

August – October 2018

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# Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center



## CKEOC Participants Susanne Yarmer and Son Justin White Graduate Together



Susanne Yarmer and Justin White

Susanne Yarmer began her experiences with the Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center (CKEOC) in 2007 as an employee through a Temp Agency. Susanne was and remains a great asset for the CKEOC program due to her compassion of helping others to better their lives. Realizing Susanne's skills early on as a Temp Employee she was encouraged to apply for the CKEOC Secretary Data Specialist open fulltime position. During her tenure with CKEOC, she was encouraged to continue her education and made the commitment to enroll in classes at Barton Community College. Susanne worked

diligently balancing work, school and home schooling her children during her employment with EOC. Sadly for CKEOC, Susanne resigned from her position to focus on spending more time at home to educate her children.

A few years later Susanne was back working in the educational field as a Test Proctor/ Assistant for Barton Community College's Center for Adult Education (CAE), a close working partner with our Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center. From the very beginning of her employment she felt confident in her position as she had worked with CAE partner staff and potential students needing a High School Diploma while employed with CKEOC. Susanne's passion for the CKEOC program compelled her to personally walk students on a continual basis to the CKEOC office inspiring them to seek services. CKEOC staff having the ongoing opportunity to work with Susanne prompted the conversation encouraging her to return to school. She was already having those exact thoughts herself but was somewhat apprehensive due to her work schedule and the many miles she drives each day. After prayers and deliberation, she made the decision to



## CKEOC Participants Susanne Yarmer and Son Justin White Graduate Together (Cont.)

return to school enrolling in online classes with CKEOC staff assisting her with the educational processes. All of the hard work and time management paid off and Susanne first completed Barton Community College’s Medical Terminology Certificate program and continued her education graduating with an Associate’s Medical Administrative Technology degree.

While Susanne was employed at CKEOC, her children frequented the office and became familiar with the educational services and assistance offered. Eight years passed and her son, Justin White, was involved in an accident and suffered a brain injury. Through healing with the encouragement of his mother, Justin made the decision to complete his high school diploma at Barton Community College’s Center for Adult education. Of course this step seemed it could be a difficult task for him, however he persevered and completed his goal. With this accomplishment, Susanne’s husband and family encouraged Justin to continue his education. Susanne urged him to reach out to the CKEOC program to assist him with choosing a program of study, enrollment, and financial aid processes. Although Justin was still healing from his injury and working two jobs, he chose the Natural Gas and Transmission curriculum that is one of Barton Community College’s more rigorous programs. Justin accomplished his goals earning his Barton Community College’s Natural Gas Transmission Associate’s Degree. His plan after graduation was to secure a position in a field that he would enjoy working in and that transpired immediately. He is currently employed at Ron’s Pipeline & Welding in Russell, KS!



**Justin and his Grandmother**

Mother and son supporting one another through it all shined together at Barton Community College’s Commencement on May 11, 2018 with their proud family present supporting and cheering them on! Susanne commented, “I wouldn’t have been able to navigate through the financial aid and student enrollment maze without the help of EOC over these few years.”

**CKEOC Staff congratulate Susanne and Justin!!**





## Outstanding Participant: Alyssa Graben

Alyssa Graben, one of this quarter's outstanding participants, relocated from Tennessee to Kansas in 2017 after her husband was assigned Fort Riley as his duty station. After graduating from Rossview High School in Clarksville, she started a program of Biology at Austin Peay State University in pursuit of an ultimate goal of becoming a pediatric physical therapist. Since then, she has had to stop and resume her college education multiple times as various circumstances prevented her from finishing. Once she arrived in Fort Riley, completing a degree was a primary focus.

Alyssa realized this goal when she completed her Associate of Science in Liberal Studies from Barton County Community College in December 2017. When asked if her college experience has been positive, she replied, "Yes! Every college campus is different and holds its own unique values, but I can say that the teachers, students and overall atmosphere at Barton County Community College was by far the best. I made the most friends, received the best grades, and had the best instructors while at Fort Riley!"

It was the drive to complete her associates degree that connected her with TRiO Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center (CKEOC). Alyssa relates, "When I signed up for classes at the Education Building on Fort Riley, there were plenty of signs around offering services and information to prospective and current students. From there, it was easy to connect with the right people. TRiO CKEOC assisted with filling out my first FAFSA after becoming a military dependent. I had taken a year off from school and felt very nervous about trying everything over again, but the process was so much smoother and less stressful when I found the right support system. I wish I would have had this kind of guidance when I first started college!"

