

Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center



CKEOC Outstanding Participant:

Our outstanding participant for this quarter is Michael Toy. After graduating from Manhattan High School in 2011, Michael began attending classes through Barton’s Fort Riley Campus, but knew that he would eventually need to transfer to a four-year school to realize his dream of becoming a software engineer and video game programmer. Last spring he determined it was time for him to make the transition to a Bachelor’s Degree program and when he chose KSU, CKEOC was there to help.

December – February 2015

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Michael first heard about CKEOC through one of his classes at Barton, but delayed contacting us until a relative pointed out where we were located and what services we provide. Once he did contact us, he received assistance with the FAFSA, the financial aid verification process, and the entire transfer to KSU

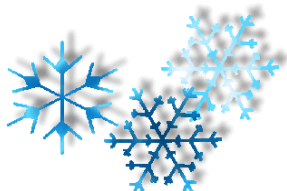
including a campus visit. Michael is very appreciative of the help he received through CKEOC services exclaiming “If you need ANY help with getting to a college or university this place will be able to help you.”

Michael indicates that there have definitely been stressful times to be certain, but activities on campus have given him the opportunity to balance out those aspects. Michael elaborates “There was an event where you would donate a couple of bucks to the homeless shelter and they would let you swing a sledgehammer at a car. (It was) a great stress reliever.” Also, though it has presented some challenges, his studies have given him the opportunity to learn Japanese.



Now that he is halfway through his first semester at KSU, Michael has started to get acclimated to the differences between his studies at the community college level and those at the university level. He has some advice for those making a similar transition. “Ask your instructor if you can record (the) lecture. If you can’t keep up with the lecture it will help a lot. Also, ask if you can take pictures (of what is written on the board during class).” Finally, he indicates it’s a good idea to “figure out if tutoring is available to you quickly so you don’t fall behind”.

Once he graduates, Michael would like to “be able to create video games for people to enjoy and escape the real world.” “Being able to help out with that (stress) by making games to enjoy is my goal in life.” It’s no surprise then to learn that Michael spends his spare time working out stress with an occasional online game with his friends when he’s not hanging out with them in person or catching up on his sleep.



CKEOC Outstanding Participant:

Tess Modrow

We are proud to introduce Tess Modrow as one of our participants of the quarter. She was introduced to CKEOC by a friend and from there she took advantage of our services. When asked if there was one thing she could say about CKEOC, she stated, "DON'T WASTE THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE, when returning to college. The staff is considerate, helpful and really care about helping you to be successful in your journey." CKEOC helped her with understanding her different options, aided her in completing her FAFSA and financial aid verification paperwork, and the direction for her career path. She said that CKEOC played an instrumental part of her success in returning to college. She stated, "Without the assistance it would have been overwhelming to complete all the necessary documentation."



Tess described her college experience as "very positive". She conveyed that the CKEOC staff and Barton Community College were respectful, thoughtful and took that extra step to ensure the best possible experience was obtained. She is thankful she took advantage of the opportunities CKEOC offers, and equally grateful for choosing BCC in pursuing her goal of obtaining her AAS. She will graduate in May 2015 from BCC with a Medical Assistant degree. Her overall career goal is to provide the best quality patient care within her scope of practice. In addition, she hopes to be an optimistic influence with her co-workers daily experiences. She truly desires to make a difference.

Towards the middle of her college journey, she started working at the Medical Park Lab as a phlebotomist/lab assistant. Tess stated this was very useful in obtaining a working knowledge at the ground level of the entire medical process. She claims it was a tremendous experience for her, and gained so much personally and professionally from her time spent there. She is completing her internship hours at Central Kansas Orthopedic Group. As soon as she passes her certification exam she will be employed full time as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) at that facility. She said, "It is a great opportunity for me to meet my goals and work with other remarkable medical professionals."

After graduation she plans to take a break from school and spend time with her family. In her free time, she loves embarking on various adventures with her family; concerts, sporting events, hunting, vacationing in Branson or Estes. Tess and her family do everything together!



Tess states, "Throughout this entire full time college and part time working process, my husband and I have made a stellar team in meeting our day to day responsibilities of raising our large family of six children, ranging from sophomore to fourth grade. We met many challenges along the way and have had some laughs and some tears, but when it is said and done the entire family has held each other up to help mom meet this goal. I think everyone will have some ownership in watching mom receive that college diploma in May."

Fort Riley Army Education Center

“No Mission Too Difficult. No Sacrifice Too Great. Duty First!”

For several months, the Fort Riley Army Education Center and CKEOC have partnered together to create a mutual referral system through which individuals can take care of all of their training goals and educational needs. Through this partnership, CKEOC provides monthly workshops at the Education Center to educate soldiers and their families about financial aid, coach individuals through admissions applications and Federal Financial Aid procedures and help soldiers with transfer processes. The Army Education Center also offers many invaluable services for which CKEOC refers its participants. We would like to highlight The Army Education Center and a few of the excellent services that they offer.

When soldiers arrive at a new duty station, they must report to the Education Center as part of their in-processing procedure. During this time the soldiers are provided with information on the consortium of colleges on Fort Riley and the programs and degree plans they offer. Together these colleges provide opportunities to obtain credentials from certificates all the way through post-baccalaureate degrees and often work together to facilitate the achievement of these goals.

As with any college student, soldiers are concerned with the costs of post-secondary education. The education center is there to provide guidance on the application, use and eligibility of military education benefits such as Tuition Assistance (TA) and GI Bill. There are several rules about how and when these benefits can be used and the counselors at the education center are an excellent resource for soldiers to gain the knowledge they need to take full advantage of these resources. In many cases, a military spouse can also qualify for funding through scholarships through the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account. Counselors are there to educate qualifying individuals on this funding source.



Another beneficial service offered at the Army Education Center is testing services. The education center is happy to offer free proctored testing for several exams including ACT & SAT as well as study guide materials and exam fee reimbursement for GRE and GMAT assessments. In addition to standardized testing and entrance exams, the education center makes available opportunities for soldiers to earn college credit through testing with CLEP (College Level Examination Program) and DANTES (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support) Subject Standardized Tests (DSST). CLEP and DSST's are provided free for the first exam for soldiers.

Finally, the Army Education Center provides training, resources and information soldiers can use to advance their career in the military. These include in-person and online classes soldiers can take to improve their GT (General Technical) scores which can allow a soldier the opportunity to change their MOS (Military Occupational Specialty), gain promotions or even qualify for a commission to become an officer.

Both the Army Education Center and CKEOC are dedicated to the educational needs of our soldiers and their dependents. We have only highlighted a few of the many services that are available through the Fort Riley Army Education Center. More information on these and other services can be obtained by contacting the Army Education Center directly at (785) 239-6481 or by visiting their office at 217 Custer Ave on Fort Riley.

CKEOC Participants Receive TRiO Scholarship

CKEOC is excited to announce that two of our participants, Zane Harper and Zeth Harper, are recipients of the Kansas TRiO Scholarship at Barton Community College. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition and books, however it does not cover the cost of housing. Zane is majoring in Exercise Science and plans to transfer to a four-year college. Zeth is majoring in Criminal Justice and plans to transfer to a four-year college and eventually earn his Phd.

To apply for this scholarship:

Each student must submit:

Contact information

A letter describing how TRiO impacted their life and how the scholarship will help them

A letter of support from a TRiO program employee.

The student must also meet the following eligibility criteria:

Be a Kansas resident

Be a current or past participant of a TRiO or GEAR UP program

Be enrolled as a full time student each semester (online classes are not covered)

Live on campus.



