



*HLC Accreditation Evidence*

- **Academic Integrity Series**

URL:

Office of Origin:

- Vice President of Instruction

Contact(s):

- Director of Innovation and Compliance
- Executive Director of Foundational Education



# Barton to highlight academic integrity this spring

January 26, 2021

Story and photo by Joe Vinduska

*This is part one of a six-part series on the importance of academic integrity at Barton. The college will feature six student stories throughout the spring semester that help showcase the six virtues of academic integrity. These virtues include trust, responsibility, honesty, courage, fairness, and respect.*

Barton Community College holds itself to the highest standards when it comes to academic integrity. The college will feature several student stories on its social media accounts throughout the spring semester that help showcase the six virtues of academic integrity and why they are important to each student as well as the institution. Those virtues include trust, responsibility, honesty, courage, fairness, and respect.

"So much in life is about choices, and often we (as humans) can feel like we don't have control of much. We do, however, have control of our actions and reactions," said Coordinator of Community Education Karly Little. "The students featured in the campaign exhibit the choices they've made with integrity and how they hope it will impact their futures."

Barton student and aspiring interior designer Ashanti Davis, 22, of Junction City said she was happy to participate in the campaign. She wanted to help spread the positive message about the virtue of building "trust," to which she holds herself to a high standard not only in school, but also in her personal life.

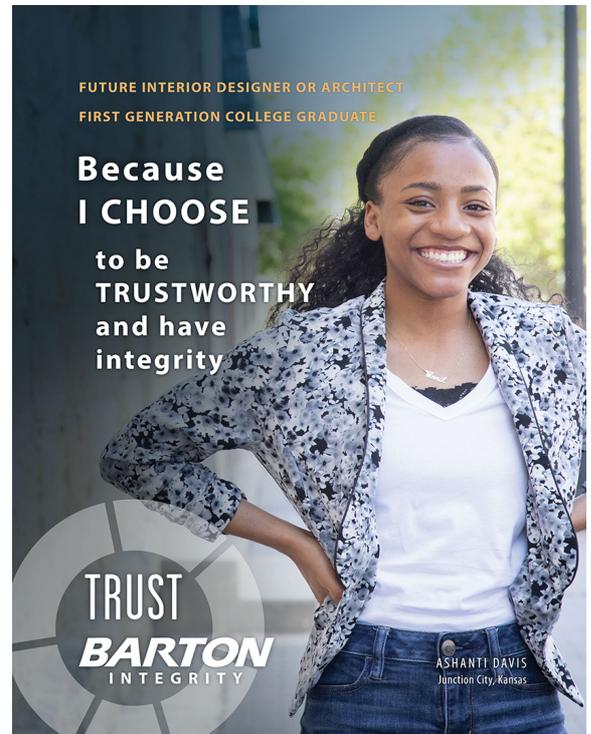
"Trust is something that would be difficult for me to live without," she said. "It applies to every aspect of my life. From the simplest things, such as expecting an email response, to the most complex, such as earnestly listening to another's opinion on a personal matter. I know trust may not always be an easy thing to give out. There's always a risk factor associated with it. I have the blind trust that my instructors will educate me to the best of their abilities. I apply the same standards to myself. I have that trust in myself that I will submit work that is of my best ability. I try to acknowledge that though we are all independent individuals, we should take into account that without trust, there's no way to build healthy relationships which are so important for everyone's success."

Davis hopes to continue her education at a four-year school in Georgia, where she is originally from. She plans to study interior design, but hopes to find ways to incorporate her love of architecture and technology into her career as well.

Director of Student Academic Development Stephanie Joiner said putting the idea of academic integrity at the forefront of students' minds was one key goal when designing this campaign.

"Like any awareness campaign, the idea is that the more the language of integrity is used on our campuses and in our 'classrooms,' the likelihood of its application and use by individuals students increases," she said. "Another goal of the campaign was to make academic integrity relatable. By identifying integrity ambassadors and sharing their image with the larger campus community, students, faculty, staff, and even community members can see themselves as a part of the conversation and their role in upholding the values of integrity. Academic integrity is no longer a vague concept, it becomes tangible people and tangible choices that result in a community of integrity."

For more information, contact Director of Innovation & Compliance Lee Miller at (620) 786-7453 or [millerle@bartonccc.edu](mailto:millerle@bartonccc.edu).



