Independence Community College Professor Ori Addresses General Assembly At United Nations

On September 21, Independence Community College associate professor of communication studies, Konye Ori traveled to New York City to present before the United Nation’s (U.N.) general assembly. Ori participated in break-out sessions ranging from the Sudanese Caste System to Terrorism and Methods of Reconciliation.

Ori was part of the 70th session of the United Nations’ General Assembly. Leaders from around the world converged on New York City to speak at the multi-day session.

Ori’s address entitled, “Building Peace Identity through Peace Education in Devastated Conflict Zones.” Was well received.

“This is a topic that became very close my heart during the civil war in my country,” said Ori.

Ori is a native of Nigeria, where in 1996, a civil war tore his country in two. It was then that he discovered his passion for diplomacy and conflict resolution.

In fact, Ori had initially entered college in Southern Nigeria as a pre-med student at Madonna University before transferring to the University of Athens in Greece where he shifted his studies to Political Communication.

He would go on to earn his Bachelor of Arts in Applied Communication from University of Indianapolis, and his Master’s degree from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, where Ori also earned Graduate Certification in Mediation and Negotiation.

In 2014, Ori joined the faculty at ICC where he brought his passion for communication arts and debate to Independence, Kansas.

Since his arrival at ICC, Ori has created a nationally ranked debate team, finished third in the country in forensics, started The Ivory League (a conference of distinguished community colleges engaged in global education and civic commitments), and on September 23, 2015 officially added “addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in New York City” to his list of accomplishments; not too bad for his initial year at ICC.
Highland Graduate Member of SkillsUSA World Team

Dustin Mortsof started taking diesel classes at the Highland Community College Technical Center while he was still at Pleasant Ridge High School. Competing in the SkillsUSA competition held annually in various technical fields, Mortsof initially took fourth in his first competition at the high school level, and then took top honors in his second try. Mortsof continued to compete on the collegiate level, where he was part of the diesel program taught by Fred Moranz, on the President’s List at Highland, and he again brought home the gold. As the result of that competition and successfully completing other qualifying prerequisites, Mortsof was chosen as a member of the SkillsUSA World Team for the international competition that was held in Brazil in August.

In the World Team competition, diesel was part of a new group, Heavy Vehicle Equipment Maintenance. Mortsof again achieved the top rank -- in the world -- in the diesel portion and fourth overall in the Heavy Equipment competition. Following the competition, Mortsof returned to his job as a diesel technician with Foley Equipment in St. Joseph, MO.

Pictured above Dustin Mortsof, a Highland Community College Technical Center graduate and shown here with his diesel instructor, Fred Moranz, was part of the SkillsUSA World Team that competed in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Great Western Dining Makes Two Gifts To Butler

Great Western Dining, the company providing meals and catering to Butler Community College, has presented Butler with a gift totaling $100,000 for the benefit of students in the college’s Culinary Arts program. The gift came in two parts. A $75,000 gift was made to endow a chair for Culinary Arts. This is Butler’s second endowed chair position. In addition, Great Western made a $25,000 donation to create an internship position available within the Great Western Dining company. The principal will be invested and only the earnings will be used annually as a paid internship. The first intern will be selected in summer 2016.

“We are so grateful to Great Western Dining for their support of our Culinary Arts program and our students. We have enjoyed a long relationship with Great Western and the investment in our Culinary Arts program and the internship just makes sense,” said Stacy Cofer, vice president of advancement for Butler. “On-the-job training for students is a critical part of their educational journey, and this level of support helps us to continue growing these very special learning opportunities for Butler students.”

Great Western Dining has been working with Butler since 1991. They provide food services for the college and cater for other organizations. They have a relationship with the BG Products Veterans Sports Complex and provide food and beverage services to the skybox donors.
HCC Impressive Presence At The Kansas State Fair

Hutchinson Community College will once again boasted an impressive presence at the Kansas State Fair. The college’s primary location featured general information on the college in addition to its Fire Science/Public Safety and Automation Engineer Technology programs. In addition, the Ag Diesel Mechanics, Agriculture and Welding programs occupied a separate location on the Fairgrounds.

