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Kansas City Kansas Community College 7250 State Ave. Kansas City, KS 66112 913-334-1100

> Dr. Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center 6565 State Ave. Kansas City, KS 66102 913-288-7800

Pioneer Career Center 1901 Spruce St. Leavenworth, KS 66048 913-288-7750

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Published by Kansas City Kansas Community College Editor

Kris Green

Photography

Matthew Fowler, Kelly Rogge and Charlie Martin

Writers

Kelly Rogge and Charlie Martin

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INSUUE





















The celebration of KCKCC's Centennial Anniversary was a momentous occasion, marking a century of academic excellence and community spirit. It was a testament to the commitment of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members.

I am appreciative and humbled by the dedication, courage and leadership shown by our KCKCC president, administration, faculty and staff over this past year. The board extends praise and gratitude for their hard work and diligence in support of our mission.



As we focus on laying a strong foundation for the next 100 years, the board has worked in close collaboration with the president to ensure that KCKCC programs, curriculum and facilities offer ample opportunities for students to achieve their goals. More students than ever before will be able to access a high-quality education and better employment opportunities in Wyandotte County.

The annual report shares so many incredible success stories! I am so proud of all the employee and student achievements, awards and honors, and newly developed workforce partnerships that will benefit our students and community for many years to come.

It gives the Board of Trustees immense pleasure to share this past year's accomplishments, and we look forward to continued progress that will further elevate students, the community and the economic prosperity of Wyandotte County.

SINCERELY,

Brad Isnard Chair, KCKCC Board of Trustees



As I reflect on this past year, the college's Centennial Anniversary, I continue to be amazed and thankful for the incredible work done by Kansas City Kansas Community College faculty, staff and students! As the academic year ended, KCKCC celebrated with graduates at the commencement ceremony at Children's Mercy Park. As shown on the cover, it was a great day to be a Blue Devil!

This year, KCKCC celebrated turning 100 years old with faculty, staff, students and community members. I appreciate seeing so many of you at multiple celebrations throughout the year. The celebrations started with birthday celebrations at each KCKCC location. Throughout the year, new stories were posted on the website until the college reached 100 stories describing the college's tremendous



impact on faculty, students, alumni and partners. In the spring, the college hosted two events to thank community members for supporting KCKCC over these years. In March, the Celebration of the Century thanked community leaders and partners for their longstanding support. In April, more than 700 community members came out to celebrate at the Blue Devil Block Party! It was a great day and will now become an annual tradition.

In September, the college broke ground on the transformational Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center. More than 120 college and community members joined in the celebration with KCKCC, Swope Health and CommunityAmerica Credit Union. Demolition and site preparation are underway with the goal of going vertical in construction this fall. The building is on track to be completed in Spring 2026.

As you read this year's annual report, you are experiencing a mere fraction of the countless accomplishments our Blue Devil family of students and employees achieved. I hope you share my excitement at the outstanding achievements of our remarkable students through music, athletics, research and, of course, academic achievements.

Our dedicated faculty and staff continue to strategically prepare for the future. With these focused efforts, KCKCC continues to play a more significant role in the communities we serve in Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties. The considerable efforts put forward this last year will help prepare KCKCC and our communities for many great successes throughout the next 100 years.

I hope you enjoy reading about and seeing images of the remarkable accomplishments highlighted in this report. KCKCC has excellent faculty, staff and students. With our persevering and dedicated service, we 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!

SINCERELY.

Dr. Greg Mosier President

KCKCC students celebrate commencement at Children's Mercy Park. State Care Success KANSAS CITY KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



GRADUATION

graduate strolled down the pitch sideline to the stage, walking proudly forward to shake the president's hand before breaking into a big smile and peace signs while the crowd cheered. Thousands of KCKCC students and audience members celebrated at the first commencement ceremony at Children's Mercy Park. As the college commemorated its centennial anniversary, the new location made the day even more special for families and graduates.

"It is a matter of space," said Kris Green, Chief Marketing and Institutional Image Officer. "Even with two ceremonies in the KCKCC Field House, the ceremony no longer could contain the students and those celebrating their graduation. We have so much more room for others to attend the celebration of this important achievement."

Alumna Dr. Melanie Simpson, a graduate of the nursing program, spoke to the graduates. "Deciding to go to KCKCC for a nursing degree completely changed the trajectory of my life. Just two and a half years later, I had education, experience and a degree, and suddenly I was in demand with no additional debt."

After earning her degree at KCKCC, she earned a bachelor's degree in both nursing and human relations, a master's degree in health services with a focus in community health and a doctoral degree in health administration.

KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier challenged graduates to help others in his closing remarks. "I leave you with one final challenge that was given to me, approximately 30 years ago, by my martial arts sensei. His philosophy was simple — for every person who helps you in life, it is your responsibility to help 10 others. Imagine as those 10 each help 10 others, and so on and so on, quickly there is a community lifting each other up."

KCKCC also celebrated students who graduated from the college's two primary GED programs. At the KCKCC Main Campus, 35 students received their GED during a graduation ceremony in May. To earn a GED, students must pass several exams with a score of at least 145 on each one. Subjects tested include mathematics, social studies, science and language arts.

KCKCC GED students graduated in August 2023 from the University of Kansas Health System's (UKHS) Because We

Care GED Program. The program helps UKHS employees earn their GED while they are working. Since the program began almost five years ago, 27 graduates have completed the program. This year the UKHS Hall of Fame recognized KCKCC as a Partner of Excellence at a dinner on June 5.

KCKCC partnered with businesses to offer the Welding Technology program at the Lansing Correctional Facility (LCF). Students celebrated completing the program with a commencement ceremony in May. Several business and organizational partners made this program possible, including JE Dunn, Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas Department of Corrections, Kansas Department of Education, Lansing Correctional Facility, SWAGG Inc., TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers, Vera Institute of Justice, Village Initiative, Workforce Partnership -Leavenworth Kansas and Zephyr, Inc.

Congratulations to all the graduates and GED students for achieving important milestones in their educational iourney! 🕊









Highlights >>

Paint Throwdown

The KCKCC Art Gallery hosted the Paint Throwdown to kick off the fall 2023 semester. The event gave students, staff, faculty and community members the opportunity to connect with local



artists and vendors while learning about different art forms.

