

THE BRONCBUSTER

Annual Report

2023-2024



G GARDEN CITY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
801 Campus Dr. • Garden City, KS
67846

A digital
version
is available
online!



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 4** STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS
- 6** REVENUES & EXPENDITURES
- 7** FINANCIAL AID STATS
- 8** OUR STORY: 2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS
- 28** STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

GCCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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DR. MERILYN DOUGLASS



JEAN CLIFFORD

A NOTE FROM **DR. RYAN RUDA** GCCC PRESIDENT

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2023-2024 Annual Report for Garden City Community College. This past academic year has been a remarkable period of achievements and growth for both our campus and the community we serve.

One of our most significant accomplishments this year was partnering with Newman University to bring in-person bachelor's degree completion opportunities to Southwest Kansas. This collaboration allows students to start or complete their associate degrees at GCCC and transition seamlessly into face-to-face classes offered at Newman University's new Garden City location. This initiative not only expands access to affordable, high-quality four-year degree programs but also plays a crucial role in retaining talent within our region.

Additionally, we celebrated a milestone with the opening of the STEM Success Center and the Gary E. Jarmer Technical Annex expansion. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, we welcomed Senator Jerry Moran, Fort Hays State University President Dr. Tisa Mason, our Board of Trustees, community members, students, and employees to explore these transformative new spaces. The 10,000-square-foot STEM Success Center enhances the Warren Fouse Science and Math building with new classrooms, state-of-the-art labs, and student study spaces, while the 8,000-square-foot Technical Annex expansion provides upgraded facilities for the John Deere Ag Tech program and our Information Technology department. These advancements exemplify our commitment to innovation and excellence in education.

We were also deeply honored to receive the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges award for the fourth time from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and Diverse: Issues In Higher Education. This recognition highlights our dedication to fostering diversity, inclusivity, and meaningful engagement opportunities for our students and staff.

The annual report you are about to review details these milestones and more while providing insights into the financial impact of GCCC on our community. As part of our commitment to transparency and open communication, we invite you to share your feedback using the QR code provided or by visiting our website at www.gccc.edu/about_gccc/board_of_trustees.aspx#feedback.



**SUBMIT
FEEDBACK
HERE!**

At Garden City Community College, we remain steadfast in upholding the “community” in community college, working collaboratively with and for you. Your continued support and engagement make our progress possible. As always, it’s a great day to be a Buster!

Dr. Ryan J. Ruda, President

Dr. Ryan J. Ruda



*President Ruda (right) pictured with 2023-2024
Presidential Ambassadors: (left to right) Carly Lang,
Morgan Hammond, Jaxton Gallegos, Hayden Jellison,
and Roxy Stone*

***It's ALWAYS
a GREAT DAY to be a***



BUSTER!

GCCC SEES INCREASE IN HEADCOUNT FOR FALL 2023

GCCC reports continued enrollment growth, reflecting an unwavering commitment to excellence in education and student success. Total student headcount was up 1% at 1,988 students, while credit hours was down 0.1% at 21,477 credit hours for Fall 2023.

"GCCC has had increasing credit hour generation in each of the last five years, and is one of the only public institutions in the state of Kansas to have an increasing enrollment through the pandemic. It is not surprising to see a leveling off of credit hour generation after such a long and sustained period of growth," said Dr. Ryan Ruda, GCCC President. "As an institution, we are continuing to work to become the first choice for southwest Kansas students. We continue to offer classes for high school students, students planning to transfer to a four-year institution, and students seeking immediate employment through technical programs. In each of these pathways, we continue to expand access and track increasing success in students."

The college has also experienced a 1% increase in students from across the state of Kansas. A notable 53% of GCCC students come from Finney County, with 79% originating from the state of Kansas. In addition to Kansas students, GCCC is represented by students from 42 other states and 32 international countries.



BUSTER DEMOGRAPHICS

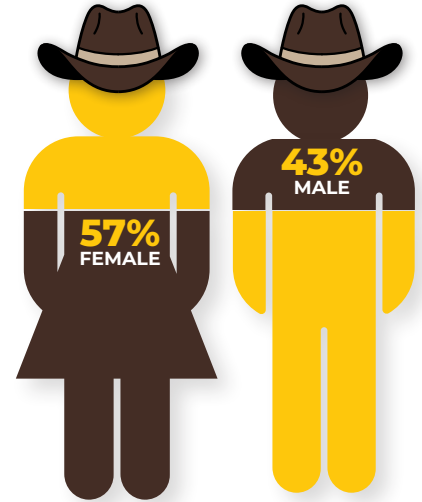
1,988
STUDENTS SERVED

1,060
FULL TIME

928
PART-TIME

21,477
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS

STUDENT
GENDER



1,572
KANSAS
RESIDENTS

79%
FROM KANSAS



53%
FROM FINNEY
COUNTY

336
OUT OF STATE
STUDENTS
REPRESENTING

42
STATES

80
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS
REPRESENTING

32
COUNTRIES

ALL FIGURES ARE BASED ON
FALL 2023 CERTIFICATION - SEPT. 27, 2023

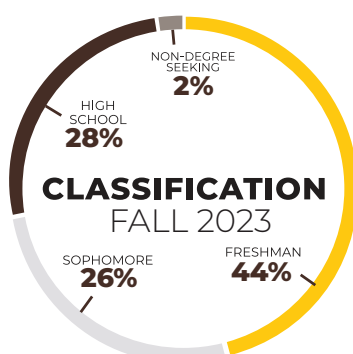
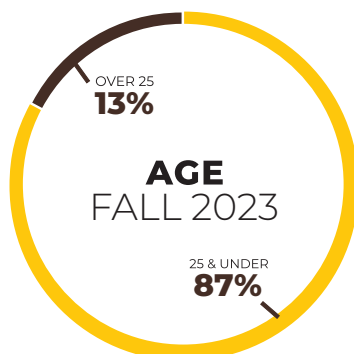
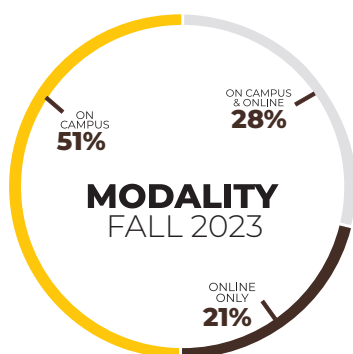
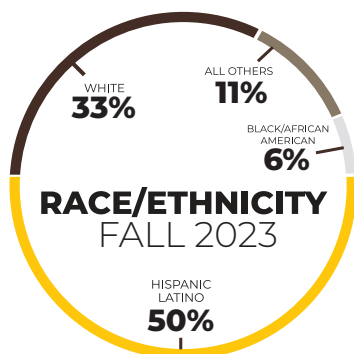