The Block and Bridle Club assisted the first weekend with The Grand Drive, the Fair’s 4-H/FFA Livestock Show, and cared for the champion animals throughout the Fair. Other aspects of the College included:

The LPN Program assisted the Lions Sight Foundation with screenings in the Sunflower North Building.

Blue Dragon Cheer/Dance teams assisted in Cottonwood Court, the Fair’s food court building, as a fundraiser.

The Hutch CC Chess Club hosted two events on Thursday, September 17. Blue Dragon student and renowned chess expert Gabriel Purdy, one of the highest ranked chess players in the state of Kansas and five time state champion, played simultaneous games against 33 competitors. The Chess Club also hosted a Blitz Tournament & Giant Chess Set, a tournament in which each side has a total of 5 minutes for all their moves of the game – so every game will finish in a maximum of 10 minutes.

The track teams as well as the college’s radio & television broadcast programs assisted with parking as fundraisers.

Generosity Is Driving Force Behind Barton’s New CDL Offerings

The phone has been ringing off the hook in the Admission office at Barton Community College regarding information about the new Commercial Driver’s License offerings. After 10 hours in the classroom and 30-35 hours of driving time, completers will have training necessary to obtain a Class A license with an air brake endorsement. The first class will be complete on June 26. The next class starts July 11 and is projected to reach the cap of 10 students. The course lasts eight weeks and will start about every 10 weeks. This course was made possible after the acquisition of a semi-truck and a trailer, which was purchased with a large donation from the William C. Wells Trust and additional assistance from the Land O’Lakes Foundation and the Barton Community College Foundation.

“My father-in-law always liked to give,” William C. Wells Trustee Lou Button said. “We’ve had this trust for 15 years after he died in 2000 and he wanted it to go to the college. He was just a farmer and a stockman. He just was a good man. I think this CDL course is going to help a lot of people. It’s going to be a beautiful thing for the community. Willie would love it.”
GCCC Bookstore Moving To New Home

At the start of the 2015 fall semester, the Garden City Community College Broncbuster Bookstore was located on the lower level of the Beth Tedrow Student Center. All of this will soon change when the bookstore moves upstairs to what used to be the College Endowment Room. With a contemporary, sleek new look, the upgrades have made the bookstore look like one you would find at any major university. Virga West, Bookstore Manager, has waited patiently through the construction over the summer, and is excited to move in and create new displays in the modern storefront.

Virga has managed the bookstore for 15 years. According to the Virga, the very first bookstore was located on the main level, and was a very small place where books were passed through a window to students. In 2004, the bookstore moved to its current location on the lower level of the Beth Tedrow Student Center.

Next door to the new bookstore, is a new cyber cafe that will house computers as well as a coffee bar. The cyber cafe will have tables and chairs as well as WIFI access for students to utilize. Outside the storefront is a newly renovated lounge area complete with a gas fireplace and TV.

Coffeyville Technical Campus Builds Crates For CESSNA Project

Students and instructors at Coffeyville Community College Technical Campus are busy as they’re working on a project brought to them by CESSNA in Independence.

The project, which started late August, involves building high quality crates to ship 21 diesel engines overseas to France.

Construction Instructor, Clarence Ray, built a prototype which was sent to CESSNA and evaluated for quality against other bids; CCC’s crate was selected for the project.

Various crate requirements, required several programs to lend their expertise.

“The crates are made from special lumber to resist water damage as they are being shipped via ocean liner to France,” said Marlon Thornburg, V.P. for Innovation and Business Initiatives. “There are numerous requirements for the crates to meet CESSNA’s expectations, including waterproofing, forklift accessible, internal brackets, and being able to be disassembled easily.”

The crate makes it through three departments before completion. First, construction students, alongside Ray, create the body of the crate. Next, welding students and instructor, Scott Hammer, weld the mounting bracket that goes inside the crate. Then, machining students and instructor, Cleo Ruark, machine holes into the metal bracket. Ruark, also, built the jig for the metal bracket to get started.

Once the crate is built and the metal brackets are ready, Ray delivers the crates to the CESSNA plant in Independence.

