

## **Dr. Garstecki Monthly Board of Trustees Update**

### **December 2025**

- This week we submitted a FIPSE Grant as discussed during the November Board meeting to develop and enhance AI skills and training programs. Our grant proposal requests \$2.8 million to include faculty/staff, equipment and hardware, and funds to help us deliver the training. We will know by the end of 2025 if we have received the grant.
- Last Wednesday night was the official opening of the Cougar Den during the Men's and Women's basketball games against Hutchinson. We had a great turnout, and it was a great event to welcome the community and showcase our newly renovated facility.
- I attended the KACC Quarterly meeting in Garden City from Thursday night through Saturday. Jee Hang Lee, KACCT CEO, attended the meeting to discuss many of the issues currently happening at the Federal level and the higher education landscape. There were several state Legislators in attendance who shared their perspectives on the upcoming legislative session.
- The Barton team submitted our Aspen Award documentation. We are currently at Top 200 institution in the nation for best community colleges. The next level is the Top 25 if we are selected with our application.
- This week the Fine and Performing Arts Department held their Holiday Concert and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Induction. More information on the inductees is available in the press release. <https://www.bartonccc.edu/news/holiday-concert-25>
- This week Barton was selected as one of twenty colleges across the nation to participate in the Prison Education Action Research Lab (PEARL) which is a research initiative through the University of Utah. The project is to assist research and provide high-quality educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals.