Jacob Maurer, Precision Agriculture Curriculum Specialist for Highland Community College, will be presenting a paper at the International Conference on Precision Agriculture (ICPA) in St. Louis later this year. The ICPA is a biennial international conference to be held this year in conjunction with the InfoAg Conference – U.S. Precision Agriculture Conference. There were over 1500 attendees to InfoAg last year, and they are expecting 2500+ to attend this year, so Maurer is naturally excited to be able to present to this type of audience. Maurer is making significant progress on establishing the College’s Precision Ag program at the Wamego Center. Based on his research and his recent experience with the College, he is, “looking forward to representing Highland on an international stage”. Maurer’s abstract entitled, “Site-specific Scale Efficiency Determined by Data Envelopment Analysis of Precision Agriculture Field Data” was accepted for an oral presentation, and he is now working on submitting a full length paper for publication in the Conference proceedings.

Hutchinson Community College Receives USDA Precision Agriculture Grant

With a strong tradition in agriculture education with its 425 acre farm and extensive experience with precision agriculture, Hutchinson Community College was a natural partner to collaborate with Fort Hays State University and Emporia State University on a USDA grant. Hutch Community College has learned it will be the recipient of $110,000 over the next three years to partner in developing trainings programs using quadcopter and fixed wing UAS (unmanned aerial systems) for agricultural and commercial uses.
Allen Supports STEM Education—Opens Two Renovated Biology Labs

The biology labs at the Iola campus of Allen Community College recently underwent a total renovation. The new labs are now better equipped to handle the needs of the students and instructors. Students now have modern seating with access to gas and water at each laboratory station. Each laboratory is equipped with new technology including a Smart Board, document camera, and video microscope. Overall the new laboratories will provide a positive experience for all of the students that pass through the doors.

KCKCC Collaborates With KU To Earn Associate’s And Bachelor’s Degree In Nursing Simultaneously

Kansas City Kansas Community College is one of the first community colleges in the nation to collaborate with a four-year university in the creation of a program that allows students to earn an associate’s degree and bachelor’s degree in nursing simultaneously. The Kansas University Community College Nursing Partnership Program allows students to bypass the traditional RN licensure associate degree in nursing step that is typically required prior to starting an RN to BSN program. Currently, KCKCC is the only community college in the state of Kansas and one of a few in the nation to offer such a partnership to its students. This semester, there are more than 10 students in the program, two of which who will be graduating in May. Prior to entering the program, students must complete all 60 hours of the prerequisite courses required to enter both the KCKCC and KU nursing programs. Once those are completed, students must be admitted to the KCKCC ADN program and apply for admission to the KU School of Nursing. KU will consider KCKCC newly admitted nursing students with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5. The programs must be started in the same semester.

Students in the KUCCNP Program are required to enroll in at least six credit hours of KU School of Nursing courses each semester in addition to the regular ADN courses. Students in the partnership program will complete their KCKCC coursework on the main KCKCC campus. The KU courses will be completed at the same time in an online format. Not only does the KUCCNP Program give students the opportunity to complete the two degrees faster, but also cuts the cost of earning an ADN and BSN in half.

Honors For JCCC Culinary Students, Staff & Alumnus

The American Culinary Federation Greater Kansas City Chefs held its annual awards dinner in January, and three people with JCCC connections were recognized. JCCC student Isaac Dominguez was awarded Student Apprentice of the Year. Former JCCC student Tom Stevens won the Culinarian of the Year award. Bridget McNabb, JCCC hospital management purchasing and lab coordinator, received the President’s Award.

In February the team traveled to Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska, to attend a competition there. The student team consisting of Ashley Hunt, Felipe Padilla, Rocio Ramos, Heather Goodenow and Gabriel Edrosa won the silver medal. Student Brian Leeper competed in the professional category: cold plate and received a bronze medal.
Your memories of long glimmering dresses and tuxedos for prom may have long been forgotten, but for many special needs people in Dodge City, it was something new. February 12th was a night that will be long remembered as the Night To Shine. This was the full prom experience with glamor, glitz, paparazzi and the red carpet.