Money raised from the project goes back into the program activity account to purchase additional supplies for other training projects within the three programs.

The project is intended to teach students basic construction techniques, familiarize them with the use of special lumber and materials, and show them the process of completing a project to the highest standards.
Johnson County Community College and the University of Kansas have developed a degree partnership program that helps students chart a path to their goals early in their academic career, enabling them to earn both an associate’s degree from JCCC and a bachelor's degree from KU. The program will allow students to be fully admitted at both institutions. Students can enroll in core classes at JCCC; at the same time, they can take upper-level, program-specific courses at KU, either in Lawrence or at the Edwards campus in Overland Park. Students will receive ongoing joint counseling from both JCCC and KU and may take advantage of resource centers, tutors, career development support, and engagement and campus life activities at both institutions. An automatic exchange of transcripts and coordinated financial aid will give them a seamless transfer process.

Cowley Conducts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony At Wichita Downtown Center

Cowley College administrators and members of the Wichita community took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony for Cowley’s new Wichita Downtown Center Thursday, September 10 at the facility located at 532 South Market.

Cowley College consolidated its two Wichita offices to one, centralized downtown location in June of 2015. A consolidation allows the combined resources of the two locations to better serve the needs of students and engage in the developing downtown community. Personnel at the consolidated location include four admissions staff, a military services coordinator, three Cowley College Online support staff and a bookstore clerk. Faculty that teach online classes can also use the location for workspace or to proctor exams.

The Wichita Downtown Center also offers hybrid classroom space for Cowley College academic programs and business and industry training opportunities.

Along with the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, and many local business leaders had a supportive presence.

Seward 21st Annual Foundation Auction

The SCCC/ATS 21st annual Foundation Party Auction was held on September 19, 2015. The theme this year was “Denim & Diamonds” and nearly $40,000 was raised to support student scholarships and educational programs. Entertainment highlights of the evening included musical performance by the college’s a cappella student group “Fermata the World” (loosely translated to mean “slow down and listen to the music!”), and smokin’ hot rhythm and blues performed by Seward’s own Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Todd Carter.
Changing Education With Robotics

Robotics will play a major role in manufacturing, fabrication and computer programming in the future. The Computer Science and Manufacturing programs at Dodge City Community College will be in collaboration together with robotic curriculum. Adding to the robotic courses currently taught this collaboration will be used to enhance both programs by adding a robotic specific curriculum. The computer science program has been teaching students how to program a robot for three years. Students are provided with a hands on curriculum to program the robot using varies programming languages. The programs will have hands on experience with a Robotic Education Cell to advance the skills of the next generation. Students in both programs will also have a hands-on training on the Robotic Arm and automated material handling. The robotic education will teach students industrial, mechanical and advanced manufacturing welding and production processes. The computer science students will enhance their learning to include 3D, virtual prototyping programming classes. The future plan is to create a curriculum for a certificate program.

JCCC Culinary Professors, Students Win Medals

At the annual national American Culinary Federation conference in July, these Johnson County Community College students and faculty won medals: Edward Adel, associate professor of hospitality management, silver in four different finger foods category and silver in cold platter; Brian Leeper, student team member, silver in one festive menu for one person; and Kathryn Ratzlaff, student team member, bronze in four different plated desserts. Also, at the conference, Jerry Marcellus, professor of hospitality management, was inducted as an honorary member of the American Academy of Chefs.

Cloud Library Director Elected Vice-Chair Of State Library Board

Cloud County Community College Library Director Jennifer Schroeder was recently elected as the Vice-Chair of the State Library Board and will be Chair next year.

Governor Sam Brownback originally appointed Schroeder to the State Library Board December 28, 2011.

The State Library of Kansas Board promotes cooperation with the Kansas Board of Regents to ensure the inclusion of libraries on the KAN-ED network and continues the availability of statewide library reference resources.
KCKCC Vocalist Attends UNC Jazz Camp

Deandre Clark, a sophomore at Kansas City Kansas Community College, was selected to attend the University of Northern Colorado Jazz Camp this summer. Not only is the UNC Jazz Camp designed to be intensive and challenging, but it also serves as a way to inspire the students who attend. Led by faculty and special guests, campers have the opportunity to attend master classes, jazz theory and listening classes, faculty concerts and a special performance by the Colorado Jazz Orchestra.