Welcome Back Bash

KCKCC held its annual Welcome Back Bash and Club Rush in August. Students, faculty and staff were invited to enjoy music, food and much more.



Students Participate in Alcohol Education

Centennial Hall hosted an alcohol education event for its residents. Trooper Baylark and Trooper Aubrey from Troop A of the Kansas Highway Patrol brought "drunk goggles" and tricycles for students to test their skills. There was also pizza, "mocktails" and other activities for students.



300 Attend the First Back to School Fair

More than 300 students attended KCKCC's first-ever Back to School Fair, which helped students to prepare for the fall semester at what was called a "one-stop shop" event. They were able to finalize financial aid, meet with an advisor, purchase books and supplies and get information on scholarships, as well as learn about the different clubs and organizations that KCKCC has to offer.

KCKCC Women's Soccer Gives Back

In April, the KCKCC women's soccer team hosted an event with Special Olympics and Girls on the Run.

"This is our second year we have been able to partner with Special Olympics and our first time with the Girls on the Run organization," said Shawn Uhlenhake, Head Coach for KCKCC women's soccer. "This is something we would like to grow. Both were great organizations, and our team had a lot of fun with the clinic."



JAZZ MUSIC PROGRAM EARNS ACCOLADES



he Kansas City Kansas Community College Jazz Music Department earned accolades and shared the jazz tradition with area high school students and the community. Jazz students also won 12 national awards.

The Chamber Choir held its annual Fall Choral Concert in October. The concert featured a special performance of Dr. Justin Binek's "Missa Lucis" (Mass of Light) featuring Lauren Kinhan and Peter Eldridge of the internationally acclaimed jazz vocal group The New York Voices. The 40-minute composition was first performed in June 2022 at Carnegie Hall, with John Stafford II, Coordinator of the Music Department, directing.

Jazz and audio engineering students received a combined 12 awards in DownBeat Magazine's 2024 Student Music Awards (SMA). DownBeat has the widest circulation of any jazz magazine in the United States and has recognized student achievement at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels with the Student Music Awards since 1978.

"Earning even one Student Music Award is a mark of success for any jazz and contemporary music program," said Dr. Justin Binek, Associate Professor of Music at KCKCC. "To have received 42 in a three-year span is remarkable, and seeing the company that puts us in is humbling. This kind of recognition is a tribute to our fantastic students and faculty, and we don't take it for granted at all."

Since 2017, the year KCKCC received its first SMA, KCKCC has received 60 awards. During that time, the only other school in the country to receive more than 40 awards in three years is the University of Miami's Frost School of Music.

Among the awards are two Community College winners. Soloist Maddie Huwe was honored in the Community College Blues/Rock/Pop Soloist category, and Jaylen Ward



was recognized in the Community College Engineered Studio Recording category.

In addition to the two Community College Winners, KCKCC received 10 additional Outstanding Performance awards this year. These include:

- KCKCC Jazz Workshop, directed by Brett Jackson, Community College Small Jazz Combo Outstanding Performance.
- Daysia Reneau, Community College Vocal Jazz Soloist Outstanding Performance.
- KCKCC Blue Devil Funk Band, directed by Justin Binek, Community College Small Vocal Jazz Group Outstanding Performance.
- Ella Penico on "Capillary" with the Missouri Choral Directors Association All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble, directed by John Stafford II, High School Honors Ensemble Outstanding Soloist.
- The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble, directed by John Stafford II, Community College Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble Outstanding Performance.
- Sunae Fisher on "PYT," with The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble, directed by John Stafford II, Community College Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble Outstanding Soloist.
- Jordan Faught (bass), Community College Blues/Rock/ Pop Soloist Outstanding Performance.
- Jaylen Ward (drums), Community College Blues/Rock/ Pop Soloist Outstanding Performance.
- Spitfire Sarcasm, a solo project created by Jessie Glennon, Community College Blues/Rock/Pop Group Outstanding Performance.
- Caden Bradshaw ("Partial"), Community College Original Composition for Small Ensemble Outstanding Composition.

The Jazz Music Department excels in teaching students and engaging schools and the community in jazz education and performance art. This year, KCKCC hosted the m-pact



Vocal Festival in November 2023. This non-competitive festival gave 16 guest vocal ensembles from Kansas, Missouri and Iowa the opportunity to perform and work hands-on with the award-winning group. Described by the San Francisco Chronicle as "one of the best pop-jazz vocal groups in the world," m-pact is known for its sophisticated sound that has won the group Vocal Group of the Year at the L.A. Music Awards and an Indie nomination from the Independent Grammys.

The 2024 Kansas City Jazz Summit is primarily a non-competitive event where jazz groups perform for adjudicators, with recognition given to outstanding groups and soloists. It also includes the annual Basically Basie Jazz Heritage Competition, in which middle school, 5A high school and 6A high school ensembles perform repertoire associated with the legendary Count Basie Orchestra. More than 70 school instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles performed throughout the four-day festival. «

KCKCC Hosts International Education Week Activities

Students, employees and community members celebrated International Education Week with daily special activities in November. The week began with celebrating world music, trivia and other games. A student passport drive helped students applying for their first passport complete the DS-11 form, and an



international food and fashion showcase and an open mic event were attended by more than 70 participants. College students, faculty and staff showcased international fashions in a fun show. Tastes of food from different cultures was also shared with those who attended. In addition, the college unveiled a flag display that showcases the flags of the countries where KCKCC students call home. The purpose of the week was to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

KCKCC Students Host Campus Wonderland

Members of KCKCC's Student Senate and Phi Theta Kappa, along with the Counseling and Advocacy Center hosted Campus Wonderland in December. This event helps KCKCC students by providing toys, stocking stuffers and food items for the holiday season. Gamers Club and Student Senate members shopped for toys with funds donated from student organization's/club's

budgets. Funds were also donated by Phi Theta Kappa, Art Club, Student Veterans Organization, Enactus, Gamers Club, Christian Student Union and the Writing Club. Student volunteers from throughout campus also served as elves to spread holiday cheer at the event.

