

# Kansas City Kansas Community College™



# NEW EXPERIENCES

2021-2022 KCKCC Annual Report



REMEMBERING  
*our past.*

CREATING  
*our future.*

Kansas City Kansas Community College celebrates its centennial anniversary with activities and events through 2023. The college invites you to join the celebration.

- ▶ Share your story. Become one of the 100 stories highlighting the people who are part of KCKCC.
- ▶ Embrace the heritage of KCKCC. Visit the website and the historic mural in the Humanities building to learn of the college's long history.
- ▶ Celebrate with KCKCC. Throughout 2022 and 2023, KCKCC will be hosting a variety of campus and community events as part of the college's centennial celebration.

To get involved, visit the website [kckcc.edu/centennial](https://kckcc.edu/centennial)



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KCKCC is an Equal Opportunity and  
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KCKCC held its first in-person commencement since 2019.



On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Kansas City Kansas Community College, it is my pleasure to share with you the college's 2021-2022 annual report.

The 2021-2022 academic year was one that began with uncertainty of what would come; but in the end, it gave us all the strength and fortitude to press forward.

The greatest lesson we learned over the past year was taught to us by our KCKCC students. Although each of them faced their own individual challenges, they leaned in, overcame and thrived despite the prevailing circumstances. Our students, our greatest teachers, demonstrated the true meaning of the power of intention and perseverance. We are grateful for the example they set for us all. Additionally, I am humbled and in awe of the courage, focus and character shown by our KCKCC president, administration, faculty and staff over this past year. The board extends both praise and gratitude for their responsiveness in times of uncertainty and for remaining strong and focused upon our mission.

With both the present and the future in mind, the board has worked closely along with the president to ensure that KCKCC programs, curriculum and offerings put our students in a position to experience a greater quality of life. More students than ever before will have a chance to obtain a high-quality education, better employment and greater opportunities in Wyandotte County.

Our board of trustees, students, president, administration, faculty and staff continue to rise to the occasion and do their part in moving KCKCC forward. Each of us will continue to contribute to our collective success, knowing that the most important work is the work we will do together.

There is an old African proverb that reminds me of KCKCC: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Our work together will make history at KCKCC and in Wyandotte County. We were born to take this journey, and I am honored to be taking it with you!

All the best for 2022- 2023!

**SINCERELY,**

Evelyn R. Criswell  
Chair, KCKCC Board of Trustees



President Greg Mosier and Representative Sharice Davids review the site for the future KCK Community Education, Health and Wellness center.



Dear Blue Devils and friends of KCKCC,

This last year has been another incredible year for Kansas City Kansas Community College! As shown on the cover of this year's annual report, KCKCC continues to create and implement transformational additions to an already great institution. These purposeful transformations, such as the beautiful Centennial Hall, KCKCC's new student housing facility, upgraded learning spaces, continued commitment to build the downtown Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center and new programs and services, positions KCKCC to continue to serve our students and our community in more significant ways, year after year, and as we approach our Centennial Celebration in 2023. With everyone's steadfast efforts, we are no longer Wyandotte County's "Best Kept Secret"!

Of course, this continued growth and evolution of our college could not be achieved without the sincere dedication and commitment of KCKCC's 700+ faculty and staff, and the persistence and indomitable spirit of our incredible students! As you read this year's annual report, you are experiencing a mere fraction of the countless accomplishments achieved by our Blue Devil family of students and employees.

During 2021-2022, as Kansas City Kansas Community College continued to serve our students and community amid the second year of the COVID-19 global pandemic, I could not be more proud and appreciative of the work everyone did to help ensure we did not just operate during these times, but excelled during these times while facing the ever-changing uncertainties that came our way.

I hope you enjoy reading about and seeing images of the remarkable accomplishments of our students who won national championships and awards in multiple disciplines across the college, students who excelled in their programs of study and participated in student clubs and other local efforts to give back to the community, and the many faculty and staff who went above and beyond to help our students obtain such accomplishments! With our enduring and dedicated service, KCKCC will continue to lift up the lives and futures of everyone we touch. Thank you!!

I could not be more proud to work with such incredible people and be a KCKCC Blue Devil!

**#KCKCCPROUD**

  
Dr. Greg Mosier  
President



# STUDENT SUCCESSES

Students sign the beam at the Topping Out ceremony for Centennial Hall.



## IMPROVING LEARNING THROUGH NEW BUILDING AND RENOVATION

Building on the college's history of meeting students' needs, KCKCC continues to improve college facilities with renovation and new construction. Improving the function and design of the spaces where students gather and learn is a strategic priority for the college. Centennial Hall, KCKCC's new student housing, opened in July 2022 and is the first new building construction in more than 20 years. The new student housing allows students to experience a state-of-the-art residential experience while earning a degree. The four-story facility was designed to inspire leaning and community building and allows 258 students to live on campus.

All suites have a shared living space, including a full kitchen with a stove, convection oven and refrigerator, along with private bedrooms for up to four students.

Other interior amenities include group study halls, study spaces, multipurpose spaces, a community laundry facility, a FEMA rated storm shelter and gaming room. An e-gaming area allows students to play and build a community with fellow residents. Outside amenities include an outdoor amphitheater, two outdoor patio/grill areas and a hammock grove which gives students an opportunity to relax.

"Students need learning and living spaces that inspire and foster collaboration," said Dr. Chris Meiers, vice-president of student affairs and enrollment management. "KCKCC is one of the few community colleges in Kansas who offer students the ability to build community by living in residence halls on campus."