WIA Partner Retires

It is with mixed feelings that CKEOC says "Congratulations" to Susan Gibson on her retirement. Susan was the WIA Youth Employment Specialist for the Great Bend and surrounding area. She worked with young adults through Kansas Legal Services for three years and then with Kanas Workforce1 for 7 years. Through her years of service, Susan has touched the lives of countless young people assisting them with job placement, and/or going into post-secondary education. Susan was an excellent CKEOC partner to work with and went above and beyond to ensure her clients were successful. Susan stated she will enjoy spending time with her family and relaxing. She will truly be missed by all.

Congratulations!

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Just exactly what is SAP? Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is a financial aid term used to define successful completion of coursework to maintain eligibility for student financial aid. You need to make satisfactory academic progress in order to continue receiving federal student aid. In other words, you have to make good enough grades, and complete enough classes (credits, hours, etc.), to keep moving toward successfully completing your degree or certificate in a time period that's acceptable to your school.

Each school has a satisfactory academic progress policy for financial aid purposes. To review your school's SAP policies, you can check their website or ask someone at the financial aid office. Your school's policy will tell you:

Qualitative - what grade-point average (or equivalent standard) you need to maintain;

Quantitative - how many credits you should have successfully completed by the end of each semester;

How an incomplete class, withdrawal, repeated class, change of major, or transfer of credits from another school affects your satisfactory academic progress;

What will happen if you fail to make satisfactory academic progress when your school evaluates you (warning, probation, suspension);

Whether you are allowed to appeal your school's decision that you haven't made satisfactory academic progress (reasons for appeal usually include the death of a member of your family, your illness or injury, or other special circumstances)

How you can regain eligibility for federal student aid.

-Federal Student Aid Website

When you are placed on financial aid warning or probation, you are able to receive your financial aid. However, being placed on financial aid warning or probation is to let you know that you are at risk of losing your financial aid if you have another poor semester. When you are placed on financial aid warning or probation your Financial Aid Officer may intervene to find ways to help you succeed.

If placed on financial aid suspension, you will not be eligible to receive grants, scholarships, or Federal student loans. You may appeal your financial aid suspension status if you have special extenuating circumstances. If you appeal, the Financial Aid Committee will review your situation and decide whether to grant your appeal. If you lose your appeal you may earn your way off suspension by paying out-of-pocket and completing coursework towards your degree. By federal law, a minimum of a 2.0 or better grade point average must be achieved for these classes to have your suspension lifted. It is important to mention, however, that each school can set requirements for the number of credit hours that must be taken and the required GPA above the minimum levels required by Federal Law. For this reason, it is best to speak with your school's financial aid department to be advised of their policy. Suspension status is indefinite. You cannot get off of suspension status by sitting out or switching schools and students may only have one suspension appeal granted regardless of the reason.



CKEOC/LCMHF Has A New Preparation Program

Since 1998, CKEOC and LCMHF have partnered providing continued educational opportunities for offenders. During the initial start-up CKEOC services were presented during LCMHF's quarterly reentry program, *Homeward Bound*, which prepares offenders for release. Mary Dino, CKEOC Advisor provides FAFSA applications and information related to programs and training offered through Kansas post-secondary schools and organizations. To further their efforts in providing offenders access to relevant and timely educational opportunities, Cindy Villarreal, Program Provider for LCMHF approached Ms. Dino this past March with the idea of setting aside one day per month to meet one-on-one with offenders who are interested in postsecondary education and completing the FAFSA prior to their release. "Thus far, it has been a huge success" says Mary Dino. "I was amazed by the amount of preparation that was done by the offender prior to my sessions making the meeting much more productive."

LCMHF has created, over the past few years, a very successful Offender Career Resource Center, which utilizes offender clerks to staff and provide services in a peer-to-peer setting. The Resource Center allows offenders to take O*NET Career Exploration assessments, access www.KANSASWORKS.com for both job searches and to identify educational providers, and create prison-to-community plans involving both employment and education. Since the inception of the Resource Center, over 450 offenders have taken advantage of the resources available.