Now that Alyssa has achieved her goal of attaining an associate's degree, she sees many potential opportunities ahead of her, stating, "I really want to find a unique way to help people and society; this may be by creating a gray water recycling system using aquaponics, possibly by following through with my high school goal of becoming a pediatric physical therapist, opening a dog daycare/boarding/grooming/training/rescue facility, or all of the above! Having this associate's degree from Barton has certainly laid a solid foundation for me to continue reaching for the stars!"

Though those goals may be realized in the future, Alyssa indicated that her degree has already paid off in the present by helping her succeed in securing an exciting employment opportunity, explaining, "After finishing my degree at Barton, GTM/Champion, a Hanes affiliate, has picked me up as a full-time graphic artist intern! This is by far the best job I have ever had, and I am certain I would not have qualified before attaining my degree."

In her free time, Alyssa enjoys spending time with her husband of four years and their four fur-babies (two Great

Pyrenees and two Australian shepherd mixes). She also went on to say "Road-trips and trail runs are my favorite family activities! I also get a little carried away with crafting, researching anything/everything, and journaling."

When asked if she had any parting advice to those seeking to start or resume their education, Alyssa stated "Life is so much easier and more enjoyable when you surround yourself with the right people that are supportive, positive and genuinely caring. I found that with TRiO CKEOC."



## Outstanding Participant: Alicia Keenan

Alicia Keenan met with CKEOC staff in Fall 2016. This was during a time of transition for her and she was looking at going back to school to obtain the skills needed for a new career. In spite of this change, she was motivated by her father's advice of "move forward, never let for tomorrow what you can do today." Alicia has been hearing her father's words throughout her life. She came to the U.S. from Mexico in 1995 and soon after sought out English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. Next she attended Barton Community College, and then Johnson County Community College where she received an Associate's Degree in Hospitality Management in May 2001.

Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center was available to help Alicia when it was again time to move forward in life. She said that "when I decided to go back to school in 2016, (CKEOC) was my first stop." She worked with CKEOC staff to research schools, and ultimately decided on attending the Hays Academy of Hair Design in Hays for Cosmetology. CKEOC assisted in a variety of ways including with completing the FAFSA, submitting the application for admission, and accompanying her on a campus visit. She views the staff at CKEOC as a "group of angels, working to make their clients' dreams come true," and who are "very dedicated to helping prospective students in every way."



Attending school required Alicia to drive back and forth daily between Great Bend and Hays in all kinds of weather. However, holding on to her belief that "nothing worthwhile comes easily," she made it her "practice to always get to the school each day because when you want to reach a goal and believe in yourself, there is really no obstacle which can stop you." Alicia expressed that she gained a great deal of self-satisfaction through the Cosmetology program and describes her experience as very positive. She feels her education at Hays Academy augmented her knowledge as well as improved work and life skills. Alicia also values the relationships that she fostered with her classmates, clients, and the Hays community.

Alicia graduated from the Hays Academy of Hair Design in November 2017 with a certificate in Cosmetology having acquired skills with hair, pedicures, manicures, and facials. Her success can be attributed to discipline, consistency, determination, and courage, which she says "are a must." Her goals now include making the most of her work and personal life utilizing her newly acquired skills.



Alicia cherishes spending time with her daughter Rachel, who is a student at the University of Kansas, other family members and her "cute" dog Mocca who she considers family. She also enjoys music, movies, cooking and gardening.

By applying the words of her father, Alicia has consistently moved forward in life. Through her own perseverance she has accomplished many things and has become an inspiration to others. CKEOC is privileged to have had the opportunity to assist Alicia in her success and is pleased to name her an Outstanding Participant.

## CKEOC Congratulates ASL and PTK Graduates

Graduating members of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the world’s largest and most prestigious honor society for two-year college students and Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL), a national honorary that celebrates the scholarship and leadership of adult students, are being recognized for their accomplishments. CKEOC would like to recognize its participants that count themselves as members of these prestigious organizations.



First In Scholarship & Leadership

*Aleesha Brown*  
*Janet David*

*Skylar Heiss*  
*Timothy Kohls*



**PHI THETA KAPPA**  
HONOR SOCIETY

*Caroline Brankley*

*Princess Pabalan*

*Amber Carlson*

*Maurice Powell*

*Janet David*

*Maria Ramirez Balderrama*

*Kendra Jones*

*Melissa Stout*

*Timothy Kohls*

*Liyu Williams*



## 2018 CKEOC GRADUATES

### **Barton Community College**

Lossa Adogle  
Kamila Almeida  
Kadella Anderson  
Chase Ash-Carson  
Caroline Brankley  
Aleesha Brown  
Luis Carollo  
Antonio Carrasco  
Zachary Clothier  
Nicco Cousins  
Robert Cox  
Jose Crespo  
Yaizanet Cruz  
Janet David  
Andrea Davidson  
Dalton Floyd  
Kyle Ford  
Alyssa Graben  
Nicholas Hasbrouck  
Skyler Heiss  
Josie Hickey  
Alicia Hollenbeck  
Dalton Floyd  
Kyle Ford  
Emily Johnson  
Kendra Jones  
Whitney Kane  
Chelsea Kaundart  
Julie Keller  
Timothy Kohls  
Shayla Lamartina  
Elizabeth Lancaster