Renovations to learning spaces continue with improved lighting, enhanced technology, new chemistry lab and new classroom furniture that is designed for mobility, so instructors can easily configure and reconfigure the rooms to support different methods of instruction and active learning strategies. The technology-enhanced classrooms also allow for Hyflex learning, giving students the opportunity to remote into a live class if necessary. Student study spaces also continue to be renovated with new lighting, furniture and décor. A new history mural was installed last year and a new math and sciences mural was painted this year. In addition, KCKCC was able to build a new advanced manufacturing lab at the Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center to support the advanced manufacturing and automation engineering programs. All of these improvements mean a better experience for KCKCC Students.



## NEW ART INSTALLATIONS

Several new art murals were unveiled during the 2021-22 academic year at KCKCC. Kansas City-based artist Vania Soto was featured in a KCUR story in early 2022 about the impact her art is making in the metropolitan area. Soto has completed several murals/art pieces at KCKCC including the mural on the former KCKCC sign along State Ave., which was completed in November 2021. IT-Ra Icons were on the main campus in April working on a mural in the mathematics hallway. This mural is inspired by the math and science programs with some anatomy from nursing and other inspirations.

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## KCKCC CULINARY ARTS STUDENT COLTON COY WINS A SILVER MEDAL IN COMMERCIAL BAKING AT THE NATIONAL SKILLSUSA CONFERENCE IN JUNE 2022

SkillsUSA is a career and technical education student organization in the United States geared toward those enrolled in programs for skilled, technical and service occupations. The organization serves more than 300,000 students and instructors each year at the high school and post-secondary level. It also gives industry leaders an opportunity to mentor and recruit students into positions that are high in demand. Students, who wish to compete in SkillsUSA, can do so at the local, state and national level. Categories range from culinary, building maintenance and automotive service technology to basic healthcare skills, collision repair technology, entrepreneurship and job skill demonstration. SkillsUSA gives students the opportunity to compete in real world, hands-on situations. First place winners at the state level advance to the national competition.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022



KCKCC celebrated its first in-person graduation in three years May 19 at the KCKCC Fieldhouse. Two ceremonies were held, one at 2 p.m. for the associate of applied science and certificate graduates and a second at 7 p.m. for associate of arts, associate of general studies and associate of science graduates. Mary Ricketts, chair of the KCKCC Foundation's Board of Directors, was the commencement speaker for both ceremonies.

## KCKCC WINS 15 AWARDS FROM *DOWNBEAT* MAGAZINE

Students from KCKCC's vocal and instrumental jazz ensembles received a combined 15 awards in *DownBeat* Magazine's 2022 Student Music Awards. *DownBeat* has the widest circulation of any jazz magazine in the United States and has been recognizing student achievement at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels with the Student Music Awards since 1978.





**Kansas City Kansas  
Community College**

DOWNBEAT 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**STUDENT**  
MUSIC AWARDS

## Congratulations to our students and faculty on earning 15 *DownBeat* Student Music Awards in 2022!

BLUES/POP/ROCK GROUP  
Community College Winner  
KCKCC Blue Devil Funk Band  
Directed by Justin Binek

BLUES/POP/ROCK SOLOIST  
Community College Winner  
Jessie Glennon, Electric Guitar

JAZZ SOLOIST  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Jaylen Ward, Drum Set

VOCAL JAZZ SOLOIST  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Christian Anderson

LARGE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
High School Honors Ensemble  
Outstanding Performance  
Iowa All-State Jazz Choir  
Various Iowa High Schools  
Guest Conductor: John Stafford II

LARGE VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
Directed by John Stafford II

ASYNCHRONOUS LARGE  
VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble  
Directed by John Stafford II

ASYNCHRONOUS LARGE  
VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Directed by John Stafford II  
Outstanding Soloist  
Maddie Huwe on "Magnolia"

BLUES/POP/ROCK SOLOIST  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Calvin Haverkamp, Electric Guitar

BLUES/POP/ROCK SOLOIST  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Jaylen Ward, Drum Set

BLUES/POP/ROCK GROUP  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Luck 20

BLUES/POP/ROCK GROUP  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Samuel Anderson Band

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION  
SMALL ENSEMBLE  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Henry Fears, "Frost"

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION  
SMALL ENSEMBLE  
Community College  
Outstanding Performance  
Jordan Faught, "Apology Peach"

ENGINEERED LIVE RECORDING  
Community College  
Outstanding Recording  
Joe Straws

### FULL-TIME FACULTY:

Dr. Justin Binek - [jbinek@kckcc.edu](mailto:jbinek@kckcc.edu), Music Theory and Jazz Studies | Dr. Ian Corbett - [corbetti@kckcc.edu](mailto:corbetti@kckcc.edu), Audio Engineering and Music Technology  
Jim Mair - [jmair@kckcc.edu](mailto:jmair@kckcc.edu), Instrumental Music | John Stafford II - [jstafford@kckcc.edu](mailto:jstafford@kckcc.edu), Choral Music

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KCKCC is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Educational Institution.

Photography by Hayley Hinton



## PIONEER CAREER CENTER STUDENT EARNS BRONZE MEDAL AT NATIONAL SKILLSUSA COMPETITION

Jacob Litewski, a student at the Pioneer Career Center, received a bronze medal in masonry at the 2021 SkillsUSA National Competition.

Litewski received a gold medal in the Kansas SkillsUSA Competition in April 2021, which qualified him to compete in the national competition.

## CULINARY ARTS TEAM COMPETES IN JCCC HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY COMPETITION

The KCKCC-TEC High School Culinary Arts team received a silver medal in the JCCC High School Culinary Competition February 11 at Johnson County Community College (JCCC). The team competed against 17 other high school teams from Kansas and Missouri and prepared rabbit rouladen, butter poached lobster tail and smoked s'mores. Team members included Diamond Clark, Madalynn McInnis, Carlos Escobedo, Jocelyn Espinoza, team manager Caitlyn Mayes and Culinary Arts Instructor Chef Justin Mitchell.