 Talk to us!



# Barton Academic Integrity Campaign: Respect

February 11, 2021

Story and photo by Joe Vinduska

*This is part two of a six-part series on the importance of academic integrity at Barton. The college will feature six student stories throughout the spring semester that help showcase the six virtues of academic integrity. These virtues include trust, responsibility, honesty, courage, fairness, and respect.*

Born and raised in Brazil, Carolina D'Anniballe de Salles became acquainted with Barton County and the United States as a foreign exchange student when she graduated from Hoisington High School in 2019. She had such an amazing experience that she wanted to go to college in the U.S. and Barton was the perfect fit for her.

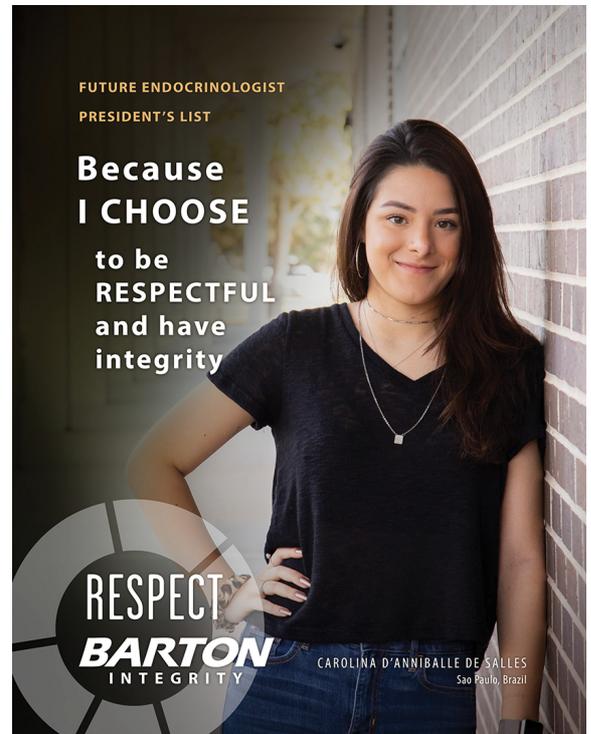
"I really love Barton as a community in general," "I love the environment, the people around me, the classes, the teachers, faculty and staff. Everyone is very supportive around here and it makes me feel at home. It's literally my home away from home. My learning experience here is great because I learn more than academics, I feel like the connections I've made here have helped me grow as a person too."

While studying this fall, she agreed to participate in the Academic Integrity Campaign because it is something she feels is of the utmost importance.

"I think integrity as a whole is very important because it says a lot about who we are," she said. "respect is essential as it relates to my journey because it has helped open doors for me. People are more likely to help other people succeed in their goals if they find that person respectful. We have to understand that we live in a world with differences and we depend on each other. It's important to know how to respect others if you want to be respected. If you are respectful, people will cheer for your success and will want to help you and show you support. In my journey, so far, I made connections with different people who saw this quality in me and helped me go even further. That's why I preach this value. It's important in every situation of your life; in the workplace, relationships, and friendships.

After she graduates plans to pursue a degree in medicine and aspires to become an endocrinologist as that particular specialty has played an important role in keeping her family healthy. She plans to stay in the United States and become a permanent resident.

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# Barton Academic Integrity Campaign: Honesty

March 10, 2021

Story and photo by Joe Vinduska

*This is part three of a six-part series on the importance of academic integrity at Barton. The college will feature six student stories throughout the spring semester that help showcase the virtues of academic integrity. These virtues include trust, responsibility, honesty, courage, fairness, and respect.*

Vanessa Oduah traveled thousands of miles from Nigeria to pursue her dream of becoming a professional basketball player. She joined the Cougars on scholarship in 2019 as a guard and is making the most of her time hooping it up in central Kansas before continuing on her journey.