Campus Democracy Challenge

KCKCC was one of 93 colleges awarded the 2024 Highly Established Action Plan Seal by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. This seal recognizes higher-education institutions with solid action plans to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement by promoting civic learning, political engagement and college student voter participation. By recognizing colleges and universities for their commitment to improving student voting rates, ALL IN encourages higher-education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, make democratic participation a core value on their campus and cultivate generations of engaged students.

Vanguards Awards Honor KCKCC

Several KCKCC leaders were recognized at the first annual Vanguard Awards in June at an award ceremony held in the Performing Arts Center at KCKCC. Among the honorees were KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier, who received the KCKCC Innovation Award; Dr. Shawn Derritt, Redemption Awards; Theresa Holliday, Ms. Irreplaceable Award; and students Elizabeth Daniels, Widlynn Dorilas, Eden Barnes and Khylia Brown, FBOE Oxygen Award. The Vanguard Awards' mission is to honor individuals who have transcended the limitations of their communities and achieved global success while remaining rooted in their humble origins and giving back without seeking recognition or acknowledgment.

BLUE DEVILS' SUCCESS GROWS



The Blue Devils' 2023-2024 season showed great progress compared to the prior season. The overall winning rate for the Athletic Department was .692 compared to .560 during the 2022-2023 season.

KCKCC student-athletes also excelled in the classroom. Six of KCKCC's teams ended the academic year with a combined GPA of 3.0. The teams recognized include volleyball, men's soccer, women's soccer, baseball, softball and women's basketball. KCKCC also had two players who received National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Players of the Week. Finally, 61 student-athletes were named to the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC) All-Academic Team, and 52 of them received NICAA All-Academic Team honors.

Last fall, both soccer programs finished above .500. The women's team finished in second place in the KJCCC. There were 14 combined soccer student-athletes who received allconference recognition. Volleyball finished 7-3 in conference play, which earned them fourth overall out of 12 teams. Three volleyball players earned all-conference recognition.

The men's basketball team won the KJCCC regular season title. Brandon Burgette also received the KJCCC Head Coach of the Year while leading the team to a 22-10 season. The team finished with three players earning allconference honors. The women's basketball team made it to the conference championship game, losing by five points to the best team in the nation, Johnson County Community College. They finished third in the conference, and two players received all-conference honors. Kaylyn Rogers received national recognition, winning the Lea Plarski Award from the NJCCA.

KCKCC continued the success during the spring season as both softball and baseball combined for 83 wins and just 32 losses. Baseball had 11 all-conference student-athletes who received recognition. Frankie Santiago earned KICCC Freshman of the Year. The baseball team finished 27-12 overall and 24-8 in conference play, putting them in third place to finish the season. Gehrig Goldbeck and Maclane Finley were selected to take part in the "JUCO All-Star team" representing the United States. They will play against other countries in Amsterdam, Netherlands, this summer.

Softball had six players receive all-conference recognition and tie for fourth place in the final conference standings. Their season ended in a semi-final matchup against Johnson County Community College. «







Students Present Research Projects

KCKCC students participated in undergraduate research symposiums in November and April. During the events, students shared the research posters they had been working on this year and gave



presentations to those who attended. The Psi Beta chapter of KCKCC, the KCKCC Psychology Club and the KCKCC Psychology Department, in collaboration with the departments of Undergraduate Research, Social Science and Student Activities, sponsored the Undergraduate Student Research Symposiums. Students had the opportunity to give oral and poster presentations on various topics that addressed behavior and mental processes.

Student Hit the Stage in New Play

KCKCC's fall musical production, "Ride the Cyclone," hit the stage at the KCKCC Performing Arts Center during the fall semester. The play is the second installment in Jacob Richmond's "Uranium Teen Scream Trilogy," a collection of three theatrical works that take place in the exaggerated Uranium City. It tells the story of the members of the St. Cassian High School chamber choir of Uranium City, Saskatchewan, who have perished on a faulty roller coaster called The Cyclone.



Daniels Named New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar

Elizabeth Daniels was named a 2024 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar. Sponsored by the Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, Phi Theta Kappa and the American Association of Community Colleges, New Century Transfer Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. More than 2,200 students nationwide were nominated, and only one New Century Transfer Scholar is selected from each state. Daniels received a \$2,250 scholarship as part of the recognition.



Students Attend Two KCKCC Career Fairs

Hundreds of students attended two career fairs in spring 2024 — the Spring Career Fair and the Hire Blue Career Fair. Both events allowed students, alumni and community members to meet with potential employers.

JADA JOHNSON REACHES 1,000 CAREER POINTS



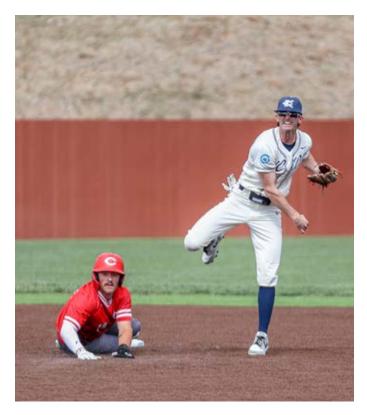
KCKCC Sophomore guard Jada Johnson became the fifth KCKCC women's basketball player to reach 1,000 career points in January.

A 5'10" guard from Kansas City, Missouri, she joins a small but mighty group of athletes in KCKCC women's basketball history. Only Jurgita Kausaite (1995-97, 1,517 points), Stephanie Brown (2003-05, 1,350 points), Aneta Kausaite (1994-96, 1,140 points) and Stacey McElroy (1993-95, 1,095 points) have achieved the 1,000-point mark.

Johnson started her collegiate basketball career at Kansas Christian in the 2020-21 season, where she finished with 301 points.

She led the team in total points while averaging 13.7 points per game (PPG), shooting 43 percent from the field, 22 percent from behind the arc and 79 percent from the free-throw line. During her first season with KCKCC, she finished with 364 points, averaging 14 PPG. Heading into the 2023-24 season, she needed just 335 points to complete the milestone. «





GEHRIG GOLDBECK EARNS ATHLETIC HONORS

With a name like Gehrig, baseball and success will almost certainly go together. So it is with Gehrig Goldbeck.