The Dodge City Church of the Nazarene hosted the Night to Shine sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Tim Tebow says “From a very early age, my parents instilled in me the importance of God’s word, the salvation we have in his Son Jesus and the responsibility we have to give back to others. That’s why in 2010, I was so excited to create the Tim Tebow Foundation with a mission to bring Faith, Hope and Love to those needing a brighter day in the darkest hour of need.”

Dodge City/Ford County Development Corp. special projects coordinator Mollea Wainscott said. “There was one selected for every state and Dodge City was selected as the one for Kansas to host the event.” Assistant Track Coach, Melanie was proud to say the DC3 Cross Country/Track teams volunteered to help put on this very exciting event.”

The ladies help with dress fittings for the attendees. The men helped with setup for the evening. Julie Taylor, Director of Cosmetology, said “We had a great day with the Prom guests. Doing hair, makeup and manicures and pedicures for them all. What an awesome opportunity.” The Cosmo group had so much fun helping these special ladies have the evening of a life time. Each lady attending received a tiara to wear for the evening. Dodge City Community College is proud of the faculty, staff and students that helped with the Night to Shine. They all shine as well.

DC3 Helps With Night To Shine

Four Butler Students Named To 2016 Kansas PTK All-State Academic Team

The Butler students were among 56 Kansas community college students honored Feb. 11 in Topeka as part of the 21st annual Kansas All-State Academic Team luncheon. The event was attended by community college, university, and Kansas Board of Regents representatives as well as Kansas legislators. The event, co-sponsored by the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, annually recognizes top students from the state’s community colleges.

Scholars recognized from Butler Community College included Cassidy O’Neill of Derby, Logan Browne of Bowling Green, Ohio, Katlin Jurgin of Douglass, and Jason McKenzie of Andover. All four students are members of Butler’s Alpha Phi Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

Each scholar is now nominated for the 2016 All-USA Community College Academic Team, sponsored by USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa and the Follett Higher Education Group. First-team members will receive a $2,500 stipend and will be featured along with second- and third-team members in USA Today. Team members are also presented with medallions. Names of the students will be placed on the society’s website.

Phi Theta Kappa is the honor society for students attending two-year community colleges. Membership is based on high grade point averages and other criteria, with members focusing on scholastic achievement and service to community and campus. This year’s 56 scholars are part of a statewide student body of more than 132,500 students enrolled at the 19 Kansas community colleges. Each scholar was selected by his or her own community college for the annual statewide academic team.
Barton Ag Student Nearly One Year Ahead Thanks To Dual Credit

Barton Agronomy major Nick Gerdes knows what he wants, and has confidently taken steps in the direction of his dream to own and operate a farm. Gerdes is finishing up his first and only year as a full-time Barton student before moving on to Kansas State University, where he will start only six credit-hours shy of being a Junior. Dual credit agreements between Barton Community College and Great Bend High School made this opportunity a reality for the young farmer, who managed to take 17 credit-hours of college coursework before graduating high school in 2015.

“It’s cheaper to do it in high school too,” Gerdes said. “If you go for dual credit for high school and college, you can get through your education faster, get out with less debt and you can do what you want to do sooner. It’s a good option, everybody should try to take dual credit.”

His plan is to work in the industry, perhaps for a CO-OP, until the time is right to take the reins at his uncle’s farm in Dodge City, where he fondly recalls riding around in tractors and grain trucks as a young boy.

However, Gerdes says his purpose comes from a deeper place than childhood nostalgia.

“It interests me to know that farmers feed so many people around the world,” he said. “I like knowing I will help farmers maximize the potential yield for their crops.”

Australian Meats Team Visits Garden City Community College

The Australian National Meats Team visited Garden City Community College as part of a United States Tour. After the Australian National Meats Team visited Kansas State University, they tracked to Garden City on January 21. The Australian meats team arrival was delayed due to snow storms in the northeastern part of Kansas, but they were still able to take a large number of tours in Southwest Kansas. They learned about how a calf ranch operates on a tour of Empire Calf Ranch, north of Satanta. The Australians were taken on a tour of Tyson Fresh Meats, Finney County Facility, where they toured material handling, processing, grading cooler, kill floor, yards, and the hides and tannery plant. They toured Noble Dairy, and saw a large milking facility, and they toured Cattle Empire, where they learned about a traditional blend of “native” cattle as well as Holsteins. The last stop on the tour took them to Reeve Cattle Company and Reeve Agri-Energy. The team had not seen a fuel alcohol plant, and they were amazed at the diversification of the operation. On Thursday evening of the visit, GCCC hosted the Aussies with a pizza party in the John Collins Technical Building for a time of socializing.