One of the Resource Center's clerks states, "It was great when Ms. Dino started to meet one-on-one with us. Some of the biggest barriers for an offender are their ability to complete the proper paperwork, contact the school and establish a realistic budget. In fact, the majority of offenders I meet with are unaware they are even eligible to attend college let alone receive financial aid." Some of the areas of assistance provided by Ms. Dino are: research on outstanding school loans, identifying the appropriate type of schooling or training and the completion of the FAFSA. Ms. Dino says, "I am able to mail the offender information about certain schools or the status of any outstanding loans. I feel that this personal communication builds their confidence and willingness to trust me."



From Left: Mary Dino, Cindy Villarreal, Andrew Appleton, and Keith Lawrence

Ms. Villarreal knew they were on to something, "It has been incredible to see the number of participants grow from 11 to over 50 within a few months. Each time Mary visits we have a list of 20-30 offenders wanting to meet with her; in fact, several of our offenders have not only attended school post-release, but received certifications."

Now that CKEOC and LCMHF have extended their services, offenders are able to find more purpose and meaning when leaving prison. "We have a renewed sense of hope knowing that someone actually cares and are willing to assist us in achieving our goals," says Appleton.

Ms. Dino's efforts, coupled with the matching enthusiasm from LCMHF, the one-on-one program has become very popular among offenders and fast-becoming the tipping point for offenders to set goals preparing themselves as they transition into their community. It gives them something to strive for and a positive way for them to change their lives.



Academic Skills Program Partnership

Barton Community College has formed a strong partnership with Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility (LCMHF); Larned Juvenile Correctional (LJCF) Facility; and Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF) in an effort to provide the “**Building Academic Skills in Correctional Settings**” (BASICS) program. Through collaboration of BCC Correctional Team members - two of which are Jane Howard, Executive Director of Business, Technology, and Community Education, and William Rains, Coordinator of Correctional Education - educational opportunities are abundant and available for offenders to take



William Rains

Jane Howard

advantage of while incarcerated at the above mentioned facilities. As quoted from their Handbook – “Educating offenders while they are incarcerated has proven to reduce the recidivism rate, help offenders find a family supporting career upon release and change the lives of the returning citizen to their community.” Rains stated, “the statewide recidivism rate (relapsing into criminal behavior) is approximately 13% through this program, whereas it is approximately 34% without it.”

With support from Warden Doug Waddington at Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility (LCMHF), Superintendent Wendy Leiker at Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF), and Warden Dan Schnurr at Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF), BCC is able to provide many educational programs to allow the offender an opportunity to pursue a postsecondary experience in a correctional environment. (Cont. next page)



Barton Community College & LCMHF & ECF (Cont.)

If the offenders do not have a High School diploma, the program will begin with obtaining a GED (also provided by BCC) while at the facility. Otherwise, the offender begins with attaining a Work Ready Certification, also provided through BCC and given at the facility. Currently postsecondary opportunities include the following:

- Carpentry Certificate*
- Certiport IC3 - Internet and Computing Core Certification
- Microsoft Office Credentials (Word, Excel, Access, Power Point, Outlook)
- Manufacturing Skills Certificate
- Intro to Craft Skills (power tools)
- Welding Certification*
- Plumbing Certification*

*Academic program offerings vary by facility

AND FINALLY, they can obtain an Associate in General Studies degree – Business Emphasis

Funding sources for the BASICS Program are:

- BCC Foundation Scholarships
- BCC GED Scholarships
- KDOC Funds
- Institutional Support
- Business and Industry Support

It was also noted that funding also comes from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

The whole purpose of BASICS is to boost the offenders “employability”, thus attributing to a “family sustaining wage” upon release. Jane stated. “through this program the employability rate is 84%, in comparison to those who don’t participate in the program which is 54%.”

The success of this program is a WIN-WIN solution for Correctional Facilities, taxpayers, and for those who want to change their lives.