A member of KCKCC’s The Standard Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Clark first learned of the UNC Camp when KCKCC attended the Vertical Voices Jazz Festival in Rochelle, Ill. earlier this year. Of the vocalists at the festival, judges selected two to give a scholarship to attend the camp. One of the students was from Elmhurst College in Chicago, Ill. and the other was Clark. KCKCC’s Music Club also sponsored a portion of the trip. Following his experience at the UNC Jazz Camp, he plans to continue his education at UNC in fall 2016, studying Vocal Jazz Studies with Kerry Marsh, a nationally known vocal jazz artist/instructor.

Allen Vice President For Finance and Operations Retires

Steve Troxel, Vice President for Finance and Operations at Allen Community College for the past 22 years retired August 1, 2015. Troxel served as chief financial officer for the college and managed the college’s fiscal affairs, auxiliary enterprise areas, the physical plant and information technology. Troxel’s education started in Iola. He graduated from Iola High and then attended Allen in 1970. He was in the first class to attend classes at the campus north of town. From there he attended Pittsburg State University where he earned his bachelor’s in accounting. After college he enlisted in the military. In 1992 the new Allen president John Masterson reached out to Troxel and offered him the position with the college. “He has been one of the strengths to our administration team and has a good handle on our finances,” Masterson said. “He will be hard to replace.”

Looking back over the years Troxel is pleased with his time at Allen. “I think one of the greatest accomplishments is moving the college in a positive direction,” Troxel said. “I hope my contribution was positive and I made a difference, I think I did.”

Colby Nursing Instructor Selected As Writer For NCLEX

Jean Ann Wilson, a long-time nursing instructor and coordinator at the Colby Community College Norton campus, was recently selected as a volunteer item writer for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Licensure Examination (NCLEX). It is the fifth time she has been chosen to write for the NCLEX. All nurses in the United States and its four territories must pass the NCLEX attaining a nursing license.

Wilson was one of nine nurses from across the nation to be selected for the assignment. She was nominated on the basis of clinical specialty and nursing expertise.
Cowley College Donates 302 Pounds Of Meat To Local Food Pantries

Following the purchase of a steer during the Cowley County Fair 4-H/FFA Market Livestock Auction, Cowley College donated a total of 302 pounds of meat to Manna Ministries in Arkansas City and the Winfield Community Food Pantry on Tuesday, September 1. The College began purchasing cattle from local 4-H members and donating the beef to local food pantries in 2010.

Gene’s Heartland Foods grocery store in Wamego has purchased some seedless grapes from Highland Community College’s research vineyard. Gene’s is selling the grapes in the produce section of the store. Scott Kohl, director of the College’s Viticulture and Enology programs, was pleased at the interest expressed by Gene’s in acquiring grapes from the College’s Wamego vineyard. Kohl’s program currently has three vineyards in the Wamego area and one on the College’s Klinefelter Farm between Highland and Hiawatha. The grapes available at Gene’s Heartland Foods were grown in the research vineyard which is adjacent to the College’s location in the Wamego Industrial Park. The research vineyard is populated with over forty varieties of grapes which Kohl is documenting to determine those varieties which grow best in Kansas soil and climate. He is then sharing that information with grape growers throughout the state as part of the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s effort to increase economic development opportunities.

Butler Community College leadership, Trustees, and key representatives were on hand for a special ribbon-cutting ceremony held Tuesday, Sept. 29. The outdoor ceremony, which brought faculty, staff, students and community members to the El Dorado campus, marked the completion of a $2 million renovation to the college’s 50-year-old Student Union Building. The project began last April with LawKingdon Architecture and Dondlinger Construction, but included several months of planning prior to the groundbreaking. President Kimberly Krull offered heartfelt thanks to all involved in the success of the project including Butler’s Student Government Association who helped with the vision of the building, USD 402 in August for the use of their central kitchen over the course of the summer, and Great Western Dining and Butler Bookstore staff for their flexibility during the major overhaul.