GCC will be heading to Australia July 5-9 as the team has been invited to attend the 2016 Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition, held July 5-9 at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia. This invitation makes history as GCCC is the first community college to be invited to attend this world competition.
Coffeyville Community College sent Phi Theta Kappa member Karen Sue Mackenzie to the state capital early last week to help advocate for The American Cancer Society and House Bill 2369. “House Bill 2369 is a bill that prevents children under the age of 18 from using tanning beds,” said Mackenzie. “The UV rays from the tanning beds are the leading cause of melanoma later in life.” Mackenzie was given a briefing and then met with various legislators to gain support for the bill. The involvement in this process gave Mackenzie an interactive experience and a sense of purpose. “I benefited from this by getting to participate in a cause bigger than myself. It is an important cause to support,” said Mackenzie. Mackenzie was then able to meet with Conley Cornell, who puts on Coffeyville’s Relay for Life. Mackenzie is CCC’s student representative and is helping raise money through Phi Theta Kappa. “It was great that I got to spend the day and work with her so I could learn what she wanted me to do in order to later work alongside one another,” said McKenzie.

Cowley College PTK Students Honored At Awards Luncheon

Top community college scholars from the state of Kansas, including four from Cowley College, were honored Thursday, February 11 in Topeka at the annual Phi Theta Kappa Honor’s Luncheon. Representing Cowley were Samantha Twenhafel and Hannah Twenhafel from the Arkansas City campus, and Taylor Swarts and Tabitha Slater from the Mulvane Center. Each student went through a rigorous application process in order to be selected by the committee to represent Cowley College on the All-Kansas Academic Team. The students were judged on their academic achievement, leadership qualities and service work. Each is also a nominee for the 2016 All-USA Academic Team, sponsored by USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa and the American Association of Community Colleges. PTK sponsors Deb Layton, Scott Layton, and Tiffany Corley attended the luncheon as did Cowley President Dr. Dennis C. Rittle, Executive Director of Student Affairs Jason O’Toole, and Board of Trustees member Bob Juden. Students met several state representatives during the luncheon and were presented with medals. In addition, the members of the 2016 All-Kansas Academic Team, sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees and the Kansas Council of Community College Presidents each received $300 for their continued excellence. Phi Theta Kappa is a nationally recognized honor society for students attending community colleges.

FSCC Livestock Judging Team Champs At Dixie

Fort Scott Community College Livestock Judging Team was designated the champion team at Dixie National Livestock Show in Jackson, Mississippi. The FSCC team also earned first place in the following divisions: Brahman cattle, continental cattle, British cattle, steers, and reasons. The students judged twelve classes of market steers, breeding heifers, and performance bulls. They provided eight sets of oral reasons. The team has competed in 13 contests this year, receiving first place in ten and second place in one. “Everyone has done an exceptional job and the team continues to build on an incredible year,” said Ryan Page, FSCC Livestock Judging Team Sponsor.
CCC Collision Repair Receives NATEF/ASE Certification

Coffeyville Community College, Columbus Campus has once again achieved accreditation by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) in the areas of Damage Analysis/Estimating/Customer Service, Non-Structural Analysis/Damage Repair, Painting and Refinishing and Structural Analysis/Damage Repair. The Collision Repair Technology program was assessed according to strict standards set by the automotive industry. Evaluated by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation in areas such as facilities, curriculum, and equipment, the Collision Program demonstrated the latest tools, equipment and a skilled instructor. This national certification helps verify graduates will receive training to be prepared to enter productive entry-level positions. Hal Daniels, CCC Collision Repair instructor added, “During the past few months, we have worked closely with NATEF to make certain that our program continues to meet the strict industry standards of ASE accredited training programs. Students will be assured of a quality education, and shop owners will be confident of getting quality job applicants.”

