



Kansas City Kansas  
Community College™

# BREAKING GROUND



2020/2021 KCKCC Annual Report



# AT THE HEART OF KCKCC IS A PASSION FOR SERVICE.

Service to its students, to its alumni, and to the community. Since 1977, the foundation has been led by a committed board of volunteer leaders representing alumni, educators, local businesses and corporations. Our 2021 academic year board of directors includes:

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## Two key Foundation programs that serve our students and alumni:

### KCKCC Foundation Scholarships

June 2020 to June 2021 we have awarded 711 scholarships totaling \$593,888. Over 4,300 scholarships have been awarded since 2003.

### Blue Devil Alumni Association

Provides a lifetime link to KCKCC. Connects fellow classmates and supports students through networking, career guidance, and volunteer opportunities.

*Organized as a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Foundation's mission is to attract philanthropic support that enhances our students' educational and workforce training experiences, while enriching the communities we serve (EIN: 48-0947391).*

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# INSIDE

## 5 A Message From Ray Daniels

## 7 A Message From Dr. Greg Mosier

## 8 A Year in KCKCC Success

9 Fall 2020 Semester Begins at KCKCC

9 New Website for the KCKCC Foundation

9 KCKCC Supports USD 500's Anti-Violence Initiative

9 KCKCC Foundation Offering Free LinkedIn Seminar

10 Work Continues on KCKCC/Wyandotte County Digital Mural History Project

10 KCKCC Art Gallery Prepares for Art Show Focusing on Women's Rights

11 KCKCC Participates in Virtual 9/11 Challenge

11 KCKCC Celebrates the Kansas City Chiefs

11 KCKCC Hosts m-pact Virtual Vocal Festival

11 KCKCC Participates in KC Cares Webcast

12 Website for KCKCC's Capital Campaign Launches

12 KCKCC Library Joins MOBIUS Consortium

12 KCKCC's Accreditation Status Changed by Higher Learning Commission

13 New Artwork Featured at KCKCC

13 KCKCC Continues to Install Artwork from Rita Blitt Donation

13 KCKCC Celebrated 96th-Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony

14 KCKCC Programs Receive Full Accreditation

14 KCKCC Recognized by the Black Achievers Society of Greater Kansas City

14 KCKCC Celebrates Student Housing Groundbreaking

15 KCKCC Foundation Recognizes 2021 Hall of Fame Honorees in Virtual Event

15 Kansas Lt. Governor Visits Proposed Downtown Community Ed Center Site

15 Lansing Correctional Facility Celebrates Career-Campus Ribbon Cutting

16 Grants, Gifts & Sponsors

## 18 A Year in Student Success

19 KCKCC Music Student Receives Ella Fitzgerald Memorial Scholarship

19 KCKCC Alum Celebrates 103rd Birthday

19 KCKCC Featured in Downbeat Magazine

19 Blue Devils Get 1st Softball Sweep of JCCC in 25 Years

20 KCKCC's "The Standard" Releases New Music

20 Blue Devils Defeat Johnson County in Plains Region VI Championship, National Tournament Bound for 3rd Time

21 KCKCC English Department Releases Latest Edition of Scenic Route

21 KCKCC's PTK Chapter Recognized for Increasing Membership in 2020

21 KCKCC-TEC's Culinary Arts Program Receives Outstanding Program Award from ATEA

21 KCKCC-PCC Student Receives Bronze Medal in National SkillsUSA Competition

22 KCKCC Debate Brings Home Top Awards from Community College National Championship, Places Second in the Country

22 Blue Devils Earn At-Large Berth in National Soccer Tournament

22 Two Quick Goals Earn KCKCC Women's Soccer Jayhawk East Title

23 KCKCC Hosts Nursing Pinning Ceremony

23 KCKCC's All-Kansas Golf Team Qualifies for National Tournament

23 Record Five KCKCC Teams, 51 Athletes All-Academic

23 Blue Devil Men No. 1 in Preseason Poll

## 24 A Year in Employee Success

25 KCKCC Selects NISOD Excellence Award Recipients

25 Epic Comeback Earns Bruno-Ballou 200th Win

25 KCKCC's Chand and Wilson Selected for Fellowship with Harvard University

25 KCKCC Marketing Department Recognized with Four NCMPR Medallion Awards

## 26 Greatness Through Perseverance

27 All KCKCC Athletic Events Pushed to Spring Semester

27 KCKCC Celebrates Graduates with Virtual Commencement Ceremony

27 KCKCC Provides Four Options for Class Delivery



Kansas City Kansas  
Community College  
**STUDENT HOUSING  
DEDICATION**  
January 19, 2021

# BREAKING...



On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Kansas City Kansas Community College, it is my pleasure to share with you the College's 2020-2021 annual report.

The 2020-2021 academic year was one that will long be remembered for the ongoing challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The College's students, administration, faculty and staff had to adjust to new, unique ways of teaching and learning. Classrooms and athletic venues were different as the College instituted practices to insure student and employee safety. One of the memorable scenes was the vocal music department practicing outside on the lawn with social distancing between the singers. And they sounded great!

Throughout the entire year, even with all the changes and challenges, the College continued to provide quality educational experiences for our students and our community. The board offers a huge "thank you" to the administration, faculty and staff for the work that was done in successfully implementing a plan to keep the College open and education ongoing during the unique year. And another big "thank you" to our students who adjusted to the changes and continued the pursuit of their education. It was a wonderful effort by all involved.