50+
ACADEMIC
PROGRAMS

16:1
STUDENT TO FACULTY
RATIO

OVER
25
STUDENT CLUBS
& ORGANIZATIONS

OVER **1.5**
MILLION
IN SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED EACH YEAR



2024 GRAD STATS

532
TOTAL
GRADUATES

342
ASSOCIATE
DEGREES

190
CERTIFICATES

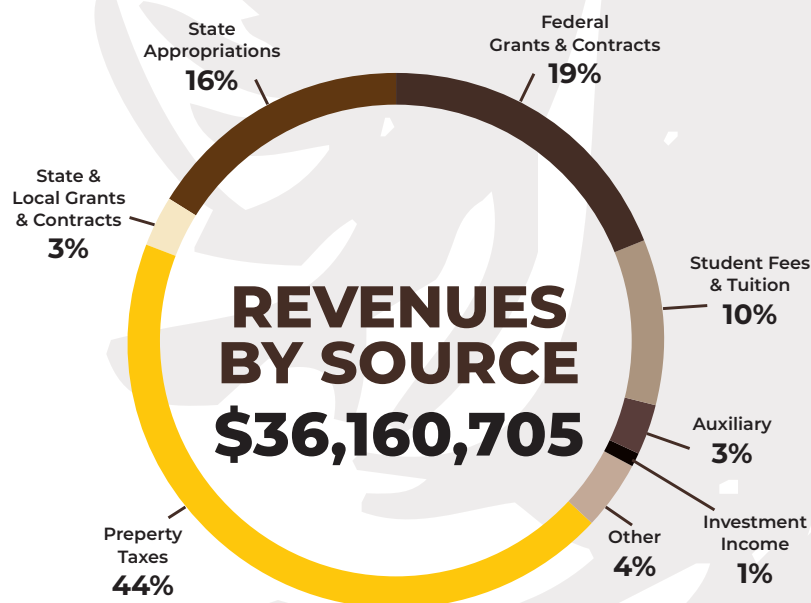
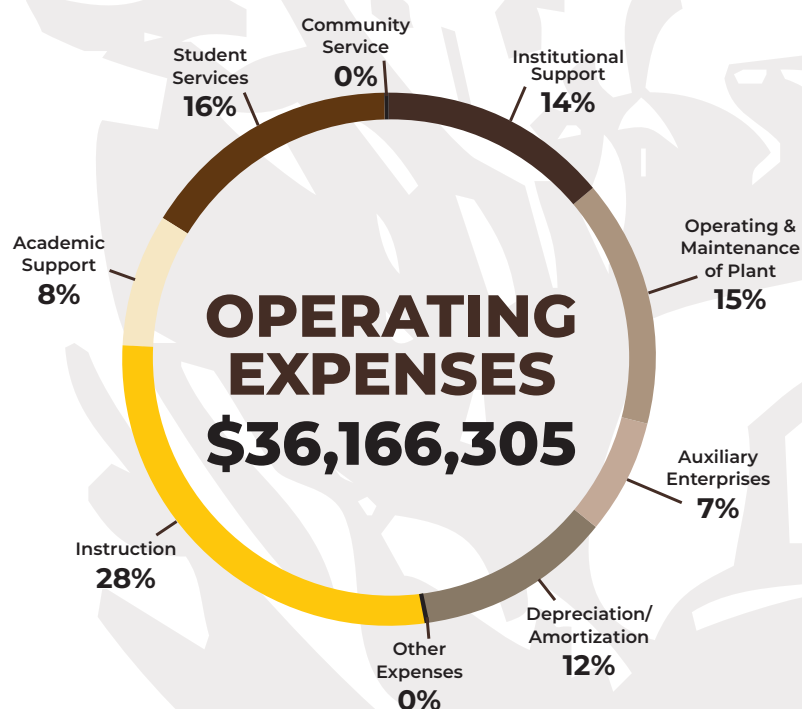
54%
TRANSFER/
GENERAL
EDUCATION



46%
TECHNICAL
EDUCATION

REVENUE & EXPENDITURES

2023-2024



OPERATING REVENUES INCREASED by **\$1,232,672**, or **13.16%**, from **2023**. This was primarily due to INCREASES IN OTHER OPERATING REVENUES, which includes an increase of **\$1,276,062** in state and local grants and contracts from 2023.

OPERATING EXPENSES INCREASED by **\$3,242,424**, or **9.85%**, from **2023**. This was primarily due to overall increases in academic support, student services, operating and maintenance of plant, institutional support, auxiliary expenses, and depreciation and amortization. Academic support, student services, and institutional support increased as a result of additional staff.

OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE OF PLANT INCREASED as a result of increases in utilities, property insurance, vehicle fuel and janitorial supplies; and adjustments made to staffs' hourly wages.

AUXILIARY ENTERPRISES INCREASED as a result of additional staff and repairs and maintenance expenses to student housing and the student center.

DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION INCREASED due to projects being finalized and capitalized in the current year and the recording of amortization expense associated with right-to-use lease and subscription assets.