Butler To Launch Newest Early College Academy

Butler Community College will launch its fifth Early College Academy with the fall 2016 semester. The Business & Entrepreneurship Academy will prepare students to make immediate contributions in the local workforce. Students will complete courses in all aspects of managing a business, and will cover such areas as business, administration, enterprise planning, small business operations, business law and regulations, e-commerce and leadership development.

The Academy will also partner with Youth Entrepreneurs, a non-profit organization founded by the Koch Foundation in Wichita. YE provides a curriculum and opportunities to support entrepreneurship and business success for students. Butler’s Business and Entrepreneurship Academy students will have internship opportunities through the YE partnership.

The Academy will be headquartered at Butler’s facility in Andover with an enrollment limited to 20.

LCC Earns 10 Yr. Reaffirmation Of Accreditation From HLC

Labette Community College recently learned from the February 8th meeting of the Institutional Actions Council of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to continue accreditation until the next Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2025-26.

The Higher Learning Commission is the accrediting body for LCC which conducts a rigorous and comprehensive review of everything the college offers its students and community. This will make the third consecutive full reaffirmation of accreditation the college has received which is an indication, according to the HLC, of a quality curriculum, instruction, and support. A college may receive up to a 10 year reaffirmation.
Cowley Instructor Receives Award At KEMTA Conference

Samantha Troyer, Cowley College lead paramedic instructor, recently received the Kansas Emergency Medical Technician Association (KEMTA) Outstanding Instructor/Coordinator award for 2016. She received the award at the annual KEMTA conference banquet on Saturday, February 13.

Chris Cannon, Cowley College Allied Health Department Chair and Director of EMS Education, nominated Troyer for the award. “Samantha is the most natural instructor I’ve ever observed,” Cannon said. “She explains complex topics in a way that students can easily grasp. She employs active learning techniques such as case-based and problem-based learning to engage her paramedic students and help make them successful.” In addition to her educational acumen, Troyer is fiercely proud of EMS as a profession and strives to impart this passion for excellence to her students. She ensures professional behavior is as stressed in the program as studying and skills. “Sam is a great teacher and will represent KEMTA well as Educator of the Year,” Cannon said.

Career Coach Available Now For PCC Students And Job Seekers

Pratt Community College is excited to announce the launch of Career Coach, a free online resource that will allow students and job seekers to explore career opportunities in many different ways. Career Coach is a valuable tool for any current or prospective student who is exploring potential careers to pursue in their future. This resource can act as a general guide for job descriptions in any industry to help students figure out what area they would like to study all the way to a local database containing hundreds of available jobs in our region for graduates to research. Career Coach’s comprehensive database also generates careers based off of the many PCC programs available. The real-time information is customized to the college’s geographic region and includes detailed wage estimates, growth rate, retirement statistics as well as employers in the area that are hiring. Career Coach includes a built-in resume builder to help students and job seekers quickly and efficiently put together an updated resume with key skills and job experience highlighted. Check out Career Coach by PCC now and browse through hundreds of careers!

Neosho Named One Of Nation’s Top 150 In The Country

Highlighting the critical importance of improving student success in America’s community colleges, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program today named Neosho County Community College as one of the nation’s top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and $1 million dollars in prize funds, as well as Siemens Technical Scholars Program student scholarships. The Prize, awarded every two years, is the nation’s signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America’s community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.
The two chapters of Phi Theta Kappa at Cloud County Community College held their spring induction ceremony on February 18. The ceremony was held on the college’s Geary County Campus. The Concordia campus chapter, Upsilon Tau, inducted 24 new members. Beta Eta Xi, the Geary County campus chapter, inducted 12 new members into the honor society during the evening’s event.

In a press conference, Feb 16, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., Dr. Herbert Swender, President of GCCC, announced that John Green will be the new Athletic Director at Garden City Community College. John Green will replace former Athletic Director, Ryan Ruda, who was promoted this last November to Vice President of Instruction and Student Services/Chief Academic Officer. Colin Lamb served as the Interim Athletic Director when Ruda was promoted in November of 2015.

