

March – May 2019

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Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center

CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Timothy Kohls



Timothy Kohls, one of this quarter’s outstanding participants, originally hails from Germantown, Ohio where he graduated from high school in 2001. Through his service in the army, Timothy eventually ended up at Fort Riley – his last duty station. In advance of his retirement from the army, Timothy began taking classes through the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program to prepare him for the transition from active duty soldier to civilian. It was through TRiO/ Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center’s (CKEOC) partnership with Soldier for Life that Timothy first learned about the services available to him through TRiO when the

CKEOC Coordinator presented information and provided assistance during one of his classes.

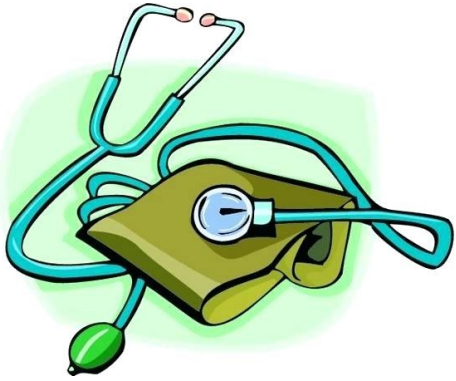
Timothy was already finishing up an Associate’s of Science in Liberal Studies at Barton Community College when he first made contact with CKEOC. He states, “CKEOC was very helpful assisting with the financial aid process. I made an appointment with (CKEOC Coordinator) Ray and he took me through every step of the process to help me receive extra money for college.” Once Timothy graduated from Barton Community College in Spring 2017, CKEOC provided support with his transition to the next step in his education – a B.S. in Pre-Med at Kansas State University.

Timothy is well on his way to his ultimate goal – to become a Physician’s Assistant – and is currently in his second semester at Kansas State University. When reminiscing on his college experience to date, he shares, “My college experience has been amazing and the support from the professors was encouraging. The instructors genuinely want students to succeed. This is a positive reflection on the environment, both the instructors and the Dean impress on the faculty and also the students.”



CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Timothy Kohls (cont.)

Due to the rigors of his current course of study, Timothy must focus a great deal of his time on his college career. Timothy relayed that he felt fortunate that due to his retirement from the Army, he is “blessed with the ability to focus on school without a job.” He also demonstrates a positive attitude and brilliant sense of humor when discussing the balance between his studies and his family by stating “I have a son and a cat and both are extremely helpful in assisting me with studies.” When he is not focusing on his coursework or spending time with his family, Timothy enjoys working as a state certified basketball official.



In parting, when asked if he had anything he would like to add, he shared, “I would like to again praise both Dean Anderson and all the faculty at Barton Community College for all the hard work and for imposing a “never quit” attitude on students. In my opinion, students learn more and perform better when instructors and other faculty are reasonable and helpful. I would highly recommend attending this college for anyone who has any aspirations for higher education. Last, but certainly not least, ensure you speak with the staff at CKEOC so they can help you with financial aid and other educational related questions.”

CKEOC Welcomes New Hire: Kendall Meyer

Kendall Meyer has recently joined the Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center as the new Secretary/Data Specialist in Great Bend. Coming from Missouri, Kendall recently graduated with his Bachelor’s in Business Administration from Columbia College. During his time in college, Kendall worked full-time in the hospitality industry where he was most recently a front office manager at a hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Kendall made the move to central Kansas in Fall 2018 and began working for Barton Community College in October.



Everyone on the CKEOC staff is excited to welcome Kendall to the team!



CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Steve Cherry



Steve Cherry first met with TRiO - Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center (CKEOC) staff at one of their Student Success workshops, which highlights the program's free services. Not long before, Cherry was an eighteen-year-old without a high school diploma. This changed in March 2018 when his mother informed him about Barton Community College's Center for Adult Education and he began taking classes. Steve drove forty minutes each way for class almost every day that the Center for Adult Education was open. He spent countless hours studying and working with their instructor and tutor to prepare for the required tests. His hard work, perseverance, and determination were rewarded in August 2018 as he passed his final TABE test. In recognition of this accomplishment,

Steve received a six credit hour Books and Tuition Scholarship from Barton Community College. More importantly, he completed the goal he set for himself and obtained a Kansas High School Diploma.

After CKEOC made Steve aware of the many opportunities available to him, he chose to take advantage of the Accelerating Opportunity Kansas (AOK) program offered by the Center for Adult Education. In doing so, he was able to take college classes simultaneously with ABE classes. With support from AOK, Steve began taking classes in the Welding program at Barton Community College and currently Steve is on pace to receive his Welding Certificate in May. While attending welding classes, CKEOC assisted Steve with the financial aid processes necessary to afford the cost of his education. After reflecting on his post-secondary experience thus far, Steve shared that attending college has "been positive for me" adding, "It's helped me socially and academically." Once he has completed his education, Steve is "ready and willing" to embark on his career path.