A Kansas City Kansas Community College sophomore, Goldbeck was selected to take part in the "JUCO All-Star team" representing the United States and playing against other countries in Amsterdam, Netherlands, in the coming weeks.

He is the recipient of the Gold Glove as the best defensive shortstop in Division I, as determined by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). But there is more. He is also the Rawlings' Defensive Player of the Year. That is not just at shortstop — it is for all positions.

"He's one of one. There are more than 400 community colleges playing baseball in the country, and he's the Defender of the Year," said Steve Burleson, who earned multiple hall-of-fame honors during his 36 years as head baseball coach at KCKCC and presented Goldbeck with his Gold Glove during ceremonies before KCKCC's home volleyball game Sept. 6.

Where Gehrig will eventually continue his baseball career is to be determined. He has already had one recruiting trip to Jacksonville State and has also drawn interest from Wichita State, University of Nebraska, University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Kansas. «



KCKCC Mourns the Loss of Blue Devil **Athlete Mikequese Taylor**

Kansas City Kansas Community College was saddened by the death of Blue Devil student-athlete Mikequese Taylor. Taylor died while home in Peoria, Illinois, for a long weekend. At commencement, a moment of silence honored Taylor's life and the sadness at his unexpected loss.

Taylor was a first-year student at KCKCC. He lived in student housing at the college, pursued a liberal arts major and played for the Blue Devil men's basketball team. He was in the process of completing the spring 2024 semester and had already enrolled for the fall 2024 semester.

Taylor was successful in the classroom and on the court. During his first season, Taylor played 31 games and served a significant role in the team's success. The Blue Devils finished the basketball season 22-10 and won the 2023-24 Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Division II Regular Season Championship.

KCKCC Honors Jase Woita and Taryn Dial as Student-Athletes of the Year

Jase Woita and Taryn Dial were selected as the Male and Female Student-Athletes of the Year, respectively, for their outstanding contributions to KCKCC both on their specific playing fields and in the classroom.







KCKCC CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY



or 100 years, with every name it held, this college has served one purpose — to educate our community. Today, KCKCC has refined that mission to inspire individuals and enrich our community one student at a time. Serving as an inspiration for individuals to achieve economic mobility through access to education, KCKCC continues to enhance the quality of life for students and benefit the community in countless ways.

In early September, the Centennial Celebration kicked off with a Birthday Celebration with faculty, staff and students to commemorate the first day of classes on September 10, 1923. The birthday event was held for students at all three locations. The parties included birthday cake, presents for students and employees, and comments from President Dr. Greg Mosier.

Throughout the fall, events at the college included the centennial theme. In the spring semester, KCKCC hosted two events. In March, KCKCC thanked community leaders for supporting the college with the Celebration of the Century Dinner at the Dr. Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center. The evening included performances by

KCKCC jazz ensembles, and the dinner was prepared by students in Culinary Arts. Members of the KCKCC volleyball team also helped at the event.

Dr. Mosier provided the keynote address, and former Board of Trustees member Ray Daniels also spoke. At the dinner, Representative LaTurner's office presented a resolution from the U.S. House of Representatives. Senator Pat Pettey presented Kansas Senate Resolution 1748, recognizing and congratulating the college for its 100 years of service to Wyandotte County and the entire Kansas City region. Special thanks to Senators Pat Pettey, David Haley and Jeff Pittman for creating and presenting this resolution on the Senate floor of the Kansas Statehouse.

"The Centennial Celebration honored the college's track record of service and the community that continues to support KCKCC," said Kris Green, Chief Marketing and Institutional Image Officer. "The college has always had a close connection with those we serve, and we were so happy to see so many students, alumni and community members come out to celebrate the 100th anniversary with us."

In April, hundreds of alumni and community members

attended the Blue Devil Block Party, one way for KCKCC to thank the community for its support. More than 700 people attended the party and participated in the carnival, resource fair and educational games. The Casual Foodie truck offered lunch for attendees.

KCKCC captured the progress over the past 100 years in the Centennial Magazine. The publication features stories about the college through the years, a centennial timeline, stories about new directions at the college and much more. The magazine was distributed in March. Please contact marketing@kckcc.edu if you would like to receive a copy.

In addition, KCKCC completed the 100 Stories project on the website. Stories from alumni, students, faculty, staff and community members show all the ways the college impacts its service area.

To commemorate this important century milestone, the college commissioned a mural on the outside wall of the Humanities Building. This year, a rotating sign was installed on the walkway to the Administration Building. The sign features KCKCC, 1923 and 2023, as a continual reminder of the college's long history of serving Wyandotte and Leavenworth counties. «





KCKCC Awarded Partner in **Excellence**

he University of Kansas Health System (UKHS) honored Kansas City Kansas Community College at their Hall of Fame dinner on June 5. President Dr. Greg Mosier and several KCKCC Trustees members and leaders attended the ceremony to receive the Partner in Excellence Award.

"Being a single parent was a big brick wall that I had to climb," said Carmen Hunter, Because We Care GED graduate and Food Services Supervisor at UKHS. "I didn't want to give up. I didn't know how to go back to school and work at the same time, and applying to the health system really opened that door. Kansas City Kansas Community College has given us the opportunity to come in while we work, and that is a big thing."

This award recognizes companies or organizations that invest in the health system's growth and success through philanthropy, volunteerism and business partnerships. KCKCC was honored for its partnership with UKHS to offer the Because We Care GED program that allows employees to earn their GED while working at the health system. The program has helped 27 students earn a GED.

"We are excited and humbled by this award," said President Mosier. "It is amazing, and our close collaboration is what makes the program successful for our students. This partnership is a great example of how KCKCC focuses on helping students in the workforce succeed."

The Hall of Fame awards honor the contributions of individuals, companies and organizations that have enabled the health system to deliver world-class patient care. «

Highlights >>

Board of Trustees Host Annual Food Drive





The KCKCC Board of Trustees held its annual Food Drive for Blue's Kitchen Cupboard, KCKCC's food pantry. The items collected were displayed at the November board meeting to celebrate those who have participated and the support provided to the students and college community.