During it all, great things were happening. As you read this annual report, you will learn about many of the important events and initiatives that were continued or started this year. One of the most visible is the beginning of the construction of the new student housing. It has been exciting to see the walls beginning to rise. But that is just one example of the exciting things that happened over the year.

With all the challenges, the 2020-2021 year was a success. Classes were held, students and teachers continued to meet, activities continued, diplomas and certificates were awarded and students gained knowledge and experiences that will enhance their futures. So, another "thank you" to administration, faculty and staff for a wonderful year in trying circumstances.

The board of trustees are extremely proud of the ongoing work being done by the College on behalf of our students and community. The future holds even greater things ahead. It continues to be a great time to be a Blue Devil!

**SINCERELY,**

Ray Daniels, Ed.D.  
Chair KCKCC Board of Trustees



# ...Ground



Dear Blue Devils and friends of KCKCC,

As I reflect on this past year, I continue to be amazed and thankful for the incredible work done by Kansas City Kansas Community College faculty and staff to continue to provide excellence in our educational offerings and services in the midst of a global pandemic. Thank you!

As you read this year's annual report, you will find, despite operating in unknown and unprecedented times, KCKCC's students excelled in many ways, receiving national recognition for their work done in their programs of study and student clubs. Congratulations, Blue Devils!

Along with our many students' awards and recognitions, KCKCC's faculty and staff continue to thrive and be recognized at the state and national level as well. It is the cumulative success of the students, faculty and staff that makes KCKCC such an incredible and important part of our community.

In addition to the many successes achieved by our Blue Devil family, Kansas City Kansas Community College continues to plan and build for the future generations that will follow us. This year, we began construction on the beautiful new student housing facility. The College also made great strides in fundraising efforts to build the Downtown Community Education Center, a collaborative project with community partners to build a center with comprehensive wraparound services to meet the holistic needs of our students and community in the heart of Kansas City, Kansas.

As we look to the future, and plan to celebrate the College's Centennial in 2023, KCKCC continues to become a more significant part of the communities we serve in both Wyandotte and Leavenworth Counties. Efforts put forward this last year, that will continue these next few years, are preparing the College for success in our next 100 years.

This annual report provides a quick look at a few of the many accomplishments achieved by Kansas City Kansas Community College's amazing students, faculty and staff. As we transition into this next academic year, building upon the achievements and knowledge gained during this last year, working together as one, there is nothing we cannot achieve! #BlueDevilStrong!

**SINCERELY,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Mosier".

Dr. Greg Mosier  
President



# NEW FRONTIERS

*A Year in KCKCC Success*



Above: Andrica Wilcoxon welcomes back students with refreshments and coupons to the deli.

## Fall 2020 Semester Begins at KCKCC

Students returned for the fall 2020 semester August 17. While many classes were online for the fall semester, COVID-19 precautions were put in place to protect those students, staff and faculty who were on campus.

### New Website for the KCKCC Foundation

In February 2021, a new website was launched for the KCKCC Foundation. This is the first time the foundation has had a separate website from the college, offering a redesigned look that is completely branded for the foundation. In addition, the ability to donate online was made easier on the new site.

### KCKCC Supports USD 500's Anti-Violence Initiative

KCKCC was proud to support USD 500's anti-violence project "Enough is Enough: Save our Kids. Save our Community." Part of this project included displaying blue ribbons across the community - on trees, light poles, doors, etc. in support of ending violence within the community.

### KCKCC Foundation Offers Free LinkedIn Seminar

The KCKCC Foundation partnered with Aaron Fulk, LinkedIn guru and CEO of Lillian James Creative to offer two sessions on the best ways to utilize LinkedIn. Students, faculty, staff and the community had the opportunity to attend one or both virtual sessions for FREE.



Above: KCKCC's art gallery featured work on the 19th amendment.

## Work Continues on KCKCC/Wyandotte County Digital Mural History Project

KCKCC welcomed Lydia Knopp and members of the Historical Mural Committee on the main campus November 30 to see a draft design for the upcoming Historical Mural project, which will be in the hallway across from the President's Office. The mural, which is being designed in honor of KCKCC's upcoming 100th anniversary, will not only depict KCKCC history, but also the history of Kansas City, Kan. and Wyandotte County.

Right: Digital draft of the mural project.

## KCKCC Art Gallery Prepares for Art Show Focusing on Women's Rights

The Kansas City Kansas Community College Art Gallery opened its first show of the fall 2020 semester, "Audacity: The March to Women's Rights." The pieces, both art and poetry, showcased in "Audacity: The March to Women's Rights" were inspired by the work of local Kansas City artist, Gloria Heifner. Heifner shared portraits and stories of 10 American women, from Sojourner Truth to Gloria Steinem and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who had the audacity to stand up for women's rights. These women changed history because of their willingness to stand up and make a difference through incredibly difficult odds on such issues as slavery, the proposed equal rights amendment and the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Curated by Polly Alice McCann, the show was hosted by the KCKCC Art Gallery in partnership with Flying Ketchup Press. The show also included work by Kansas author and photographer, Sharon Rodriguez and four national poets - Joan Gerstein, Candice Kelsey, Catharine Phillips and Linda Neal Reising.



## KCKCC Participates in Virtual 9/11 Challenge

To remember the lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, KCKCC faculty, students and staff participated in a Virtual 9/11 Challenge Sept. 11. Each person was challenged to walk, climb or run 2,071 steps, the number of steps that were in each of the World Trade Center towers. Those who completed the challenge received a free T-shirt from the KCKCC Veterans Center.



