

September – November 2017

# Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center



## CKEOC Welcomes Newly Hired Academic Advisor: Mark Ricketts

Mark Ricketts has joined the Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center as Academic Advisor, taking Mary Dino's place following her retirement. CKEOC is proud of Mark as he is a US Navy veteran who served our country as a Data Systems Technician on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt! When he returned home from the service, he attended "The Ohio State University" utilizing the GI Bill, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. Since moving to Kansas in 2009, he has worked with At-Risk students at Anthony Middle School in Manhattan, as well as Special Education students at Hays and Kennedy Middle Schools in Hays.



Mark will provide CKEOC services in Great Bend, Hays, Pawnee County, Ellsworth, and Salina of our designated target areas. He will be available to meet with folks at KansasWorks, Adult Education and Learning Centers. Mark will also be working with partners at two correctional facilities within the CKEOC target area to assist those in need of CKEOC services. Feel free to contact mark at 620-786-7553

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## Junction City CKEOC Office Moving



CKEOC'S Junction City office is moving from the Junction City Workforce Center to Barton Community College's Grandview Plaza building on August 31<sup>st</sup> with office hours beginning at the new site on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

The new CKEOC office location at Grandview Plaza is 100 Continental Avenue, Office G29, and for your convenience we are keeping the same phone number, **785-238-5200**. Office hours will remain the same 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Although the CKEOC office will be placed at Grandview Plaza, Junction City CKEOC staff will provide the same **GREAT** Educational services!

CKEOC staff would like to thank Heartland Works and the many Junction City Workforce Center staff, past and present for all of the support they've provided to our participants and staff throughout the years! We will be housed in a different place however we will remain partners with Heartland Works/Junction City Workforce Center ensuring services are not interrupted between the two agencies.

CKEOC staff look forward to meeting with you at our new office at **100 Continental Avenue !!**



## Outstanding Participant: Lamar Fisher



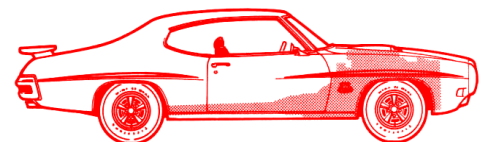
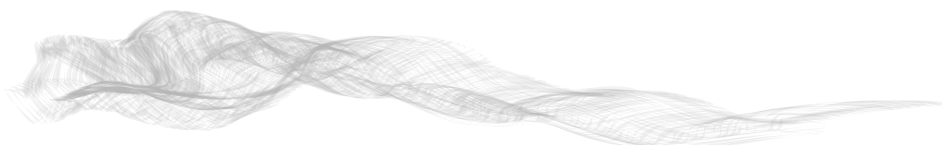
This quarter's outstanding participant, Lamar Fisher, is familiar with CKEOC not only because of his participation in our program, but also due to his employment with one of our close partners, Heartland Works Inc. After retiring from the Army, Lamar joined the Heartland Works staff at the Junction City Workforce Center as an Employment Training Specialist in April 2013. Having become familiar with CKEOC's service through work, in September of the same year, Lamar applied for services as a CKEOC client when he decided it was time to complete a post-secondary education.

As Lamar reflects on his achievements and his future goals, he is ever mindful of the driving force that urged him along – his children. He reflects on a conversation he had with his son about college. When discussing the importance of an education and voicing his desire for his son to go to college he was met with a challenge when his son said “you didn't go to college so why should I?” Taken aback for a moment, Lamar recognizing the wisdom in these words, determined it was a perfect opportunity to lead by example for his children and himself. In May 2017, all of Lamar's hard work and perseverance paid off when he walked across the stage at Fort Riley's Combined Graduation Ceremony to receive his Associates of Science Diploma. With his associates degree completed, Lamar isn't quite ready to end his college experience and has his sights set on a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources. He will start this next chapter of his educational journey this fall when he starts taking classes at Upper Iowa University.



When asked how CKEOC assisted him, Lamar explained, “It played a big part into which school I would attend.” After discussing his post-secondary options with the CKEOC staff, Lamar decided that Barton Community College was the right school for him. In addition to college research and admissions, CKEOC staff was able to assist him in completing his FAFSA and helped him through the verification processes to secure funding. CKEOC was also there to assist him with the transition to Upper Iowa University.

When he is not occupied with his full-time job and his studies, Lamar enjoys spending time with his two children, ages 12 and 17, as well as his dog, Blue. He also enjoys a relaxing day of fishing, and indulging in his affinity for classic hot-rods by cruising in his 1971 Pontiac GTO. In parting, Lamar relates, “My college experience showed me that I can do whatever I put my mind to. As a happily divorced, single parent of two children, I wanted to show my kids that it is never too late and I hope others realize it isn't too late for them either.”





## CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Kori Hammeke

Kori Hammeke, one of this quarter's featured participants, credits CKEOC as an important factor in being where she is now. "CKEOC assisted with setting up campus visits, completing the FAFSA application process, applying for scholarships and choosing classes for my degree. They also recently assisted two of my children with their admission and financial aid process to continue their post-secondary education at Barton Community College and Fort Hays State University. In addition, I would like to say CKEOC is a FANTASTIC resource that is available for free that will help you through the maze of paperwork."



