

March – May 2016

# Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center



## CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Sophia Choi

We have chosen Sophia Choi as one of this quarter’s outstanding participants. Originally from Seoul, South Korea, Sophia’s journey to where she is now has been long and winding. When we caught up with her to discuss her recent matriculation to Azusa Pacific University in California, it was apparent that she had found the right place to complete her college education.

After graduating from Myung Duk Girl’s High School in Seoul in 1996, Sophia started her postsecondary education at Dongnam Health College in Suwon, South Korea. After two years of studies, she graduated with her degree in Japanese and Tourism. In 2007 she immigrated to the United States and shortly thereafter had little choice but to resume her education to learn English. As a result, she started taking ESL classes at several community colleges in and around New York City until 2011. The next year Sophia had two major life events: She became a U.S. Citizen and she made the decision to serve active duty in the U.S. Army. Compelled to take advantage of the educational benefits provided by the Army, Sophia enrolled in classes at Barton Community College shortly after arriving at Fort Riley.



While attending Barton Community College as a soldier on Fort Riley Sophia first heard about CKEOC. She came across a flyer at the Army Education Center announcing a Financial Aid 101 workshop that CKEOC Coordinator, Ray Kruse, was facilitating. Knowing that she would be leaving the army soon due to a service related injury and faced with the challenge of financing her education upon her departure, she decided to attend. Sophia got a great deal out of the workshop stating “I tried attending his financial lectures whenever I had a chance. They provided me with a lot of helpful strategies that I could use to succeed in school.” In addition to the workshops, Sophia also made appointments to take advantage of many other CKEOC services and is very appreciative of the assistance she received stating “I am a first-generation college student in my family choosing a college and a major.”

### Inside this issue:

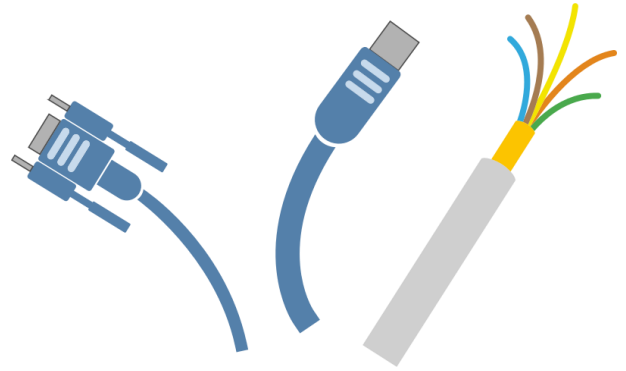
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## CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Sophia Choi (cont.)

When asked if there was one thing she could say about CKEOC she indicated that she considers the staff to be both “mentors and friends”.

Sophia indicated being a student in the Army was sometimes difficult: “I had to go to the military training almost every other month during school. The hardest moment was when I had chemistry, because I could make it to only 50 % of the class due to military training.” Now that she has completed her transfer to Azusa Pacific University, Sophia is truly being able to experience college life and focus on her studies. “Professors and students always positively encourage me to plan for success in my life. The college offers me a lot of opportunities including: chapel, missions, scholarships, work study, study abroad programs, invention, business, free tutoring, commuter’s community, sports, music, food, shopping etc. I am very excited about experiencing college life even though I don’t attend many of these events. It makes me feel young all the time!” Being a devout Christian, Sophia also sees a great deal of benefit to Azusa Pacific’s status as the second largest evangelical university in the nation as it affords her the opportunity to practice her faith as part of her education.



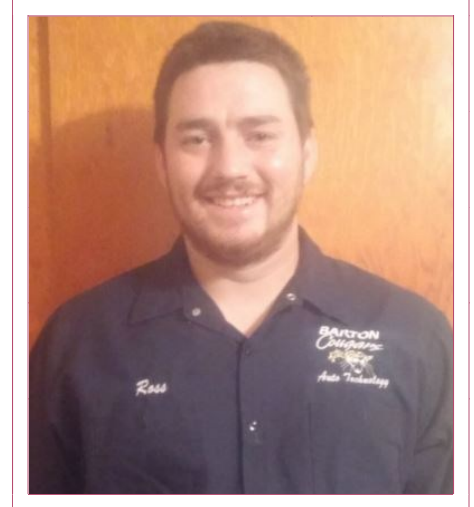
Sophia’s chosen major is Computer Information Systems, and upon graduation she hopes to gain employment as a federal government employee. She appreciates the opportunities she has been given in the U.S.A. and views her continued service as a way to give back to this country. Sophia currently resides with her mother, Okja Kim and two senior dogs: Dooli (Shih Tzu) and Prince (Toy Poodle). She also has two older brothers that live in Korea, one of which will be visiting soon for a family trip to Disneyland! In her spare time she likes to walk the dogs, hang out at the beach and watch movies.