John Green has 28 years of experience in collegiate NJCAA athletics. His tenure includes serving as NJCAA Conference Commissioner and Region Director for the Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC). During Mr. Green’s administrative tenure he received numerous team, institutional, and conference awards at Frank Phillips College and Clarendon Community Colleges in Texas. John Green shared his vision for Garden City Community College Athletics, “The vision of GCCC Athletics is to be recognized as the premier NJCAA Athletic Program in the nation, exemplifying the principles and the values of quality and excellence, both on the court/field/arena and in the classroom. GCCC intends to achieve elite status in athletics through unwavering commitment to integrity, hard work, loyalty, and discipline from the student-athletes as well as the athletic staff”, said Green.

On Feb. 11, two Pratt Community College students were honored in Topeka as members of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society.

PTK Chapter President Andrew Beck and PTK Chapter Vice President Jazzmen Ortiz were named by PCC’s chapter as their representatives on the 2016 Kansas All-State Academic Team. Beck is an Electrical Engineering student as well as the PCC Wrestling team captain. Ortiz is studying Psychology and is a Point Guard on the PCC Women’s Basketball team.

The All-State Academic Team is a distinguished group of scholars from community colleges across the state who are selected for their academic achievements and contributions to their college and community.

“At the conclusion of a luncheon, representatives from four-year institutions were very interested in recruiting Beck for his academic accolades and grappling abilities on the mat,” said Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick. “Similarly, Ortiz was highly sought after for her skills in the classroom and on the court. Beck and Ortiz are deserving of their respective awards because they have invested both time and energy into improving the quality of PCC’s Phi Zeta chapter.”
Colby’s Tanner Harvey Honored At PTK Luncheon In Topeka

Sophomore Tanner Harvey represented Colby Community College at the Twenty-First Annual Phi Theta Kappa Honors Luncheon Feb. 11 in Topeka. A native of Syracuse, Utah, Harvey is president of the Colby PTK chapter, president of the Student Government Association, a Presidential Scholar, a resident assistant and tutor. In addition, she is a member of Sunflower Singers, plays on the softball team, serves as a student ambassador and volunteers in the Colby Elementary After School Program. She plans to transfer to a university in eastern Kansas and serve on a religious mission.

ICC Speech And Debate Team Wins State Championship

Independence Community College Speech and Debate team were crowned 2016 state champions at the Kansas State Individual Events Tournament (KASIE) held at Bethel College on February 20th. The 2016 KASIE Championship awarded state champion to the top junior varsity team and gave out speaker awards to the top individual speakers from all competing schools.

ICC took home the state champion prize and several top individual speaker awards after stiff competition from junior varsity and varsity speakers from programs including Kansas State University, Kansas Wesleyan University, Bethel College, Ottawa University, and Sterling College. ICC Speech and debate team will turn its attention to the national tournament in March where they will be competing in both speech and debate events for national honors.

Pancake Day At Seward!

To help celebrate the International Pancake Race, which is held every year on Shrove Tuesday, Liberal host a wide range of community events designed to elicit participation from the entire community. Various events are held throughout the weekend, culminating in the race day festivities on Tuesday. SCCC/ATS provides all of its students and employees the opportunity to participate in this longstanding community holiday by closing campus for the day and encouraging students and staff to participate in the festivities. The student group Saints Promoting Education Careers (SPEC) won first place in the schools division on the Saturday parade while the SCCC/ATS Cheer and Dance Teams took second place. Seward student Patrick Blanc won 3rd place in the Adult Talent Division of the Pancake Day Talent show and JJ Widener, Director of I.T. at SCCC/ATS took 2nd. Many students and employees, and their families, participated in events throughout the weekend and on Pancake Day and were able to enjoy the true essence of “community”.