“This space serves not only student dining needs, but their learning needs as well,” said Krull at the event. “It provides spaces that support collaboration, communication and team activities. It provides a place for people to come together – as a student union should – but now in true Grizzly fashion.” Other comments during the event were made by Jim Howell, chair of the Butler Community College Board of Trustees; Bill Rinkenbaugh, vice president for student services, and Abby Goodall of Wichita, Student Government Association President. Those attending also enjoyed a performance by Butler’s new drumline under the direction of Brett Martinez, refreshments provided by Great Western Dining, and tours of the new facilities.
Garden City Community College celebrated an observance of the 14th Anniversary of September 11, 2001. Community, Students, and Staff were invited to a special ceremony honoring the anniversary of the attacks at the World Trade Center. The memorial observance was a tribute lead by students, college officials and community leaders. Dr. Swender quoted the words of former President George W. Bush from November 11, 2001. “Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children.”

Student Government President, Kale Baker, spoke about the moments during the attacks, and a bell chimed in the background for each critical moment. The Garden City fire department dressed in full regalia raised the flag to half-staff. GCCC Students performed an Eagles song written in honor of the attacks, “Hole in the World”. Dr. Swender encouraged all in attendance to keep observing the anniversary of the attacks, and to never forget the lives lost on that day.

Coffeyville Community College is eager to start the recruiting season with what looks like a new asset but, in reality, is a new paint job. In previous years, CCC recruiter, Chris Cameron, has traveled to recruitment locations in what was known as Old Blue, a powder blue 1998 Ford Crown Victoria. “I thought it was ironic because I was driving a blue vehicle but representing the Coffeyville RED Ravens.” Concluding his travels, Cameron eagerly brainstormed a way to help promote CCC recruitment. While giving a campus tour, alongside D.J. Johnson, Auto Collision Repair Instructor, the idea to paint Old Blue sparked. The project was started early spring 2015 by the Auto Collision students and finished this fall with the guidance of the instructor. “All the credit goes to D.J. Johnson and his crew, they made it happen,” said Cameron. Cameron starts his round of recruitment travels next week and is eager to show off his new ride.

CCC Sends PTK Members To Kansas Region Conference

On Friday September 18, the Eta Gamma Phi Theta Kappa Chapter from Coffeyville Community College traveled to Wichita for the first of three Kansas Region Conferences. The conference, hosted by Newman University, lasted two days and was intended to inform members of regional goals and upcoming events within the Kansas Region. The conference began with the annual Channing Cheer-Chant Competition and then broke members up into two groups to learn more about Phi Theta Kappa, the benefits of joining and ways to get involved. Not only did CCC go to participate in the conference, members from the College played an active role in presenting as well.

CCC Adds New Flames To Recruitment

In less than five years, 65-percent of all new jobs will require a college degree. Statistics show that the best way to land a job is to finish college and earn a degree or certificate. That’s why 228 Cloud County Community College students at both the Concordia and Geary County campuses signed a pledge earlier this month to complete their associates degrees or certificates before leaving Cloud to transfer or enter the job market. The pledge goes hand-in-hand with the college’s strategic goals, one of which is to increase the number of students who are graduating, transferring or completing an educational goal or credential by 50 percent. “It’s exciting to see so many students recognize the need for, and commit to, college completion; especially as we are focusing our efforts to support our students’ goals of getting their degree or certificate,” Toone said.

Cloud Students Pledge To Complete Degrees
Connecting To Success At Dodge Community College

Connecting to Success includes initiatives designed to improve academic success across Basic Skills, ESL, and high-risk college offerings – improving instructional strategies and tools to better engage students. Dodge Community College will revise 31 high-risk courses, infusing instructional strategies and tools proven effective for increasing academic engagement and success among DC3’s high-need students. Curricular revision will target Basic Skills, ESL and high-risk college courses. Essential to course revision will be the equipping of 24 classrooms with new multimedia stations that promote engagement through infusion of media clips, real-time sharing of student work, and the “capture” of classroom activities or discussion for online and/or “flipped classroom” delivery.

