

Education



FKHS SPRING ATHLETES WEEK 2 AND WEEK 3- FKHS Week 2 Spring Athletes are: L to R- Carrington Leeds, girls swim; Kassidy Thornberry, jv softball; Stephen Goff, jv baseball and Jaxin Hershey, varsity baseball. Not pictured: Elizabeth Cook, varsity softball. Week 3 Spring Athletes are: L to R: Front row- Lillian Hanna, jv softball; Wrenn Lunt, girls swim; Danica Davis, varsity softball and Zyon Robinson-Turner, varsity girls track. Back Row- Elijah Chapman, jv boys track; Haydn Main, varsity baseball; Alexander Morris, varsity boys track and Hurley McFall, jv baseball. Congratulations!
Courtesy Photos

CCC students named to prestigious All-Kansas Academic Team

STAFF REPORT

Coffeyville Community College (CCC) has announced that three outstanding students have been recognized as recipients of the All-Kansas Academic Team award. The students and members of the CCC Leadership Team traveled to Topeka on Friday, April 11, to be recognized along with other All-Kansas recipients from Kansas community colleges. This prestigious honor highlights students who have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement, leadership, and service to their communities.

The All-Kansas Academic Team is part of the national Phi Theta Kappa All-USA Academic Team program, which celebrates the top community college students across 39 participating states. Recipients are nominated by their campuses and selected based on their academic



excellence and commitment to both leadership and community involvement. Campuses are allowed to nominate up to two students in each of two categories:

Transfer and Workforce.

This year, CCC proudly recognized the following students at the All-Kansas Academic Team Luncheon:

- Wesliann McCartney – Education (Transfer to Fort Hays State University)
- Chiquisia Clemons – Business (Transfer, unde-

cided university)

- Taylor Gray – Automotive Technology (Workforce)

“We are incredibly proud of our students who have been named to the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa All-Kansas Academic Team. This honor is a testament to their dedication, academic excellence and the hard work they’ve invested in both their education and career goals. We look forward to the great impact they will make in

their fields and communities,” said Heather Pollet, Vice President for Career and Technical Education.

The Phi Theta Kappa All-Kansas Academic Team not only highlights the accomplishments of individual students, but also reflects the college’s commitment to academic excellence and student success. “As members of Phi Theta Kappa, these students uphold a long-standing tradition of academic excellence and service to the campuses at CCC, as noted by Dr. Aron Potter, Vice President for Academic Services. “As an institution and Leadership Team, we are very proud of these students and the honor they have received.” CCC encourages all students to strive for excellence in the classroom and in their communities and applauds Wesliann, Chiquisia and Taylor for their achievements.

• Funding freeze

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to comply with the federal department’s demands. More than a dozen states and the District of Columbia sued the department and McMahon, calling her decision to rescind the funds “arbitrary and capricious.”

In Arizona, a Navajo Nation school district ended reading and math tutoring services and halted repairs to aging infrastructure funded through the stabilization funds, the lawsuit said. In Nevada, 14 employees were laid off. In Michigan, a school district’s HVAC project will have to be abandoned if funds aren’t released. In Maryland, Baltimore City Public Schools canceled tutoring and after-school programs.

In Kansas, almost \$7.6

million of the frozen funds have been going toward statewide literacy and math training for educators. About \$6.6 million was being used to help schools improve monitoring of student performance. Around \$3.6 million was designated for schools to effectively use high-quality instructional materials in classrooms.

About \$480,000 was being used to expose students to the full range of career and education options after high school. Spurred by a decline in measures of success after graduation, one project helps students and families explore opportunities outside of a four-year college path.

“A consequence of the learning loss created by

the pandemic has been a decrease in the number of students, particularly males, pursuing post-secondary education,” KSDE’s letter said. “It is imperative to address this decline in postsecondary pursuits to ensure students have a path forward to earning a livable wage and Kansas can fulfill its workforce demand.”

The state’s letter to McMahon similarly justified each project’s funding.

Roughly \$230,000 of the frozen funds were for principal and superintendent leadership development across the state. Nearly \$2.3 million has been used to support child care and early childhood education. And almost \$670,000 was being used for administrative and oversight costs within the state department.

KSDE secured in 2024 a late liquidation period for the education sta-

bilization funds, which would have allowed the state’s contractors until March 28, 2026, to spend the money. Every dollar necessary to carry out the state’s plan was designated to a project or contractor before Sept. 30.

The deadline extension, which the federal department approved Sept. 10, has allowed the state to continue paying contractors to carry out the eight projects the funds have supported.

Kansas House Democrats in a Thursday press conference, slammed the Trump administration and the state’s Republican majority for short-changing public education funding.

Rep. Nikki McDonald, an Olathe Democrat, said the federal funding was a lifeline for students, helping them regain lost ground.

“Yet another promise to our children has been broken,” she said. It’s just the latest instance of dishonoring commitments made to our children.”

Expressing concern for gaps in literacy rates and dwindling workforce readiness, Rep. Valdenia Winn, a Kansas City Democrat, said investing in education is urgent, particularly to address socioeconomic disparities. The number of students reading below a basic level has steadily increased since before the pandemic and has yet to course correct.

“This issue does not discriminate,” Winn said.

The federal education funding freeze has caused uncertainty and concern for the students’ futures. State Democrats expressed particular concern toward Republican efforts to strip funding from state literacy initiatives and a push to elect state supreme court justices. Republicans have supermajorities in both chambers to push their agenda.

McDonald later told Kansas Reflector: “Sometimes I think maybe chaos is the point.”

Classifieds

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Helpful Tips

Sweet treats make Easter special

From chocolates to marshmallows to caramel eggs to jelly beans, Easter is chockful of candy. And for those who think Easter is only child's play, guess again.

Americans spend up to \$2 billion on Easter candy each year, according to Sweet Services, an online candy retailer. The National Confectioner's Association says people in the United States consume nearly seven billion pounds of candy during the year, and Easter is the second-most popular holiday (behind Halloween) for indulg-

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