Drupal has saved the college nearly $100,000. The new website includes responsive content which will better perform as the website is more often viewed on smartphones and tablets.

Neosho County Community College hosted their annual Academic Awards Ceremony on May 5, 2015.

The Business Club from Neosho County Community College toured the Wal Mart Distribution Center in Ottawa in April.

Members of the Neosho County Track and Field Team help repaint some interior walls of the Community Recreation Center in Chanute, KS.

Johnson County Community College won a gold award for catering its Beyond Bounds Electric! fundraiser from the National Association of College & University Food Services. The college won in the category of catering for a special event among medium-sized schools. Boston College won gold among the large schools and Ferrum College won among the small schools.
Commencement Marks Big Changes For Everyone

Outgoing Seward County Community College/ATS President, Dr. Duane Dunn, stands with retiring Dean of Academic Affairs, Cynthia Rapp, as students enter commencement ceremonies. Students snap selfies and raise the sign of victory as they wait to receive their diplomas, the last to be awarded by President Dunn and Dean Rapp. SCCC/ATS awarded more than 450 certificates and degrees at the end of the 2014-15 academic year. Leo Hernandez, 2007 Seward alum, addressed a packed Green House gymnasium crowd at commencement May 9, 2015. Hernandez was the first in his family to attend college, going on to complete a bachelor’s degree at Kansas State University. He now works as a site selector for the corporate construction headquarters of Target, based in Minneapolis.

Hutchinson Community College Forensics Places Third In Nation

Students on the Hutchinson Community College Debate and Forensics team took home several top honors at key spring tournaments. The team competed at the AFA/NIET National Tournament at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon on April 4-6. HCC competed against over 90 two- and four-year schools attending from across the country. The team finished third in the nation among Community Colleges, as well as placing 44th amongst all schools at all levels competing in the event. HCC also competed at the American Forensics Association (AFA) District 3 Regional Tournament, held March 7, in Tyler, Texas. Individually, the team earned 12 awards, and qualified nine events to the AFA National Tournament. The team was led by Caitlyn Ross (Meriden) who was first in after dinner speaking; and Autumn Masters (Wichita) placing first in program of oral interpretation. The Blue Dragon team traveled to the KASIE State Forensics Tournament at Bethel College on February 21. The team earned 19 individual honors in forensics, and was first place Top Community College and finished in first in Division I Team Sweepstakes and won the overall Open Team Sweepstakes crowns.

Cowley One Of The Most Affordable Online Programs In Country

After reviewing over 500 schools that offer online associate degree programs, BestColleges.com recognized Cowley College as having one of the most affordable online programs in the country. BestColleges.com considered factors such as tuition, loan origination, and loan default rates. Its study showed Cowley College created a distance learning program within reach for students who want both flexibility and affordability. Cowley ranked among the top-50 two-year schools in affordable online associate degree programs. To learn more about Cowley College Online go to www.cowley.edu/online
Cloud Women’s Track Coach Receives Honor

Cloud County Community College Women’s Track & Field Head Coach Ted Schmitz earned the Central Region-Women’s Coach of the Year. The honor was announced by The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Winners for each region were selected based on a vote of NJCAA DI coaches.

Schmitz, the leader at Cloud County for the past 34 years, led his team to the KJCCC title with 245 points. The squad also placed second in the Region VI Championships this spring. The team advanced 14 entries to the national meet.

As Pratt Community College students complete their final exams and prepare to return home for the summer, the Pratt Area Humane Society looks back at the impact their student volunteers have made on the organization throughout the year. Susan Mayberry is chair of the Rescue Committee for the Humane Society. She describes the many student groups that came to donate their time, and credits them with giving the animals much needed exercise and attention, including the cross country team members, who take the larger dogs for distance runs.

“Volunteering at the Humane Society is beneficial because every animal deserves a loving home,” said Mayberry. “The PCC students have devoted a lot of time to service with us.”

Marcy Thomas, sophomore at PCC, spent the past semester volunteering once a week. “When you adopt a dog, you want it to be well taken care of when you bring it home with you, so we keep them happy and healthy while they’re waiting to be rehomed,” said Thomas. Shayley Miller also a sophomore from PCC also volunteers. “Volunteering isn’t work for me, it’s a chance for me to make a difference while having fun at the same time.”

Besides sending student volunteers, PCC donated $250 from the cartridge collection to offset veterinary fees and the cost of spaying and neutering.

PCC Students Make A Difference

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Arts At Cowley College Benefiting From Wilkins Foundation Grant

Supporting the Arkansas City area art environment, the late Virginia J. Wilkins established the Wilkins Foundation Grant prior to her death in 2012 to provide “a quality cultural environment of arts, music, language and other endeavors. As a result of the grant, Cowley College was one of seven Arkansas City organizations awarded grant disbursements in 2014 for the enhancement of arts-related activities.