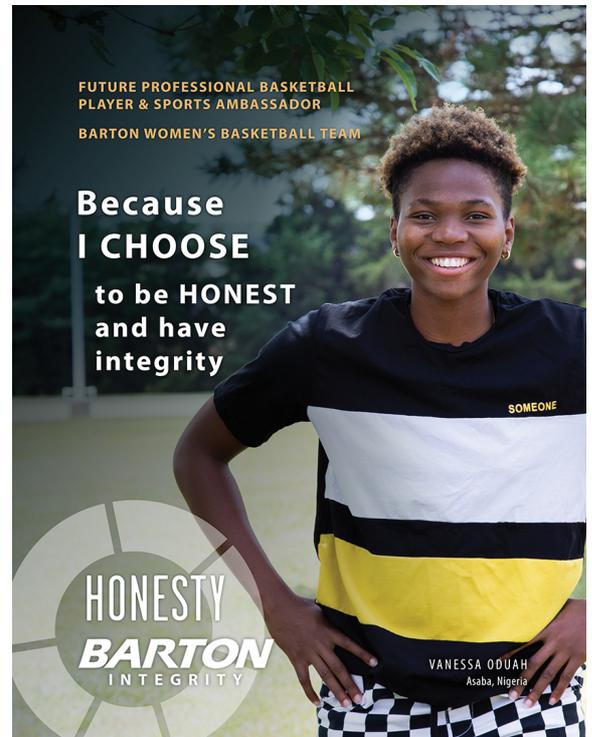
"I would love to play professional basketball and I have chosen to do this because I have a very strong passion for the sport," she said. "I'd like to eventually become an ambassador for young athletes as well. I would love to help them achieve their goals and inspire them." Barton has been a home-away-from-home for Oduah and has also helped her avoid getting into debt while she pursues education.

"I met lots of amazing friends and teachers that supported me and were a fun part of this journey," she said. "I was also offered a great scholarship that has put me in an excellent financial position."

Oduah said honesty is a highly revered trait that was stressed to her throughout her childhood as an important part of the African culture. She has also seen its importance grow as she matures as a student.

"Honesty has helped me get the best education at Barton I could," she said. "I know I need to gain this knowledge even though it may not be as easy at times to not cheat, so it takes courage and discipline as well to accomplish anything with honesty and it's not something everyone can handle. Being honest also helps Barton determine what the actual measurement of my academic progress (and other students) is."

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# Barton Academic Integrity Campaign: Fairness

March 31, 2021

Story and photo by Joe Vinduska

*This is part four of a six-part series on the importance of academic integrity at Barton. The college will feature six student stories throughout the spring semester that help showcase the virtues of academic integrity. These virtues include trust, responsibility, honesty, courage, fairness, and respect.*

Sophomore swimmer Kacper Mayerberg from Poland felt like a fish out of water when he came to Barton last year. Speaking limited English, he knew he had his work cut out for him assimilating to the United States and at the same time holding himself to his high personal standards in athletics and academics. Even with this daunting undertaking looming, he always kept his academic integrity intact and the virtue of fairness remained in the forefront as a guiding principle in his athletic and academic endeavors.

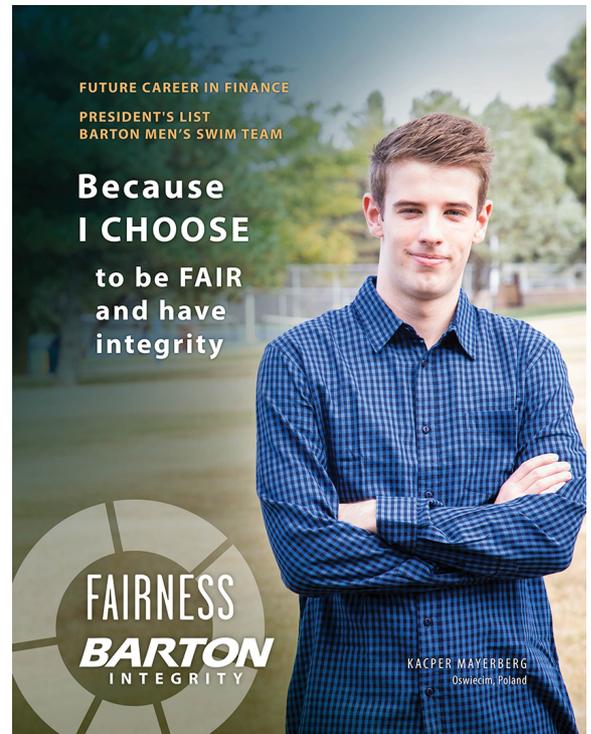
"I've been swimming for 14 years, since I was seven years old, and I've trained hard and sacrificed many things," he said. "For people to take shortcuts, or use banned substances, it's unfair and creates an unequal playing field. It ruins the competition and affects not only the accomplishments of those that cheat, but also the accomplishments of those who have not."