Figures based on schedule of expenditures of federal awards in the college's annual audit report presented to the GCCC Board of Trustees in March of 2025 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Financials audited by Lewis, Hooper, & Dick, LLC, Certified Public Accountants

FINANCIAL AID STATS 2023-2024

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

Type of Award	# of Students	# of Awards	Amount
Institutional Scholarships (in & out-of-state)	785	1,323	\$1,543,124
Finney County Scholarships	198	393	\$356,608
Endowment Scholarships	221	704	\$197,485
Federal Pell and SEOG Grants	700	1,604	\$3,304,581
Miscellaneous Funding/Assistance	177	274	\$417,813
State Scholarships and Grants	57	101	\$161,553
TOTAL	1,416*	4,399	\$5,981,164

*Unduplicated student count - Many students received multiple awards from these funding sources.

STUDENT LOANS

OF THE **2,692**
STUDENTS ENROLLED
AS UNDERGRADS AT GCCC

272

UNIQUE BORROWERS

\$1,285,838

IN STUDENT LOAN DEBT

That's roughly
10%
of students needing
to borrow federal
student loans
to attend GCCC!

WORK STUDY (FEDERAL & INSTITUTIONAL)

57
STUDENTS

\$111,479

TOTAL PAID TO WORK STUDIES

The GCCC Financial Aid office also focuses efforts on educating borrowers to be responsible during repayment. GCCC assists students in making responsible decisions, and staying informed during student loan repayment.

0%

GCCC BORROWER
DEFAULT RATE

0%

NATIONAL BORROWER
DEFAULT RATE FOR ALL
INSTITUTIONS

0%

NATIONAL BORROWER
DEFAULT RATE FOR
PUBLIC 2-YEAR COLLEGE

FY 2021 cohort default rates were significantly impacted by the pause on federal student loan payments that began March 13, 2020. During the pause, borrowers with ED-held student loans were not required to make any payments, and no borrowers with ED-held loans entered default.

OUR STORY

2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS



BUSTERCON COMIC CONVENTION

The first-ever BUSTERCON comic convention, was enjoyed by over 400 attendees on February 24, 2024. This event showcased informative booths and merchandise for purchase from accomplished authors, artists, vendors, comics, and cosplay.



GCCC & SCCC PARTNERSHIP BRINGS CDL/TRUCK DRIVING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Administrators from Seward County Community College (SCCC) and Garden City Community College (GCCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to offer a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Truck Driving certification program in Garden City on August 7, 2023. SCCC will administer the program through classes held at GCCC.



ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION SEES SUCCESS WITH 44TH ANNUAL PHONATHON

Thanks to the efforts of students, staff, and community volunteers, over \$30,000 in donations to the Garden City Community College Endowment Association were pledged during the 44th Annual Phonathon annual fundraising event from Oct. 2-12, 2023.



MEAT JUDGING TEAM WINS 2023 BEEF EMPIRE DAYS COMPETITION

The 2023 GCCC Meat Judging Team, coached by Dr. Clint Alexander and Skyler Glenn, won the Beef Empire Days Contest by 128 points. This marked the team's first back-to-back win in the contest's history. GCCC placed first in Beef Grading, Lamb Judging, Pork Judging, Placings, and Total Beef, and second in Beef Judging and

Questions. They also posted the 4th highest score in GCCC Meat Judging history with 3,756 points.

GCCC MUSIC DEPT. HOSTS FOURTH ANNUAL KMEA LEARNING DAY

The Garden City Community College (GCCC) Music Department hosted the fourth annual Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) Learning Day on October 4, 2023. The event prepared high school music students for district and state honor groups, with over 465 students from 17 Western Kansas high schools participating. GCCC music instructors provided specialized assistance and rehearsals. The event also featured practice tips, audition preparation, and information about GCCC's music programs.



Full Article



GCCC HALO DEDICATES MEMORIAL GARDEN TO FOUNDER LYDIA M. GONZALES

On April 29, 2024, Garden City Community College Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) dedicated a memorial garden in remembrance of Lydia M. Gonzales, the visionary founder of the GCCC HALO and the annual Hispanic Student Day event. The garden, located in the GCCC Quad, is a tribute to her unwavering dedication and profound influence on Garden City Community College and higher education. The Gonzales family, friends, former and current HALO members, and community members gathered to share memories of Lydia and honor her legacy.

GCCC ANNOUNCES EMPLOYEE AWARDS

2024 NISOD EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Garden City Community College proudly announced the selection of four exemplary employees for the prestigious annual NISOD Excellence

Awards. Sydnee Claussen (Director of Advising), Julia Proctor (Director of Library Services), Jodie Tewell (Executive Assistant to the President), and Gabe Winger (Associate Dean of Technical Education and Director of John Deere Ag Tech) were honored for their exceptional dedication and contribution to

both students and colleagues.

These awards, presented by NISOD, recognize individuals who exhibit remarkable commitment and service within their educational community.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOTH AWARDS ARE SUBMITTED BY PEERS,



GCCC NISOD 2024 Winners (left to right): Sydnee Claussen (Director of Advising), Julia Proctor (Director of Library Services), Gabe Winger (Associate Dean of Technical Education & Director of John Deere Ag Tech), and Jodie Tewell (Executive Assistant to the President).

OF EXCELLENCE

2023-24 LEAGUE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

GCCC proudly announced the recipients of the 2023-2024 League Excellence Awards. Ron Carlson (Associate Professor

of Computer Science), Greg Greathouse (Associate Professor of HPER), Colin Lamb (Vice President for Student Services & Athletics), Janet Reed (ALC Instructor), and Brandy Unruh (Associate Dean of Technical Education and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice) were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the college community.

The League Excellence Awards, through the League for Innovation in the Community College, recognize outstanding faculty, staff, and leaders in the community college field who have made a significant difference in the lives of students and in the communities their colleges serve.

UNDERSCORING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RECOGNITIONS.



GCCC 2024 League Excellence Winners (left to right): Ron Carlson (Associate Professor of Computer Science), Greg Greathouse (Associate Professor of HPER), Brandy Unruh (Associate Dean of Technical Education & Associate Professor of Criminal Justice), Janet Reed (ALC Instructor), and Colin Lamb (Vice President for Student Services & Athletics).