## KCKCC FACULTY/STUDENTS PERFORM AT CARNEGIE HALL

John Stafford, associate professor of music and director of Choral Activities at KCKCC, conducted Justin Binek's "Missa Lucis" at Carnegie Hall in June 2022. Binek is an assistant professor of music at KCKCC. Among the performers at the concert were several KCKCC students, the New England Symphonic Ensemble and other world-class soloists.



## PTK CHAPTER HOSTS PINK RIBBON DAY

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter hosted Pink Ribbon Day Oct. 19. An annual event since 2011, PTK officers organize the event each year to raise awareness about breast cancer and encourage both men and women to get checked regularly. They accepted monetary donations for pink merchandise and cookies as well as raffled off a blanket. All proceeds from the event are donated to the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

## GRADUATION & TRANSFER FAIR PREPARES STUDENTS FOR NEXT STEPS

Twice each year the college hosts a Graduation and Transfer Fair. This provides an opportunity for students who are close to graduating to learn about transfer opportunities at four-year colleges & universities. Among those participating were Nebraska Wesleyan, Wichita State, Fort Hays, Graceland, the University of Central Missouri and DeVry University, among others.





## PSYCHOLOGY AND UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS HOST RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Psychology Club and the Undergraduate Research Program hosted an Undergraduate Research Pre-Symposium in Psychology in October 2021. More than 50 members of the college community heard from Dr. Kym Bennett, director of the Undergraduate Psychology Program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Dr. Alexander Williams, director of the Undergraduate Psychology at the University of Kansas Edwards campus. KCKCC students also detailed the research work they would be completing with KCKCC faculty members. Those projects were presented at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in Spring 2022.



Following the symposium, several awards were given to students who participated. Award winners were - Courtney Zule, first place; Kallie Millison and Seth Walker, second place and Maria Del Socorro Morales, third place. Dr. Greg Mosier, KCKCC president, presented each of the students with their awards and cut the ribbon on the new plaque, which is next to the Psychology Bulletin Board across from Room 3410.

## BLUE'S KITCHEN RECEIVES HARVESTERS GRANT

Harvesters Community Food Network awarded Blue's Kitchen Cabinet a \$7,000 grant to build capacity to improve service to KCKCC students. This grant provided for the purchase of a commercial-grade refrigerator and freezer, additional shelves and carts for storing and transporting food and a new computerized pantry inventory system. KCKCC anticipates exciting changes to the student experience of Blue's Kitchen Cabinet thanks to Harvesters' partnership in this life sustaining work.

# CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

The KCKCC Construction Technology Program held an open house Nov. 18 to showcase its newly completed house. In attendance were KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier, board of trustee members, cabinet members, construction company representatives, KCKCC-TEC staff and Construction Technology Instructor Don Balluch and his students. In the program, students learn to build an entire house and contribute to most of the work using the skills they learn in the program. The house sits next to another house completed by the program and one that is currently being built.



## MUSIC STUDENTS AND FACULTY ATTENDS JAZZ EDUCATION NETWORK CONFERENCE

Professors John Stafford and Justin Binek, along with 30 students from the KCKCC Music Department, attended and performed at the 2022 Jazz Education Network conference in Dallas, Texas. During the conference, the Fusion Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the Blue Devil Funk Band performed as part of the JENerations Jazz Festival, and the Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble performed a full concert on the main vocal stage. Binek performed as a guest artist on both voice and piano with Hutchinson Community College's Badinage Vocal Jazz Ensemble and performed on both piano and voice with the MERGE Jazz Collective featuring Randy Brecker (GRAMMY-winning jazz trumpeter and composer). Stafford led a panel discussion, which included Triniece Robinson-Martin, Anchor Music Publishing co-owner Jessica Falker and UMKC Jazz Trombone Professor Marcus Lewis.

## FIRST GENERATION STUDENT DAY

The college celebrated First Generation Student Day Nov. 8, celebrating those students who are the first in their family to attend or complete college. Colleges and universities are encouraged to celebrate the success of first-generation students, staff and faculty each November. The annual celebration is held on the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965.



KANSAS CITY KANSAS  
COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION, HEALTH  
& WELLNESS CENTER

COMMUNITY



## CENTENNIAL PATH CAMPAIGN PREPARES THE WAY FOR NEW DOWNTOWN CENTER

The college and its partners continue to move forward on plans to build the Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center. The year was marked with two large financial contributions toward the center's construction. Project partners include the YMCA of Greater Kansas City; Wyandot Behavioral Health Network; Swope Health; CommunityAmerica Credit Union; and Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools.

In fall 2021, the Sunderland Foundation awarded KCKCC and its partners \$10 million toward the center's construction. A few months later in April 2022, the college received another \$12 million in state appropriations.

The 130,000 square-foot facility will serve as an anchor institution for Kansas City, Kansas, providing social and economic mobility for its residents and to be a national model for future educational institutions across the country.

At the heart of this project is the belief that a zip code should not determine a person's level of success, health or social wellbeing. As of 2018, more than 18,000 people work full-time, but live-in poverty within the city's downtown core. Only 10 percent have a two-year degree and almost 60 percent of adults have less than a high school diploma. In answer to this need, the center will not only house educational programs such as English as a Second Language, GED, general education transfer, biosciences and technical education programs that lead to high-wage, high-demand careers, but will also offer multiple youth activities, healthy living programs, mental and behavioral health counseling, direct health care services and other support services such as youth enrichment and leadership programs, among others.

