



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### A Letter to the Community *from the GCCC Board of Trustees*

Dear Community Members,

As the new academic year begins, we, the Garden City Community College (GCCC) Board of Trustees, would like to take a moment to highlight some of the remarkable recent achievements of GCCC and discuss their significance for our community. The success and growth of our institution directly impact the well-being and prosperity of Garden City, and we are proud to share these updates with you.

First and foremost, we are thrilled to announce the completion of the new **STEM Success Center**. This 10,000-square-foot addition to the Warren Fouse Science and Math building represents a leap forward in our educational offerings. With four new classrooms, student study spaces, and advanced equipment for science, technology, mathematics, and engineering (STEM) instruction, this facility will be a cornerstone of our academic programs. This project was made possible through a Federal Title III Department of Education grant and tax credits. Thanks to this funding, we have also introduced three new programs: Cybersecurity, Robotics, and Crop Production Technology, solidifying GCCC as the **STEM Central Hub for Western Kansas**.

In addition to advancements in STEM education, we have also expanded the John Deere program facility with the **Gary E. Jarmer Technical Annex**. This 8,000-square-foot expansion includes additional classroom and office space, as well as a four-bay shop area for the John Deere Ag Tech program. Funded through state funds from the Department of Commerce and private industry donations, this expansion enables us to provide even better training and opportunities for our students. Furthermore, our partnership with KCB Bank has allowed us to remodel our auditorium with new seating, flooring, lighting, and sound upgrades. This newly enhanced space is now named the **KCB Bank Auditorium**, and it stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration.

We are also proud to share that Garden City Community College has been recognized as one of the **"Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges"** for the **fourth time in the past five years** by The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD). This prestigious award is a reflection of our commitment to best-in-class student and staff recruitment and retention practices, inclusive learning and working environments, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities.

Our dedication to degree and certificate completion remains unwavering. We have formed valuable partnerships with Seward County Community College, Newman University, and Fort Hays State University to bring essential programs to our campus. These partnerships enable individuals to continue their education locally, thereby remaining positive contributors to our community. By offering **CDL-Truck Driving training, and bachelor's degree completion programs in business, ag-business, nursing, social work, and education right here in Garden City**, we ensure that our community has the resources they need to succeed without having to leave their hometown.

Over the past three years, Garden City Community College has served nearly **7,000 students**, with two-thirds continuing their education beyond GCCC and one-third stepping directly into the workforce. Additionally, our Garden City Career Connections Academy (GCCCA) has been instrumental in helping individuals achieve their goals, with over **1,800 students** taking General Education Diploma (GED) courses, learning English, and/or taking Citizenship courses in that timeframe. This comprehensive support system exemplifies our mission to foster education and personal growth within our community.

All of these efforts play a crucial role in boosting our community's overall vitality. The economic impact of Garden City Community College on our region is substantial, with a total annual economic contribution of **\$124.5 million**. According to a Lightcast study, our students inject **\$2.6 million** into the local economy each year, and graduates with an associate degree earn **\$17,100 more** annually than those with just a high school diploma. This study highlights how GCCC stimulates the local economy by boosting consumer spending and supplying skilled workers, enhances students' earnings potential, benefits taxpayers with increased tax receipts and lower social service demands, and fosters a more prosperous Kansas through improved student lifestyles.

As we look forward to another year of growth and achievement, we remain dedicated to being **where community meets opportunity**. Garden City Community College continues to push the envelope by creating opportunities for our community, and we are excited to embark on this journey with you.

Sincerely,

*The Garden City Community College Board of Trustees*



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