Fall 2014

MAIN CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

Online Classes

Spring Session 1 (9 Weeks)
January 12—March 15

Spring Session 2 (17 Weeks)
January 19—May 17

Spring Session 3 (9 Weeks)
March 16 —May 17



Nov. 4—Jan. 9—Spring Registration

Dec. 11— Close of Fall Semester

January 12— Classes Begin

January 12—16—Late Registration

January 23—Last Day For Refund

FORT RILEY CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

LSEC CYCLE 2 January 6—February 20

Check with CKEOC Staff for Forthcoming Enrollment Start Date
January 6 (1st Day of Class)—Last Day to Enroll (All)

COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 2—January 16—March 4

Check with CKEOC Staff for Forthcoming Enrollment Start Date
January 16 (1st Day of Class)—Last Day to Enroll (All)

CKEOC STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH QUESTIONS & CKEOC SERVICES

Liz Klima – Academic Advisor/DS

Mary Dino— Academic Advisor



Ray Kruse- Coordinator/Academic Advisor

**CENTRAL KANSAS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF
BARTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE WHO SUPPORTS OUR PROGRAM AND SERVES AS
OUR HOST INSTITUTION**

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

**Barton Community College is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Visit equal.bartonccc.edu for more information.**

ACT Test Dates

If you or someone you know are planning to attend a post-secondary college in the fall of 2014, it is time to mark your calendar for the following dates for the ACT test.

The following ACT test centers will provide the ACT:

Abilene – Abilene High School	Dec. 13	Feb. 7	April 18
Clay Center – Clay Center Middle School	Dec. 13		April 18
Concordia – Cloud County Community College	Dec. 13	Feb. 7	April 18
Great Bend – Barton Community College:	Dec. 13	Feb. 7	April 18
Hays – Fort Hays State University and Hays High School	Dec. 13	Feb. 7	April 18
Junction City – Junction City High School	Dec. 13		April 18
Manhattan – Kansas State University	Dec. 13	Feb. 7	April 18
Manhattan High School		Feb. 7	April 18
Marysville – Marysville High School			April 18
Pratt – Pratt Community College	Dec. 13	Feb. 7	April 18
Russell – Russell High School	Dec. 13		April 18
Salina – Kansas Wesleyan University	Dec. 13	Feb. 7	April 18
Salina South	Dec. 13		April 18
St. John Military School		Feb. 7	
Wamego – Wamego High School	Dec. 13	Feb. 7	April 18

You may register online or by mail. The online address is www.actstudent.org and you can request a registration packet from ACT.



GED CLASS ORIENTATION

Contact Information for GED class orientation:

BCC/Great Bend	January 5–9	620-793-5794
	March 16–20	
BCC/Fort Riley	January 5–9	785-784-6066
	March 16–20	
Cloud CCC – Geary County Campus	January 6–7	785-238-8010
	March 23–24	
Hays:	January 5	785-460-5486
	April 4	
Manhattan	January 12–14	785-539-9009
	March 3–6	
Salina	January 5–8	785-309-4660
	February 16–19	

CKEOC Staff and Locations

<p>Great Bend 1025 Main St 620-793-8164 Academic Advisor Mary Dino Academic Advisor/Data Specialist Liz Klima</p>	<p>Project Director Susie Burt</p>	<p>Junction City 1012 A West Sixth 785-238-5200 Coordinator/Academic Advisor Ray Kruse Secretary/ Data Specialist Mary Shane</p>
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About CKEOC

The Educational Opportunity Center is 100% funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is one of the TRiO programs. TRiO began with Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, in response to the administration's War on Poverty.

TRiO programs include eight outreach and support programs targeted to help disadvantaged students progress from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.



33 Counties Served by CKEOC

Barton	Mitchell	Rice
Clay	Morris	Riley
Cloud	Ness	Rooks
Dickerson	Norton	Rush
Ellis	Osborne	Russell
Ellsworth	Ottawa	Saline
Geary	Pawnee	Smith
Graham	Phillips	Stafford
Jewell	Pottawatomie	Trego
Lincoln	Pratt	Wabaunsee
Marshall	Republic	Washington