Mayerberg's attitude and virtues proved beneficial during his time at Barton. He has developed his personal, academic and athletic competence. He was part of the team that won the first runner-up title at the NJCAA National Swimming and Diving Championships in 2020.

"I was really concerned with coming to the United States," he said. "My teammates and other students in my business classes helped me a lot and told me not to be afraid. They helped me with everything."

Mayerberg plans to continue swimming at a four-year institution and major in finance or business management. His dream job is to become a Chief Financial Officer for a company.

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# Barton Academic Integrity Campaign: Responsibility

April 22, 2021

Story and photo by Joe Vinduska

*This is part five of a six-part series on the importance of academic integrity at Barton. The college will feature these student stories throughout the spring semester to showcase the virtues of academic integrity. These virtues include trust, responsibility, honesty, courage, fairness, and respect.*

It took non-traditional student Elsie Randel, 44, of Great Bend, some time to figure out exactly what she wanted to do with her life, but she was raised to follow the "golden rule" as a child and she has let that guide her through her quest for knowledge and education, as well as enhance her appreciation for the virtue of responsibility as it pertains to academic integrity.

"This rule should apply if you are secular or religious," she said. "The notion applies to being a good human. Maintaining integrity in any situation is of the utmost importance. 'Logic is the beginning of wisdom, not the end,' as Spock from Star Trek once said. With that in mind, responsibility is logical when you look at it from the view of wanting to set an example and be a mentor to others. As a peer, I will always do my best to be an excellent example for others. Each of us has a responsibility to others to set a standard for conducting interactions and maintain integrity in any situation, especially in academia. When students are learning and engaging with others at any level of education, these interactions are meaningful because they will take them into their lives and careers."

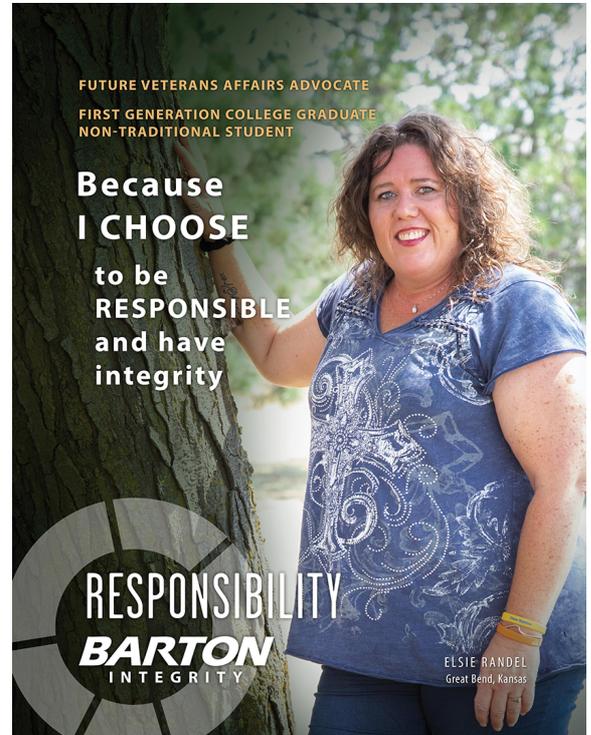
It's easy to see the desire to perpetuate these ideas as Randel continues her education and career. She is attending Fort Hays State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. After she graduates in 2022, her next move is to work in grant writing to help non-profit organizations obtain funds through grants to assist Veterans with fees and other costs for obtaining a service dog.

"I will be working with Veterans of the U.S. Military," she said. "My mission is to make the process of obtaining a service dog for Veterans with PTSD, TBI, and other physical or mental handicaps less arduous. I will advocate for Veterans to improve their quality of life through obtaining service dogs. These brave souls protected us and gave themselves freely to serve and protect. The civilian population and the government owe these Veterans a great deal. The least I can do is improve the quality of life of the Veterans I come into contact with."

Randel said her time at Barton was very helpful in getting her going in the right direction.