Above: KCKCC employees participated in a virtual 9/11 challenge.

## KCKCC Celebrates the Kansas City Chiefs

Faculty and staff at KCKCC showcased their Kansas City Chiefs spirit in preparation to watch Kansas City play in their second consecutive Super Bowl! From spirit week themes to showing how KCKCC celebrated at home with their families, KCKCC was out in force in their red and gold.



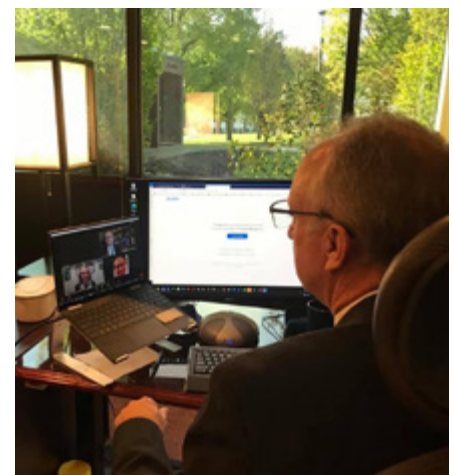
## KCKCC Hosts m-pact Virtual Vocal Festival

Kansas City Kansas Community College hosted the m-pact Virtual Vocal Festival Nov. 19 and 20. In addition to online master classes, there were virtual clinics, video performances and a variety of other presentations and educational opportunities. The festival, which was a collaboration between KCKCC's Music and Media Services departments, was free and open to anyone who wished to participate. The festival featured vocal ensembles from 10 states and three countries.

Right: Dr. Mosier participates in a KC Cares webcast. Left: KCKCC employees show support for the Kansas City Chiefs.

## KCKCC Participates in KC Cares Webcast

KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier recorded a webcast with KC Cares radio, a nonprofit radio show and online platform dedicated to telling stories of local nonprofit organizations as well as sharing valuable nonprofit information. Ruth Bigus was the host of the show.



## Website for KCKCC's Capital Campaign Launches

A new website geared toward the college's capitol campaign was launched in April 2021. The campaign will ultimately fund the proposed downtown educational center, which will not only house educational programs such as English as a Second Language, GED and technical education programs, but will also offer youth activities, counseling and support services and youth enrichment and leadership, among others. [The website](#) has information on the project for potential donors as well as a way to make a donation.



Above: Rendering of the proposed Downtown Community Educational Center.

## KCKCC Library Joins MOBIUS Consortium

The Kansas City Kansas Community College Library joined the KC-Towers cluster of the MOBIUS consortium. This cluster contains 15 college and public libraries, many located in the Kansas City metropolitan area. More than 62 million items are available in the MOBIUS Union catalog that can be requested in print or digital formats, and items borrowed from member libraries will be delivered within days instead of weeks. In addition, KCKCC will now have access to the Open Education Network.

## KCKCC's Accreditation Status Changed by Higher Learning Commission

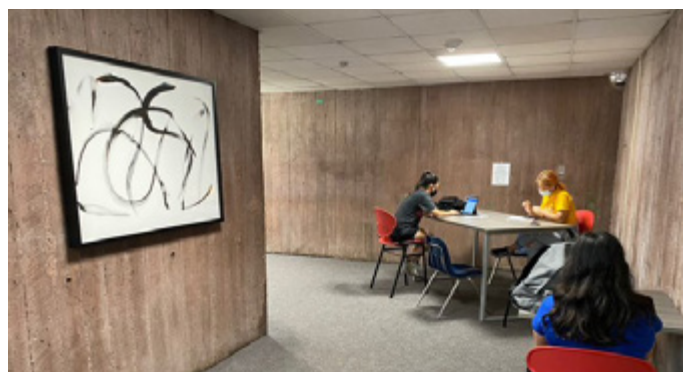
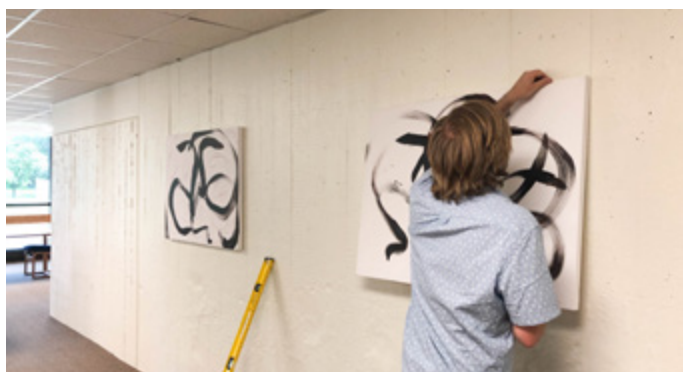
The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) changed Kansas City Kansas Community College's accreditation status from "Accredited" to "Accredited-Probation" on November 5, 2020. The action was taken as, similar to other institutions across the country, the Commission determined KCKCC was out of compliance in two of the 21 Components in the Criteria for Accreditation. Prior to the HLC visit, KCKCC self-recognized opportunities for improvement in assessment and program review. The HLC confirmed the College's findings, and prior to the visit KCKCC had already begun implementing significant changes in processes to strengthen these areas. The HLC revisits KCKCC in March 2022 to review evidence of systemic changes made in these areas that will continue KCKCC's efforts to advance excellence across the institution. The College is confident of successful outcomes from the spring 2022 visit.