Austin Levingston  
Jesus Lujan  
Julia Martin  
Iban Martinez  
Murissa McCoy  
Torrin McDougle  
Eden Mulligan  
Cassandra Musinski  
Sydney Niemeyer  
Princess Pabalan  
Lesidia Parkmon  
Tony Pena  
Tiffini Perez  
Maurice Powell  
Anahi Prieto  
Joshua Prieto  
Antonio Quiroz  
Maria Ramirez Balderrama  
Jasmine Reyes  
Symone Rippy  
Victoria Rodriguez  
Paul Shaw  
Lauren Smith  
Quadre Spratling  
Shana Stephenson  
Melissa Stout  
Zachary Studna  
Omar Talamantes  
Santiago Talamantes  
Jessica Torres  
Olivia Trevino  
Hypatia Wallis  
Justin White  
Liyu Williams  
Raymundo Ziad



**Central Texas College**

Norberto Anzures, Jr  
Mashavu Cassells  
Maria Maldonado  
Scott Tobin  
Erik Wallace  
Michael Williams

**Cochise College**

Nina Hindsman

**Hutchinson Community College**

Omar Barragan  
Timothy Oliver  
Lacey Scales  
Christian Payne-King  
Andrew Allwod  
Tanner Belden  
Jasmine Dales  
Lorena Donez  
Hannah Jones  
Patrick Ly  
Shane McCarthy  
Adrain Rosario  
Marybeth Valoaga

**Kansas State University**

Christopher Burley  
Greg Burley  
Cody Hughes  
Christian Matthews  
Christian Renfro

**Manhattan Area Technical College**

George Alexander, IV  
Christopher Anderson  
Amber Carlson  
Robert Jackson  
Joshua Reid  
Thomas Remily

**North Central Kansas Technical College**

Sammual Klaus  
Kaylee McGann  
Harley North  
Acey Richmond  
Daniel Stephens  
Lindsey Villarreal