Kori graduated from Barton Community College in 1993 with a Liberal Studies Associates Degree. After facing personally challenging situations, Kori decided she needed to continue her post-secondary education and reached out to CKEOC to assist her with the transfer process to Fort Hays State University. Having graduated May 2017 from FHSU with her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, she is planning on entering the graduate program for School Counseling this fall. "I want to help children who are going through changes in their lives. I know first-hand it is very challenging for them and I feel I will be able to understand their emotions and feelings."

When asked about her college experience and how she felt about it, she said "it was a very positive experience. I have truly enjoyed the classes. It was a new and challenging experience." She added, "The instructors from both colleges were very helpful and gave good feedback. While attending FHSU, I took most of my classes online and was able to meet different people from a variety of states."

Currently, Kori is employed at Clara Barton Hospital. She is a single mom of four wonderful and very supportive children: Meritt a senior at FHSU majoring in English/Literature Secondary Education, McKenna a junior at FHSU majoring in Political Science, Paxton a junior at Central Plains High School and Brynna a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Central Plains Middle School. Meritt and McKenna also graduated from Barton Community College before transferring to FHSU. In her spare time, if she has any, Kori loves to listen to music, work in her garden, go for walks or just being with her family."

Kori's final advice for anyone considering post-secondary studies is clear: "I would like to reiterate - walk into EOC and let them take care of the loose ends. Have confidence in yourself and work hard. Most of all, personal challenges should NOT prohibit you from reaching your goals and moving forward."



## CKEOC Partners With Barton Community College BASICS Program

The U.S. continues to face a growing crisis with its inmate population. More people are incarcerated in the U.S. than in any other country in the world. Over 3% of adults are under some form of correctional control. At some point more than 95% of inmates will be

released back into society. Many of them will reoffend and cycle back into the correctional system. Barton Community College has been combatting recidivism, or reoffending, since 2001 with its Building Academic Skills in Correctional Settings (BASICS) program. CKEOC is proud to partner with Barton's Workforce Training Center and Barton Adult Education to carry forward the goals of the program.

# **BARTON** *BASICS*

## *Building Academic Skills in Correctional Settings*

The mission of the program is to reduce recidivism through education and career training. During the past 15 years, BASICS has developed into one of the most successful correctional education programs in the nation. Barton currently offers 8 career technical certificates, traditional post-secondary coursework, adult basic education, and advisement services for 200 students annually. CKEOC assists with this mission by providing various workshops to teach participants good study habits and methods to overcome test anxiety.

The inmates at Ellsworth Correctional Facility (ECF), and Larned Correctional Mental Health Facility (LCMHF) have taken advantage of these opportunities to achieve numerous educational achievements. In fiscal year 2016 alone, Adult Basic Education awarded 40 Kansas State High School Diplomas, and 49 WORKReady! Certificates. Additionally, students participating in career technical training received 140 certificates in Welding Technology, Manufacturing Skills, Introductory Craft Skills, or IC3 Digital Literacy Certificate. Courses in Microsoft Office Specialist, and Carpentry are also offered.

These achievements have had an enormous positive impact on these men, many working through troubled pasts, and almost all facing an uncertain future. They now have employable skills, improved educational abilities, a new sense of self-worth, a new outlook on life, increased confidence, and most importantly hope of a better future. With recent changes at LCMHF, and continued growth at ECF, the BASICS program will be able to provide more educational opportunities to an increasing number of students. This will allow Barton to further its correctional education mission of reducing recidivism, but most importantly give more people the confidence and hope needed to achieve the better lives that they are working to obtain.



### Sources:

OWDS Introduction Module  
BCC – Correctional Education

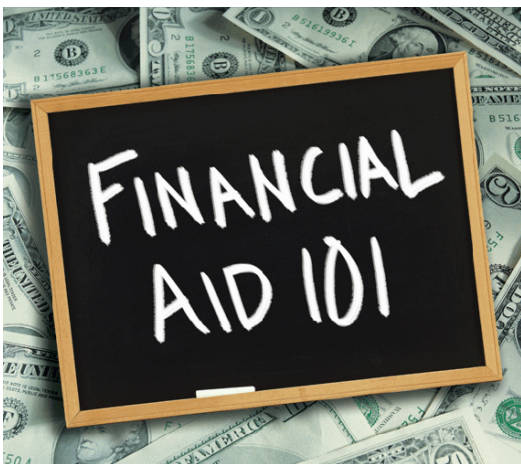
## CKEOC Partners with Army Education Center to Provide Financial Aid Workshops

Are you a military spouse, dependent, or civilian and are looking for ways to fund your education? Do you need assistance with living expenses while attending classes? Are you are wanting to start your education, but you are not yet eligible for Tuition Assistance (TA)? Do you have TA, but need help covering costs of books, supplies, and fees or want to take more than the 16 hours of TA that the Army gives you? If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes' then make sure that you attend a Financial Aid workshop at the Army Education Center at 211 Custer Avenue in Fort Riley.



