

March – May 2020

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Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center

CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Vera Gaer



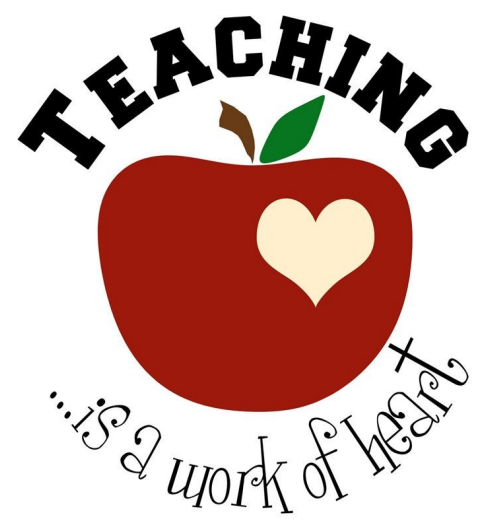
Vera Gaer

Author C.S. Lewis once said, “You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” This issue’s participant of the quarter, Vera Gaer, exemplifies the spirit of this quote. Upon graduating from E.B. Walker High School in Puyallup, Washington in 1998, Vera had scholarship opportunities to start post-secondary education, and a dream to become an educator herself. The one thing she lacked was the guidance or confidence needed to get past the uncertainty and complicated procedures required to get through the admissions processes. Ten years later, she felt the desire to pursue her dreams when she was sent to management

classes by her employer, but she wanted to be an educator, not a manager and again, the timing, the cost and uncertainty became a barrier. It wasn’t until 2018 that she began her post-secondary education and started to pursue her dreams.

At this point, she learned about the opportunities available to her through Barton Community College (BCC). As a military spouse, she learned that she was eligible to take Barton Community College’s Leadership Skills Enhancement Courses (LSEC). These classes which are available to active duty military, veterans, military dependents and Department of Defense Civilians, are scholarshiped by the state of Kansas, making college more affordable. After visiting with the staff at Barton Community College’s Fort Riley Campus, Vera found the support and guidance she previously lacked. Now armed with the confidence she needed to start pursuing her dreams, she enrolled in her first classes and hasn’t looked back.

Vera found she excelled in her classes, receiving excellent grades and ultimately



CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Vera Gaer (cont.)

joining Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) – the international honorary of two-year colleges. Vera explains “I have absolutely loved the college experience. I doubted myself at first but once I got going I felt unstoppable. I was named the PTK Honor Society Chapter President, I made the Kansas All State Academic team and was named Graduate of the year.”

In April 2019, Vera found herself mere months from graduating with her Associates Degree in Liberal Studies. Of course she was excited about graduation, but she also started to feel concern and doubt creeping back, because she would have to start classes at a university if she

wanted to pursue her dream of becoming an elementary school teacher. This meant a new school, new staff, and new instructors as well as more expensive classes, and less funding to pay for it. After speaking with her PTK Advisor about her situation, she was advised to contact the BCC TRiO-Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center (CKEOC) for guidance.

Vera relates, “They informed me about the TEACH Grant and helped me obtain a scholarship from the Kansas Board of Regents that is covering the remainder of my Bachelor’s degree.” With funding secured, Vera enrolled in the Elementary Education Bachelor’s Degree program at Southwestern College and is on track to complete her degree and realize her dream of becoming a teacher debt-free.

Vera states “I would say that more people should take the opportunity to visit the staff at TRiO-CKEOC and see what services they can offer.”

When Vera isn’t working on her classes, she enjoys spending time with her husband, who is in his second command with the Army and her five daughters aged three to twenty-two. She also works as a substitute teacher for USD 475 Geary County School district and teaches Zumba classes at the local YMCA. In closing, Vera offers these words of encouragement for others. “Find the courage to make that leap - It’s never too late to pursue your dreams!”