KCKCC Hosts President's Leadership Circle



The KCKCC Foundation hosted the President's Leadership Circle in November. The annual event allows the KCKCC President to talk with local business leaders, elected officials and donors about the college's strategic priorities, workforce partnerships and future plans.

Community Leaders, Microsoft to Discuss AI and Economic Growth Opportunities at WYEDC

Community leaders and technical experts gathered at the Wyandotte Economic Development Council to learn more about Microsoft's TechSpark Community Engagement Fellowship program. During this two-hour meeting, panelists discussed digital inclusion and economic growth, generative AI, how stakeholders can leverage generative AI and prompt engineering and the Microsoft TechSpark Community Engagement Fellowship program.

During the meeting, IBSA, Inc. outlined work completed during the program in the Kansas community. IBSA President/CEO Lazone Grays will continue working with other local, state and regional partners to expand digital equity and inclusion in the region. IBSA advocates for equitable public policies, more trade and tech skill development opportunities and increased supplier diversity efforts.





PCC Hosts Trunk or Treat Event

The Pioneer Career Center hosted a Trunk or Treat event for the Leavenworth community in October. The event had rides, treats, music and other fun activities. More than 675 KCKCC students, staff and community members attended the event. Additionally, more than 55 KCKCC and community volunteers helped run the activities, including the Leavenworth JROTC, National Honor Society, Sagasu Martial Arts and Cindy Scanlon with Lifesavers.

Kansas City Monarchs Partnership

In May, KCKCC partnered with the Kansas City Monarchs to become the official educational partner for the team. The partnership represents another connection between the Monarchs and the Kansas City, Kansas, community. The Monarchs are the reigning champions of the American Association of Professional Baseball and play at Legends Field in KCK.



KCKCC SITE FOR 2024 PARADE OF HEARTS

ansas City Kansas Community College is proud to host a heart in the 2024 Parade of Hearts. "Wings KC," designed by Leslie L. Mason and sponsored by Panasonic Energy, was outside the Humanities Building. The "Wings KC" heart was on display near the "We Are

Better Together" heart, which was designed by Dennis Stanton and purchased from the 2022 Parade of Hearts. According to the "Wings KC" description, "with its many similarities to the butterfly, Kansas City is a community filled with beauty and grace. A place of transformation and transitions, a migration of hopes and dreams, along

with unforgotten memories of loved ones lost. This design includes the wings of the butterfly, which best represent the free spirit and vibrant diversity of the Kansas City community."

The Parade of Hearts is a public art experience that celebrates diversity, unites communities and supports a variety of non-profit groups by placing hearts, designed by local artists, in the metropolitan area. Local artists spent months designing and creating the 5-by-5-foot hearts, each with a unique design, and all funds raised are donated to support local organizations.

KCKCC Celebrates 99th Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony







KCKCC celebrated its oldest tradition, the 99th annual Candle Lighting Ceremony, following the Thanksgiving holiday. The ceremony highlighted students in the Music and Theatre departments as well as KCKCC Foundation scholarship donors and recipients. Among the groups performing were The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble, the 11 a.m. Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Choir and the Blue Devil Funk Band as well as the Drama Club.

KCKCC faculty members started the Candle Lighting Ceremony in December 1924, the year after KCKCC was founded. It remains the oldest tradition at KCKCC and allows students, staff and faculty to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. During that first year, a collection was taken to fund student scholarships, which continues to be a part of the holiday event.



KCKCC Foundation Hosts Scholarship Socials

The KCKCC Foundation hosted two Scholarship Awards Socials — the first immediately following the Candle Lighting Ceremony and the second in June. The events allowed donors and scholarship recipients to meet and honored the 2024 scholarship recipients.

KCKCC HOSTS BLUE DEVIL 5K

KCKCC hosted the 2024 Blue Devil 5K in May. The course winds through the campus on roads, walking paths and sidewalks. The Kids Trot followed, geared toward children ages 11 and younger. Children ran according to age groups, and distances ranged from 25 meters to a quarter of a mile. **







KCKCC Creates New Apprenticeship Program with Panasonic

Kansas City Kansas Community College and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) are teaming up to strengthen the supply of skilled workers in the growing electric vehicle (EV) field. The partnership is part of the AACC's EV Hub, an initiative with Tesla and Panasonic, funded through an \$8 million Apprenticeship Building America grant the AACC received from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2023. The grant aims to "strengthen, modernize, expand and diversify" registered apprenticeships across the United States.

KCKCC received \$200,000 from the AACC to create the Operator Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), focusing on making EV batteries at the new Panasonic Electric Vehicle Battery Facility in DeSoto, Kansas. This will be a 16-hour credit certificate, which ties into the Automation Engineer Technology Associate in Applied Science degree track. The program will include learning assessments, instructor-led presentations, discussions, lab and learning activities and observation. The courses selected will specifically accelerate the skills needed for Panasonic's Skill Machine Technician I. Students will attend classes at the college for two consecutive weeks and then report to Panasonic for on-the-job training for an additional two weeks. That cycle will continue until all coursework has been completed. Once the program is completed, they will train on-site for the remainder of their apprenticeship. The initial cohort of students will begin in the spring 2025 semester.

PCC Serves Leavenworth County

KCKCC-PCC had a busy 2year. The year began with the ribbon-cutting for PCC's new baking program.

Students also continued to give back to the community. Electrical students assisted Kingdom Harvest International Fellowship with a Legrand Wiremold System installation in three small rooms and two larger rooms, culinary students prepared lunch for the Leavenworth Educational Foundation, and student Cameron Rice organized a fundraiser for the Leavenworth County United Way.

PCC also attended a recruiting event at Leavenworth High School and the annual meetings/banquets for the Leavenworth County Development Corporation and the Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce.