(L-R) Dr. Ryan Ruda, President of Garden City Community College, Jessica Bird, Dean of School of Education and Social Work of Newman University, U.S. Senator Jerry Moran, and Alden Stout, Vice President of Newman University

GCCC & NEWMAN UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP

Garden City Community College and Newman University announced a new partnership for area students on July 19, 2023. This partnership allows students to complete their Associate degree at GCCC and their Bachelor's degree at Newman without leaving Garden City.

The initiative launched in Fall 2023, offering degree completion in business administration and agribusiness, with plans to add more degree programs in the future. Students are able to start or finish their associate degree at GCCC and then take in-person classes through the new Newman location in Garden City.

GCCC President Dr. Ryan Ruda emphasized the importance of this collaboration, noting its role in retaining talent in Southwest Kansas and providing four-year degree completion opportunities in a face-to-face format. Dr. Ruda highlighted the strong programs, access, affordability, and commitment to student financial assistance that Newman University brought to the partnership.

Newman President Kathleen S. Jagger expressed excitement about the partnership, believing it would positively impact the region by enabling students to earn bachelor's degrees while remaining in their hometowns. Newman

Vice President for Academic Affairs Alden Stout added that the collaboration allows students to stay connected to their communities while gaining the necessary knowledge and experience to succeed.

The partnership includes a \$20,000 annual scholarship for students who completed their associate degree and enrolled at Newman, with additional aid available through the Newman Match Grant for students receiving federal Pell or state grants. Learn more at gcccnewman.com.



**LEARN MORE
ABOUT THIS
INITIATIVE!**

GCCC PARTNERS WITH ACUE TO STRENGTHEN TEACHING & LEARNING

GCCC partnered with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) to provide training in research-based teaching methods that promote student success. In the project's first year, thirty-three full-time faculty members, nearly half of GCCC's full-time faculty, participated to learn instructional skills aimed at enhancing student motivation, learning, and persistence.

Faculty who met the program requirements received a nationally-recognized Certificate in Effective College Instruction, co-endorsed by ACUE and the American Council on Education (ACE). Dr. Marc Malone, Vice President for Instructional Services and Chief Academic Officer, highlighted the benefit of investing in faculty to improve teaching quality, directly linking it to student success. GCCC

faculty completed 25 learning modules throughout the year, implementing and evaluating teaching strategies in their classes each week. ACUE's courses, grounded in over three decades of research, covered over 200 evidence-based teaching practices, including course design, productive learning environments, active learning techniques, higher-order thinking promotion, and assessment use.



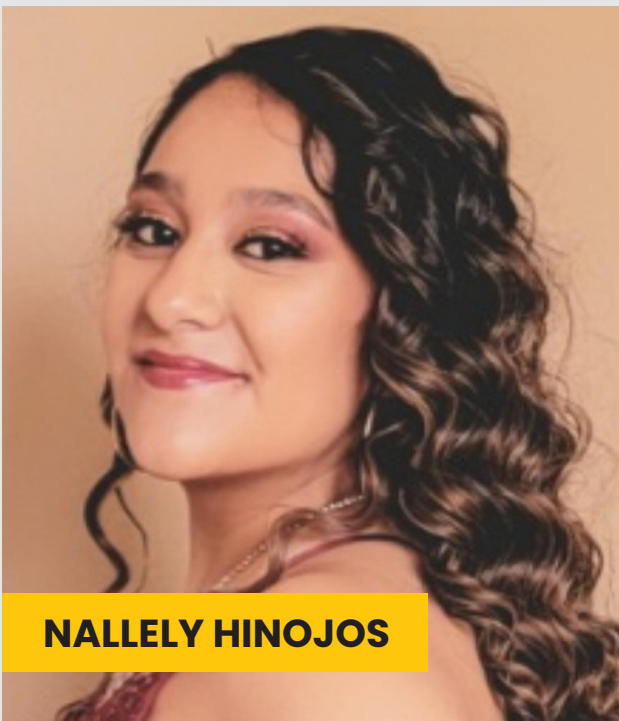
RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW GREENHOUSE



GCCC celebrated the ribbon cutting for the new state-of-the-art Greenhouse on May 9, 2024. Located north of the tennis courts at GCCC, the 48' x 84' greenhouse is the centerpiece of the new Crop Production Technology program.

With this greenhouse, students will learn about crop scouting and nutrient management in a classroom setting and apply that knowledge in the lab by physically crop-scouting fields in a hands-on experience and an outside "land lab." This plot of land will allow students to collect and analyze data within the greenhouse and compare data to the outdoor plots.





NALLELY HINOJOS



MYA DELACRUZ

PHI THETA KAPPA NAMES TWO STUDENTS TO **2024 ALL-KANSAS ACADEMIC TEAM**




**Full
Article**

Garden City Community College Phi Theta Kappa named Nallely Hinojos and Mya Delacruz to the All-Kansas Academic Team for 2024. Alpha Xi Upsilon, the college's chapter of the society, honored Hinojos and Delacruz during a luncheon and ceremony held in Junction City on April 12, 2024.

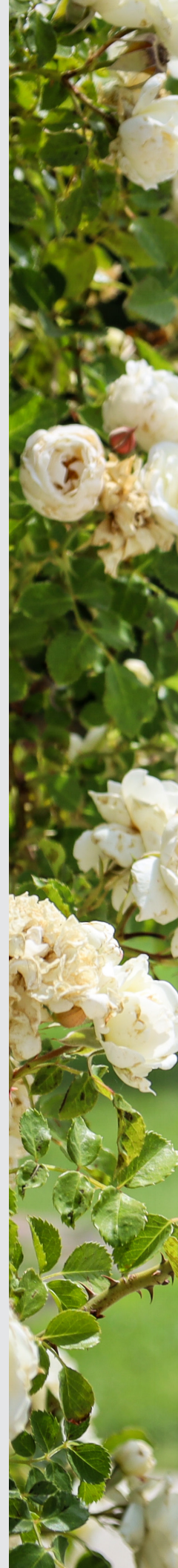
Nallely Hinojos is a Business major. She is from Garden City, Kansas, and is the daughter of Romero and Reyna Romero. Nallely plans to transfer to Kansas State University.