Highland’s Nursing Program Receives Grant

The Highland Community College nursing program has received a $10,000 grant from the Courtney S. Turner Charitable Trust, John H. Mize and Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustees. The grant will be used to enhance the operation of the new Janean Bowen Nursing Simulation Center at Highland’s Technical Center in Atchison. The Simulation Center houses the program’s SimMan “family”, computer-operated simulated patients that provide the nursing instructors with the capability of providing near life-like symptoms on which student nurses can learn proper care techniques. The grant will help provide sound and a computerized viewing system in a control room in which the instructors can operate the SimMan mannequins and view the student-learning through a one-way mirror.
SCCC/ATS Alum Kelby Tomlinson Shifts Out Of His MLB Uniform And Dons An Apron For Race

Pancake Day might not be the World Series but it is one grand event in Liberal, KS and Olney, England. This year marked the 67th International Pancake Race which is run between the women of the two towns. Tomlinson, a SCCC Alum, has competed and won, the Men’s Pacer Race for two consecutive years. The Pancake Race in Liberal may not be quite as much of a thrill as hitting a grand slam in a crowded stadium, but Kelby had his most important and undisputed number one fan there to cheer him on, his wife Tiffany. The Men’s Pacer Race began in the 1950’s as a way to help out the ladies running in the International Race. The men sprinted to the finish line, carrying their wives’ coats so they would be waiting for the women at the end of the race. At some point that tradition ended. The Men’s Pacer Race is now open to any male 18 or older, and the men not only skip the coat-carrying; they also do not have to carry a skillet or flip pancakes like the female racers. They do, however, have to wear aprons and headscarves. Last year, Tomlinson wore an apron belonging to his mother-in-law that Tiffany grabbed for him at the last minute. It’s probably safe to bet that his off-season training contributed a bit to his successes.

Grant Program Trainees Tour Rubbermaid

With the Kansas Department of Commerce and Kansas Board of Regents recently awarding the Workforce AID project for Rubbermaid to Cowley College, three grant program trainees had an opportunity to tour the Rubbermaid facility in Winfield. Grant program trainees Steven Mashburn, Isaiah Mason, and Jim Yates were accompanied by Cowley College Mechatronics instructor Daniel Higdon and Carl Jewers, process engineer at Rubbermaid, for the tour. The trainees are being taught the following courses at Cowley College: Microcomputer Applications, Technical Math, OSHA 10, Industrial Technical Writing, Industry Practicum, Introduction to Mechatronics, Quality Control & Inspection, Workplace Ethics, and Basic Welding Processes. Cowley College instructors from Math, Business, and the Career and Technical Education Department have been working with Rubbermaid to provide nine weeks of intense training. Yates mentioned he is enjoying the hands-on classes and is eager to begin working for Rubbermaid. Joe Clasen, Cowley College Career and Technical Education Department Chair, and Stephani Johns-Hines, Associate vice president of business and industry advancement, met with the trainees prior to the tour. Johns-Hines praised the work being done by the trainees and is happy to have the opportunity to partner with Rubbermaid with the support of Cowley First to make this project possible.

ACC Singing Valentines

The Allen Community College Concert Choir delivered Singing Valentines in February to folks in the Iola community as well as the Humboldt and Yates Center area. The choir sang three different selections, including “Your Song” by Elton John, “Signed Sealed Delivered” by Stevie Wonder and “Can’t Help Falling in Love” known for being performed by Elvis Presley. This year new song additions were well received by the community, especially “Can’t Help Falling in Love.” Many of those who bought singing valentines said that song was very sentimental to them and they appreciated that we sounded so beautifully. All proceeds will be used to help future music scholarship students at Allen as well as help fund an upcoming field trip to see the Kansas City Orchestra.
The **DC3** Baseball Team served as volunteers at the YMCA Family Fun Night on February 6th. Head Coach Phil Stephenson said “The Baseball Team helps as volunteers for the YMCA Family Fun Night four times each year. It is a great way to give back to the community and the guys have as much fun as the kids they help.” The parents appreciate the interaction the team has with their children. Kelly Bolin commented “Saturday night my boys had an amazing night at the YMCA community event. The DCCC Baseball Team served as volunteers at the YMCA. Our oldest son has autism and really wanted to go to the YMCA but just couldn’t find clothes that didn’t impact a sensory need. My husband and I are extremely grateful for the joy that these college volunteers brought to our sons and specifically Ollie. The young man in the picture probably hoisted my 55 pound son into the air about 20 times—and he did it with a smile, genuine joy and great understanding for my son’s needs.”