KCKCC Foundation Hosts Hall of Fame

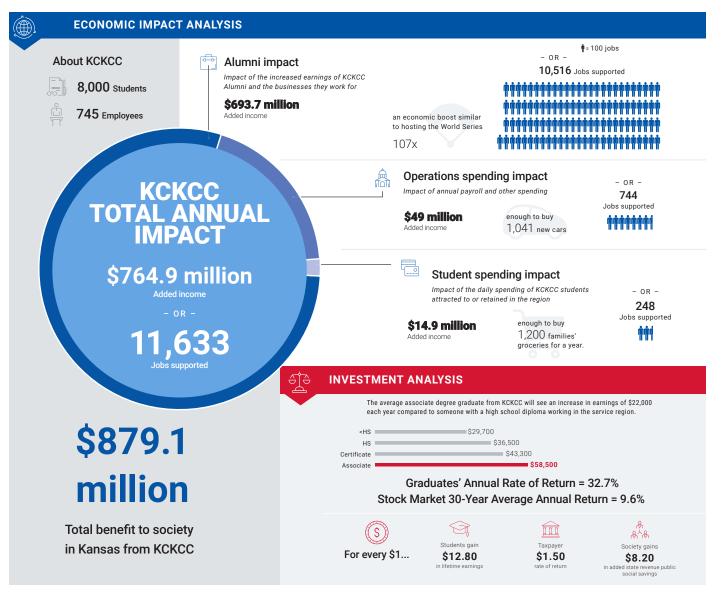
The KCKCC Foundation held its annual Hall of Fame Luncheon in April. The Hall of Fame started in 1996 to recognize individuals, organizations and corporate supporters in the community who have made notable contributions to education. This year's honorees were John Alfred Hodge (posthumous), the University of Kansas Health System GED Program, Dr. Karin Ogden Roberts and the Phillip W. Miller Scholarship Fund. 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 education, and increasing educational opportunities for others that support significant changes in the quality of education. Proceeds from the event directly benefit the student scholarship program.





KCKCC PROVIDES \$764.9 MILLION ECONOMIC IMPACT

- ducation plays a vital role in communities' fiscal health, and a closer look at KCKCC's economic impact reveals the magnitude
 - In 2022, KCKCC students invested \$8 million in tuition, fees, supplies and interest on student loans while forgoing \$16.4 million in wages. The cumulative present value of their increased earnings over their working lives is estimated at a staggering \$313 million.
- This equates to a return of \$12.80 in higher future earnings for every dollar invested in their education, with an average annual rate of return of 32.7%.
- From the taxpayer's perspective, the investment is equally beneficial. The \$65.7 million funding provided to KCKCC translates into \$84.1 million in added tax revenue due to students' lifetime earnings. The return on investment also includes increased property tax revenue and business output amounting to \$79.3 million alongside a \$4.7 million reduction in demand for government-funded services in Kansas.
- In 2022 alone, the total investment in KCKCC of \$115.5 million returned \$764.9 million in new income, supporting 11,633 jobs in the Kansas City region. «





Juneteenth Celebration Makes an Impact

Over 100 employees, students and community members attended the free Juneteenth Celebration at the KCKCC Main Campus.

The event featured a welcome from President Dr. Greg Mosier, and Dr. Shawn Derritt, Dean of Students, sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black National Anthem. Kelly Hams Pearson, Conciliation Specialist with the U.S. Department of Justice, was the keynote speaker. Entertainment was provided by LeShea and the Fellas, DJ Joe and more. Holy Smokes BBQ also provided food for the celebration.

Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of African American slaves. It was first celebrated on June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln emancipated slaves in the United States. That is when Union troops finally arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news of freedom. It was first recognized as a federal holiday in 2021.

Blue Devil Athletics Add Two Athletes and Coach to the Hall of Fame



Kansas City Kansas Community College Athletics hosted the Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon to honor the 2023 inductees Peggy Hopkins, Cheyenne North and the late Frank Bigham. Established in 2010, the KCKCC Athletics Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding athletic alumni, coaches, teams and others who have made outstanding contributions to KCKCC athletics.

Area Congressman Visits KCKCC



Congressman Jake LaTurner visited KCKCC in August 2023 to discuss the college's future plans for the main campus and the upcoming downtown project. The college appreciates his ongoing support for the college and the residents of Wyandotte County.





KCK COMMUNITY EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER MOVES FORWARD



he dream of investing in downtown through a comprehensive education, health and wellness center continues to move to reality. In September, Kansas City Kansas Community College, Swope Health and CommunityAmerica Credit Union broke ground on the transformative Kansas City Kansas Community Education, Health and Wellness Center. More than 150 elected officials, business leaders and community members attended the celebration at the site of the new building at Eighth and State Avenue.

"This center is a national model for nonprofit collaboration across the country," said KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier. "It will offer programs and services desperately needed to create a self-sustaining economic solution for the downtown KCK community that will help end many social and economic inequities that have prevailed for decades. The college looks forward to returning downtown, just two blocks from where the college began a century ago."

Many were on hand to speak about the bold vision of this national public-private partnership model in the city's heart. KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier, Senator Jerry Moran, KCK Mayor Tyrone Garner and KCKCC Board of Trustees Chair Evelyn Criswell spoke about the transformative power of the new center.

CommunityAmerica Credit Union President/CEO Lisa Ginter announced that the credit union would invest a \$1 million gift in the project to help make it a reality. "This project was a great fit for CommunityAmerica and our mission to deliver financial peace of mind to all of Kansas City. Our collaboration with KCKCC and Swope Health will improve access to higher education, workforce development, and with our full commitment, access to a full suite of financial resources for local students and businesses alike."

Other key partners include the KCKCC Foundation, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS. The Unified Government (UG) is providing land owned by the UG and the UG Land Bank for the project. KCK Public Schools has partnered with KCKCC for programs that will be offered to high school students as well as traditional-age and adult college students at the new site.