At the same time, we proposed new advising services – including Foundational Advising for students entering the College at the Basic Skills and/or ESL level, as well as Transfer and Career Advising and Resources. We also proposed to develop a new Academic Early Alert/Progress Tracking system, supported by Titanium Retention software, and new services to assist high-need, first generation students develop essential skills – financial literacy, self-advocacy, academic strategies – for successfully navigating the journey to postsecondary completion, transfer, and career attainment. New advising services and high-need student services will be housed in a new Connections Center, a space configured and equipped to promote productive collaboration and college engagement.

GCCC Students Celebrate Constitution Day

Garden City Community College Media, along with the Student Government Association, Department of Public Safety, and the Drama Department hosted the “Eat Free or Live Free” event to educate students and GCCC employees on the Constitution and particularly the freedoms granted through the First Amendment. The demonstration was held on the lawn in front of the Saffell Library, September 17, 2015, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

Participants in the event were enticed to enter the “Kingdom of the Socialist States of the People’s Republic of GCCC”, to get free pizza, cookies, and sodas. They entered through “customs” where they signed in and received a “passport” explaining they had entered an area where the Constitution and First Amendment rights in particular would not be guaranteed. Students soon realized that getting “free” food wasn’t what it seemed. They were ordered to do push-ups and pay “homage” to the dictator to get their food. If they did not comply with the requests, the Dictator of the “Socialist States” ordered them to be removed from the area by the “police”.

The federal holiday that recognizes the adoption of the U.S. Constitution is normally observed on September 17th, the day in 1787 when delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document. According to faculty adviser to GC3 Media, Laura Guy, “Our goal is to educate others about the ratification of the constitution by putting it into terms they will understand. You may think you understand what freedom is, but you’ll have a better idea when your freedoms are limited.”

Colby Grads Top Income List

Colby Community College technical program graduates earn more money than graduates from any other two-year public institution in the state, according to the Kansas Board of Regents. The Kansas Training Information Program (K-TIP) report found that graduates of CCC technical programs made an average of $36,159 in 2014, about $3,000 more than the next closest institution and about $8,000 above the state average. The K-TIP reports employment and wage data submitted to the Kansas Board of Regents for all approved post-secondary career technical education programs offered by six technical colleges, 19 community colleges, and Washburn Institute of Technology.
**Fort Scott Community College** was named the best community college in the country by SmartAsset, a personal-financial advice platform.

In a blog post on September 15, the company explained, “The best community colleges should offer a high quality education at a low cost, with a high success rate and a good return on investment.” “In addition to being the best community college in the nation, Fort Scott is also among the oldest. It was founded in 1919 as the first community college in the state of Kansas.”

“So what makes FSCC so great? The school’s graduation-or-transfer rate is an incredible 87%, double the average for the colleges in SmartAsset’s study. One reason so many students find success at Fort Scott is that the student-teacher ratio is just 12:1.” Nick Wallace, data journalist for SmartAsset, adds, “We included the student-teacher ratio as a metric in this year’s ranking in order to gauge the quality of the education students receive in the classroom at community colleges. A lower ratio reflects higher access to instructors.” “That is in addition to the graduation and transfer rate, which reflects how successful a school is at helping students meet their goal of either obtaining a degree or moving on to a four-year college.” SmartAsset also found that FSCC’s graduates’ average starting salary was higher than the total cost of tuition. This meets the expectations of ongoing studies finding that the starting salaries of graduates of community college occupational and technical programs are higher than four-year liberal arts graduates.

The SmartAsset report also named **Labette Community College** as the fifth best in the country.


**High School Grads Stay Local**

With area high school graduates choosing to stay close to home to pursue their college education, **Cowley College** saw a 36% enrollment increase from the year before in students that graduated from Sumner/Cowley County high schools. Sumner County High Schools that have an increased number of students at Cowley College are Argonia, Belle Plaine, Caldwell, Conway Springs, Oxford, and Wellington. Mulvane also saw an increase of 10 high school graduates choosing to attend Cowley. Arkansas City, Arkansas City Christian Academy, Central-Burden, and Winfield were among the high schools in Cowley County that have an increased number of students at Cowley College in the fall. Winfield had the largest increase of students enrolled at Cowley (24 more than 2014). Cole Davis, a 2015 graduate of Arkansas City Christian Academy, has had many friends choose to attend Cowley and is glad to have an opportunity to attend college close to home. “Cowley has great educational programs at an affordable cost,” Davis said. “I can start college without taking on student loan debt.”

