

President's Report February 18, 2021

Dr. Matt Gotschall

CCC-Hastings Campus

- 1) Congratulations to the Foundation and CCC employees on the successful AMDT/Welding donor tours on February 17 and the ribbon cutting on February 18. There's much to be proud of in terms of our investment in our students, employees' work environments, community employers and service-area citizens.
- 2) COVID-related cases continue to be on the decline for both employers and students since the beginning of the semester and are greatly reduced since a high last November 2020.
- 3) I participated in the NCCA quarterly board meeting where they took positions on the Nebraska legislative bills that have been introduced. I provided written support for the Appropriations Committee regarding community college funding and attended the hearing on February 16, emailed and called area senators and Sen. Flood from the Revenue Committee regarding clarifications on our tax levy history and valuations, and attended the Nebraska Economic Development legislative priorities meeting.
- 4) I participated in the ACCT legislative conference sessions, which included multiple updates on the national legislative priorities of the new Biden Administration and Congress. I received prompt updates from our ACCT liaison and confirmation from the U.S. Department of Education on our ability to use the new federal stimulus dollars through January 2022.
- 5) Last month, Central Community College received \$4,636,930 as part of the latest federal stimulus bill from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, (CRRSAA) 2020 for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding. At least \$945,227 of that amount must be spent on student grants; the remaining amount may be used for other COVID-related expenses or lost revenue due to COVID-19. The financial aid office disbursed over \$745,000 in direct aid to students this week (all low-income, Pell-eligible current students in good standing). Applications from a second or third tier of students will be reviewed with funds to go out once we get final guidelines from USDOE. Proposed changes by the Biden Administration to rules provided by the Trump Administration are causing some delays on confirmations. CCC administrators can submit proposals until March 1 regarding uses for the stimulus funds, which so far include additional remote instructional and proctoring software; employee compensation for adjuncts, extra days worked and faculty overload; lost revenue for adult education, community education and training and development; and informational technology switches, firewalls, security, IP classroom upgrades and employee training.
- 6) I participated in the Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Board meetings on January 27-28. I continue to serve as the representative for educational providers

seeking to assist dislocated workers, youth programming and services offered through the Nebraska Dept of Labor's Workforce Development Centers outside of the Lincoln and Omaha regions.

- 7) The Nebraska Math Readiness initiative continues to grow with additional area schools and partners participants. The initiative addresses the math learning gaps of predominately high school seniors to make them less dependent on remedial math needs once they've graduated. Mid-term reports of year 3 (of four years) remain positive with good donor support from foundations including Peter Kiewit, Sherwood and Suzanne and Walter Scott.
- 8) The Postsecondary International Network executive committee continues to plan for virtual webinars that will be held in conjunction with the World Federation Conference members, which are all two-year college and/or polytechnics. Major topics will include addressing leadership and best practices regarding COVID-19 responses, international education, student support and technology infrastructure.
- 9) I'm continuing my involvement in Heartland United Way and am serving as president-elect. The organization supports Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick counties and provides campaign updates, community investment, executive and finance committee meetings in addition to assisting with a monthly food distribution.