

# E D U C A T I O N

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## EDUCATION

Harvey County's educational institutions provide a wide array of programs, without the problems of crime and congestion often associated with larger metropolitan areas.

The strong support for public schools indicates the commitment of Harvey County communities in providing the best possible future for the youth of the area. The school districts have a reputation for high levels of community support and parent involvement as well as highly qualified teaching staff.

The importance of post-secondary education has resulted in the establishment of three institutions of higher learning in Harvey County



Bethel College Administration Building

## BETHEL COLLEGE

Bethel College, located in North Newton, was established in 1887. It is a coeducational, church related school previously affiliated with the General Conference Mennonite Church now known as Mennonite Church USA. The college was founded by progressive German-speaking Mennonites who came to America in search of religious freedom. It is academically recognized as a leading liberal arts college.

Bethel offers 28 majors and three pre-professional programs. The full-time equivalent enrollment in the Fall of 2004 was 534 students.

In the 2004- 05 academic year, Bethel students came from 25 states and 15 foreign countries, and represented 30 different religious denominations. The school has achieved an impressive record of academic excellence. Social work and nursing programs at Bethel are nationally accredited. Math students have recently ranked first among Kansas colleges. More National Merit Finalists per capita study at Bethel than any other Kansas college and graduates have won a striking number of national awards and scholarships. Bethel College has been recognized for the past seven years by U.S. News & World Report as a "Best Value" institution among regional liberal arts colleges in the Midwest. In recent years, Bethel College has ranked first among all colleges and universities in Kansas in the



Bethel's graduation ceremony

percentage of graduates who go on to earn doctoral degrees.

The 11 to 1 student to faculty ratio at Bethel ensures a high degree of personal attention for students. Approximately eighty percent of the tenured faculty has their doctorate or its equivalent and 50 percent have overseas experience in teaching, studying or working in voluntary service.



Thresher basketball

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## HESSTON COLLEGE

Hesston College was established in 1909 by the Mennonite Church now known as the Mennonite Church USA. It is a two year coeducational, traditional liberal arts school which stresses broadly based liberal studies in 40 major areas which fully prepares students for transfer. It has integrated the curriculum to include seven "career tracks" which prepare students for their profession in two years. The full-time equivalent enrollment in the Fall of 2004 was 465 students.



Hesston College Administration Building

Hesston College offers all the advantages of two-year schools including the earning of an associate degree and the fact that students are taught by professors, not graduate students or teaching assistants. More than 60 percent of the graduates go on to earn their bachelor's degrees. There is a 10 to 1 student-faculty ratio at Hesston.



Hesston's aviation program at Newton airport

Hesston College's nationally renowned aviation program draws students from all over the country. Aviation career programs include flight instruction, charter or business, and commercial airline flying for experienced pilots. Hesston College's highly trained, professional flight instructors offer expert flight training coupled with hands-on aircraft maintenance instruction to provide students an excellent, well-rounded background for a future career in aviation.

## HUTCHINSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hutchinson Community College (HCC) in Hutchinson is a public, two-year college with an enrollment of 4,500 students. HCC provides academic excellence to meet the educational needs of the people in its service area. HCC offers courses to prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The school also offers skills needed for students to take advantage of career opportunities in industry or business after two-year or nine-month programs. Areas of focus included in HCC's two-year Associate of Applied Science Degree programs are machine technology, manufacturing engineering technology, electronic engineering technology, and data processing. Among the nine-month certificates available are bookkeeping, machine shop technology, and welding technology. Transfer programs include engineering, data processing, and accounting.

HCC offers courses at a number of neighboring communities including several locations in Harvey County, making the curriculum easily accessible to a large number of people. HCC began offering daytime and evening classes at their new location at the Newton Train Station in the fall of 1998. HCC also offers a full range of evening classes at Newton High School and vocational programs at Brooks Trade Center.



Hutchinson Community College Newton Location

## SURROUNDING AREA

Located within a 30 mile radius of Harvey County are nine other colleges and universities including two public two-year schools; five private four-year schools; one private two-year school; and the major four-year State of Kansas Board of Regents school, Wichita State University.