DC3 President Harold Nolte said “We are very proud of our athletes and the job they do not only in their respective sport but what they do in our community. In this case we are tipping our hats to Coach Stephenson and the baseball team for making a difference especially in this little fella’s life.” The college wants to thank the YMCA for hosting their Family Fun Night and allowing DC3 to participate. The phrase “Success Starts Here” says a lot at Dodge City Community College. We strive to succeed not just on the field, but in the classroom and the community.

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**Neosho Represents At PTK Luncheon**

Four **Neosho County Community College** students joined their peers when Kansas saluted the community college scholars for their academic accomplishments February 11 in Topeka during the Twenty-First Annual Phi Theta Kappa Honors Luncheon. Representing the state’s 19 community colleges and a technical college, these scholars were named to the 2016 All-Kansas Academic Team, sponsored by the international headquarters of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, and the Kansas Council of Community College Presidents. The NCCC Chanute PTK chapter is sponsored by faculty members Luka Kapkiai and Rita Drybread. The Ottawa Chapter is sponsored by faculty members Kevin Blackwell and Mark Eldridge. The NCCC-Chanute student award recipients are Jordan Braun and Kayla Drybread. The NCCC-Ottawa student award recipients are Ruthanne Wark and Samuel Wheat.

**ICC Fab Lab Receives Donation**

The Fab Lab at **Independence Community College** received a generous donation from Hugo’s Industrial Supply in the form of a 48 inch industrial printer. The new printer is a Mutoh, large format printer with a built-in contour vinyl cutter. This will allow the Fab Lab to produce large custom-shaped print jobs. The printer uses all the common media plus an exterior vinyl, which means producing exterior banners a possibility. “Donations by community members such as this one from the Hugo’s are very helpful in keeping everything current, up and running,” said Jim Correl, Fab Lab director. “We strive to keep the Fab Lab at ICC state-of-the-art and still keep the experience at a very affordable price.” Community access to the Fab Lab at the college is available through a membership structure. An individual can have access to all the creation, fabrication and communication equipment for $100 per year.
In December, the Center for Sustainability at Johnson County Community College was honored by the Mid-America Regional Council. JCCC’s composting program received a Sustainable Success Story Award, one of six local projects recognized at an event held at the Kauffman Conference Center. The annual Sustainable Success Stories event is part of an ongoing community dialogue focused on building a better understanding of sustainable practices that have the potential to transform the community. Recognized were Michael Rea, sustainability project manager; Krystal Anton, recycling/waste minimization coordinator; student interns Emily Reno and Elizabeth Cloud; Dining Services; Grounds; and the Open Petal Campus Farm. In addition, thanks to the efforts of the Center for Sustainability, JCCC was named one of Johnson County Government’s first Certified Green Partners. The college was one of just seven businesses and organizations leading the way in waste diversion and sustainability in Johnson County. Staff from the Center for Sustainability were recognized at a ceremony hosted by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners in February.

Congratulations to the Hutchinson Community College Lady Dragon and Blue Dragon basketball teams on winning Jayhawk Conference Championships. It is the second time in school history both the men and women have won a conference title in the same year. The Lady Dragons are winners of six consecutive conference titles. With the title in hand, the Blue Dragon men’s basketball team has qualified for the NJCAA National Tournament to be played at the Sports Arena. Winning the Region VI crown would enhance the seeding for the Dragons in the National Tournament.

For the first time in history, KCKCC will have two teams in the NJCAA national basketball tournaments March 15-19. The Lady Blue Devils shocked the No. 1 ranked and unbeaten Johnson County Cavaliers 63-56 Thursday while the Blue Devil men posted a 77-66 win over Brown Mackie in the Region VI championship games at Hartman Arena in Park City. The women’s national tournament will be played at Johnson County; the men’s tournament at Danville, Ill.

On Feb. 13, Pratt Community College Wrestling competed in the West Central District Regionals in Chanute, Kan. qualified 8 for the national tournament which is third overall in the tournament. The National Qualifiers will be honored at the halftime of the men’s basketball game on Feb. 20. The NJCAA National Wrestling Championships will take place on Feb. 26 and 27 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The Wrestling team has been working hard to prepare for the championship. "I am proud of my athletes and they have worked really hard to get to this place," said Head Coach Ken Kepley. “We want to make everyone proud.”