## New Artwork Featured at KCKCC

KCKCC installed new artwork on the main campus. These beautiful art installations are on the old KCKCC signs at the Parallel Parkway entrance to campus and are part of the college's Ambient Learning Campus Beautification project. The art going eastbound is of a group of musicians, while the art going westbound is of a pair of soccer players.



Above: New murals greet students at KCKCC's main campus.



## KCKCC Continues to Install Artwork from Rita Blitt Donation

More than 100 paintings donated by Kansas City-based artist Rita Blitt continued to be installed at KCKCC locations throughout the 2020-21 academic year. The donation was made in an effort to help bring museum quality artwork to those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to see it. Blitt's works have been featured in more than 70 solo exhibitions and showcased in many museums and private collections including the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the John F. Kennedy Library, the National Museum of Singapore and the Kennedy Museum of American Art, among others.

## KCKCC Celebrated 96th-Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony

While Kansas City Kansas Community College's oldest tradition looked different, the 96th-annual Candle Lighting Ceremony continued as a virtual event December 16 to herald in the holiday season. The theme was "Celebrating Our Heritage," and included performances from students and faculty in both the KCKCC Music and Theatre departments as well as a presentation from the KCKCC Intercultural Center. Among the performances were those from the KCKCC Jazz Band, Funk Band, Fusion Jazz Vocal Ensemble, The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the KCKCC Theatre/Drama Club. In addition, programs from KCKCC's Dr. Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center and the KCKCC Pioneer Career Center in Leavenworth were highlighted.

## KCKCC Programs Receive Full Accreditation

Three KCKCC programs were notified that they have received continuing accreditation. The Associate Degree Nursing/Registered Nursing program received unconditional accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The program is fully accredited until its next accreditation cycle. In addition, the Respiratory Therapy program received continuing accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. The program met or exceeded all thresholds for success and is fully accredited until its next accreditation cycle.

## KCKCC Recognized by the Black Achievers Society of Greater Kansas City

KCKCC's Risala Allen and John Stafford were recognized as 2021 Black Achievers in Business and Industry Award recipients by the Black Achievers Society of Greater Kansas City. KCKCC was also recognized as one of the event's sponsors.

Below: KCKCC breaks ground on their new student housing facility.



## KCKCC Celebrates Student Housing Groundbreaking

KCKCC celebrated the groundbreaking of its new, 260-bed Student Housing facility February 19. Scheduled to be completed in summer 2022, the four-story facility will include 57 four bed units; seven two bed units; five ADA Mobility units, two three bed units and one each for the housing specialist and housing supervisor. In addition, other planned amenities include a group study hall, hammock park, study spaces, a 250 person outdoor amphitheater, a community laundry facility, a FEMA rated storm shelter, a 3,000 square foot gaming room and an outdoor patio/grilling area.

## KCKCC Foundation Recognizes 2021 Hall of Fame Honorees in Virtual Event

The Kansas City Kansas Community College Foundation recognized its 2021 class of inductees during the virtual hall of fame event April 23. The KCKCC Foundation's Hall of Fame, formerly the Mid America Education Hall of Fame, started in 1996 to recognize individuals, organizations and corporate supporters in the community who have made notable contributions to education. Hall of Fame inductees are selected based on a demonstrated commitment to education, their effort to improve the quality of life in the community through a commitment to education, increasing educational opportunities for others and supporting significant changes that have improved the quality of education. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals and organizations selected as 2020 honorees were honored with the 2021 inductees. Inductees included Alan Hoskins, the Leavenworth Public Schools Education Foundation, Maxine Drew, Mary Ann Flunder and Pamela M. Louis-Walden.

## Kansas Lt. Governor Visits Proposed Downtown Community Ed Center Site

KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier and Vice President of Strategic Initiatives Dr. Tami Bartunek met with Kansas Lt. Governor David Toland April 26 at the site of the proposed Community Education Center project in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. In addition, representatives from the The University of Kansas, Wyandot Behavioral Health and YMCA of Greater Kansas City were present to talk about their roles in the project. KCKCC plans to build the 119,000 square-foot center to serve as an anchor institution for KCK, providing social and economic mobility for its residents and be a national model for future educational institutions across the country.