Mya Delacruz is a Pre-Engineering major. She is from Garden City, Kansas, and is the daughter of Jeff and Tamera Delacruz. Mya plans to transfer to Kansas State University.

About Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.8 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at ptk.org.

For more information about Alpha Xi Upsilon, contact GCCC PTK sponsors Winsom Lamb at winsom.lamb@gcccks.edu or Tammy Hutcheson at tammy.hutcheson@gcccks.edu.



GCCC NAMED “MOST PROMISING PLACES TO WORK IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES” FOR FOURTH TIME

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and Diverse: Issues In Higher Education (Diverse) have recognized Garden City Community College as one of the 2024 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges!

The annual award recognizes community and technical colleges committed to diversity through best-in-class student and staff recruitment and retention practices, inclusive learning and working environments, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities. The national study employs a web-based survey approach to obtain information from NISOD member institutions. A multipart, weighted algorithm is used to classify the responding institutions.

Garden City Community College is the only Kansas institution ranked among the 2024 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges list, and one of 18 community colleges nationally. GCCC also won the award in 2019, 2020, and 2023.




**Full
Article**

GCCC LAUNCHES OFFICIAL BRONCBUSTER LICENSE PLATES

Garden City Community College released the highly anticipated Broncbuster License Plates, which were made officially available to Kansas residents in March 2024. As distinctive symbols of state pride, these plates showcase support for Garden City Community College and contribute to student scholarships.

Every Broncbuster License Plate purchase at \$70.50 results in a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the GCCC Alumni Office, directly benefiting the GCCC Alumni Scholarship fund. This unique opportunity allows alumni, students, parents, fans, and friends of Garden City Community College to proudly display their Buster Pride while making a positive impact on students' educational pursuits.



Broncbuster License Plates are available to all Kansas residents through their local county treasurer's office.

**Get yours today so you can
DRIVE WITH BUSTER PRIDE!
LEARN MORE!**

GCCC ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION 2023 SCHOLARSHIP CELEBRATION BRINGS TOGETHER STUDENTS & DONORS

The GCCC Endowment Association held its 2023 Scholarship Celebration on Thursday, November 30th, in the Dennis Perryman Athletic Complex. The event allowed student scholarship recipients and donors to socialize and enjoy a meal together. There were 55 students, 72 donors, GCCC staff and administration, and five Endowment Board members in attendance.

After the meal, the GCCC Endowment Association presented the 2022-2023 Outstanding Service awards to Nutrien Ag Solutions and Jeremy Gigot in recognition of their support. Lenzy Kuebler, Director of Endowment Association and Annual Giving, highlighted the event's significance, emphasizing the transformative

impact of scholarships on students and the community. She expressed gratitude to the donors for their contributions and thanked Nutrien Ag Solutions and Jeremy Gigot for their support of the Endowment Association.



Donors and students mingle at the 2023 Scholarship Celebration at Garden City Community College.

2024 ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION: COUNTRY VS COUNTRY CLUB

The 46th Annual GCCC Endowment Association Scholarship Auction, sponsored by Commerce Bank, took place on Friday, April 12, 2024. The theme, "Country versus Country Club," encouraged guests to combine western attire with sophisticated country club fashion, creating a unique and stylish evening.

The event included both silent and live auctions, a 50/50 cash drawing, and a meal. Attendees enthusiastically bid on over 50 items to support GCCC students, contributing to academic and technical scholarships.



GCCC QUIZARDS WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The Garden City Community College Quiz Bowl Team, known as The Quizards, secured their second consecutive win at the 2024 Kansas Collegiate Quiz Bowl State Championship. The event, held on April 13-14 in Salina, Kansas, attracted teams statewide, showcasing intense intellectual competition.

The GCCC Quizards dominated the round-robin phase with an unbeaten 5-0 record, demonstrating their comprehensive knowledge across diverse subjects. In the Championship round, GCCC triumphed over Cowley College, clinching a well-deserved victory and reaffirming their status as Kansas Collegiate Quiz Bowl champions.

Individual achievements included Matthew Blood and Ethan Horton, who earned impressive 2nd and 3rd place rankings respectively.

The 2024 Championship Team comprised Matthew Blood, Ethan Horton, Josh Mitchell, Jessica Boutdara, and Sierra Mouser, coached by GCCC Professors Cody Cundiff and Dr. Haley York.

Pictured above left to right: Jessica Boutdara, Coach Dr. Haley York, Sierra Mouser, Matthew Blood, Josh Mitchell, Ethan Horton, Chad Kubicek (Nationale Academic Quiz Tournaments Member), and Coach Cody Cundiff.



GRAHAM DIRKS



ALLISA MEAD



ERICA MORRISON



SARA SEE

FOUR HIGH SCHOOL DUAL CREDIT STUDENTS EARN GCCC ASSOCIATE

In a remarkable feat of academic achievement, four local high school students graduated with associate degrees from Garden City Community College (GCCC) in early May 2024 before receiving their high school diplomas. The following students have successfully completed the requirements of GCCC's Dual Credit EDGE program, earning their associate degrees while still in high school:

- **Graham Dirks** - Garden City High School
- **Allisa Mead** - Lakin High School
- **Erica Morrison** - 4-M Academy
- **Sara See** - Holcomb High

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
DUAL CREDIT!



GCCC Team at 2nd Annual
KJCCC Sports Medicine
Olympics.

GCCC SPORTS MEDICINE EXCELS AT SECOND ANNUAL KJCCC SPORTS MEDICINE OLYMPICS

The Garden City Community College Sports Medicine student program showcased its exceptional skills at the second annual KJCCC Sports Medicine Olympics, securing an impressive second place overall. Held in Hutchinson on April 28th, the event brought together sports medicine programs from multiple Kansas community colleges and universities for a day of competition and camaraderie.

The GCCC team secured first place in taping and immediate injury care, while placing second in the

other three events. Their outstanding performance culminated in a final score of 527.5 out of 600 possible points, narrowly losing the championship spot by four points.

