

**President's April-May Report**  
**May 15, 2025, CCC-Red Cloud Education Hub**  
**Dr. Matt Gotschall**

- Participated in three graduation ceremonies where over 500 students attended. Thanks to everyone for your support of this important milestone for students and CCC.
- I participated in a townhall meeting with Congressman Adrian Smith in Grand Island, small group of about a dozen attendees from economic development, chamber and business. Asked for his continued support for tax-free Pell (he co-sponsored a federal bill last year) and support for higher education in general given these uncertain times.
- Arranged for CCC directors Jesse Barto and Carmen Taylor to present an online webinar on technical efficiencies CCC has implemented with our commercial vendors. Presentation was to the members of the Postsecondary International Network.
- Regular communications and discussions with community college presidents, NCCA executive director and local senators regarding legislative priorities.
- Facilitating multiple budget meetings as we set next year's 2025-26 budget for operations, facilities and personnel.
- Participated in several Six Regions, One Nebraska meetings to advance initiatives for workforce development, housing and childcare needs across the area. The group went to Red Cloud and toured our education hub as part of their networking experiences and started the day with meetings on our Hastings Campus.
- Held open forums with employees in Hastings and Columbus and virtually with outreach centers.
- Attended the annual Scott Scholars Graduation weekend in Omaha. Students were amazing and I'm proud of their accomplishments and the respect CCC staff have earned with the Walter Scott Jr. Foundation team.
- Enjoyed a great meal during opening day for the spring culinary lunch in Hastings.
- Attended the Phelps County Economic Development lunch and next month presented at the Holdrege Noon Rotary. Both provided opportunities to discuss our upcoming move and remodel.
- Participated in a couple of meetings regarding apprenticeship expansion across Nebraska given our leadership of the federal grant. Opportunities may be available through governor's office, Nebraska Department of Labor and/or Aksarben Foundation.
- Attended the opening of the Migrant Education Center in Lexington and a couple of weeks later hosted meetings in Gothenburg, Cozad and Lexington to listen to community needs and opportunities for CCC.
- Attended the annual American Association of Community College's meeting in Tennessee. Student Steven Esquivel was honored as a Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship winner, CCC psychology instructor Emily Mach honored as a Faculty of Distinction, CCC staff Jerry Muller and Doug Pauley presented a session on iMec program, Community and Workforce Education dean Marni Danhauer attended as part of the AACC Future Leaders program and Dr. Marcie Kemnitz and I participated in separate commission meetings for the organization.
- Attended the CCC college play held at Columbus High School for area first-grade students.
- Worked through selecting national peer review colleges with the Coordinating Commission for their comparison processes that are reviewed every 10 years.
- Watched the Grand Island Signing Day for students coming to CCC for selected career and technical programs. Also attended the CCC Alumni and Community appreciation event in Grand Island – great demonstrations and engagement of faculty, staff and students.
- Grant follow-up meetings regarding Perkins, Nebraska Math Readiness and Apprenticeship.
- Participated in a virtual meeting of the NCCA Board of Directors.
- Emceed the All-Nebraska PTK Team and Aksarben Scholarship Recognition ceremony at the state capitol, introducing the governor and representative from all six Nebraska community colleges.

- Participated in committee and board meeting of the Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Board meeting.
- Submitted newspaper op ed across the area and participated in TV interview as part of national community college month.
- Participated in beginning of the quarterly All-College Faculty Senate meeting.
- Attended and spoke at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Automotive Training Center. Was available to sign paperwork following auction of CCC house constructed by students.
- Attended the Buffalo County Economic Development luncheon in Kearney.
- Attended an open house at the Edgerton Explorit Center as a new CCC partner on the 6 Regions: Trades-on-the-Move initiative. Working with the governor's office on an invitation to construction companies to seek their support for the joint initiative to get more students grades 5-8 aware of occupations/careers in the trades.
- Participated in a couple of CCC Foundation meetings regarding donations and strategic planning.