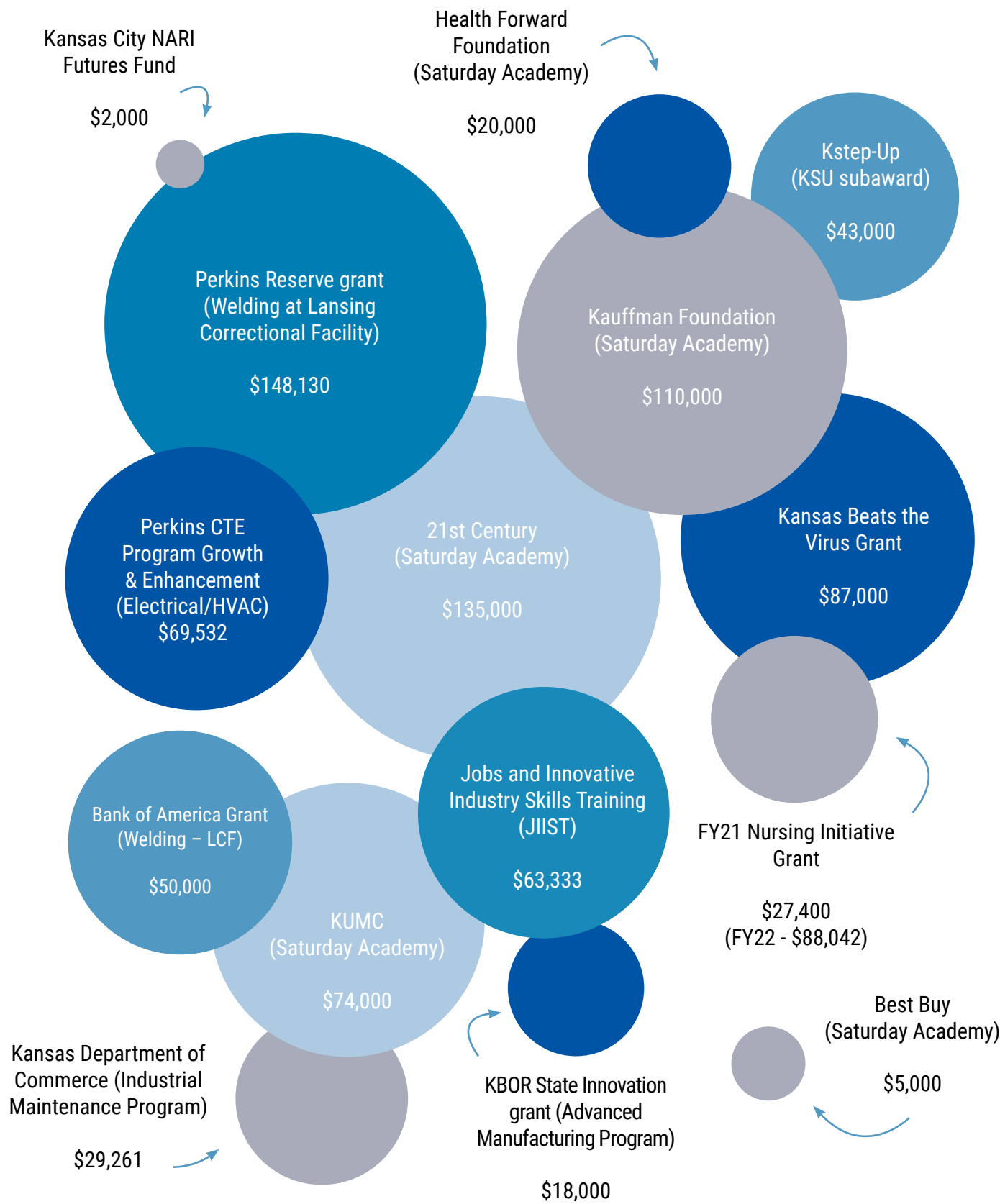
## Lansing Correctional Facility Celebrates Career-Campus Ribbon Cutting

KCKCC is pleased to partner with the Lansing Correctional Facility's new educational and skills development center, which had its ribbon cutting June 22. The goal of the new center is to help reduce recidivism among inmates, while also helping to address workforce shortages in Kansas. KCKCC is offering its welding program at the facility.

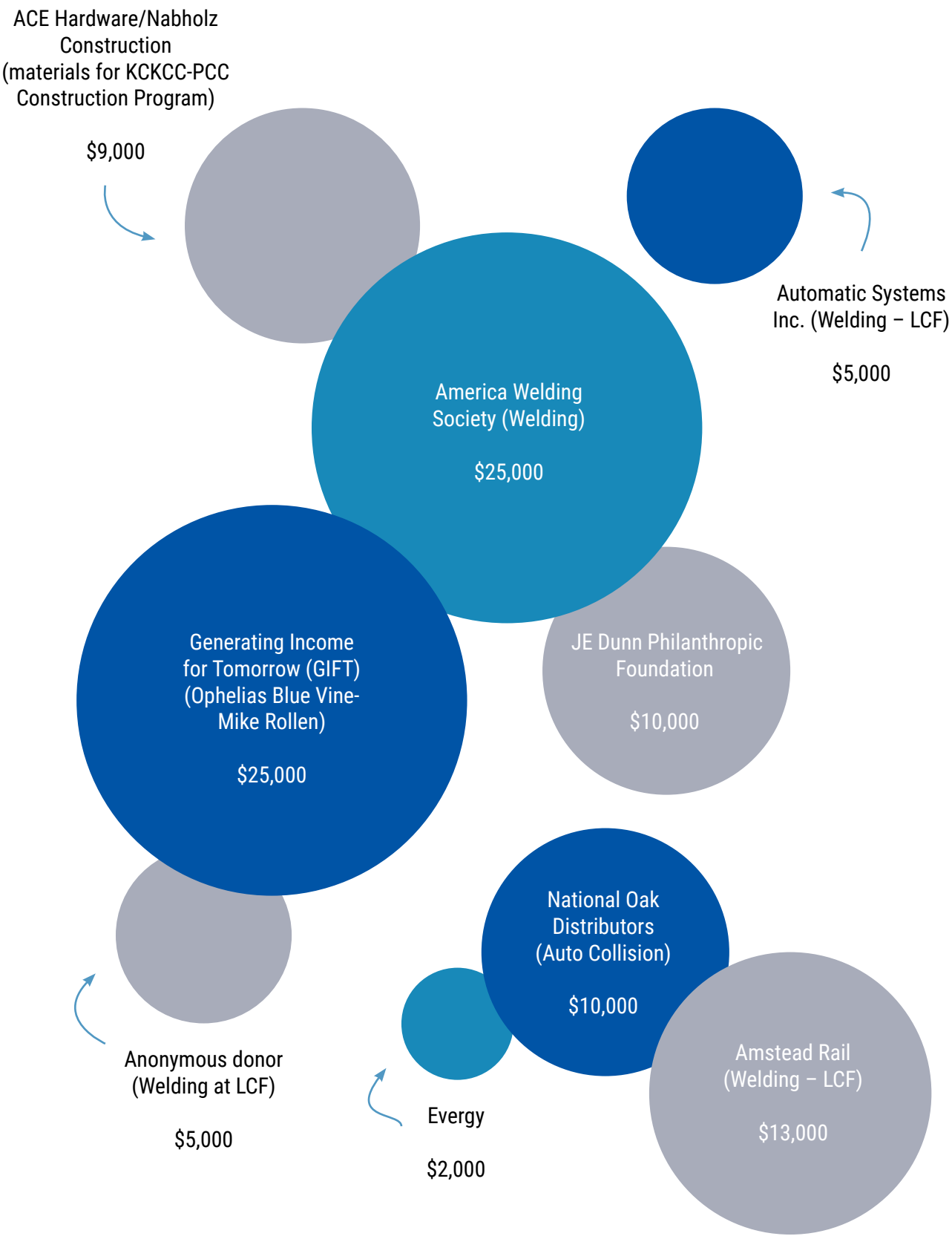
Left: Kansas Lt. Governor Visits Proposed Downtown Community Ed Center Site

