

## **Hybrid Vehicle Donated to Auto Tech Department**

### **Al Yost Donates 2009 Hybrid Toyota Camry; Lois Alban Ryan Provides Matching Grant Funds**

Automotive instructor Darcy Wedel developed a hybrid car training course during the summer of 2008 and worked with Darnell Holopirek, Director of Institutional Advancement, to find a possible donor to purchase a hybrid car. Al Yost, a Great Bend resident turned out to be a perfect match for this project. "He really loves cars," Wedel said. "We spoke about our desire to offer hybrid and alternative-fuel vehicle training - Al liked what we had going on." Al donated a 2009 Toyota Camry hybrid car as well as funds to purchase additional parts. This allows students to work on different areas of the car without taking the car apart completely. Al's donation made it possible for Barton to be the first college in Kansas to offer a Hybrid and Alternative Fuel Course.

Because we received the gift of the hybrid car, Barton was eligible to apply and receive an Innovative Technology grant from the Kansas Board of Regents in the amount of \$37,500. We were able to use matching funds from the car and a generous cash donation from Lois Alban Ryan, a former Great Bend resident, now of Mission, Texas. Ms. Ryan's gift to the college toward the construction of a new automotive classroom met the funding match requirements.

Grant funds were used to purchase a chassis dynamometer, which simulates a road test in the shop. The technology will take the entire class on a road test, having all our analyzers and test equipment connected to the vehicle at the same time. This will be particularly useful, being able to demonstrate the various modes of operation to a large group. The machine will also be used in other courses as well; in addition to simulating an actual road test, the machine can measure engine horsepower and torque at the wheels.