McCownGordon Construction is the construction manager and general contractor for the project, and PGAV Architects is the project architect. Demolition began in spring 2024, and the center is expected to be completed in spring 2026. 🕊





Highlights >>



Ella Fitzgerald Listening Library Dedicated to Jazz Education

The college Music Department hosted a dedication for the new Ella Fitzgerald Listening Library in May. The space was funded through a grant from the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation. At the same time, the records and books were donated from various sources, including the Kansas City Jazz Alliance, which donated record collections previously belonging to Scott Prebys, Jim Mair, Everette DeVan and William Drybread; George Dunmore, who donated an extensive collection of LPs; Justin and Claire Binek, who donated a large collection of CDs; John and Bonnie Stafford, who donated a collection of CDs and Fran Morris Rosman, Executive Director of the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, and Richard Rosman, Chairman of the Board of the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation, who donated several books and LPs. The library also incorporates many books, CDs and LPs that previously were part of the KCKCC Learning Commons' library collection.

Academic Year Begins With Convocation

KCKCC kicked off the 2023-24 academic year with the annual Convocation at KCKCC-TEC. Faculty and staff heard about college updates and were able to reconnect before starting another exciting year at KCKCC. The event also served as a kick-off to the college's centennial year celebration.

KCKCC Travels to Peru to Expand International Education





KCKCC President Dr. Greg Mosier and Dr. Fabiola Riobé, Vice President of Educational Innovation and Global Programming, were in Lima, Peru, for nine days of meetings and possible partnerships with the Ministerio de Educación del Perú, several Universidad Tecnologico Institutos and business and industry leaders from three different regions of the country. The trip wrapped up by signing a memorandum of understanding to pursue collaborations to support student transfer and success with Señor Khristian Vigil, President of the Asociación de Institutos Superiores Tecnológicos y Escuelas Superiores del Perú (ASISTE PERÚ). ASISTE PERÚ has 43 discipline diverse, technical and academic colleges and universities across Peru with more than 200,000 students. Among their visits was with the Director of the Instituto de Excelencia Jose Carlos Mariategui, Señor Maclive Maquera. IE Jose Carlos Mariatequi was the first institution of higher technical education in the country of Peru to receive institutional licensing, which is very much like higher-education accreditation in the United States.

KCKCC CELEBRATES OUTGOING **TRUSTEES AND WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES**





Trustee Gilstrap



Trustee Ricketts

he college honored three retiring trustees in November with a Thank-You and Farewell Celebration. Trustees Dr. Ray Daniels, Rosalyn Brown and Pat Brune served the college for years. Board trustees and the college community shared stories to remember the trustees' service to the college.

Three new trustees were elected to the Board of Trustees: Mark S. Gilstrap, Mary Ann Mosley and Dr. Brenda Scruggs-Andrieu were elected in November. Sadly, Trustee Mosley passed away before she could join the Board of Trustees in January. Mary Ricketts was selected by the Board of Trustees in April to complete Trustee Mosley's term of office. The new trustees join Brad Isnard, Chair; Evelyn Criswell, Vice Chair; Don Ash and Linda Hoskins-Sutton, &



Trustee Scruggs-Andrieu

Campus Democracy Challenge Award

KCKCC was one of 93 colleges awarded the 2024 Highly Established Action Plan Seal by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. This seal recognizes highereducation institutions with solid action plans to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement by promoting civic learning, political engagement and college student voter participation. By recognizing colleges and universities for their commitment to improving student voting rates, ALL IN encourages higher-education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, make democratic participation a core value on their campus and cultivate generations of engaged voters.



Annual President's Holiday Party

Kansas City Kansas Community College celebrated the holiday season with the annual President's Holiday Party with barbecue and fellowship. The President's Cabinet served the luncheon.

KCKCC Hosts Memorial Tree Planting

The college hosted a Memorial Tree Planting to honor six individuals who have passed away since 2020. These individuals included Iose Cantu (Maintenance), Leslie Hunter (AOK Instructor) and Wendy Lombardi (Adult Education Instructor), who all passed in 2020; Hellene Moore (Media Services), who passed in 2021 and Walter Autem (GED Instructor) and Don Black (faculty), who passed away in 2022.



Women's History Month Celebration

Mary Frances Ivey presented a slideshow and discussion of the artwork of Elizabeth "Grandma" Layton and her journey of healing as part of KCKCC's Women's History Month celebration. Layton suffered from mental illness until an art instructor taught her blind contour drawing. A Wellsville, Kansas, native and editor of the Wellsville Globe, Layton credited the art technique with treating her mental illness.

Once inspired, Layton created work about the times she lived — current events and social issues that sadly still feel very timely, fresh and new. The show included drawings and lithographs that touch on such topics as sexism, gay rights, fatphobia, police brutality, censorship, the Holocaust, the genocide perpetrated against Native Americans by European settler-colonialists and more. The KCKCC art collection houses four of Layton's works.

KCKCC Cleans Campus Nature Trail



KCKCC faculty and staff spent the Thursday of Spring Break cleaning up the nature trail that runs through the north end of the main campus. Volunteers cleaned up brush, cut larger branches and limbs and chipped wood, so students, employees and community members can use the trail in the future.



FAME AND KCKCC COMPLETE THE SECOND YEAR OF THE PARTNERSHIP

ansas City Kansas Community College serves as the educational partner with the Kansas Federation for Advance Manufacturing Education (FAME) chapter. Students apply through the FAME website to join the work-while-you-learn program. Students spend two days in the classroom and three days in the sponsoring company as interns. These students graduate with an Associate of

Applied Science in Automation Engineer Technology and can earn \$60,000 or more a year.

Tony Davis, the National Director of FAME, visited KCKCC in March to meet with college leaders and the Kansas FAME chapter. This fall begins the third cohort of FAME students at the college. «



KCKCC Hosts Ribbon Cutting for New Baseball Turf

KCKCC hosted a ribbon-cutting event in March for the new turf recently installed at the KCKCC Baseball Field. Following the ribbon cutting, the Blue Devils beat Labette, 10-0 and 20-2.

Binek and Elwell Receive TEACH Award



Dr. Justin Binek and Ann Elwell were recognized as the recipients of the fall 2023 Teaching Excellence and Colleague Honor (TEACH) Award. The TEACH Award is co-sponsored by KCKCC's Faculty Senate and the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE). It is a peer-nominated and peer-reviewed award given to both full-time and adjunct faculty members who make a difference in the lives of their students each semester. Their names are also engraved on a plaque in the CTE.