## Outstanding Participant: Ross Oeser

We are excited to announce Ross Oeser as one of EOC's Outstanding Participants. Ross has been an exceptional participant of CKEOC. He frequented the CKEOC office always making sure all his requirements were completed and eager to continue his education in order to provide a better life for his family. Undaunted by the challenge of balancing school, work and a family, Ross continued to work toward his dream of being an automotive technician.

Ross was introduced to CKEOC through a friend, Tyler, and encouraged to attend a workshop provided by CKEOC at Barton Community College Adult Learning Center GED program. After earning his diploma, he decided to attend BCC and major in Automotive Technology. He said his ultimate goal was "to get an education to fix what he messed up." He earned his certificate in Automotive Technology in December 2015. In addition to obtaining his certificate in Automotive Technology, he received his Commercial Driving License (CDL) from BCC in January 2016.



Ross took advantage of all the services EOC offered. He said "The CKEOC staff was very helpful and offered encouragement to me. If it weren't for Liz, I would not have been able to navigate the financial aid process and all the requirements necessary to get enrolled." In addition to all the assistance with paperwork, he emphasized the benefit he received from his campus visit to BCC. He was grateful for the involvement of the CKEOC Staff in setting up and accompanying him on that visit; not only to tour the campus but also for getting the opportunity to discuss the automotive technology program with coordinator, Ron Kirmer.

When asked about his college experience, he shared, "My experience was very positive and challenging as well, as fun. I would recommend checking out what BCC has to offer if you want to improve your abilities to obtain a better paying job." Ross is currently working for Venture Corporation as an Automotive Technician.

When he is not working, he loves spending time with his family. He lives with Taycota, his significant other, his daughter, Khloe, 3 and his son, Layton, 2. His favorite football team is the Dallas Cowboys, therefore during football season he is "out of commission" watching them play.

The last comment he wanted to make was, "Go see CKEOC to find out what opportunities are out there for you!"



## Fort Riley Education Center Consortium Spotlight:



SOUTHWESTERN  
COLLEGE  
PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Southwestern College is a regionally accredited institution based out of Winfield, Kansas. It was founded in 1885 by the United Methodist Church and as a non-profit college offers Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral degrees on-ground and online. Southwestern College's Professional Studies division has assisted military personnel, veterans and their spouses for over 20 years. Southwestern College is also a proud member of the College of the American Soldier (CAS) plus the Service Members Opportunities Army Degree (SOCAD) system.

Southwestern's Michelle Hazelton, Fort Riley Admissions Counselor, believes service members and their families benefit greatly from the convenience and depth of undergraduate, graduate and certification programs offered at Southwestern. All service members and their spouses receive military tuition discounts plus they enjoy six-week classes with eight starts a year. Service members also enjoy a dynamic credit transfer policy that allows the transfer of up to 64 credit hours from their Joint Service Transfer (JST), previous college credit and/or credit by examination (CLEP/DST) towards a degree.

The Fort Riley site offers several on-site programs including: Homeland Security, Elementary Education, Early Childhood and Security Management. Southwestern also offers over 25 online undergraduate, graduate and certification programs so service members can continue their education no matter where life takes them. Southwestern's finance options include: Tuition Assistance (TA), GI Bill, Pell Grant, traditional Title IV and Federal Student Loans.



## Financial Literacy Workshop

CKEOC provides a variety of workshops for participants. In this and subsequent newsletters we would like to highlight these workshops. One of the most important of these is the Financial Literacy Workshop. The Department of Education has mandated the provision of workshops to educate people on money management in order to lead more financially responsible lives. CKEOC works with its many partners and community organizations to make these workshops available.

The Financial Literacy Workshop provides its participants with many tools to promote financial literacy including:

- Understanding financial literacy terms

- How to save money

- Why it is necessary to budget

- How to create and stick to a budget

- Provide information on banking operations such as loan processes & savings/checking accounts

- How credit works

- Understanding how to obtain and read a credit report

- Provide tips to avoid identity theft and fraud

It is always wise to develop a plan on ways to manage money wisely. Being financially literate is an essential tool to have throughout your life whether it be for college, a career or retirement. CKEOC wants to make sure all of its participants understand finances, therefore we provide financial literacy training to all of our participants through our workshops and individually.



## GED Passing Score Recalibrated

The GED Testing Service has recently recommended a recalibration of the scores required to pass the GED Test. Previously, individuals had to receive a score of at least 150 in order to pass the GED and receive their credential. This benchmark has been reduced to now require a 145. In addition, this requirement has been made retroactive 18 months. This means that individuals that had taken the test previously and scored 145-149 now can receive their GED credential even though they did not qualify at the time they took the test. We plan to highlight this and other changes in our next newsletter.