Cowley College was awarded $72,330 to finance vocal and musical arts, including a jazz initiative to attract visiting guest artists, marketing equipment needs, and materials for seminars and workshops for Cowley College. They also were able to purchase graphic design equipment for the visual arts and provide assistance for the school’s theater program. According to Cowley College theatre director John Sefel, the Wilkins Foundation Grant was the primary funding source that allowed the school to take more than 20 students to Louisville, KY to the Humana Festival of New American Plays.

The Cowley College music programs recently received $27,000 in grant money from the V.J. Wilkins Foundation. According to Director of Instrumental Music, Josh Fleig, the funds will be used to strengthen and broaden the applied studies offerings for both instrumental and vocal students at Cowley and to establish the Cowley College Jazz Initiative.

Cowley College has also recently created the Wilkins Foundation Scholarship & Brown Center Internship. As of this fall, the college will offer a new scholarship, creating an internship for a student interested in venue management and technical theatre.
The Lattner Family Foundation has provided a $25,000 gift to the Butler Community College “Forever Butler” Campaign, a $10 million endeavor to raise funds for scholarships, program support and internships. This is the second year the foundation has presented Butler with this gift.

The Lattner gift also qualifies for the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) Faculty of Distinction program, which matches earnings on endowed funds of at least $50,000, an acclaim that Butler has not had before.

The Lattner gift combined with the KBOR Faculty of Distinction gift will endow the director’s position for the Early College Information Technology Academy (ECITA) located in Andover. “We’re grateful to once again receive this grant and for the fact it establishes our very first endowed position at Butler, which is not common at the community college level,” said Stacy Cofer, Butler’s vice president of Advancement.

Butler’s Early College Academies allow high school juniors to begin working toward their degrees in either Health Science, Information Technology, and beginning in August Public Safety and Manufacturing Engineering Technology.

The Labette Community College Gallery Committee has chosen student, Zoe Foster, as the winner for the John and Bonnie Latzer Student Art Award for the Spring 2015 semester. The Latzer Art Award was established to recognize student achievement in the Fine Arts at Labette Community College. The winning artwork was a ceramic jar sculpture titled “Crash Wave Over Hokusai” by Foster. Foster was awarded a $400 scholarship to be used the following semester. Foster’s piece of art will be now be permanently on display at Labette Community College.

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Cloud Employees Participate in Walk Kansas 2015

Employees of Cloud County Community College participated in the 2015 Walk Kansas event from March 15-May 9, 2015 as part of the College’s Health and Wellness initiative. One hundred employees participated in 17 teams representing CCC. Each participant was given a t-shirt that promoted the 2015 Walk Kansas event and included the names of all participating on the back. Other Health and Wellness initiatives provided for employees at the college include regular yearly blood draws and release time each week for employees to exercise in the on campus fitness center, participate in yoga classes, or walk on walking trails created throughout campus.

Barton Community College

Dean of Administration Mark Dean (left) accepts a $317,000 check from Kans for Kids Fighting Cancer Co-Directors Debbie and Duane Reif on May 23. The money was raised via tax-credit sales shortly after the Camp Aldrich Dining Hall burned down in April of 2014. It has been used to increase the size of the Dining Hall and provide additional features like an elevator and a room for medical staff, primarily to benefit Camp Hope. “This is for the kids,” Debbie said. “This is their home. We also hope the improvements will draw other camps. This is such an impressive place and it’s a great resource for the college and the community.”

Lattner Foundation Endows Position At Butler Community College

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Fred Lajvardi is a high school teacher and is the inspiration for the film “Spare Parts” starring George Lopez as Lajvardi. The movie shown free of charge at the South Drive-In, in Dodge City, on Thursday, June 11th. Lajvardi will speak Thursday, June 18th at the United Wireless Conference Center.

Lajvardi began his career as a high school science teacher in 1988 in the Phoenix Union High School district in Arizona. He excelled right from the start and showed the ability to engage and motivate his students. He challenged them by teaching them about the field of robotics and it soon landed them in the national spotlight. After taking their designs to a national underwater robotics competition in 2004, and choosing to compete on the university level as opposed to the high school level, the Carl Hayden Community High School team beat out MIT and a number of other major universities.

“Our Lecture Series committee selected Fredi Lajvardi because of his leadership and inspiration to students illustrated in the movie ‘Spare Parts,’” said Roger Proffitt, Director, DCCC Foundation. “The movie stars Carlos Pena, Marisa Tomei, Jamie Lee Curtis, Alexa Vega, and George Lopez as Fredi. Check out the trailer at movienetwork.com.”

“Spare Parts” is an inspirational true story. La Vida Robot chronicles the journey of four undocumented Mexican-American high school students from Phoenix, AZ as they form a robotics club and are led by their teacher, Fredi Lajvardi, to compete against MIT in a National Underwater Robotics Competition with nothing but spare parts and a dream. They placed first, second, and third in subsequent years, but bested MIT each year. Their story was first picked up by Wired magazine as well as other major news organizations.