When people make the decision to further their education by attending a post-secondary institution there are many things that must be considered. For many people, the biggest obstacle that needs to be overcome is the cost. It is no secret that the cost of a college education is expensive, and though there are many sources of funding for soldiers and their dependents, seldom are all of the expenses covered.

TA, while helpful, is only available to soldiers once they complete a year of service subsequent to "Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Furthermore, it only covers 16 credit hours per year and does not cover the cost of books and some other fees. Spouses and other dependents also have funding sources, but there are restrictions. Additionally, everyone also has indirect expenses of attending college: transportation expenses, childcare expenses, supplies, and equipment. Knowing what kind of funding exists and how to apply for it can help individuals get a jumpstart on their college career or accelerate their education



For this reason, CKEOC in partnership with the Army Education Center is providing a Financial Aid Workshop. Through this workshop, Ray Kruse, CKEOC Coordinator, will discuss the different types of financial aid available, policies and processes that govern the eligibility for aid, and the application and award process for the funding. In addition, those wanting additional help will be given the opportunity to make an appointment for one-on-one assistance. We hope to see you at the next workshop on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Army Education Center at 211 Custer Avenue, Fort Riley, KS.



**MAIN CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR**

- Sept 4 Labor Day (Campus Closed)
- Oct 13 Last Day for refund (session3)
- Oct 31 Registration for Spring Begins
- Nov 1 Last day to drop with "W"
- Nov 20-24 Thanksgiving (No Classes)
- Nov 20-22 Thanksgiving (Offices Closed)
- Dec 6-11 Finals Week
- Dec 11 Close of Fall Semester



- Fall Session 3 (9 Weeks)  
Oct 9—Dec 10
- Winter Intersession (4 Weeks)  
Dec 11—Jan 7

**FORT RILEY CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR**

LSEC CYCLE 7 SEPT 19—OCT 31  
LSEC CYCLE 1 NOV 2—DEC 10

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

COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 1 OCT 11—DEC 5

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

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

Liz Klima—Academic Advisor/DS  
Mark Ricketts—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:**

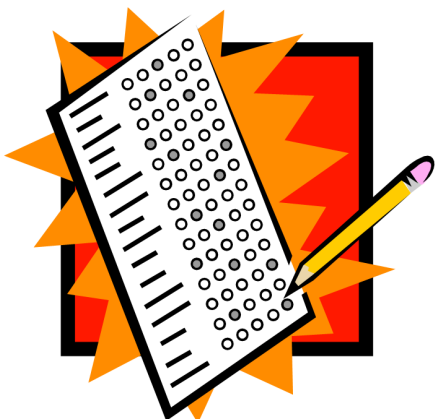
Barton Community College is an equal opportunity provider and employer.  
Visit [equal.bartonccc.edu](http://equal.bartonccc.edu) for more information.



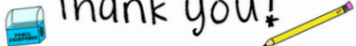
## ACT Test Dates & Sites

If you or someone you know are planning to attend a post-secondary college in 2017-18, it is time to mark your calendars for the following dates for the ACT test. You may register by mail or online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) and you can request a registration packet from ACT.

Abilene	Abilene High School	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Clay Center	Clay Center Community High School	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Concordia	Cloud County Community College	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Great Bend	Barton Community College		Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Hays	Fort Hays State University	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9
	Hays High School	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Hoisington	Hoisington High School		Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Junction City	Junction City High School		Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Manhattan	Kansas State University	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9
	Manhattan High School	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	
Marysville	Marysville High School		Oct. 28	
Pratt	Pratt Community College		Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Russell	Russell High School		Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Salina	Kansas Wesleyan University	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9
	Salina Lakewood Middle School	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9
Wamego	Wamego High School	Sept. 9	Oct. 28	Dec. 9



Testing  
Please do  
not disturb.  
Thank you!





## GED CLASS ORIENTATION

Contact Information for GED class orientation:

BCC/Great Bend	Sept. 26 Nov. 7	620-786-7560
Cloud CCC – Geary County Campus	Oct. 17 & 18	785-238-8010
Hays – FHSU Rarick Hall 328	For more information please contact:	785-460-5486
Manhattan	Sept. 11 & 12 Sept. 18 & 19 Oct. 12 & 13 Nov. 6 & 7	785-539-9009
Salina	Sept. 5 – 8 Oct. 30 – Nov. 3	785-309-4660



## CKEOC Staff and Locations

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

**Project Director**  
 Susie Burt

**Junction City**  
 100 Continental  
 785-238-5200  
**Coordinator/Academic Advisor**  
 Ray Kruse  
**Secretary/ Data Specialist**  
 Mary Shane



1025 Main Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530

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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
Dickenson	Norton	Rush
Ellis	Osborne	Russell
Ellsworth	Ottawa	Saline
Geary	Pawnee	Smith
Graham	Phillips	Stafford
Jewell	Pottawatomie	Trego
Lincoln	Pratt	Wabaunsee
Marshall	Republic	Washington