Updates from Area Vice Presidents include:

- The 2025 dental hygiene class sat for their clinical boards on May 2. Dr. Wanda Cloet, program director, was pleased to announce we had 100% passing rate again.
- CCC subscribes to Films on Demand, a service that enables faculty to include links to videos in both online and in-person classes. We are considering a new educational streaming service, so the librarians sent a survey to faculty to gauge usage and interest before changes are made.
- The General Education committee created "Guidelines for Inclusion in General Education," which were presented and discussed at Educational Services. The committee will be launching a review of general education courses and groups at other Nebraska colleges.
- The Nebraska Math Readiness Project team conducted training for 20 high school teachers in the project. The day's agenda included tips for teaching in a lab setting and opportunities for networking.
- An Adult Education instructor in-service was held March 17 in the morning and evening in Grand Island. Thirty-one instructors and volunteers attended. Selected instructors presented to their peers on student engagement/retention and Krashen's five theories. Small groups discussed creating a safe and welcoming classroom as well as keeping students engaged in learning outside of the classroom.
- Work for "Big Idea" competition across the area are underway to take place during the 2025-26 academic year. Directors working with several business founders and small businesses.
- During the Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NeASFAA) annual conference in March, Jordan Eisenmenger was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award. Recipients of this award are recognized for their outstanding achievements in the financial aid profession. Individuals must have demonstrated outstanding service in pursuing NeASFAA's mission over the past year.
- In March, Counseling Services completed five new intakes, three crisis visits, five consultations, two psychoeducation sessions, and 66 individual appointments.
- Disability Services completed 43 new intakes since the start of the spring semester. Additionally, there have been 22 follow-up visits and 13 consultations. Director Kim Ottman continues in her role as president of WINAHEAD, preparing for the annual statewide conference in May.
- Career and Employment Services in Columbus organized two large fourth-grade career days for Columbus Public Schools and Shell Creek. Alyssa organized a Career Opportunity Fair which provided early career exposure and resource connections for local youth.
- Student recognition ceremonies have been held across the area promoting student engagement in the classroom as well as in student organizations.

- Summer planning for 2025 camps involving the residential hall in Hastings includes: HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership), Titan Diesel Camp and Sertoma Football Camp in addition to non-residential Verizon Technology camps.
- Strong participation and achievement from State SkillsUSA student participants and advisors and dozens of CCC faculty and staff that served as judges, volunteers or coordinators.
- The Kearney Center has been contacted to host the Nebraska Developmental Education conference on Sept. 26.
- Drs. Pam Bales and Kelly Christensen met with Dr. Kyle Meyer who is heading up the final phase of the UNMC Rural Health Education Center on the UNK campus. Dr. Meyer is helping to coordinate CCC and our needs for students and faculty in preparation for offering primarily classes in the CCC-dedicated classroom starting in 2026.
- Early College Director Jamey Peterson-Jones said 1,079 high school seniors have met or plan to qualify for honors, 116 college certificates, two college diplomas, and 104 students on track to receive the Transition Advantage Scholarship (TAS). Early College instructor training will begin in June.
- CWE Dean Marni Danhauer worked with Fran Davis in the institutional research office to pull data regarding the Early College iMec program enrollment and matriculation to CCC after high school graduation. Key takeaways include:
  - 70% increase in enrollment from 2023-24 to 2024-25.
  - Close to 25% of students matriculate to CCC after high school graduation.
  - Of those that come to CCC, 47% continue their education in mechatronics amounting to 32 students in the last three years.
  - Most of the students are from Schuyler, Lexington and Columbus high schools.
- Dr. Kelly Christensen was interviewed by KRVN in a response to recent op-ed by Dr. Gotschall regarding April being Community College Month.
- Janet Eppenbach served on the leadership team for the Big Give to Valley County event on March 13. CCC-Ord received a total of \$1,545 from ten donors. The money raised will be designated for scholarship dollars for area students.
- Two new pathways were approved by the Coordinating Commission for Post-secondary Education (CCPE) for Gap Assistance funding. They include 12 semester credits of Basic Refrigeration Certificate program, and 6 semester credits of Plastics Engineering Basics.
- CWE Columbus staff conducted a successful Community Builders gathering in Clarkson on March 27. The 25 participants visited five local businesses. It was neat to see how many young entrepreneurs are taking over family businesses in Clarkson.
- Karen Mroczek and Susan Schoenhofer are coordinating the Spring Gardening event on April 22 on campus. This is an event that typically brings in over 150 people. Registration looks strong again this year.
- Libby Theoharis and Callie Bridges will be presenting at their national conference in April in Philadelphia, including: Short Course 122 - Transforming Education: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Enhanced Teaching in Learning in OT.
- Dr. Wanda Cloet attended the American Dental Education Association meeting in Washington D.C. She served as a delegate to the ADEA House of Delegates, representing Central Community College.
- Grand Island Senior High School will be bringing 17 students to tour the medical laboratory technician lab in April. They are gearing up for interest in this pathway for the Fall semester.
- About 90 students sent letters and were accepted into the fall 2025 nursing program areawide.
- Dental hygiene was recently awarded \$1,500 for a grant (Adams County Early Dental Health Clinic Outreach). This grant will provide preventive dental services to approximately 300 children in Adams County.