## KCKCC EXPANDS OFFERINGS WITH AMAZON AS AN EDUCATION PARTNER FOR CAREER CHOICE PROGRAM

The college announced it is expanding its involvement with Amazon's Career Choice program, providing Amazon's hourly employees access to any credit-bearing certificate or degree at KCKCC. This upskilling program is designed to help frontline employees grow their skills for career success at Amazon or elsewhere. Amazon's Career Choice program is an education benefit that empowers employees and meets individual learners where they are on their education journey through a variety of education and upskilling opportunities.

Employees can take classes online, in-person at a local campus or on-site in one of the more than 110 Career Choice classrooms located in fulfillment centers in 37 states. KCKCC was chosen through a rigorous third-party educator selection process with Amazon's Career Choice program featuring partners that are focused on helping employees through their education programs, assisting them with job placements and overall offering education that leads to career success.



## NEW HISTORICAL MURAL UNVEILED

KCKCC unveiled a new historical mural in August 2021, a mural that honors both KCKCC and Wyandotte County history. The mission of the project was to create a dynamic digital mural featuring a visual timeline of KCKCC's centennial history, alongside the regional and cultural histories of Wyandotte County.

The 100x8 foot mural, which is in the hallway with the Business Office, Human Resources and the Office of the President, features more than 1,000 images as well as two touch screen kiosks that capture the past, present and future of KCKCC and the surrounding community. The mural is also part of KCKCC's "Ambient Learning" project, meant to modernize and beautify select high-trafficked areas at KCKCC. To give community members an opportunity to participate in the development of the mural, a Historical Advisor Committee was formed.

Co-chairs of the mural project were Shai Perry, coordinator of the KCKCC Art Gallery; Lydia Knopp, creative director of Tico Productions and Dr. Curtis Smith, retired KCKCC faculty member.



## 2022 HALL OF FAME HONOREES

The college recognized its 2022 class of inductees into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame on April 22. Those honored include Irene Caudillo, Benoyd "Butch" Myers Ellison, Dr. Ben Hayes and Senator Pat Pettey. The 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.

## AUTO COLLISION STUDENTS REPAIR JEEP WRANGLER OF U.S. MARINE VETERAN

U.S. Marine veteran Justin Murray brought a Jeep Wrangler to KCKCC's Automotive Collision Repair program in Fall 2021 for repairs to the front left suspension after an accident. The program was able to save Murray roughly \$5,000 in repair costs, and students used it as a class project. The repair process and KCKCC's Automotive Collision Repair Program were featured on KMBC Channel 9 news as a Giving Tuesday segment.



## VISIT TO WASHINGTON D.C.

President Dr. Greg Mosier and Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach Dr. Tami Bartunek met with Sen. Jerry Moran, Sen. Roger Marshall and Rep. Sharice Davids' staff in Fall 2022 while in Washington D.C. They spoke to the elected officials about the current activities and projects happening at KCKCC as well as discussing future plans.



## KCKCC HELPS PREPARE FOR WYCO BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

The KCKCC Marketing Team put together hygiene bags in Summer 2021 that were distributed at the Wyandotte County Back to School Fair. At the 2021 event, more than 2,000 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to students in the Kansas City, Kansas School District. School immunizations, sports physicals and other services were also offered to families.

## TECHNICAL CAREER FAIR

The HireBlue Technical/Industrial Career Fair April 7 at KCKCC-TEC showcased more than two dozen employers, many accepting job applications and conducting interviews on site. Attendees were encouraged to bring an updated resume and dress professionally as they were looking for a new career.





## SPENCER C. DUNCAN MAKE IT COUNT FOUNDATION PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP FOR VETERANS

The Spencer C. Duncan Make It Count Foundation donated \$10,000 in fall 2021 to be used to help veteran students purchase tool kits for their technical programs. More than 50 percent of KCKCC's technical programs require the purchase of a toolkit. The toolkits have the necessary tools for each specific program and are the students to keep after they graduate and enter their career field. Currently, KCKCC has approximately 80 military-affiliated students in certificate programs. The scholarship will help more than 40 students with the purchase of these toolkits. The Spencer C. Duncan Make It Count Foundation was founded in honor of Army Specialist Spencer C. Duncan who was killed in action in 2011. It is the foundation's desire to honor that spirit of sacrifice and give back to veterans and their families. Donations are used for scholarships, entrepreneurship programs, seminars and meeting the physical needs of veterans.



## NEW KCKCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP CREATED

A new scholarship is available for Construction Technology students thanks to the support of Tom and Mary Bickimer, owners of Bickimer Homes. In addition to their business, they have a family foundation, Promise of Learning Foundation, which they use to establish scholarships at area educational institutions. The Bickimer Family Scholarship will be funded through an annual leadership gift. The Bickimer's goal with the scholarship is to help students pursuing a GED as well as other non-traditional students return to higher education. Students are eligible for the scholarship if they are enrolled in the Construction Technology program as determined by a KCKCC degree plan, enrolled full time, maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 and are a Kansas resident. Preference will be given to nontraditional students who are returning to higher education or students with a GED, and the scholarship is renewable if established criteria are met. The award can also be used for educational expenses.

## KCKCC NURSING RECEIVES GRANT

The KCKCC Nursing program received its full request for Kansas Nursing Initiative Grant funds for the next fiscal year. This \$88,042 grant, the largest awarded to a Kansas community college, will provide ongoing faculty development with a national consultant and through online resources, salary support for a new faculty member, stipends for faculty to provide student mentoring sessions, a new OB/newborn simulation mannequin and consumable lab supplies.