**MAIN CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR**

**Online Classes**

Spring Session 3 (9 Weeks)  
March 14—May 15

Spring Session 4 (4Weeks)  
May 2—May 29

Summer Session (8 Weeks)  
May 31—July 21



Mar 14– 18: Spring Break  
Mar 25 & 28: No Classes  
April 6: Last Day To Drop with “W”  
April 12: Advisement Day (No Classes)  
May 9-12: Finals Week  
May 13: Commencement (Great Bend)  
May 19: Commencement (Fort Riley)  
May 26: Summer Registration Ends  
May 30: Memorial Day (No Classes)  
June 6: Sumer Semester Begins  
June 8: Last Day For Late Enrollment

**FORT RILEY CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR**

LSEC CYCLE 4 APRIL 15—MAY 28

LSEC CYCLE 5 JUNE 4—JULY 21

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

COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 3 APRIL 15—MAY 19

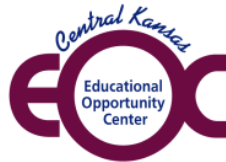
COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 4 JUNE 3—JULY 28

Check with EOC Staff for Forthcoming Enrollment Start Date  
October 14 (1st Day of Class)—Last Day to Enroll (All)

**CKEOC STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH QUESTIONS & EOC SERVICES**

Liz Klima—Academic Advisor/DS

Mary Dino—Academic Advisor



Ray Kruse—Coordinator and

Academic Advisor

**CENTRAL KANSAS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF  
BARTON COUMMUNITY 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](http://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 2016, 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	April 9	June 11
Clay Center – Clay Center Community High School	April 9	
Concordia – Cloud County Community College	April 9	June 11
Great Bend – Barton Community College:	April 9	
Hays – Fort Hays State University	April 9	
Hays High School	April 9	June 11
Hoisington – Hoisington High School	April 9	
Junction City – Junction City High School	April 9	June 11
Manhattan – Kansas State University	April 9	June 11
Manhattan High School	April 9	
Marysville – Marysville High School	April 9	
Pratt – Pratt Community College	April 9	June 11
Russell – Russell High School	April 9	June 11
Salina – Kansas Wesleyan University	April 9	June 11
Salina South	April 9	June 11
St. John Military School	None	
Wamego – Wamego High School	April 9	June 11

You may register online or by mail. The online address is [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) and you can request a registration packet from ACT.



## GED CLASS ORIENTATION

Contact Information for GED class orientation:

BCC/Great Bend	March 21 – 24 May 23 – 27	620-793-5794
BCC/Fort Riley	March 14 – 16 May 23 – 27	785-784-6066
Cloud CCC – Geary County Campus	March 22 – 23	785-238-8010
Hays – FHSU Rarick Hall 328	None Scheduled	785-460-5486
Manhattan	March 21 – 22	785-539-9009
Salina	March 21 – 23 May 16 – 18	785-309-4660



## CKEOC Staff and Locations

**Great Bend**  
1025 Main St  
620-793-8164  
**Academic Advisor**  
Mary Dino  
**Academic Advisor/Data Specialist**  
Liz Klima

**Project Director**  
Susie Burt

**Junction City**  
1012 A West Sixth  
785-238-5200  
**Coordinator/Academic Advisor**  
Ray Kruse  
**Secretary/ Data Specialist**  
Mary Shane



# BEGINNING RIDER'S "MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSE"

**2016  
BARTON-GVP  
SCHEDULE**



**MAR 18-20  
MAR 25-27**

**APR 01-03  
APR 08-10  
APR 22-24**

**MAY 06-08  
MAY 13-15  
MAY 20-22**

**JUN 03-05  
JUN 17-19  
JUN 24-26**

**JUL 08-10  
JUL 22-24  
JUL 29-31**

**AUG 05-07  
AUG 12-14  
AUG 26-28**

**SEP 09-11  
SEP 16-18  
SEP 23-25**

**OCT 14-16  
OCT 28-30**

**NOV 04-06  
NOV 18-20**

**BARTON COLLEGE  
100 Continental Avenue – Grandview Plaza - KS**

**BIKES & HELMETS PROVIDED:** 125 CC Kawasaki's

\*Students can use their own helmet **IF** it is DOT approved!

**COST - \$230.00** - CASH/CHECK/MONEY ORDER OR CREDIT CARD  
Non-CR course, No tuition assistance, No discounts

**CLASS SIZE:** 9-12 STUDENTS MAXIMUM

**CLASS TIME/20 Hrs:** **FRI** 5pm-9pm Classroom @ GVP  
**SAT** 7am - 5pm Range & Classroom  
**SUN** 7am-4:30 pm Range & Classroom

**RIDING RANGE LOCATION(S):** Junction City and Fort Riley

**RIDING ATTIRE:** Long sleeve shirt. Long pants. Leather shoes/boots.  
Full fingered gloves.

**VISION REQUIREMENT:** Students who do NOT wear glasses or contact lenses,  
must have an eye exam within 1 year of the course dates.

**MSF Certification/Driver's License Endorsement** (MSF card issued last day  
of class) upon successful completion of 20 hour course. Course includes: written &  
riding tests.

**FORT RILEY APPROVED!**

**10% INSURANCE DISCOUNT**  
on most Auto Insurance Policies

**Contact Patrisha @ (785) 238-8550, Mon-Fri 0800-1630**



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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