"My experience at Barton was life-changing," she said. "I grew so much as a person in my time at Barton. I enrolled in Student Support Services due to anxiety and financial reasons and it was the best decision I have ever made. With Penny Zimmerman, Rita Thurber, Nolan Esfeld, and countless others by my side, I transformed as a person. Every staff and faculty member at Barton that I encountered touched my life and supported me ceaselessly. I had dark days, trials and tribulations and it was not an easy journey. Growth and change are often a bit painful. Growing pains and learning about who you really are and what you really want is not for the faint at heart. Barton is my village; the village that supported me, helped me up, gave me pep talks and never gave up on me. The whole gang is fantastic. I heart Barton Community College."

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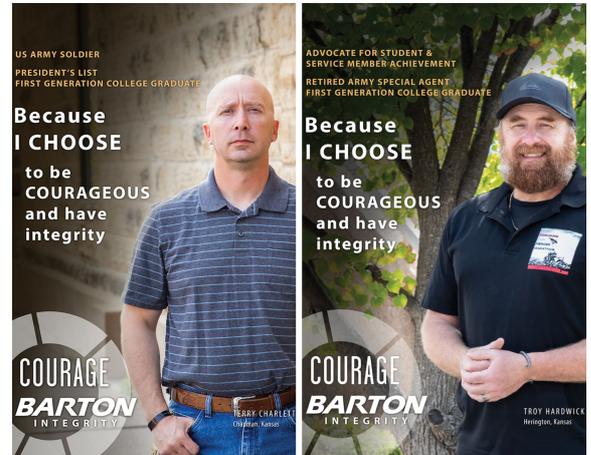
# Barton Academic Integrity Campaign: Courage

May 11, 2021

Story and photos by Joe Vinduska

*This is part six of a six-part series on the importance of academic integrity at Barton. The college has featured these student stories throughout the spring semester to showcase the virtues of academic integrity. These virtues include trust, responsibility, honesty, courage, fairness, and respect.*

Barton at Fort Riley students Terry Charlett and Troy Hardwick both served in the military for decades. They went overseas on multiple deployments, so courage is a very familiar concept to them. It's no surprise that their high regard for this virtue carried over into their quests for education.



"Academic integrity I believe stems from early learned study habits," Hardwick said. "I personally always loved school and the accompanying homework. Growing up in small-town Nebraska, we were taught school came before sports. However, when we moved to Florida when I was 14, and being an athlete, I found the morals to be a bit backward. So, while my friends were sharing answers and cheating, I preferred to just do my own work and be the odd man out. Some of my friends went to college on athletic scholarships, and ended up failing out because they never learned to do their own work. So, moral integrity, fairness, hard work and the courage to 'be who I was' no matter what others were doing became the cornerstones of my personal ethics."

Charlett agreed that doing the right thing whether or not somebody is observing your behavior is a key indicator of the virtue of courage and the basis for all of the integrity virtues.

"It's especially important to have integrity with online classes," he said. "Teachers have to be able to trust you to do the right thing, do work yourself, and that maintains your integrity as a student, but equally as important it helps maintain the integrity of the university. If you can't trust students to do the right thing everybody loses. It's always more challenging to do the right thing but in the end it's always your best route to take, once you start lying it all compounds and you have this novel of lies you have to try to continue telling, but if you're doing the right thing you don't have to worry about keeping track of it all and your conscience will always be clear."

Both Charlett and Hardwick have stories spanning decades and could be the basis for novels. They dedicated their lives to serving our country domestically and around the globe and are true heroes. Hardwick is ready to settle down with his family and enjoy retirement and Charlett is not far behind with only a year and a half left.

"My plans for the future are to return with my wife back to our home state of Florida, trim our lifestyle down to more of a minimum of 'things' and ease into this thing we all call retirement," Hardwick said. "I may entertain pursuing a Bachelors of Science degree in Psychology. Oh, and riding motorcycles of course."

Charlett hopes to settle in central Texas with his family and pursue a bachelor's degree, but his plans for the future are undecided.

"I have no idea what I'm going to do because I left for the army two weeks after I graduated high school and have been doing this for 22 years," he said. "I want to find something that suits the needs of my family, but counseling does interest me and part of being in the army as a non-commissioned officer, I did a lot of mentoring and counseling of young soldiers, so I'd like to look into doing that in the private sector as well."

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