CKEOC Outstanding Participant: Paulina Martinez



Paulina Martinez

As a student at Great Bend High School, Paulina Martinez knew that she wanted to make a difference in her community and had a passion for healthcare. She realized reaching her goals would require education beyond high school. Paulina being the first person in her family to go to college she didn't have the benefit of getting assistance with the process through her family. Fortunately, she came in contact with Gui Burley, the Migrant Education Program Student Advisor at Great Bend High School, who was able to get her started. Paulina shared "I first heard about Barton Community College (BCC) TRiO - Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center (CKEOC) through Gui Burley. Gui was not my assigned high school counselor, however she helped me so much during my senior year of high school." Not long after, Paulina found her focus stating, "My ultimate goal with my education is to one day be able to give back to my community by becoming a qualified family practitioner".

As a first generation college student, Paulina needed additional assistance in navigating post-secondary educational processes and was a good fit for the BCC TRiO - CKEOC program. While transitioning from high school to post-secondary education, BCC TRiO - CKEOC assisted Paulina with admissions applications, as well as finding and applying for grants and scholarships. Paulina started her education at Barton Community College and then transferred in August 2019 to Fort Hays State University (FHSU) where she is a pre-medicine major studying biology. Paulina enjoys going to FHSU and conveyed, "The experiences and memories that I have made this year are priceless. My college years have brought me many changes and challenges, both positive and negative, that have helped shape the student that I am today."



Recently, Paulina stopped by to finish her FAFSA because of a change in marital status. Henry Diaz and Paulina were married in November 2019. A change in marital status can make the FAFSA more complicated and she wasn't sure how to complete the process, therefore, she contacted CKEOC for assistance. CKEOC's Academic Advisor was able to assist her, ensuring she could continue her education with the change in her life.



Paulina has a strong desire to help others and give back to the community. She is a dedicated student, and her ambition to attend school and work is very admirable. Paulina is grateful for her friends and family that have provided support over the last couple of years and continue to do so. She explains, "My mother and brother have provided a great support system and the friends that I've made throughout college have made my experience so much better, they've helped me deal with stressful situations and taught me many things about life."

When Paulina is not at school or work, you will find her enjoying time with her family and her two fur-babies, Pancake and Princess. She currently works as a Certified Medication Aide at Via Christi Village in Hays, Kansas. CKEOC is pleased to assist Paulina with her goals as well as recognize her as an outstanding participant.

WELCOME!



Jamie Hatfield has recently joined the Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center as the new Academic Advisor in Great Bend. She graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Science from Kansas Wesleyan University. Before joining the CKEOC team, Jamie worked in the Foster Care department at Saint Francis Ministries (SFM). After witnessing the struggles of the clients she helped at SFM, Jamie knew she had the desire to support people who wanted to improve their lives through education to secure a living wage job. Jamie is a first generation college student and has a personal understanding of the challenges students face today. When Jamie is not at work, you can find her reading, bike riding or at the dog park with her fur-babies, Morty and Aurora.



Patti Amerine has recently joined the Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center staff as the new Secretary/Data Specialist in Great Bend. Prior to coming to The Central Kansas Educational Opportunity Center, Patti worked at the Central Kansas Orthopedic Group at their front desk. She and her husband, Martin, will be celebrating 40 years of marriage this year. Patti and Martin have two daughters together along with Martin's three daughters, two of whom live in Seattle and one in New Jersey. They also have five grandchildren and a yellow lab, Max. Patti and her family enjoys drag racing as her two daughters are avid drag racers. When it's not a race weekend, she enjoys spending her time gardening and reading.

Campus Visits



TRiO - Central Kansas Central Opportunity Center (CKEOC) understands that life experiences are very important when helping participants pick an institution to pursue their higher education. College visits are advantageous for students to experience a first-hand view of campus life. One of the many services that CKEOC offers is to provide the opportunity for participants to go on campus visits to experience different college campuses. Two of our secondary education partner schools: Barton Community College Center for Adult Education and Jobs for America's Graduates (Jag*K) at Great Bend

High School had the opportunity to participate in campus visits last semester. Both groups of students are in a progressive time of their lives, as they are completing their high school diploma and taking the next steps in education and/or entering the workforce. Our goal at CKEOC is to support participants interested in transitioning into higher education, explore careers and make informed decisions. Attending college comes with tuition costs, therefore CKEOC also assists participants with financial literacy and budget planning. CKEOC helps participants know what is available when paying for higher education, including guidance completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and searching for scholarships as well.