**Southwestern College**

Robert Sanchez, Jr

**University of Kansas**

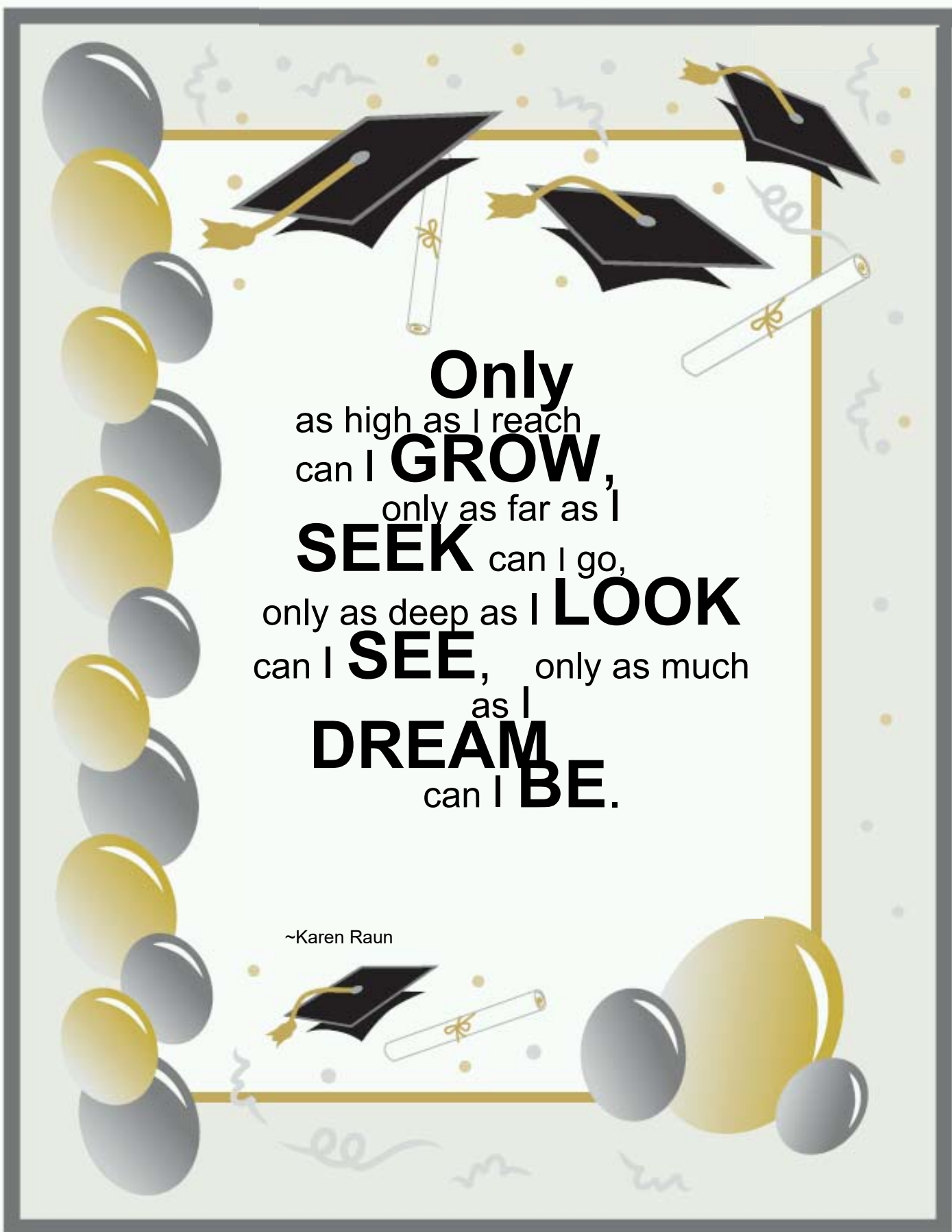
Alyssa Graben

**Upper Iowa University**

Ki'Era Coleman  
Janet David  
Stephanie Hartman

2018





Only  
as high as I reach  
can I **GROW**,  
only as far as I  
**SEEK** can I go,  
only as deep as I **LOOK**  
can I **SEE**, only as much  
as I  
**DREAM**  
can I **BE.**

~Karen Raun



## ACT Test Dates

If you or someone you know are planning to attend a post-secondary college in 2018-2019, 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	Sept 8	Oct 27
Clay Center	Clay Center Community High School		Oct 27
Concordia	Cloud County Community College	Sept 8	Oct 27
Great Bend	Barton Community College		Oct 27
Hays	Fort Hays State University	Sept 8	Oct 27
	Hays High School	Sept 8	Oct 27
Hoisington	Hoisington High School		Oct 27
Junction City	Junction City High School		Oct 27
Manhattan	Kansas State University	Sept 8	Oct 27
	Manhattan High School	Sept 8	Oct 27
Marysville	Marysville High School		Oct 27
Pratt	Pratt Community College		Oct 27
Russell	Russell High School		Oct 27
Salina	Kansas Wesleyan University	Sept 8	Oct 27
	Salina High School South	Sept 8	Oct 27
Wamego	Wamego High School	Sept 8	Oct 27

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.





**MAIN CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR**

Aug 6-10 Fall Late Registration  
 Aug 15 Fall Classes begin  
 Sept 3 Labor Day (Campus Closed)  
 Oct 5 1st 8-week Classes End  
 Oct 8 2nd 8-week Classes Begin  
 Oct 30-31 Spring 2019 Registration Starts  
 Nov 4 Daylight Savings Time Ends



**BARTonline Classes:**

Fall Session 1 (8 Wks) Aug 13—Oct 7  
 Fall Session 2 (17 Wks) Aug 20—Dec 9  
 Fall Session 3 (6 Wks) Sept 10—Oct 21  
 Fall Session 4 (8 Wks) Oct 15—Dec 9  
 Fall Session 5 (6 Wks) Oct 29—Dec 9

**FORT RILEY CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR**

LSEC CYCLE 7 SEPT 18 — OCT 30  
 LSEC CYCLE 1 NOV 2 — DEC 18

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

COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 5 AUG 8 — OCT 2  
 COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 1 OCT 10 — DEC 4

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**

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.

## GED CLASS ORIENTATION

Contact Information for GED class orientation:

BCC/Great Bend	September 10-13 November 5-8	620-793-5794
Cloud CCC –Geary County Campus Hays	October 16 & 17 August 13 October 8	785-238-8010 785-460-5486
Manhattan	August 21 September 4 October 2	785-320-4585
Salina	Sept 4-7 Oct 29-Nov 1	785-309-4660



## CKEOC Staff and Locations

**Great Bend**  
1025 Main St.  
620-793-8164  
**Academic Advisor**  
Mark Ricketts

**Project Director**  
Susie Burt

**Grandview Plaza**  
100 Continental Dr.  
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
Dickerson	Norton	Rush
Ellis	Osborne	Russell
Ellsworth	Ottawa	Saline
Geary	Pawnee	Smith
Graham	Phillips	Stafford
Jewell	Pottawatomie	Trego
Lincoln	Pratt	Wabaunsee
Marshall	Republic	Washington