## KCKCC FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO MAKE AN IMPACT

It has been a busy year for the KCKCC Foundation. In September 2021, KCKCC Alumna Laura Schmidt, C'83, visited two business classes as a guest speaker. Laura is self-employed and Founder/Chief Positive Person of Notes to Self Socks, a woman-owned, made in the USA brand based in Prairie Village, Kansas that prints positive affirmations on socks and other clothing items. Laura continues to partner with KCKCC to employ students looking for full-time and part-time work at her company.

Later in the fall 2021 semester, the KCKCC Foundation co-hosted the 3rd President's Leadership Circle Breakfast with KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier. The President's Leadership Circle (PLC) is a major donor membership program that represents a diverse group of dedicated community members. The event was an opportunity for KCKCC to talk with donors, potential donors and elected officials about the current and upcoming projects at KCKCC. It also served as a way to bring awareness of the foundation's mission to support students through scholarship, program and capital resources. During his presentation, Mosier spoke about the progress of the KCK Community Education, Health and Wellness Center, Centennial Hall and a potential future project in Leavenworth as well as other college accomplishments. In their involvement, PLC members provide vital leadership through community advisory roles, generous financial support, public advocacy and longstanding friendships.

## KCKCC HOSTS EVENT AT THE LEGENDS OUTLETS

KCKCC hosted an "Experience KCKCC" event at the Legends Outlets in June 2022. Shoppers were able to stop by the college's booth to get more information about KCKCC, find out how to enroll, apply for admission or enter to win some fantastic giveaways. One attendee was chosen to receive a \$500 scholarship from the KCKCC Foundation. Staff from marketing, admissions, the Student Success Center and financial aid were on hand to answer questions. KCMI the Spot and Mix 93.3 had remotes the same day.



## 97TH-ANNUAL CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

KCKCC celebrated its oldest tradition, the 97th annual Candle Lighting Ceremony, Dec. 1 in the KCKCC Performing Arts Center. Due to COVID-19, this year's event was presented in a hybrid format. Among the performers were the KCKCC Jazz Band, The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the Funk Band as well as video showcases from the KCKCC Pioneer Career Center and KCKCC-TEC. This year's keynote speaker was Ismael Garcia, a graduate of KCKCC. KCKCC faculty members started the candle lighting ceremony in December 1924, the year after KCKCC was founded. It remains the oldest tradition at KCKCC, as well as the county, and serves as an opportunity for students, staff and faculty to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. During that first year, a collection was taken to fund student scholarships, and this continues to be a part of the holiday event.

## KCKCC EARNS GRANTS FROM KANSAS LEADERSHIP CENTER

KCKCC Student Activities partnered with the Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) and NBC Community Development to host three Kansas Beats the Virus projects at KCKCC. Each project received a \$2,000 grant from KLC. The first project partnered with campus health to host a vaccine clinic. Everyone who received a vaccine received a \$25 gift card to the KCKCC Bookstore. The second project was a partnership between campus health and the Counseling & Advocacy Center to give out educational materials including vaccine myths/facts, vaccine clinic locations and promotion of a vaccine panel discussion. The final project was with the KCKCC Bookstore to provide vaccine myths/facts information to students. Everyone who received the vaccine information received a \$25 gift certificate to the KCKCC Bookstore.

## 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

KCKCC and its Department of Military and Veteran Services hosted a flag raising ceremony Sept. 10 to remember the victims of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. In addition to the ceremony, the “Star Spangled Banner” was played, and remarks were given by KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier.



## NEW WELDING PROGRAM AT LANSING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

KCKCC hosted the Welding Technology Program Kickoff Event Aug. 5 at the Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF). The event was held in the newly developed welding lab, where the first cohort of students started on their path to earn a welding certification in Fall 2021. Several business and organizational partners made this program possible including American Dish Service, American Welding Society, Automatic Systems, Inc., Bank of America Kansas City, Evergy, Great Western Manufacturing, Inc., Henke Manufacturing Corporation, JE DUNN, Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Department of Corrections, KANSASWORKS State Board, Lansing Correctional Facility, TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers, Village Initiative Family Life Resource Center, WEBCO Manufacturing, Inc., Workforce Partnership of Leavenworth Kansas and Zephyr, Inc. The first group of students graduated with their welding certificate in May 2022.

## HALLOWEEN COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The KCKCC Student Senate, student organizations and community partners held its annual Halloween celebration for the community Oct. 30 in the parking lot of KCKCC-TEC. This year’s Kids Spooktacular Movie night featured carnival rides, inflatables, a trunk-or-treat, bounce house and food trucks before the showing of “Trolls World Tour” on three giant movie screens. The event was free and open to the community.





# COLLEGE SUCCESSES

KCKCC softball won the Plains District 8 Championship to advance to the NJCAA Division II Championship Tournament.

# ACCREDITATION VISIT COMPLETED

After 18 months of preparation, KCKCC hosted its HLC site visit March 28 and 29. During that time, members of the HLC visit team toured the campus and met with members of the KCKCC community in a series of open forums and individual group meetings. There were good discussions during all of these sessions with faculty, staff and students sharing information about what has been accomplished since the last visit in 2020. In late April 2022, KCKCC received a draft copy of the team report from the comprehensive visit. Once finalized it will be submitted to the Institutional Actions Council Hearing Committee and then to the HLC's Board of Trustees. In the draft report, the site team found KCKCC met all criteria for accreditation and recommended KCKCC be removed from probation. A final decision from the HLC Board of Trustees is anticipated November 2022.