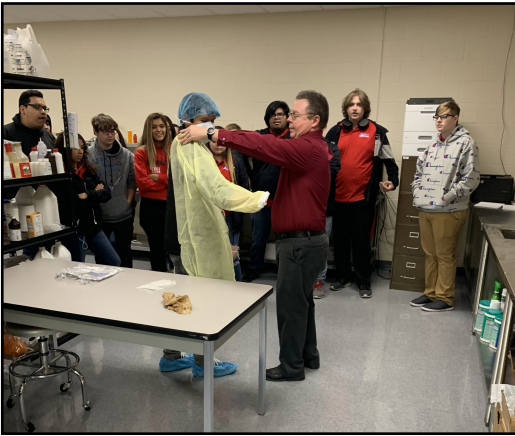
Campus visits are vital for the students finishing the Adult Education Program. CKEOC Academic Advisor, Jamie Hatfield was able to accompany nine students from the Barton Community College Adult Education Center on Wednesday, December 4th, 2019 to Barton Community College. While visiting the campus, participants were able to experience the many different programs available at Barton. The Student Ambassador and Admissions Staff helped answer questions and welcome the participants. After touring the Learning Resource Center,

Kirkman Activity Center, Fine Arts Building, Technical Building, and Student Union; the participants were able to get a glimpse of student life at Barton Community College. In addition, the tour included observing classrooms and meeting instructors. At the conclusion, participants were able to meet with a Barton Community College Advisor, discuss their interests and learn about different programs of study.



The participants in Jag*K from Great Bend High school had the opportunity to visit two campuses in Hays, KS on Wednesday, December 4th, 2019. The 50 students in JAG*K were escorted by CKEOC Project Director, Susie Burt along with Jag*K Specialists, Jennifer Hopkins and Amy Haxton, on the visit. North Central Kansas Technical College (NCK Tech) was one of the stops for those students. NCK Tech's satellite campus provides students

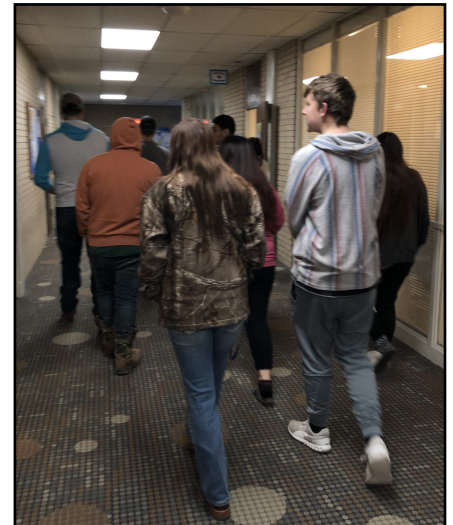
Campus Visits (cont.)



with many opportunities and activities to be a part of. Students were able to experience first-hand training and skills taught at NCK Tech for the careers they would like to pursue. A few of those stops included trying on protective gear in the medical field, visiting the carpentry shop and interacting with the head of the culinary arts department to witness what it takes to become a chef. To their surprise, the participants were also treated to a cinnamon roll prepared by the culinary arts students. The next stop was Fort Hays State University where participants were able to learn about the multiple degrees offered. Both institutions afforded them the chance to ask questions and experience the real-life feel of each campus.

Campus visits give students ideas about how they can become involved and acquire the information they need to determine what program of study is the best fit for them. Students also see the available perks including tutoring, mental health services, and campus jobs, which are all important to ensure success while seeking higher education. CKEOC staff enjoys being able to provide campus visits for participants as we understand the value of first-hand experiences for students taking their next big step.