KCKCC has been honored to receive a number of grants and gifts throughout the year. These grants support many wonderful programs or activities across the college. Below is a list of the awards:

## Grants



# Gifts & Sponsors





# MAKING STRIDES

*A Year in Student Success*

## KCKCC Music Student Receives Ella Fitzgerald Memorial Scholarship

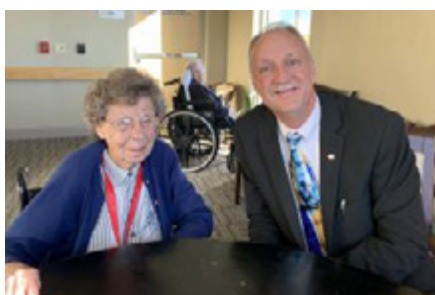
KCKCC partnered with the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation to create a new music scholarship - the Ella Fitzgerald Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will provide one music or audio engineering student per year with a full-tuition scholarship that covers all college-related fees and expenses. KCKCC's first recipient was Christian Anderson, a second-year music major from Shawnee, Kan. KCKCC was chosen as an Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation partner, in part, because of the college's repeated national exposure through the Downbeat Student Music Awards and performances at various national conferences. In addition, Dr. Justin Binek, assistant professor of music at KCKCC, completed his doctoral research on Fitzgerald's improvisation techniques, and the foundation has expressed interest in partnering with a community college that had a high percentage of minority students.



Above: Christian Anderson, the recipient of the Ella Fitzgerald Memorial Scholarship.

## KCKCC Alum Celebrates 103rd Birthday

Esther Foreman, a 1937 graduate of Kansas City Kansas Junior College, celebrated her 103rd birthday in July 2020 with help from friends and family. In addition to receiving dozens of cards and gifts, many also made donations to the Cooper-Foreman Heirloom and Native Gardens, located on the KCKCC Main Campus and participated in a virtual birthday party.



## KCKCC Featured in Downbeat Magazine

The KCKCC Music Department was featured in the January 2021 edition of DownBeat Magazine (published Dec. 3). The article was part of the magazine's Jazz On Campus series and discussed teaching jazz on campus during COVID-19.

## Blue Devils Get 1st Softball Sweep of JCCC in 25 Years

Softball sweeps on the road in the Jayhawk Conference are hard to come by, and almost impossible for KCKCC at Johnson County – until April 9. It was KCKCC's first sweep of the Cavaliers in more than 25 years – since March 7, 1995.



## KCKCC's "The Standard" Releases New Music

"The Standard" Vocal Jazz Ensemble released a new single, which is currently available on all digital platforms.

"Reparations" is an original work by KCKCC Theory and Jazz Studies Professor Justin Binek, set to a poem by Kathryn Sparks. Binek is currently writing an entire song cycle on Sparks' 28-poem collection "Lullabies and Nocturnes." "Reparations" is the third poem in the "Lullabies" portion of the cycle. The entire cycle is inspired by Binek's two daughters, Cora and Iris. "The Standard" premiered the piece at the 2019 Jazz Education Network National Conference in Reno, Nevada and won a DownBeat Magazine Student Music Award for Outstanding Scat Vocalist by Noah Haskin. The recording was made in KCKCC's audio engineering facility at the Dr. Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center in May 2019.



## Blue Devils Defeat Johnson County in Plains Region VI Championship, National Tournament Bound for 3rd Time

It was almost like Déjà vu all over again for the Lady Blue Devils of Kansas City Kansas Community College. In 2016, the Blue Devils had lost twice to unbeaten and No. 1 ranked Johnson County, the second time by 91-61. Yet 22 days later, KCKCC beat the Cavaliers 73-66 to win the Plains Region VI championship (and eventually a national championship). This season, the No. 1 ranked and unbeaten Cavaliers posted 11 and 24-point wins over KCKCC, but in epic fashion April 10, the Blue Devils grabbed the 67-59 Plains Championship at Friends University in Wichita and a shot at another national title. Unfortunately, in the first round of the national tournament, No. 14 seeded Union County, the same team KCKCC demolished in the 2019 NJCAA Division II championship game, out-played the Blue Devils' with a 72-69 overtime upset in the tournament, which was played at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, N.C. The loss dropped the No. 3 seeded Blue Devils (20-3) into the consolation bracket against No. 11 seeded Muskegon – a game Muskegon won 68-47.