When Steve is not attending class, he enjoys relaxing, listening to music, and spending time with his family which includes his mother, two brothers, and his cat. He reiterates how grateful he is for his mother's direction, which led him to enroll in GED classes at the Center for Adult Education. Steve also expressed his appreciation to CKEOC for their assistance with the financial aid process. He advises others to "be willing to give (CKEOC) a chance and listen to what they say. They really do care about your future." Steve's advice for success is "don't be afraid of something new, have faith in yourself and never be afraid to ask questions or to make mistakes." Although this experience presented new challenges, through the ups and downs Steve never gave up on himself or the goals that he had set out to achieve. His work ethic and tenacity are an inspiration for others to emulate. CKEOC is privileged to assist Steve in his success and is pleased to name him an Outstanding Participant.



JAG*K Partnership and Campus Visit



In the Fall of 2018, The Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center began an exciting new partnership with the JAG*K chapter at Great Bend High School.

JAG*K, which stands for Jobs for America's Graduates, is a non-profit program designed to help students who face barriers to academic success graduate high school and find successful career paths. In the state of Kansas, JAG*K currently serves 38 school districts including Great Bend USD 428, and around 3,800 participants. Since the beginning of the partnership, the Great Bend EOC staff has provided services by conducting workshops at the high school including Student Success, Overcoming Test Anxiety, Soft Skills, Career Exploration, and Financial Literacy.



JAG*K Seniors pictured with instructor Jennifer Hopkins and EOC's Kendall Meyer



Another one of the excellent free services the Educational Opportunity Center offers to participants is campus tours to different colleges. On October 30, 2018, EOC Project Director, Susie Burt and Secretary/Data Specialist, Kendall Meyer accompanied Great Bend JAG*K seniors on a tour of Barton Community College's main campus. On the day of the visit, eleven students and Senior JAG*K Instructor, Jennifer Hopkins were chauffeured to campus in vans provided by Barton Community College. The tour began with an overview of the college provided by campus ambassadors. Students were introduced to a brief history of the college, its services, and various programs offered at the school. Participants were given the opportunity to ask questions about navigating college life and have their concerns addressed. After discussion concluded, the student ambassadors provided a tour around campus introducing areas such as the Learning Resource Center, Kirkman Student Activity Center, Fine Arts Building, Technical Building, and Student Union. Once the initial part of the tour ended, students were escorted to the Student Union for a lunch break provided by the Admissions Department. Everyone in attendance

was quite impressed with the quality of the food and the amount of options available in the cafeteria! After lunch, the tour continued and participants were shown dormitories and student recreational areas. Toward the end of the tour, the participants were brought back to the Kirkman Building and were shown where various student service offices such as Admissions, Financial Aid and Enrollment services are located. Everyone in attendance was given a Barton swag bag and contact information for future services. The JAG*K students were receptive of all the new information provided to them and everyone was impressed by the amount of services and activities available on campus. This tour marked the first of hopefully many campus tours that CKEOC will provide JAG*K participants. Several other campus tours at both Barton College and Wichita State University have already been scheduled for this spring semester.



Everyone on the CKEOC staff is excited about this new partnership with Great Bend High School JAG*K and look forward to many more experiences with these young and highly motivated participants!

Great Bend KANSASWorks



From Left – Front: Delbert Randolph, Kendall Lang; Middle: Kristin Doze, Tom Snyder; Back: Heidi Brittain, Melissa Feist, Theodore Taylor, Kathy Stucker, Laura Patzner

During the past year, Great Bend KANSASWorks added two new staff members. Kathy Stucker was hired as an Employment Specialist, and Laura Patzner assumed the duties of Workforce System Coordinator.

Laura spent her career in victim services and non-profit management. This included 15-years as an advocate with the Family Crisis Center and a brief time with the Barton County Attorney’s office, before returning to the Family Crisis Center as Executive Director. Most recently she was the Program Director at Safehope in Newton. After working in self-help agencies most of her adult life Laura was ready for a new career. As Workforce System Coordinator, she is responsible for the delivery of services in the eleven offices in Local Area I. Laura feels that the teamwork between KANSASWorks, CKEOC, and other partners benefits the customers and students the most. This is because “we stand together for the common goal of the betterment of the people we work with, which leads to great economic impact for our community.” She finds it interesting that her skill set has translated so well to her new position, but not surprising, because “working collaboratively with others is the foundation for creating lasting impact on customers, job seekers and employers alike.” Laura indicates “I am excited to see what this opportunity has in store for me!”