## KANSAS CITY FAME CHAPTER PARTNERS WITH KCKCC TO FILL MANUFACTURING LABOR SHORTAGE

KCKCC entered into a new partnership with the Kansas City Federation of Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) chapter to provide advanced manufacturing technician training. KCKCC students will spend two days a week at the college and the other three days as paid interns at local manufacturers. This is an “earn while you learn” program and classes begin fall 2022. KCKCC-TEC will provide the classroom and hands-on technical training in multiple manufacturing disciplines including electronics, mechanical, hydraulics and automation. In addition, Advance Manufacturing Technician students will be trained in formal business tools such as developing a safety culture, lean manufacturing and workplace organization while learning professional behaviors like attendance, teamwork, communication and initiative.

The FAME program was developed by Toyota. Currently, there are 32 FAME chapters in 14 states, and participation continues to grow. Local manufacturing company leaders – Amsted Rail, Best Harvest Bakeries, Brill Inc., Catalent, Empire Candle, INX International INK Co., TT Electronics and CH Guenther & Son dba Williams Foods, established the first FAME chapter in Kansas – the Kansas City FAME chapter. Supported by the Kansas Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Kansas Manufacturing Solutions, Wyandotte Economic Development Council and Workforce Partnership, the Kansas City FAME chapter expects to grow its membership base of manufacturing companies. The FAME program serves to solve a local skilled trades shortage while providing a pathway for people to earn an associate of applied science degree debt-free.





## **BINEK NAMED QUARTERFINALIST FOR 2022 GRAMMY MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD**

Justin Binek, assistant professor of music at Kansas City Kansas Community College, was one of 219 quarterfinalists for the 2022 Grammy Music Educator Award. Presented in partnership with the Recording Academy each year during Grammy Week, the Music Educator Award was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college) who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education. The award is open to current music teachers in the United States who can be nominated by students, parents, friends, colleagues, community members, school deans and administrators. Teachers are also able to nominate themselves. Once nominated, educators are notified and invited to fill out an application. The quarterfinalists, along with 189 legacy applicants from 2021, are in the running for the 2022 award.

## **ABEL ELECTED TO SERVE ON NAVPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wade Abel, director of KCKCC's Military and Veteran Student Services, was elected to serve on the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators (NAVPA) Board of Directors as the Region VI Delegate. NAVPA is a recognized organization of program administrators who work for universities and colleges, trade schools and apprenticeship programs across the nation to ensure student veterans are provided the best service and most accurate access to their GI Bill benefits. In the role of Region VI Delegate, Abel will be in direct contact with federal agencies such as U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Department of Education and the Department of Defense to promote the improvement of all educational opportunities for active-duty personnel, veterans and their dependents.

## **BARTUNEK SELECTED FOR 2022 LEADERSHIP KANSAS CLASS**

Dr. Tami Bartunek, vice president of strategic initiatives and outreach, was selected as a member of the Kansas Chamber's 2022 Leadership Kansas class. As one of the oldest and most prestigious statewide leadership programs in the country, Leadership Kansas, is focused on developing and motivating Kansas leaders from across the state. Leadership Kansas received more than 600 nominations for the 2022 program. After a thorough and thoughtful application and selection process, the selection committee chose 40 individuals for the 2022 class. The committee and the Leadership Kansas Board of Advisors make every effort to ensure the class reflects the state in regard to geographic, ethnic, occupational and gender diversity.





## KCKCC MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVE THREE 2021 MEDALLION AWARDS

The KCKCC Marketing and Communications staff received several awards in the 2021 District 5 National Council of Marketing & Public Relations Medallion Awards. KCKCC received a Gold Medallion in the Original Photography (Manipulated) category for a social media graphic created to recognize the KCKCC Women's Basketball Team during its 2021 National Tournament run. KCKCC also received a Silver and Bronze Medallion in the microsite/landing page category. These were for the KCKCC Foundation microsite and the Get Ready (to enroll) landing page. NCMPR is the only organization of its kind that exclusively represents marketing and public relations professionals at community and technical colleges.

## KCKCC HOSTS ANNUAL EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION & RETIREMENT EVENT

KCKCC hosted the Employee Recognition and Retirement Ceremony May 6 at the Dr. Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center. Employees who celebrated milestone anniversaries (five, 10, 15, 20-year, etc.) were recognized along with retirees and those employees who earned awards, degrees or other academic achievements during the 2021-22 academic year. Two employees - Valdenia Winn, professor and Bill McGivern, facility services, were both honored for 50 years of service to the college. In addition, the college recognized Victor Ammons, associate professor, as the winner of the Henry Louis Excellence in Teaching Award and Adoria Wilson, administrative assistant in the Learning Commons, as the winner of the Outstanding Employee of the Year Award.



## MOSIER RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD FOR SUPPORT OF GUARDSMAN AND RESERVIST EMPLOYEES

President Dr. Greg Mosier was recently awarded the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a program of the United States Department of Defense. The Patriot Award recognizes supervisors, who are nominated by a Guardsman or Reservist employee, for support provided directly to the nominator. The award reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide range of measures, including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence if needed. Nominations are then submitted to the ESGR State Committee in the nominee's state for selection.



## KCKCC ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The 2016 NJCAA DII National Women's Basketball Champions were inducted to the KCKCC Athletics Hall of Fame in November 2021. The team was recognized as part of the annual KCKCC Keith Lindsey Basketball Classic.

## THREE BLUE DEVILS NAMED TO ALL-AMERICAN TEAMS

KCKCC had three Blue Devils who were named to All-America Teams this year. Cassidy Crist, a member of the KCKCC volleyball team, was named an NJCAA DII Second Team All-American, which is her second straight All-American Award. She was first named a honorable mention in 2020. Crist had an outstanding season for the Blue Devils as she recorded 464 kills and a 4.38 kills per set average, while also totaling 246 digs and 61 total blocks. Her 4.38 kills per set ranked ninth in the nation.