Below: KCKCC's Lady Blue Devils. Bottom Left: The cover of "The Standard's" latest jazz album.



# KCKCC English Department” Releases Latest Edition of Scenic Route

The Kansas City Kansas Community College English Department published the newest issue of its literary magazine, Scenic Route, in fall 2020. Scenic Route was started in 2011 and recognizes the creative talents of KCKCC students. Published annually or every two years, it includes student poems, stories, plays and essays as well as student artwork in a variety of different mediums. Tasha Haas, associate professor of English at KCKCC, manages the magazine, while Bryan Whitehead, journalism faculty at the college, is responsible for the design. This year, a student editor assisted on the issue, Kaleb Goldbeck. Goldbeck was also the recipient of the Phillip W. Miller Memorial Creative Writing Scholarship. In 2013, the magazine was recognized as the third best regional community college literary magazine.

## KCKCC’s PTK Chapter Recognized for Increasing Membership in 2020

The Mu Delta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Kansas City Kansas Community College was recognized as a 2021 REACH Chapter. The REACH (Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors) Awards program recognizes Phi Theta Kappa chapters that excel in membership development and recruitment campaigns. The program rewards chapters for maintaining or increasing their membership acceptance rate by 15 percent or higher during the 2020 calendar year. As part of the recognition, KCKCC received three Phi Theta Kappa graduation stoles, which can be distributed to chapter officers or members to be worn during graduation. The Mu Delta Chapter was one of only 28 in the state of Kansas to be recognized this year.

## KCKCC-TEC’s Culinary Arts Program Receives Outstanding Program Award from ATEA

The Kansas City Kansas Community College Culinary Arts program was honored as one of the best in the nation. The program received the 2021 Outstanding Technical Program Award from the American Technical Education Association. Several areas are considered when selecting a program to be honored including enrollment trends, career advancement and opportunities, curriculum, letters of endorsement and evidence of program excellence, among others. In addition, all nominated programs must be a college or educational institution with an active membership in the ATEA.

## KCKCC-PCC Student Receives Bronze Medal in National SkillsUSA Competition

KCKCC Pioneer Career Center student, Jacob Litewski, received a bronze medal in Masonry at the SkillsUSA Nationals Competition in June. SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization in the United States geared toward those enrolled in programs for skilled, technical and service occupations. Students, who wish to compete in SkillsUSA, can do so at the local, state and national level. The contest provides students the opportunity to compete in real world, hands-on situations. Litewski also received a gold medal in the Kansas SkillsUSA Competition in April, which allowed him to compete in the national competition.

Top Left: A KCKCC culinary student works in the kitchen. Bottom Left: A dish created by the KCKCC culinary department.

# KCKCC Debate Brings Home Top Awards from Community College National Championship, Places Second in the Country

In the past, students at Kansas City Kansas Community College have brought home one or two of the top awards at the Phi Rho Pi Community College Speech and Debate Championship. No one has ever brought home all three – until this year. KCKCC student, Nathan Newby, received the Bell Scroggins Award, given to the first-place speaker at the national tournament; the Fish-Nelson Award, given to the top speaker through a vote from his peers and the Warren-Dahlin Fellowship Award, given to the top student from Region V, at the national tournament April 4 to 10. Held virtually this year, Newby also finished second in the country in Lincoln-Douglas debate. Additionally, KCKCC Alum and Assistant Coach Alex Glanzman, received the Warren-Dahlin Fellowship Award for Coaches in Region V. Overall, KCKCC earned the Silver Medal for Sweepstakes in Debate, making the school second among all debate entries at the tournament, which is designed specifically for two-year colleges.

## Blue Devils Earn At-Large Berth in National Soccer Tournament

For the first time in the nine-year history of women's soccer at KCKCC, the Blue Devils earned a spot in the NJCAA DI national tournament. Boasting their best record ever (12-2-1), the Blue Devils earned an at-large bid in the national tournament, which was played at Blanchard Woods Park in Evans, Georgia. A three-team, four-pod format, KCKCC was grouped with Eastern Florida State, the No. 3 seeded team in the tournament, and Laramie County. The Blue Devils lost both matches and did not advance in the tournament.

## Two Quick Goals Earn KCKCC Women's Soccer Jayhawk East Title

Lightning struck twice in a matter of seconds for KCKCC's women's soccer team May 5. Two goals in the span of 45 seconds earned the Blue Devils a 2-0 win over arch-rival Johnson County and the Jayhawk Conference East championship – the college's first.

Above: KCKCC's women's soccer team posed in front of a goal.





## KCKCC Hosts Nursing Pinning Ceremony

KCKCC held its first in-person graduation ceremony in two years May 11, 2021 with the Nursing Pinning Ceremony. Students in KCKCC's Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs had the opportunity to celebrate their achievements during the event, which was held at the KCKCC Field House.

Right: KCKCC's nursing pinning honors graduating students.

## KCKCC's All-Kansas Golf Team Qualifies for National Tournament

Playing in the toughest NJCAA Division I golf conference has some benefits – for KCKCC, a berth in the 2021 national tournament. Six of the 20 teams in the national tournament came out of the region – Jayhawk members Hutchinson, Garden City, Dodge City and KCKCC and two Iowa powers, Indian Hills and Iowa Western. The national tournament was played on The Rawls, the home course of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, May 9 to 12. The team tied for 19th in the tournament.

