

1996 Distinguished Service Award  
Dr. Jimmie and Virginia Downing

The Distinguished Service Award was created in 1981 by the Barton County Community College Foundation to recognize individuals who have shown genuine regard for, and performed outstanding service to Barton County Community College. The Foundation Board of Directors selects the recipient from nominations received.

Jimmie Downing first became a part of the college in 1968 as the Director of Technical and Vocational Education. He later served as Dean of Students. He actively served on the Western Kansas Educational Compact and was a member of the Council of Presidents. Other samples of his participation in developing, organizing and supporting state and national education associations include: North Central Accreditation Team chairman and consultant, Jayhawk Community College Conference chairman, Kansas Administrator, Kansas Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors and Legislative Committee Chair, National Adult Education Association member, and Western Kansas Educational compact chair. His involvement in the community involves board membership for the Central Kansas Medical Center, Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, and the Economic Development Commission. Downing holds membership in Phi Delta Theta, a national honor society, and has received the "Outstanding Alumni" award at Friends University, Wichita. Virginia Downing joined the BCCC faculty in 1970 as Piano/Organ Instructor and accompanied the BCCC Choir for nine years. She served in several positions, as well as president, for the Central Kansas Piano Teachers League and the Kansas Music Teachers Association. She is also a member of the Kansas Coalition for Music in Education. Her involvements in the community range from teaching piano and organ lessons for over 40 years to being a board member of the Center for Counseling and Consultation. The Downings contribute annually to the Foundation and are Booster Club members. Jimmie and Virginia have three children, Scott, Flowermound, Texas; Greg, '79, Kansas City, Kansas; and Cory, '90 Ellinwood.