KCKCC softball's Bradi Basler and McKenna Lester were also named NJCAA DII All-Americans. Basler was named to the first team, while Lester was named to the third team. Basler was third on the team with a .412 batting average and had a team high 17 home runs along with 79 runs scored, 79 RBI, 16 doubles and five triples on the season. She also led the pitching staff with 26 wins, a 2.95 ERA and 226 strikeouts in 235 innings pitched.

Lester was the team's best hitter with a .459 batting average, while adding 12 home runs and a team leading 85 RBI, along with 48 runs scored and 89 hits. She also managed to record 25 doubles and six triples.

## KCKCC SOFTBALL'S NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BERTH ENDS SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR KCKCC ATHLETICS

KCKCC Athletics capped off its year with a national tournament appearance by the KCKCC softball team, the first since 2004. The Blue Devils advanced to the NJCAA Division II Championship Tournament by beating Hesston College and taking the Plains District 8 Championship, where Coach Lana Ross also got her 700th career win. KCKCC earned the No. 9 seed in the national tournament, but despite early wins, lost to Northwest Mississippi. The Blue Devils finished 45-16 overall.

Notable season statistics for the softball team included McKenzie Ogden tying the program record for most career triples with 11 and Savannah Maynard setting the record for most career doubles with 47. Bradi Basler and Breanna Droge also combined for 44 wins and 334 strikeouts.

The softball team was not the only exciting storyline from the year. Other highlights from the 2021-22 academic year included the KCKCC women's basketball team upsetting No. 1 Johnson County 61-59, giving the cross-town rivals their first loss of the season. Both the KCKCC volleyball and baseball teams were also one win away from earning their own national tournament berths. The volleyball team could not hold on against No. 1 and unbeaten Cowley, losing to the Tigers in the Plains A championship game. After a comeback win against Johnson County in the elimination bracket of the district championship, the baseball team also fell to Cowley in the championship game.

# 97 BLUE DEVIL STUDENT-ATHLETES RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

During the KCKCC men's and women's basketball games February 9, the KCKCC Athletic Department recognized 97 Blue Devil student-athletes who have achieved academic success.

The award is given each year to student-athletes who earned at least a 3.0 grade point average during the fall semester.

The athletes recognized for their academic achievement were:

**Baseball** - Bryant Banks, Brendyn Bard, Logan Barnard, Will Bartkoski, Ethan Beagle, Jacob Becker, Parker Bosserman, Matthew Buffington, Cooper Carlgren, Alexander Carrillo, Hunter Cashero, Holden Fields, Riley Girod, William Hann, Jaylon Johnson, Camden Karlin, Payton McHarg, John Moritz, Brett Owen, Arlen Peters, Joseph

Reyes, Pablo Sanchez, Kandon Sheley, William Simmons, Nathaniel Ugliodoro, Brayden Vawter, Jase Woita, Brock Stewart, Eli Tormes, Caleb Troutt and Chase Terrell.

**Men's Basketball** - Shayon Janloo and Tomas Teklegergis.

**Women's Basketball** - Ikia Elam, Jennifer Guilbeaux and Faith Putz.

**Golf** - Colby Unruh, Carson Towey and Jacob Hall.

**Men's Soccer** - Felipe Acherboim, Guilherme Capaldi, Davit Chinchaladze, Max Cooley, Matheus Cunha, Kaelan Debbage, Pedro Faria, Jakob Jenson, Yushann Malcolm, Andreas Moldovan, Bilal Olayiwola, Aske Ruus, Marco Salgado, Samuel Salgado, Dimitry Tchantcheu, Bawi Thang, Mattia Vecchi, Christian Villegas and Jessy Zieta.

**Women's Soccer** - Jasmine Alcantara, Samantha Calderon, Zoe Ganley, Aislinn Harrison, Rosanna Kasemier, Azucena Lopez, Katharina Oelschlager, Paige Proper, Grace Runyan, Kaylee Shaw, Kayleigh Sumler and Leah Williams.

**Softball** - Emily Ashford, Bradi Basler, Kaitlyn Bradbury, Emma de Brouwer, Breanna Droge, Stella Harber, Raine Hester, McKenna Lester, Savannah Maynard, Ruby Nola, McKenzie Ogden, Madison Pope, Samantha Reynolds, Lauren Salpas, Maya Sheldon and Trinity Tauer.

**Volleyball** - Halle Burress, Jessy Canales Guzman, Ainsley Corwine, Sydney Hefty, Kelcey Hund, Rachel Kittell, Carlee Lill, Abigail Marcouillier, Jessica Rodrigues, Jo-Annie Perez and Jessica Gray.





## GRANT AWARDED BUILDING ENGINEERING AND MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY

Remodeling KC, an affiliate of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, presented Shawn McGivern, assistant professor in building engineering and maintenance technology, a \$5,000 grant in February 2022. The grant comes from the KC Futures Fund, which has distributed more than \$78,000 to local construction trades programs and non-profit organizations that have a construction-related focus over the last five years. KCKCC's building engineering and maintenance program has been one of the largest recipients of this grant funding over the last few years. Funds from the grant will be used to construct a house built with flaws that students will have to identify and correct.