CKEOC would like to say: Thank You, Barton Community College, Fort Hays State University and North Central Kansas Technical College for their continued support in helping with meals, transportation, and hospitality while visiting their campuses. CKEOC enjoys working with local partners to help improve the lives and education of their participants. We look forward to continued visits to each campus.



Fort Riley Career and Education Fair



On November 7th 2019, the Fort Riley Hiring and Education Fair was held at Riley's Conference Center on Fort Riley. Fort Riley Army Education Services provided a table to CKEOC for the event. CKEOC Director, Susie Burt and Coordinator, Ray Kruse were available to discuss EOC services, answer questions regarding post-secondary goals, and make appointments. During the fair, individuals were able to walk around and talk to representatives from employers, schools, and ancillary agencies such as CKEOC forming a one-stop shop for all of their questions. The fair consisted of 127 vendors - 57 which were schools or other agencies related to education. The event was well attended with over 400 patrons participating in the event.



MAIN CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

Mar 2 Spring Classes Begin
 Mar 16-20 Spring Break
 April 7-8 Summer/Fall Enrollment Begins
 April 10-13 Easter Break (Campus Closed)
 May 7 Close of Spring 2018 Semester
 May 10 50th Commencement (Main Campus)
 May 20 Commencement (Fort Riley)
 May 25 Memorial Day (Campus Closed)
 June 1 Summer Classes Begin (4 weeks)



BARTonline Spring Session 4
 Mar 16—May 10 (8 Weeks)
 BARTonline Spring Session 5
 Mar 30—May 12 (6 Weeks)
 BARTonline Spring Intersession
 Apr 13—May 10 (4 Weeks)
 BARTonline Summer Session 1
 May 18—June 28 (6 Weeks)

FORT RILEY CAMPUS PLANNING CALENDAR

LSEC CYCLE 4 APR 7 — MAY 18
 LSEC CYCLE 5 MAY 28 — JULY 10

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

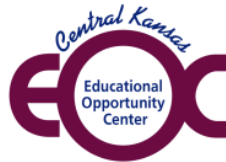
COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 3 MAR 23 — MAY 15
 COLLEGE PROGRAM CYCLE 4 JUNE 1 — JULY 31

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

CKEOC STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH QUESTIONS & EOC SERVICES

Jamie Hatfield
 Academic Advisor

Patti Amerine
 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 2020-2021, 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 4	June 13
Chapman	Chapman High School	April 4	June 13
Clay Center	Clay Center Community High School	April 4	June 13
Concordia	Cloud County Community College	April 4	
Great Bend	Barton Community College	April 4	
Hays	Fort Hays State University	April 4	June 13
	Hays High School	April 4	June 13
Hoisington	Hoisington High School	April 4	
Junction City	Junction City High School	April 4	June 13
Manhattan	Kansas State University	April 4	June 13
	Manhattan High School	April 4	
Marysville	Marysville High School	April 4	
Pratt	Pratt Community College	April 4	June 13
Russell	Russell High School	April 4	June 13
Salina	Kansas Wesleyan University	April 4	June 13
	Salina High School South	April 4	June 13
Wamego	Wamego High School	April 4	June 13

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>
Great Bend – Barton CC 1025 Main St.	March 9 – 11 May 11 – 13	620-793-5794
Junction City – Cloud CCC 631 Caroline Ave, Junction City	August 7 – 8 October 16 – 17	785-238-8010
Hays – Colby CC 1011 Fort St. (Corrections Building)	March 23	785-460-5486
Manhattan – MATC 3136 Dickens Ave	March 19 May 28	785-320-4845
Salina – USD 305 2620 Centennial Road	March 2 – 5 May 4 – 7	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 Dr
785-238-5200

Project Director

Susie Burt

Academic Advisor

Jamie Hatfield

Secretary/Data Specialist

Patti Amerine

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 eight 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