Previous to her current position, Kathy worked at Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility as an Addiction Counselor, and later as a Corrections Counselor. After the facility was closed, she initially made the decision to retire, but quickly recognized that she wasn’t quite ready for that phase of life. Kathy applied for the Employment Specialist position when the opportunity arose and was hired. Kathy’s position involves the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), which is a federally funded program that assists people in finding sustainable employment. This program creates opportunities for youths, adults, and dislocated workers to receive training and obtain work in high-demand occupations. Eligibility for the program is determined through financial need and the existence of barriers to employment. Kathy splits her time

Great Bend Kansas Works (cont.)

between offices in Great Bend and in Hays. KANSASWorks Workforce Centers are designed using a one-stop concept. Through its partnerships they are able to offer services to a wide range of customers. CKEOC has had the opportunity to work with many WIOA participants, assisting them with FAFSA completion and other educational related services. Kathy says that “helping people is something I’ve done through different professions and am very glad to be doing it again.”

In addition to WIOA, some other programs and services available at KANSASWorks include:

- Kansas Health Profession Opportunity Project (KHPOP), which helps fund schooling in the medical field in high demand occupations.
- End Dependence Kansas (EDK), which provides employment / job skills for persons leaving a correctional facility.
- Opportunity to obtain a Work Ready Certificate.
- Job search activities, resume writing and many other valuable services.



CKEOC is proud to partner with KANSASWorks!

Fort Riley Consortium Open House

On September 25th, 2018 Army Education Services Fort Riley held its first Consortium Open House in the lobby of its location at 211 Custer Avenue. TRiO- Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center, Director, Susie Burt and Coordinator, Ray Kruse was in attendance along with the Army Education Center’s eight consortium schools and staff of the Army Education Services Counseling Center.

During the open house, individuals were able to walk around and talk to representatives from the schools, counselors, and CKEOC staff forming a one-stop shop for all of their questions. In addition, there were presentations held in the nearby auditorium which included a briefing on Army Tuition Assistance, delivered by Army Education Services Staff and an informational session on Federal Financial Aid, facilitated by CKEOC coordinator Ray Kruse.

The open house was attended by over 60 visitors, making the event an overwhelming success.



CKEOC Director, Susie Burt (right)
& Coordinator, Ray Kruse (left)

Financial Aid and Taxes



Tax season is in full swing and many people have received tax documents online and in the mail. If you have been taking college classes and received a 1098-T from your school, you may be wondering, “why am I getting this?” The answer is that taking college classes can have several tax implications. Let’s take a look at some of the more common scenarios where this is the case.

Some financial aid is taxable

So you completed a FAFSA and completed a scholarship application or two, and the end result was that you received a refund. If this is the case, then chances are at least a portion of the refunds you received during the year are taxable income. In order to determine whether student aid is taxable, you have to determine whether or not that aid paid for “Qualified Educational Expenses.”

Qualified Educational Expenses are directly tied to the ability to take the class. Most of these expenses such as tuition, fees, and books billed to your account will already be calculated for you on the 1098-T you receive from your school. Direct expenses not paid to the school will not show on your 1098-T. Examples could include: required books purchased from a third party, a computer required for online classes, and software required to complete your assignments. If you are claiming direct expenses not included on your 1098-T, make sure you have and retain receipts to document these expenses. Many forms of financial aid can be used for indirect expenses such as room and board, transportation, childcare and personal items. It is important to know that such expenses are not considered Qualified Educational Expenses, and therefore aid use to cover these costs must be reported as taxable income.

Student Loans are not taxable

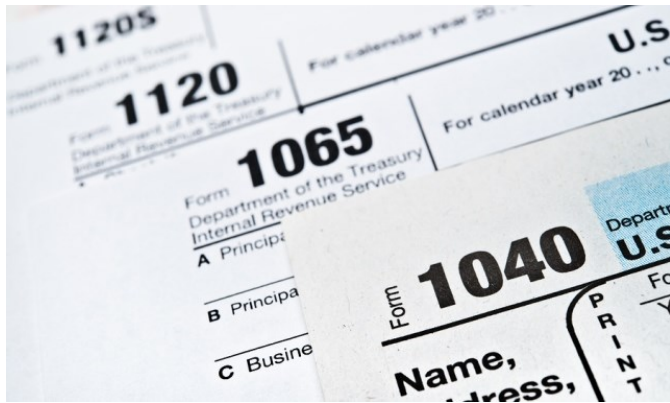
If you took out student loans, and received a refund of your loan money and used this money to pay for Non-Qualified Educational Expenses, this money is not taxable. Because you have to pay back loans, you didn’t have income.