The students who competed on the GCCC team include Lily Sanchez, Jelena Milovanovic, Abby Gillen, Dalton Foreman, Hannah Duncan, Isaiah Dixon, Jaelyn Wheaton, Jaylene Hernandez, Jeremiah "Jerry" Houdashelt, Kadence Butteris, Kazuma Narumi, Samanta Orozco, Shawn Dreiling, and Sidney Scruggs.



Full
Article





GCCC HOSTS HANDS-ON STEM SUMMER CAMP FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Garden City Community College hosted its third annual STEM summer camp, "Science is Everywhere," from June 4-6, offering three days of immersive, hands-on learning experiences for 13 area high school students.

During the camp, the campers engaged in hands-on learning activities across various scientific disciplines, including forensic science, fire science, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, animal science, and plant science. The camp was supported by GCCC's Title III STEM Grant, a \$5 million grant from the Department of Education.



GCCC GRADUATES FIRST STUDENTS FROM MEDICAL ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Garden City Community College graduated the inaugural class of its Medical Assistant program in May 2024. Christine Strout, Leslie Barrios, and Anahi Franco successfully completed the curriculum and earned their Medical Assistant Certificate C.

LaLani Kasselmann, Director of Allied Health at GCCC, expressed pride in their accomplishments and promising futures, noting that they secured positions as Medical Assistants in local healthcare facilities even before graduation.

In response to the growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals in rural Southwest Kansas, GCCC developed a comprehensive three-semester, 48-credit Medical Assistant program, launched in Fall 2022. The program prepares students with essential skills for medical office administration and clinical duties, covering patient care, laboratory procedures, examinations, medication administration, and first aid. Graduates are prepared to take the national exam to become Registered Medical Assistants (RMAs), opening doors to diverse healthcare careers.



Anahi Franco and Leslie Barrios, GCCC Medical Assistant Graduates 2024.



BILLY'S BREWHOUSE COFFEE SHOP OPENS

Billy's Brewhouse, a new coffee shop at Garden City Community College, opened next to the Broncbuster Bookstore in the Beth Tedrow Student Center on February 14, 2024.

Billy's Brewhouse proudly served free Scooter's Coffee, thanks to a collaborative partnership with Donny and Lindsay Huber of Higher Grounds, LLC. Classic brew coffee and a flavor of the day (hot and cold options) are complimentary to all students. Snacks, beverages, and food options are available for purchase through Great Western Dining.

Billy's Brewhouse is open weekdays from 7:00 to 11:00 AM and 6:30 to 9:30 PM during the fall and spring semesters.



RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION FOR KCB BANK AUDITORIUM



On March 6, 2024, GCCC held a naming ceremony for the recently renovated and renamed KCB Bank Auditorium inside the GCCC Pauline Joyce Fine Arts Building.

Thanks to the generous support from KCB Bank

through the KS Department of Commerce's tax credit program, the auditorium has undergone significant improvements, including state-of-the-art lighting, a rigging system, and enhanced sound capabilities.



FIRST GCCC REGISTERED PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN CLASS CELEBRATES EXAM SUCCESS



GCCC successfully completed the first class of students in the Registered Phlebotomy Technician (RPT) pathway. All three students, Kristina Gilcrease, Kristina Hernandez, and Christine Strout, achieved a 100% pass rate on their first attempt at the national exam.

This year, Jami Major, a GCCC Allied Health Department instructor, developed and taught the first-ever Laboratory Diagnostic & Phlebotomy course for the RPT pathway. The successful students are now qualified to work in any U.S. CLIA-approved lab or testing center.

The RPT pathway provides students with knowledge of Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) regulations, specimen and blood collection techniques, and universal precautions. The 16-week course includes 40 hours of onsite clinical training, preparing students for the national exam.

STEM SUCCESS CENTER & JOHN DEERE FACILITY EXPANSION RIBBON CUTTING

On April 3, 2024, Garden City Community College held the ribbon-cutting of the STEM Success Center and the Gary E. Jarmer Technical Annex expansion. Senator Jerry Moran, FHSU President Dr. Tisa Mason, GCCC Board of Trustees, community members, students, and employees gathered to commemorate this milestone. Guests were able to explore both facilities during the event.

The STEM Success Center is a 10,000-square-foot addition to the Warren Fouse Science and Math building, featuring four new classrooms: a chemistry lab, a computer support specialist lab, a robotics and mechatronics lab, and a flex classroom for lectures. The state-of-the-art facility also houses student study spaces and new equipment.

The Gary E. Jarmer Technical Annex expansion added 8,000 square feet of classroom and office space. The John Deere Ag Tech program gained additional classroom space and a four-bay shop area within the expansion. The space also includes brand-new offices for the Information Technology department.





GCCC HONORED AS LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

BY GARDEN CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

At the Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet and Business Awards held on April 11, 2024, Garden City Community College was honored as “Large Business of the Year.”

The selection process for the Annual Business Awards involves an evaluation conducted by a panel comprising former award recipients and members of the Chamber executive board. Each nominee is assessed against a set of criteria, which includes evaluating contributions in five key areas: (1) Business and Job Growth in Finney County, (2) Business Success and Innovation, (3) Community Involvement, Activities, and Services Provided, (4) Employee Culture and Workforce Environment, and (5) Community-Based Philanthropy.

(Above Photo) GCCC Administration & Board of Trustees with Large Business of the Year Award. Image courtesy of Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce.

(Right Photo) GCCC President Ruda receiving Large Business of the Year Award. Image courtesy of Garden City Area Chamber of Commerce.



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GCCC LAUNCHES BUSTER FINISH LINE PROGRAM FOR DEGREE COMPLETION

Garden City Community College introduced the “Buster Finish Line” program to support former students in completing their degrees by providing up to 19 credit hours tuition-free for qualified students.

Dr. Ryan Ruda, GCCC President, emphasized the college’s long-standing commitment to helping students achieve their academic goals, inviting students who came close to finishing their degrees to return and complete them. The program offers tuition-free credits to support this journey.

Eligibility criteria included former GCCC students with 48+ credit hours, at least 15 credit hours earned from GCCC, a GPA of 2.0 or better, good academic, disciplinary, and financial standing, and not having been enrolled in any institution for the past 12 consecutive months.

