

KACCT

Kansas Association of Community College Trustees

Kansas Community College Reopening and COVID Impact Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity today to testify about the impact of COVID-19 on Kansas Community Colleges and the steps that have been taken to ensure successful re-opening. In the spring, Kansas Community Colleges adapted and persevered to provide quality education both online and face-to-face. Technical education classes for essential worker occupations continued at many campuses throughout the stay-at-home period in groups of under 10 students and using social distancing, good hygiene, and other best practices to keep students and faculty safe. Additionally, Kansas Community Colleges transformed some of their fabrication labs into Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) production facilities to produce masks, face shields, and “ear savers” to aid first responders. Kansas Community Colleges also provided on loan, 20+ ventilators to the Kansas Emergency Operations Center (KDEM) for distribution to health care facilities across the state. At the request of the Kansas Department of Insurance, Community Colleges also opened their training facilities to aid in the licensure testing for insurance agents across the state to ensure the essential function of insurance was not impeded because of lack of testing facilities. Multiple Kansas Community Colleges are or were partnering with KDEM and KDHE to provide housing and food service for first responders, COVID-19 victims, and families who need housing and food during this emergency specifically in the locations of COVID-19 out-breaks in Ford, Finney, and Seward Counties.

As one can see, Kansas Community Colleges have gone way outside the scope of normal operations to aide their communities and the state of Kansas while continuing to provide the vital education and workforce training needed by Kansas companies. We also worked closely with the Kansas Board of Nursing and KDADS to ensure we could teach out students who lost their ability to complete clinical hours and to ensure maximum flexibility for allied health students needing clinical completion. However, these activities occurred in an environment that was anything but usual. As full re-opening occurred throughout the summer the Kansas Jayhawk Athletic Conference made the decision to move all fall athletics (except cross country) to spring to protect our students, but also the college faculty, staff, and the communities in which the colleges are located. Each Community College is working with their local health department and following their guidance all things which are COVID-19 related. The following aspects of re-opening, process, and procedure varies greatly in different counties across the state due to local control at the county and health department levels which I will describe for the committee in the following areas:

- Enrollment (K-12 delay complications and significant dual enrollment and SB 155 enrollment declines)
- COVID-19 Testing
- Number of active cases related to the College and County Communication related to cases
- Isolation Housing (Do students stay or go)
- Contact Tracing (Opt-out options, engagement letters, trained, and taken the oath) or no College doesn't participate or the College scrambles once the local health department is overwhelmed and requests help).
- SPARK funding through both Phase 1 & 2 processes (Reimbursements, PPE, IT, K-12 Disruption)

Most Community Colleges are delivering primarily face-to-face classes and will end those classes prior to Thanksgiving and finish up the classes and finals online after Thanksgiving break. Most colleges are delaying starting the second semester by about a week and canceling Spring Break week to avoid students scattering across the county and world and then coming back to the college and potentially infecting the campus and greater community. Each college is prepared for whatever may happen in the coming weeks and months to ensure Kansas Community College students are able to stay on track educationally and either transfer to a four-year university or enter the workforce to meet the needs of Kansas companies.

The table below illustrates the CARES Act funds each college received thus far. Most of the CARES Act Institutional funds were used for residence hall and dining plan refunds. The SPARK Phase 1 county funds are the funds each community college is expecting to receive from their county. The requests from the majority of the community colleges were much higher than what the county was able to provide. These amounts are still pending approval of the county spending plans by the State Recovery Office. Until the Recovery Office approves the county spending plans Colleges are unable to begin procurement of goods and items needed because of the county being unsure if the items are approved for expenditure. I am hopeful that each county will receive approval of their plan (or at least the community college parts which are by-and-large reimbursement requests related to PPE and other items that are clearly COVID related) this week. If approved, we are hopeful that the money could be transferred/reimbursed to each College in late September or October. The SPARK Phase 2 dollars are funds that have been transferred from the Recovery Office to the colleges within the last week. Colleges have COVID-19 related costs which far exceed the available relief funding but are doing their best to make wise decisions about where to invest that will have the biggest impact on health and safety for students which will allow them to continue to complete their education in-person whenever possible.

Community College Federal Funds Awarded									
	Total Institutional Relief (the half for students has been removed)	Strengthening Institutions	Developing Hispanic-serving Institutions (DHSI)	18004(a)(3) of the CARES Act	TOTAL CARES FUNDING	Spark Phase 1 Award from County	Spark Phase 2 Award from State	TOTAL SPARK FUNDING	TOTAL COVID RELATED FUNDS
Barton	\$448,091	\$45,915	\$0	\$0	\$494,006	\$131,000	\$452,249	\$583,249	\$1,077,255
Butler	\$1,815,966	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,815,966	\$130,697	\$613,552	\$744,249	\$2,560,215
Cloud	\$381,649	\$37,884	\$0	\$0	\$419,533	\$113,927	\$261,606	\$375,532	\$795,065
Colby	\$234,724	\$0	\$0	\$30,552	\$265,276	\$90,000	\$243,292	\$333,292	\$598,568
Highland	\$483,635	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$483,635	\$179,819	\$381,571	\$561,390	\$1,045,025
Indy	\$373,404	\$36,392	\$0	\$0	\$409,796	\$107,756	\$211,129	\$318,885	\$728,681
Johnson	\$2,540,143	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,540,143	Awaiting County Request to Submit	\$1,032,953	\$1,032,953	\$3,573,096
KCKCC	\$1,482,546	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,482,546	\$900,000	\$542,691	\$1,442,691	\$2,925,237
Neosho	\$403,169	\$40,081	\$0	\$0	\$443,250	\$237,739	\$301,375	\$539,114	\$982,364
Coffeyville	\$609,936	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$609,936	\$219,376	\$301,895	\$521,271	\$1,131,207
Seward	\$367,280	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$367,280	\$228,585	\$284,615	\$513,201	\$880,481
Fort Scott	\$510,763	\$50,237	\$0	\$0	\$561,000	\$308,717	\$284,400	\$593,117	\$1,154,117
Labette	\$406,120	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$406,120	\$171,003	\$255,232	\$426,235	\$832,355
Cowley	\$603,357	\$59,405	\$0	\$0	\$662,762	\$101,000	\$330,486	\$431,486	\$1,094,248
Allen	\$208,250	\$0	\$0	\$83,501	\$291,751	\$55,000	\$315,145	\$315,145	\$606,896
Pratt	\$259,182	\$25,632	\$0	\$0	\$284,814	\$206,234	\$236,793	\$443,027	\$727,841
Dodge	\$474,632	\$0	\$61,322	\$0	\$535,954	\$1,019,200	\$268,657	\$1,287,857	\$1,823,811
Garden	\$641,003	\$0	\$82,354	\$0	\$723,357	Awaiting County \$ Answer	\$286,593	\$286,593	\$1,009,950
Hutch	\$1,152,268	\$114,326	\$0	\$0	\$1,266,594	\$901,150	\$591,216	\$1,492,366	\$2,758,960
TOTALS	\$13,396,118	\$409,872	\$143,676	\$114,053	\$14,063,719	\$5,046,204	\$7,195,449	\$12,241,652	\$26,305,371

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