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PLANNING BEGINS

In 2023 KCKCC will celebrate 100 years of serving the higher educational needs of Wyandotte and surrounding counties. One of the first centennial events the college hosted was the grand opening of Centennial Hall, KCKCC's new student housing, in Summer 2022. Additional activities will include community and campus celebrations as well as commemorative banners, athletic uniforms and other items to mark the historic milestone. The college is also collecting stories to include in its 100 Stories campaign. KCKCC has had a great impact on the lives of many people, and the personal 100 stories shared by alumni, faculty, staff and community members will help tell the college's story.



## TWO FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE FALL 2021 TEACH AWARD

Faculty members Sabrina Goss and Douglas Hansen were presented with the Fall 2021 TEACH Award in May 2022. The TEACH (Teaching Excellence and Colleague Honor) Award is co-sponsored by Faculty Senate and the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). It is a peer nominated and peer reviewed award, given to both a full-time and an adjunct faculty member who make a difference in the lives of their students each semester. Their names are also engraved on a plaque in the CTE office.



## **WILSON RECEIVES 2022 KCKCC NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARD**

An'Drienna Wilson, records coordinator in the Registrar and Records Office, is KCKCC's 2022 recipient of the annual NISOD Excellence Award. NISOD's Excellence Awards recognize men and women each year who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. Established in 1991, the program has honored more than 30,000 recipients, allowing member colleges to recognize those who go above and beyond every day. Wilson, who has been with the college for 10 years, was nominated by Theresa Holliday, registrar at KCKCC.



## **CENTER FOR EQUITY, INCLUSION AND MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT**

At the beginning of the 2021-22 academic year, KCKCC expanded the Intercultural Center to the Center for Equity, Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement (CEIM). The center's goal is to create a college climate that demonstrates KCKCC's commitment to civil rights, social justice, diversity, equity and inclusion by integrating equity, inclusion and diversity into all aspects of the KCKCC operations.

## **HUGGINS, COURTNEY RECOGNIZED WITH LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

Teri Huggins, associate professor of business, received the 2021 KCWE Leadership award for "Outstanding New Teacher." The award recognizes a faculty member with no more than five years teaching experience that has demonstrated outstanding teaching abilities. Dr. Sue Courtney, adjunct professor of business, received the 2021 KCWE Leadership award for "Excellence in Teaching." This award recognizes a faculty member who demonstrated outstanding teaching abilities and dedicated commitment to career and technical education.

## **BLUE DEVIL 5K AND WELLNESS INITIATIVES**

Even with a few alterations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the KCKCC Wellness & Fitness Center was busy as usual during the 2021-22 academic year. In addition to the 2021 Turkey Games and 30 Miles in 30 days program, the center welcomed back the annual Blue Devil 5K. The course winds through the KCKCC campus on roads, walking paths and sidewalks. The center also celebrated its 30th anniversary in April, hosting an Open House for faculty, staff, students and community members. Those who attended were invited to participate in a fitness workshop or walk 30 laps on the center's indoor track.

## KCKCC HOSTS SEN. MORAN AND SPARKS MEETING

KCKCC hosted the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) taskforce meeting Nov. 15 at the Dr. Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center where KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier and other downtown center partners provided testimony on the project. In addition, Lt. Gov. David Toland met with Mosier and others to talk about the downtown project and its future impact. Later that day, the college welcomed U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran who toured KCKCC-TEC and visited several programs while on campus.



## HUGGINS RECOGNIZED BY ACBSP

Teri Huggins, associate professor of business, was awarded the 2021 ACBSP (Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs) Teaching Excellence Award for Region 5. Founded in 1988, the ACBSP is a world-wide accrediting organization for business education programs, and the first organization to offer accreditation to all levels of collegiate business educational degree programs.

## STAFFORD DIRECTS IOWA ALL-STATE JAZZ CHOIR

In July 2021 Professor John Stafford, director of choral activities at KCKCC, directed the Iowa All-State Jazz Choir at the Iowa Choral Directors Association Summer Conference at Central College. This ensemble included the 20 best Iowa jazz singers in the state.

## ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION TO OFFER GED PROGRAM AT LCF

KCKCC's Adult and Continuing Education division entered into an agreement with the Kansas Department of Corrections to deliver GED/Adult Basic Education (ABE) services at the Lansing Correctional Facility in fall 2021. Classes started in late fall at the facility.



## PIIONEER CAREER CENTER STAYS ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY

KCKCC-PCC had a busy 2021-22 academic year. Construction students renovated a room at the Leavenworth campus including measuring, cutting and placing new ceiling tiles. Carpet was replaced and the lockers used by the culinary arts students were relocated in the building to bring in new seating areas. Construction students also helped renovate a house for Catholic Charities. Other community events KCKCC-PCC participated in throughout the year included hosting a Halloween Drive-Thru event with more than 600 community members attending, Cookies with Santa, hosting the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce Coffee and an Easter Drive-Thru event. Students, faculty and staff participated in the Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade and the Leavenworth St. Patrick's Day Parade, and KCKCC-PCC was the featured sponsor of the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce annual banquet. During the holidays, KCKCC-PCC adopted a local family, and later in the year, presented the United Way of Leavenworth with a check for \$1,000, which was raised through a series of fundraisers.

Among the student accomplishments was Christian Lake, an electrical student at PCC, receiving the Kansas Promise Scholarship, a last dollar program for Kansas high school graduates and students 21-years and older who complete a certificate or two-year program in a specific career and technical education field. Jacob Litewski, a construction technology student, was recognized for earning a SkillsUSA bronze medal for his construction of a wall with multiple types of brick bonding during the SkillsUSA Nationals Championship for Masonry.



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**KCKCC Foundation**

The Kansas City Kansas Community College Foundation supports the overall mission of KCKCC to inspire individuals and enrich our community one student at a time, and its strategic goals and initiatives.