## Record Five KCKCC Teams, 51 Athletes All-Academic

Five teams and 51 student-athletes at KCKCC earned NJCAA academic recognition during the 2019-20 academic year. The five teams earning NJCAA Academic Team recognition were the most Blue Devil teams honored in a single season. Softball led the way with a cumulative 3.54 grade point average followed by men's golf (3.44), baseball (3.43), men's soccer (3.24) and women's soccer (3.14). Individually, 21 student-athletes were named to the NJCAA All-Academic first team by compiling perfect 4.0 GPAs. In addition, 10 Blue Devils were named to the second team by earning GPAs of 3.8 to 3.99. Twenty had GPAs between 3.6 and 3.79 to earn third team honors.

## Blue Devil Men No. 1 in Preseason Poll

Brandon Burgette set the bar about as high as possible in his first year as men's basketball coach at KCKCC, winning the Blue Devils' first Jayhawk Conference championship in 2020 and earning a berth in the canceled NJCAA national tournament. Running off a record eight straight wins, the Blue Devils claimed the Jayhawk title with an 8-2 record and then dethroned defending champion Johnson County 75-68 to win the Region VI championship for only the second time. After starting 2-8, the Blue Devils won 16 of their last 21 games. Success did not go unnoticed as the Blue Devils were ranked No. 1 in the conference pre-season poll when it was released in January.



# ABOVE AND BEYOND

*A Year in Employee Success*

## KCKCC Selects NISOD Excellence Award Recipients

Kansas City Kansas Community College's 2021 recipient of the annual NISOD Excellence Award was Shaun Pate, instructional designer in Online Education. NISOD's Excellence Awards recognize individuals each year who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. In 1989, in connection with a University of Texas-Austin national study of teaching excellence, NISOD hosted its first ceremony honoring NISOD Excellence Award recipients. The response to that ceremony was so positive that NISOD began what has become the largest and most inspiring gathering that recognizes the contributions and achievements of community and technical college faculty, administrators and staff. Pate, who has been at KCKCC for eight years, was nominated by Robert Beach and Susan Stuart.

## Epic Comeback Earns Bruno-Ballou 200th Win

Mary Bruno-Ballou got her 200th career volleyball win at KCKCC March 11 with a performance she will long remember. Trailing Metropolitan Community College 2-0, the Blue Devils stormed back to dominate the next three sets 25-17, 25-16, 15-11 and win No. 200 for the 10-year Blue Devil mentor. The win came on the heels of a 3-0 win over Cowley College earlier in the evening. The 200 wins are the most recorded by any Blue Devil volleyball coach.

## KCKCC's Chand and Wilson Selected for Fellowship with Harvard University

Dr. Mihir Chand, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Dr. Delfina Wilson, Vice President of Student Affairs, were accepted into Cohort 1 of the Strategic Data Project for Career and Technical Education Fellowship. The program is operated through the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University. The Strategic Data Project (SDP) is an initiative of the Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) at Harvard. The primary focus of this fellowship is to significantly improve student success by directing the fellows to develop strategic policies, improve institutional abilities for quality decision making and build internal capacities to critically understand institutional characteristics and supporting evidence-based decisions. The fellows will strengthen the impact of postsecondary career and technical education programs to help students thrive in their career, workforce and life.

## KCKCC Marketing Department Recognized with Four NCMPR Medallion Awards

KCKCC's President Dr. Greg Mosier and the KCKCC Marketing & Communications staff received several awards in this year's District 5 National Council of Marketing & Public Relations Medallion Awards. NCMPR is the only organization of its kind that exclusively represents marketing and public relations professionals at community and technical colleges. Dr. Mosier received the 2020 Pacesetter of the Year Award, while KCKCC received a Gold Medallion in the Flyer Category and Silver Medallions in the Notes/Cards/Invitations, Computer-Generated Illustration and Social Media/Online Marketing Campaign categories.



**GREATNESS**  
*through*  
**PERSEVERANCE**

# All KCKCC Fall Athletic Events Pushed to Spring Semester

By a vote of the membership, the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) postponed all fall 2020 fall and winter athletic events and moved them to spring 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. The vote affected five KCKCC sports – men's and women's soccer, volleyball and men's and women's basketball. Baseball, softball and golf are annually on the spring schedule. Athletes were allowed to practice in all sports during the fall.

## KCKCC Celebrates Graduates with Virtual Commencement Ceremony

KCKCC recognized its December 2020 and May 2021 graduates May 13. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, KCKCC made the decision to host a Virtual Graduation Ceremony, which included speeches from KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier, Vice President of Academic Affairs Jerry Pope, Board of Trustees President Ray Daniels and Student Senate President Destin T. Williams, among others. 858 students were recognized during virtual commencement.



Above: Graduates celebrated their accomplishment at KCKCC.

## KCKCC Provides Four Options for Class Delivery

A tremendous amount of planning went into how fall 2020 classes would be offered to help ensure students' continued success during the academic year. Given the environment that the COVID-19 pandemic created, KCKCC offered classes in four delivery modes - Face-to-Face, Online, Virtual and Blended. Regardless of class delivery at the beginning of the fall semester, almost all classes transitioned after Thanksgiving Break to a virtual or online format. Unless specifically identified, students did not physically return to KCKCC locations following Thanksgiving Break to complete the semester.



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