You may be eligible for Educational Tax Credits

If you were enrolled at least half time during one or more academic period during the tax year, were pursuing a degree or other recognized credential and have not claimed the American Opportunity Tax Credit or Hope Credit more than for previous tax years, you may be able to receive tax credits. In order to be eligible, you would have to pay for the cost of direct educational expenses - either with student loans or out of pocket. This credit can net you a total of \$2500 in credits (100% of the first \$2000 in expenses and 25% of the next \$2000 dollars in expenses). If you do not qualify for



Financial Aid and Taxes



the American Opportunity Tax Credit or Hope Credit because you have already claimed the credit four times, you still may be eligible for the Lifetime Learning Credit if you paid for Qualified Educational Expenses out of pocket or with student loans.

Sometimes you might want to pay taxes on your aid

This might sound counterintuitive, but in many cases it may be beneficial to pay taxes on some of those direct expenses even though you don't have to. According to IRS publication 970, as long as the aid you receive is

not restricted to pay for Qualified Educational Expenses, you are allowed to decide whether that aid was used to cover your direct or indirect expenses – even if the school used it to pay for your tuition and fees. In order to take educational tax credits, you must pay for Qualified Educational Expenses either out of pocket or with student loans. If you had enough free aid to completely pay for your direct costs, and choose to indicate this on your taxes, you would not be eligible for tax credits.

However, unless the aid you received was restricted to pay for direct costs, you can choose to claim that aid as income that paid for indirect costs instead. This requires you to pay taxes on the aid, but also allows you to take educational credits. In some cases, the credits you receive might exceed the tax liability on the aid and net you a larger tax refund.

Get the advice of a tax professional

The information presented in the is article is simplified and does not cover all the intricacies of how financial aid might affect your taxes. Furthermore, taking tax credits you were not eligible for could land you in hot water and require you pay back the credits with interest plus potential fines. It is therefore important to seek the advice of a tax professional when taking educational tax credits or making decisions on whether a particular expense is or should be counted as a direct or indirect expense.





MAIN CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

- Mar 11-15 **Spring Break**
- April 9 **Registration** (Current Students)
- April 10 **Registration** (New Students)
- April 19-22 **Easter Break** (Campus Closed)
- May 6-9 **Finals Week**
- May 9 **Close of Spring 2018 Semester**
- May 10 **Commencement** (Main Campus)
- May 23 **Commencement** (Fort Riley)
- May 27 **Memorial Day** (Campus Closed)



BARTonline Spring Session 4
Mar 18—May 12 (8 Weeks)

BARTonline Spring Session 5
Apr 1— May 12 (6 Weeks)

BARTonline Spring Intersession
Apr 15— May 12 (4 Weeks)

FORT RILEY CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

LSEC CYCLE 4 APR 8 — MAY 20
LSEC CYCLE 5 MAY 30 — JULY 12

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

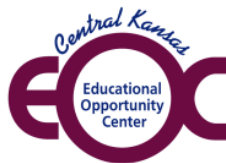
COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 3 MAR 20 — MAY 14
COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 4 MAY 29 — JULY 23

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

Kendall Meyer
Secretary and Data Specialist



Ray Kruse
Coordinator and Academic Advisor

Mary Shane
Secretary and Data Specialist

**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.bartoncc.edu for more information.

ACT Test Dates

If you or someone you know are planning to attend a post-secondary college in 2019-2020, 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 13	June 8
Clay Center	Clay Center Community High School	April 13	
Concordia	Cloud County Community College	April 13	June 8
Great Bend	Barton Community College	April 13	
Hays	Fort Hays State University	April 13	June 8
	Hays High School	April 13	June 8
Hoisington	Hoisington High School	April 13	
Junction City	Junction City High School	April 13	June 8
Manhattan	Kansas State University	April 13	June 8
	Manhattan High School	April 13	
Marysville	Marysville High School	April 13	
Pratt	Pratt Community College	April 13	June 8
Russell	Russell High School	April 14	
Salina	Kansas Wesleyan University	April 13	June 8
	Salina High School South	April 13	June 8
Wamego	Wamego High School	April 13	June 8

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

<u>Location:</u>	<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Contact Number:</u>
BCC/Great Bend 1025 Main St.	March 11 – 14 May 6 – 9	620-793-5794
Cloud CCC – Geary County Campus 631 Caroline Ave, Junction City	March 19 – 20	785-238-8010
Hays 1011 Fort St. (Corrections Building)	March 18	785-460-5486
Manhattan 3136 Dickens Ave	March 19 May 28	785-320-4845
Salina 2620 Centennial Road	March 4 – 8 May 6 – 10	785-309-4660

*Please note GED Orientations may have a sign-up window prior to the actual orientation date.
Please contact the orientation location for more information



CKEOC Staff and Locations

Great Bend

1025 Main St
620-793-8164

Grandview Plaza

100 Continental Ave
785-238-5200

Project Director

Susie Burt

Academic Advisor

Mark Ricketts

Secretary/Data Specialist

Kendall Meyer

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