

Clara Barton awarded the 2014 Chamber of Commerce Health Award

The Hoisington Chamber of Commerce honored Clara Barton Hospital for its new Therapy Services and Laundry Expansion Project in January with the 2014 Health Award at the Annual Chamber Banquet, citing the economic growth, healthcare advantages, and community service the hospital provides.

The hospital provided this statement in acceptance of the award: "Clara Barton Hospital is happy to announce the completion of an expansion project that "officially" broke ground in May 2014 and was completed mid-December 2014. The project was a 5,577 sq. ft. addition, costing an estimated \$1.483 million. \$1,125,000 of the final goal of \$1.4 million has been raised with employee and community support.

"The expansion moved our entire Therapy Services department, made up of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy, and provides 300% more space for our providers to treat patients. The increase in space allows us to see more patients and offer more services. It also provides therapy students a chance to learn with us, to further their careers, and hopefully, will lead to recruitment and retention of staff and medical providers.

"The new laundry facility allows the hospital to control the quality of all linens used in patient services and throughout the hospital. It houses "clean" and "dirty" rooms and room to store clean linens. In 2013, the Hospital spent over \$330,000 in laundry costs, outsourcing an average of

2000 lbs. of laundry a week. By "insourcing" our linens, even while purchasing all of the equipment and the linens, and hiring more staff, will save the Hospital around \$250,000 a year.

"The old Therapy Services space was re-modeled, along with the hallway, to fit our billing staff, allowing us to consolidate all Hospital staff on campus, saving time and money.

"The expansion offers benefits to Hoisington, namely, an increase in access to quality healthcare, close to home, and an increase of opportunities for people looking for jobs. Patients will no longer have to go as

far away as Wichita for some types of care, as we can offer that same treatment here. As one of the largest employers in Hoisington, we pride ourselves in being not only a great place for healing, but a great place for working, as well."

FROM PAGE FOUR Colson

Barton Hospital," he adds. Colson started as president and CEO of Clara Barton Hospital in February of 2011, and has grown the hospital in that time by increasing services provided and expanding facilities to meet the ever-changing healthcare needs of the service area. Some

of the more notable accomplishments include: expansion of clinic services to include walk-in services, increased surgical services through the addition of Surgical and Orthopedic service clinics, Telemedicine, expansion of Therapy Services and other facilities improvements.

FROM PAGE FOUR Blackwell

Business Administration degree from Sterling College. He joined Clara Barton Hospital in February 2001, as the Director of Finance and was quickly promoted to Chief Financial Officer. He served as interim CEO in 2006 and was promoted to Vice President/CFO in

2007. In 2008, Blackwell was nominated for, and successfully completed, the Kansas Hospital Association Leadership Institute program. In addition to responsibilities at Clara Barton, Blackwell has served on the KHA Council on Health Care Finance and Reimburse-

ment and was appointed Chairman of this committee in 2012. Additionally he has served 15 years as a member of Hospital Financial Management Association. Prior to serving at Clara Barton, Blackwell worked as the plant accountant at Superior Essex in Hoisington.

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