Qualified individuals were encouraged to complete the Interest Form on the GCCC website: https://www.gcccks.edu/admissions/buster_finish_line.aspx. For questions, GCCC Admissions could be contacted at: admission@gcccks.edu or 620-276-9608.



GCCC CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMPETITION TEAM EXCELS AT 2023 REGIONALS

The GCCC Criminal Justice Competition Team/TEL (Tau Epsilon Lambda) excelled during the 2023 American Criminal Justice Association Region III competition, earning three 1st place finishes, three 2nd place finishes, and five 3rd place finishes.

The competition was held from October 19-22, 2023, at Fort Hays State University, with six schools in attendance, including four universities and two community colleges. The GCCC team comprised Mariah Carrillo, Donovan Aldana, Xitlaly Marino, Natalia De La Torre, Shania Castro, Benjamin Rubio, Anaïd Leyva, Cristian Villatoro, Kristi Nava, Anabel Orrantia, Brandy Unruh, and Robert Scrivner.



Left to right back row: Brandy Unruh, Natalia De La Torre, Anaïd Leyva, Benjamin Rubio, Donovan Aldana, Cristian Villatoro, Robert Scrivner. Front row: Kristi Nava, Anabel Orrantia, Xitlaly Marino, Mariah Carrillo, Shania Castro.





GCCC BOOKBUSTERS CELEBRATE RELEASE OF PROJECT 1919 VOLUME TWO

The GCCC Bookbusters Club hosted a release party for volume two of *Project 1919: GCCC's Magazine of the Arts* on Wednesday, May 1st. The event included unveiling the magazine, free copies for attendees, recognition of award winners, and live readings of selected excerpts. Refreshments were provided, and the event was open to the public.

Project 1919 aims to offer a creative outlet for GCCC students, employees, and

the broader community. As a student-run publication sponsored by the English department, students managed all aspects of layout, design, editing, and content selection with faculty support. Printed on campus, the magazine is released at the end of the spring semester and features fiction, poetry, essays, and artwork from both the campus and local community.



OVER 60 GRADUATE AT 2024 GED CEREMONY

Garden City Career Connection Academy (GCCCCA) held its 2024 GED graduation ceremony on Friday, May 31, 2024. Claudia Horney, Director of GCCCCA, expressed her excitement, celebrating the accomplishments of over 60 students graduating with their GED. She emphasized the importance of the milestone, noting that a GED opens doors to further education and career advancement nationwide.

GCCCCA continues to provide innovative opportunities that support participants in reaching their educational and life goals.

Services include instruction in reading, writing, and math; GED test preparation; English Language Acquisition (ELA); Civics classes; digital literacy; and family literacy activities. GCCCCA also partners with Tyson Foods to offer classes to employees both on the GCCC campus and on-site at the Tyson plant.



GCCC STUDENT WINS GRAPHIC DESIGN CONTEST

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In early spring 2024, the GCCC Campus Police Department hosted a graphic design contest, inviting students to create a new design for the patrol trucks using the college's branding.

Morgan Hammond was chosen as the winner and awarded a \$500 scholarship for her creative work. She then collaborated with the GCCC Marketing and Public Relations Department to

bring her design to life. After graduating with the class of 2024, Morgan returned to campus to see her design proudly displayed on the new patrol trucks.



Morgan Hammond pictured alongside GCCC Campus Police Officer Mason Taylor.

GCCC HOSTS 35TH ANNUAL HISPANIC STUDENT DAY

The 35th Annual Hispanic Student Day at Garden City Community College, hosted by the Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO), took place on March 27, 2024. Over 260 high school students attended the event, which focused on encouraging higher education and empowering

students for future success. The day featured sessions on College 101, Paying for College, Academic & Support Resources, an Information Fair, and motivational keynote speakers.

The event aimed to connect students with educational resources, provide guidance

on applying for college, and address challenges faced by minorities in higher education. Hispanic role models shared personal stories of overcoming obstacles, fostering a sense of inclusion and belonging in higher education.

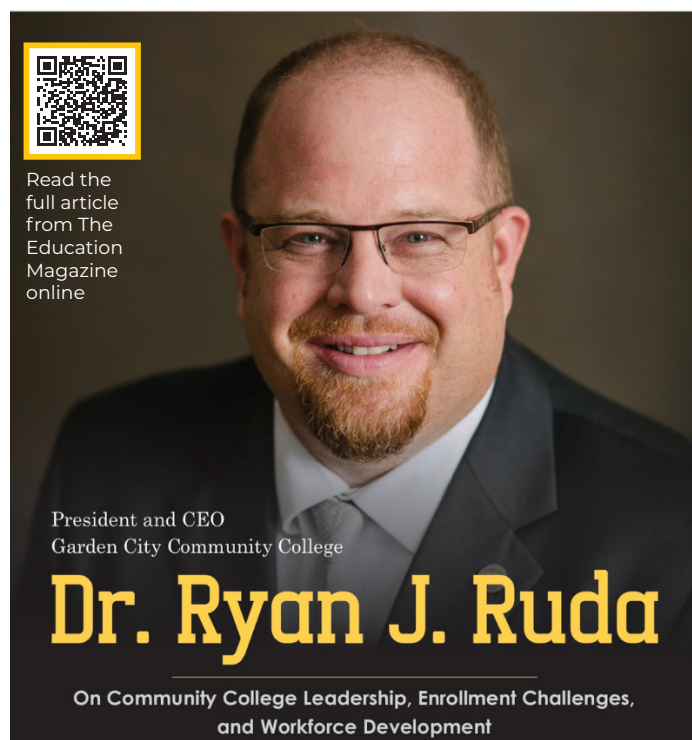
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TOP 10 INSPIRING EDUCATION LEADERS FOR 2024

President Ruda was recognized in “The 10 Inspiring Education Leaders for 2024” edition of The Education Magazine. This accolade underscores Dr. Ruda’s unwavering commitment to advancing education and inspiring positive change within the academic community.