- We currently have 19 high schools teaching the nursing assistant course and additional high schools that have expressed interest. We are seeing growing requests for medication aide, EMT, and phlebotomy in the high schools.
- Professional development, especially in our health sciences area remain important for keeping up to date. Some spring examples include:
  - HIMS faculty Shawna Stump, Barbara Marsh and Joni Schlatz attended the Nebraska Health Information Management Association Annual Conference in Kearney on April 28 and 29.
  - The dental hygiene program faculty, program director and all students attended the Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association meeting on April 4 at Mahoney State Park. Continuing education programs were presented as well as the second-year dental hygiene students presented their table clinics.
  - Carol Hipke-Muske, medical assisting faculty and Michel McKinney, medical assisting program director, attended the 59th Annual NSMA (Nebraska Society of Medical Assistants) Conference April 25 and 26 in Grand Island. They each earned 12 CEUs and connected with CMA (AAMA) graduates across the state along with other colleagues.
  - Savannah Blanke, DENT faculty, attended the Annual Nebraska State Dental Hygiene Meeting, and Shelly Steinkruger, DENT program director, attended the Annual Nebraska Dental Assistants and Nebraska Dental Association meeting.
  - Libby Theoharis, Occupational Therapy Assistant faculty, and Callie Bridges, Occupational Therapy Assistant program director, presented at national conference with well over 400 in attendance and now are being asked to present to faculty (in their faculty meetings) across the US on integrating AI in OT curriculum.
  - Two returning nursing faculty members have graduated with advanced degrees:
    - Amanda Rooker graduated with Family NP
    - Theresa Martinez will graduate May 9 with MSN
- Hastings entrepreneurship director attending monthly Schnase 1906 District Board meetings and working on finalizing the "Terms and Agreements" and "User Lease Agreements" with their attorney and also designing programming for Schnase in the form of workshops and podcast development. Kearney entrepreneurship director talking with Lexington, Holdrege and Gothenburg on how to support those communities and hosting the June Kearney Chamber business and education committee at the Kearney Center.
- Some examples of recent uses of the VR/XR lab in Columbus include: Sean McDonald speech classes came in to do a virtual speech over two days for three classes, the plastic molding department led by Karl Anderson intermittently uses and is progressing in the Molding Demo VR activity, Emily Mach's psychology class had their sensation seeking VR lab on April 14 & 15 using the headsets for Richie's Walk the Plank and Roller coaster simulations, the Columbus campus hosted the Columbus Middle School and showed all students the dorm tours on the MultiTaction wall, Dr. Nicholas Whitney's A&P classes came to do Awake heart on the VR headsets for two night classes and Osmay Depablos Rivera's chemistry class came to use the app Molecule Builder and learn about molecular bonds.