“We’re modeling our lecture series after the Landon Lecture Series at Kansas State University and the Dillon Lecture Series at Hutchinson Community College,” stated Duane Ross, Chairman of the DCCC Foundation. “Their success is due to the large community support they receive from sponsors and patrons. We are asking businesses and individuals to join us, become a sponsor or patron, and help us make the Dodge City Community College Foundation’s lecture series a success.”

Hutch Young Kansan Award Winners

Diego Esparza and Grace Suiter were selected as the 2015 Young Kansan Award Winners. The duo were selected as the top spring graduates by a vote of Hutchinson Community College faculty and staff. They each received a cash award and a plaque, courtesy of the award sponsor First National Bank. The awards were presented in a ceremony on campus on May 5. Esparza graduated this year and plans to attend Kansas State University and pursue a business degree. Suiter graduated in May and plans to attend Fort Hays State and major in counseling.

Highland Instructor Book Published

Janet Stotts, published as Janet Jenkins-Stotts, has been an educator at Highland Community College since 1999, and has written a novel, The Orchid Garden. The Orchid Garden is loosely based on the adoption of Chinese girls. In 2002, Stotts accompanied her daughter, who was adopting a little girl, to China. Stotts went along to assist in the process and bring home a granddaughter. That granddaughter was 11 months old at the time and is now 13 years old. According to Stotts, the writing of the novel “was really a fluke.” The book started when the National Novel Writers Month organization solicited writers to write 50,000 words in 30 days. Stotts took on that challenge and submitted a part of what was to become the novel, completed the competition, and received a certificate. After that, she was encouraged enough to finish this first novel.
Kiara Sharp is an exceptional individual and her graduation story is both impressive and unique. Sharp's story stood out from all the graduates that received their diplomas from Garden City Community College at the 95th Annual Commencement on May 8. She graduated from GCCC and Healy (KS) High School in the same week!

She began her journey by deciding to enroll in a few online college classes her sophomore year of high school to get a jump start on college. High school had always come easy to her and her mom felt she could do more to enhance her intellectual capabilities. Sharp began to take more classes and decided she was far enough along that she pushed herself even harder to receive her associate’s degree by the middle of her senior year. She accomplished just that by finishing up her associate’s degree from GCCC in December of 2014 and will be graduating from Healy High School this month. She walked at GCCC on May 8 to receive her degree.
After taking a brief hiatus, the Kansas City Kansas Community College Endowment Association’s Mid-America Education Hall of Fame event was back this year celebrating some of the best contributors to education in the Kansas City area.

Patrick McCartney, executive director of the Endowment Association of the April 23 event at KCKCC-TEC. I thought it went very well, and we have had excellent feedback.” The Mid-America Education Hall of Fame was started in 1996 by the KCKCC Endowment Association as a way to recognize individuals, organizations and corporate supporters in the community who have made notable contributions to education. Hall of Fame inductees are selected based on a demonstrated commitment to education, their effort to improve the quality of education, increasing educational opportunities for others and supporting significant changes that have improved the quality of education.

Highland’s Jordan Named Coach Of The Year

Heidi Jordan, the head softball coach at Highland Community College, has been named 2015 Coach of the Year for the Eastern Division of the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC). Jordan’s Scotties had yet another highly successful season, going 39-6 after the first round of the Regional Playoffs, and landing an institutional record five players on the Eastern Division All-Conference First Team and another on the Second Team. Assisted by her husband, Scott, Jordan returned to her alma mater as the assistant in 2003 and assumed the head job in 2004. She quickly made a difference in the Scottie program as she earned her first Coach of the Year honor in 2006.

DCCC Foundation Announces Successful Auction

Dodge City Community College Foundation and Endowment Association announced the 20th Annual Student Scholarship Auction was a great success. The auction is an annual fundraising event to raise money for DCCC student scholarships. Over 250 Dodge City Community College supporters gathered at the Dodge City Knights of Columbus Hall Saturday, April 25th to bid on close to 200 donated auction items. Nick Wells, Dean of Innovation and Workforce Development for DCCC, dressed in formal tux, entertained everyone as the evening’s master of ceremony. The theme for this year’s auction was An 80th Anniversary Celebration. DCCC was founded eighty years ago in 1935 during the Great Depression. This year’s auction raised $47,685 so we are over half way to meeting our $80,000 goal, a $1000 for every year DCCC has been educating students.

Mariga Nets Saints First Ever NJCAA All-American Award

Following the deepest run at the NJCAA National Tournament in program history, Seward County Freshman Tare Mariga has been named the first NJCAA All-American in Saints Tennis program history. Mariga was unstoppable for the Saints this season at #5 singles, racking up a 14-2 record in the spring. Mariga made a historic run at the NJCAA National Tournament in the #5 bracket for Seward. After a first round bye, he cruised to three straight set wins in a row to become the first player in program history to play for an NJCAA National Championship. Mariga battled top seeded Shaquille Taylor of ASA tooth and nail, but in the end came up just short in a three set defeat. Despite the loss, Mariga’s 2nd place finish was not only good enough for the best mark in school history, but also good enough to become Seward’s first ever NJCAA All-American with his 2nd Team honors.