KCKCC Looks Toward the Sky for Eclipse



While Kansas City was not in line for a total eclipse in April, it did not stop students, faculty and staff from heading outside to see the partial solar eclipse. At its peak in the Kansas City area, the eclipse reached 89 percent coverage. The next solar eclipse in North America will not happen until 2044.



Community College **Awareness Month Celebrated**

KCKCC celebrated Community College Awareness Month in April by handing out free snacks, T-shirts and centennial pennants to students, faculty and staff. National Community College Awareness Month serves as an opportunity to celebrate the transformative power of community colleges, which continue to bridge the gap between the unskilled and a trained workforce. Careerfocused programs, flexible schedules and lower tuition have allowed thousands of Kansans to achieve their educational and professional aspirations.

Marcia Irvine Named Athena Award Recipient



Marcia Irvine, Director of the Pioneer Career Center, was named the 2023 Athena Award Recipient. The Athena Award recognizes a woman each year for her professional excellence, for providing service to her community and for assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills.

CHILDCARE CENTER BUILDING DEDICATED IN HONOR OF FORMER FACULTY MEMBER

ansas City Kansas Community College and the KCKCC Foundation honored Dr. Marjorie Blank's legacy with a dedication at the Little Leaders of KCK building. Blank was instrumental in the establishment of the childcare center, which provides the necessary services to parents who attend classes at KCKCC.

Blank joined the KCKCC faculty in 1957, teaching psychology, logic and sociology at the downtown campus. She also served as a guidance counselor and was a sponsor of KCKCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter and the University People to People program. When the college moved to its present location in 1972, she became the Dean of Student Services and the Director of Admissions. Under her leadership, student services grew and matured with more counselors and programs, including academic and vocational counseling, childcare, a transfer center and a women's



KCKCC Hosts Women's Equality Day Event

KCKCC hosted its Women's Equality Day event in August 2023. Dr. Gail James, former Professor of French and an award-winning women's activist, spoke at the annual event. Women's Equality Day commemorates women gaining the right to vote in the United States.

First proposed in 1878, women known as suffragettes worked peacefully for more than 70 years to gain equal voting rights. Some would try to pass suffrage acts in individual states. Others organized parades, vigils or even hunger strikes. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was certified as law, and since 1972, every president has issued a proclamation for Women's Equality Day.

Riobé Selected for Overseas Faculty Development Seminar

Dr. Fabiola Riobé, Vice President of Educational Innovation and Global Programming, is among the recipients of a Council for American Overseas Research Centers award to attend Overseas Faculty Development Seminar programs this summer. Riobé was chosen for the seminar on Mexico's Indigenous Languages and Culture.

Established in 1981, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers is a private nonprofit federation of independent overseas research centers. Overseas Faculty Development Seminars are fully funded programs conducted abroad to assist faculty and administrators from community colleges in the United States and minorityserving institutions in gaining international experience.

Marketing Wins Three Regional Awards

The KCKCC Marketing and Communications staff received three awards in the 2023 District 5 National Council of Marketing & Public Relations Medallion Awards. It is the only organization that exclusively represents marketing and public relations professionals at community and technical colleges.

KCKCC received:

- Gold Medallion in the Microsite/Landing Page category for the Admissions Viewbook microsite.
- Silver Medallion in the Microsite/Landing Page category for the Get Ready microsite.
- Silver Medallion in the Successful DEI Marketing Campaign category for the Hispanic advertising campaign.



resource center. Students could also earn credit hours for life experience and adult education as well as learning support and collaboration. The childcare center, which now houses Little Leaders of KCK, was built in 1983 under Blank's direction — a project she was particularly proud of seeing completed. She served as a mentor to not only students but also to faculty and staff. She retired in 1987 and was inducted into the Mid-America Education Hall of Fame in 1998 for her lifelong work and educational contributions. In 1992, the center received national recognition for being one of the best-quality programs in the United States.



PCC Hosts Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament

The Pioneer Career Center hosted the Kansas Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament in March. Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Students apply their creativity to solve problems ranging from building mechanical devices to presenting their interpretations of literary classics.

Wallet Hub Recognizes KCKCC's **Affordability**

KCKCC ranked third in Kansas and 47th in the nation among two-year postsecondary institutions, according to the 2023 Best and Worst Community Colleges list compiled by WalletHub.com. WalletHub, an awardwinning personal finance company with experts who help people save money, sampled 668 schools from member institutions in the American Association of Community Colleges. Primary factors used by WalletHub include financing, cost, education and career outcomes.

State Grant to Ensure Access to Technology

The college has received \$239,400 to provide access to 300 laptops to students receiving Pell Grants through the state of Kansas Advancing Digital Opportunities to Promote Technology (ADOPT) program. ADOPT helps to connect more Kansans to high-speed internet by making public Wi-Fi accessible and distributing devices in underserved areas. KCKCC is among seven organizations that received a combined \$3.9 million in grants through

the program. ADOPT helps organizations serving Kansans move forward by ensuring that communities can access public Wi-Fi and the devices needed to participate in today's technology-driven world. The laptops KCKCC will purchase with the grant funding will eliminate a waiting list of 40-plus students each semester. This program ensures equal access to technology, which is crucial for academic success, employment opportunities and essential services.

Art Gallery Recognized for Historical Project

The Kansas City Kansas Community College Art Gallery stacked up recognition as well as exhibits this year. The gallery received the Kansas Museums Association (KMA) Technology Award, given to an institution that demonstrates a creative use of technology. The project highlighted by this award is the college's historic murals and digital preservation project. KMAs are held each year to recognize excellence, innovation and distinguished service within the Kansas museum community.

KCKCC also received a grant from the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) to continue documenting local history and expanding the college's digital timeline.

"Project grants have been our primary means of bringing tourism and economic development to each of the 41 counties within the heritage area," said FFNHA Executive Director Lucinda Adams. "Each grant has a tangible impact across the entire region. We cannot wait to see these projects come to life."



Kansas City Kansas Community College 7250 State Ave. Kansas City, KS 66112