The Education Magazine evaluates candidates based on a set of comprehensive criteria, including impact, innovation and vision, relevance, diversity and inclusivity, peer recognition, educational impact, influence and thought leadership, and sustainability. Dr. Ruda’s contributions in these areas have positioned him as a trailblazer in the field of education.



GCCC NURSING PROGRAM EARNs RECOGNITION IN KANSAS

Garden City Community College’s Practical Nursing (PN) program has achieved a top ranking in the state of Kansas in the 2024 standings by PracticalNursing.org, a leading resource for nursing students.

Nursing programs were assessed on several factors which represent how well a program supports students towards licensure and beyond. The evaluation process considers various factors, including past and present first-time NCLEX-PN “pass rates”, weighted by year. The 2022 pass rate for GCCC’s PN program was 92.00%, compared to the national average of 79.93%.

Garden City Community College offers Practical Nursing (LPN), Registered Nursing (RN), as well as Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), Certified Medication Aide (CMA), Home Health Aide (HHA), and Medical Assistant (RMA). The GCCC Nursing Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

For questions or to inquire about the Nursing program, contact Judy Irsik, Nursing Student Success Coordinator, at 620-276-0447 or judy.irsik@gcccks.edu.



From left to right: Gabe Winger, GCCC John Deere Ag Tech Lead Instructor and Assistant Dean of Technical Education; Allison Griffin, GCCC Head Athletic Trainer; Nate Smith, GCCC Assistant Athletic Trainer; Harley Beck, GCCC Assistant Athletic Trainer; Mike Pilosof, GCCC Director of Athletics; Colin Lamb, GCCC Vice President of Student Services/Athletics; Dr. Ryan Ruda, GCCC President; Brad Koster, American Implement Garden City Location Manager; David Skipper, American Implement Garden City Service Manager.



GCCC RECEIVES DONATION FROM AMERICAN IMPLEMENT FOR SPORTS MEDICINE DEPARTMENT

Garden City Community College received a donation of a John Deere Gator from American Implement to be used by the Sports Medicine department on January 12, 2024. This utility vehicle will be used to transport sports medicine equipment during athletic events and injured student-athletes off of the field for more direct care/treatment.

This collaboration came to fruition thanks to the strong relationship between American Implement and the GCCC John Deere Ag Tech Program and the dedicated efforts of Chuck Pfeifer, Dean of Technical Education at GCCC, and Gabe Winger, John Deere Ag Tech Lead Instructor and Assistant Dean of Technical Education at GCCC.

GCCC ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION UPDATES



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

\$458,580

EQUIPMENT AWARDS

\$192,368

TOTAL AWARDS
2023-2024

\$650,948

**TOTAL INCREASE
IN NET ASSETS
\$906,604**

Read GCCC
Endowment's
2023-2024
Annual Report



Presidential Ambassadors pose at the Endowment Association Scholarship Auction in the spring of 2024.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Meet Hannah Duncan and Cadence Mallet - two International students and athletes who made the most of their time here at GCCC. Both were recruited as athletes and excelled as students before moving on to their next adventures in the United States.

HANNAH DUNCAN

Hometown - DUNFERMLINE, SCOTTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

Broncbuster Athlete - SOCCER - TEAM CAPTAIN

Major - **ECONOMICS**

2023-2024 STUDENT OF THE YEAR - TRANSFER

Hailed a “delight to have in class” by many, Hannah Duncan made her mark at GCCC and in all of our hearts. As an Economics major, she completed three of her four semesters with Professor Jeremy Gigot. “Hannah is a tremendous leader - both in the classroom and on the field,” touts Gigot. “She is an exemplary student, smart, witty, and engaged.” Gigot also mentioned that she adopted Garden City and the United States as her home away from home. He imagines she will stay in the U.S. even after she finishes at her next stop, Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX. “She really got a lot out of her international student experience and we will miss her dearly.” Gigot added, “But I know she will do great things. I’m excited to see what she can do!”

When asked about what kind of player Hannah was,

GCCC Soccer coach Corey Bryant stated, “Hannah was an excellent player. She was the team captain her sophomore year and was the type of player that you as a coach want your whole team to be. She works hard, cares about the little things, and ultimately wants to win!”

Coach Bryant went on to say he was excited to see where life takes her. He has no doubt that she can achieve anything she sets her mind to. He’s hoping maybe he can convince her to come back to coach with him at GCCC!

When asked how she liked her experience she stated that she really felt comfortable in Garden City as she was from a small village and it felt like home. While she is also sad to leave Garden City, she is excited to continue her studies and soccer career in Texas.

STUDENTS EXCEL & ON THE FIELD



CADENCE MALLET

Hometown - QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

Broncbuster Athlete - **SOFTBALL - CATCHER/3RD BASE**

Major - **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

2023-2024 STUDENT OF THE YEAR - TECH ED

2023-2024 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



Cadence Mallet's "kind heart" and natural leadership also made a great impression on GCCC's faculty and staff. "She embodies GCCC's Buster Values and GCCC's mission to produce positive contributors to the economic and social well-being of society," shared Cadence's Criminal Justice professor Brandy Unruh. "She's intelligent, diligent, and a true leader. I really enjoyed her in class and will miss her next year as she moves on to play softball at the university level."

Recruited to play softball, Cadence proved to be a true leader on the field as well. "Cadence is a remarkable young woman whose work ethic sets her apart in every arena she enters," GCCC Softball Coach Andy Lewton says. "Her dedication to excellence is evident not only in her stellar performance on the softball field but also in her vibrant, outgoing personality that lights up every room she walks into. Cadence is a versatile athlete, capable of hitting with power and precision, and her ability

to play any position on the field made her an invaluable asset to our team this year. Her commitment to her sport and her teammates is unwavering, inspiring those around her to strive for greatness. Cadence's blend of talent, determination, and infectious enthusiasm makes her a standout star both on and off the field."

Cadence is still ironing out her plans for what's next now that she is a GCCC graduate. For now, she wants to go home and visit family before she starts her next adventure.

HOME
OF THE
BUSTERS

WELCOME
BUSTERS!





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