**JCCC Sees Improvement In Its Key Performance Indicators**

JCCC’s key performance indicators (KPIs) are used as benchmarks to assess the college’s performance against that of peer institutions and provide institutional focus and accountability. This year, JCCC saw increases in the fall-to-fall persistence rate. Of the fall 2013 first-time, full-time, degree-seeking cohort, 63 percent persisted to fall 2014, a 7 percent increase (IPEDS survey). For the fall 2013 first-time, part-time degree-seeking cohort, 45 percent persisted to fall 2014, a 4 percent increase (IPEDS survey). This is the highest fall-to-fall retention rate JCCC has had for that cohort in 10 years. For all JCCC students in fall 2013, 46 percent persisted to fall 2014, an increase of 1 percent (NCCBP survey). Also significant this year were the improvements in student satisfaction, which the college measures annually using the Ruffalo Noel-Levitz survey. The 2015 results exceeded the benchmark in every category within the student satisfaction indicator, which includes instructional effectiveness, registration effectiveness, safety and security, academic advising and concern for the individual.
Allen Red Devil “Greats” Honored

The Red Devil Diamond Club inducted four new members to its Hall of Fame on Saturday evening September 12th during its ceremony at Miller’s on Madison.

Former Allen Community College baseball players Tom Price, Dan Christie, Marty Runkin, and Joe Bidinger composed the fourth class of the Red Devil Diamond Club Hall of Fame.

Earlier on Saturday, Allen also honored former baseball coach Val McLean by renaming the stadium “Dr. Valis McLean Field.”

Photo: Dr. Valis McLean

Former Greyhound On Cover Of Sports Illustrated

Lavonte David's good press continues to roll in even after signing his five-year contract extension with the Buccaneers. David will be one of five players featured on regional covers of Sports Illustrated’s NFL preview. David’s cover will be featured in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina. The Texans’ J.J. Watt will be on the Kansas regional cover, but FSCC has plans to order several Lavonte David cover copies. The Sports Illustrated article included quotes from David on his time as a Greyhound, “Fort Scott was the hardest thing I ever went through, but it was the best thing for me.” Earlier this year David wrote with The Players’ Tribune about the possibility of appearing on a primetime game, “As a kid from South Florida, who played at Nebraska and got drafted by Tampa Bay, I’m going to pay homage to the place that made me who I am today — the place where I learned about myself and where I became a man.” “When it’s my turn, I’ll say: Lavonte David, Fort Scott Community College.”

GCCC Meats Team Travels To Hormel Meat Judging Contest

The GCCC meats judging team traveled to a meats judging contest in Austin Minnesota, at the Hormel Research and Development facility. The contest was unique from other intercollegiate meat judging contest in that it consisted of pork only and fresh and processed products. All schools competed against each other regardless of size.

Clint Alexander, the Meats Judging Team Coach said, “This was a great opportunity for our students to test their knowledge against Universities. We worked hard in the weeks before classes. We prepared slab bacon, sliced bacon, center-cut slices, and shank hams to have them ready for students to practice with when they returned to campus in August. With our meat lab, we had the ability to alter some of the products and create different characteristics that we believed would be presented at the competition.”

HCC Men’s Track & Field Wins Academic Award

The 2015 Highland Community College men’s Track and Field team was honored for the fourth consecutive year by the National Junior College Track and Field Coaches Association as a recipient of the Academic Team of the Year award. The award is a seasonal award calculating the team’s grade point average (GPA) during the season of competition. The Highland men had the seventh highest team seasonal GPA. Members of Coach Chad Clevenger’s team who were awarded by the Coaches Association as Academic All-NJCAA were Chris Essman (Topeka), Conner Bigham (Hiawatha), Chance Morrow (Holton), Trenton Smith (Silver Lake), and Kyle Lansing (Leavenworth), all posting GPA’s over 3.6.