

## **President's Report July-August 2021**

**Dr. Matt Gotschall**

**CCC-Grand Island**

- 1) Fall semester classes started this week with obvious increases in enrollment from last fall 2020 and slight increases compared to fall 2019. Nearly 290 residents are expected in the Hastings residence halls and nearly 140 in Columbus.
- 2) Per Veterans Resource Center Director Barry Horner: the Nebraska State Fair has asked the VMRC to provide support for the annual Veterans Day event at the State Fair on September 6. This year's theme is the Tomb of the Unknown and there will be two distinguished guests who have both served with the 3rd Infantry (Old Guard), one as a tomb guard and the other with the caisson platoon (burial services). To support the theme, we will staff a two-fold display in the Heartland Events Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a world map on cardboard display panels that veterans can mark with push pins to show where they served and looping videos that help educate attendees on what the responsibilities are of a tomb guard. We will also have large format FAQs to go with the videos. The Grand Island Senior High Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps [JROTC] will assist us and the combined SVA chapters will march in the parade at 1:30 p.m.
- 3) CCC will also be represented at the State Fair with a CCC informational booth and will lead the State Fair Sustainability Pavilion.
- 4) Kim Ottman, disability services director at CCC-Grand Island, was recently elected secretary of the executive board for the Western Iowa and Nebraska Association on Higher Education and Disability (WinAhead). WinAhead is a group made up of professionals from 28 two- and four-year colleges and universities who work directly with students with disabilities to ensure equal access to higher education.
- 5) The new agreement with JBS created over 140 leads of students interested in taking classes from CCC. Enrollment management staff have followed up to determine major interests and assist with admissions and enrollment processes.
- 6) Thirty-five CCC students have been awarded the new \$5,000 Nebraska Careers Scholarships authorized by the state legislature to assist in recruiting and retaining students into H3 (high skill, high wage, high demand) fields and assisted in awarding nearly \$50,000 in new Metallica scholarships to 49 incoming and returning criminal justice students.
- 7) Dr. Callie Watson, director of the occupational therapy assistant program at CCC-Grand Island, presented to the Grand Island City Council on July 27 at the meeting where they unanimously approved the inclusive park fundraising project to begin. Dean Moors, students and faculty will be involved in this community-wide project.

- 8) The dental hygiene program received a \$5,000 grant from the American Dental Hygienists' Institute for Oral Health – 2021 Mars Wrigley Foundation's Healthier Smiles Grant Program. Supplies will be purchased for the Head Start rotation.
- 9) Preliminary results from the NCLEX-State of Nebraska nursing first attempt pass rates are 91% for registered nurses and 100% for practical nurses with not all students yet completed. Congratulations to students, faculty, staff and leadership on this accomplishment. Five days of nursing orientations were completed for the students beginning and returning fall 2021.
- 10) Multicultural Resource Center staff in combination with college communications completed seven student Beauty in Diversity photo shoots and video testimonials about diversity, cultural awareness, racial growth and education. Photo banners and testimonials were ready this week and can be viewed at <https://www.cccneb.edu/beautyofdiversity>
- 11) CCC recently signed two new registered adult apprenticeship programs, one in welding with CNH in Grand Island and another in electrical with A&E Electric in Hastings. These students will be paid to go to college classes while gaining work experience with their companies and wage increases while completing competencies.
- 12) Over 65 employees attended the 2021 CCC Action Summit in July with the agenda posted under my president's report. Topics covered past and future college initiatives with multiple presentations ready to be shared with board, community stakeholders, students and other employee groups.
- 13) The NCCA board and college presidents will be interviewing four candidates for the executive director position on August 30. Names of those to be interviewed remain confidential at this time.
- 14) In July, we hosted a successful signing of a new RN-BSN agreement between CCC and UNMC in Columbus. Columbus area nursing students/graduates will have access to online classes and in-person support in Columbus rather than traveling to Norfolk or other UNMC locations in Lincoln or Omaha. CCC students in Grand Island and Kearney have good UNMC access here.
- 15) We held a well-attended and promoted Criminal Justice 2+2 agreement between CCC and UNK on July 23 at College Park in Grand Island. This is part of the national Equity Transfer Initiative grant we received from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).
- 16) This summer, I attended the Governor's Agriculture and Economic Development Summit in Kearney and the State Chamber's Federal Legislative Summit in Ashland where the federal delegation mentioned community colleges as major assets in addressing workforce development challenges of employers. I gave tours of the Grand Island Center for Health and Technology to a representative from Congressman Adrian Smith's office and Dr. Mike Baumgartner, executive director of the Nebraska Postsecondary Coordinating Commission. Kelly Christensen and I attended a meeting of the Kearney

Economic Development Association, at their invitation. I participated in CCC retiree events in Grand Island and Hastings, was co-emcee of an event at Columbus Days and attended a state meeting of Intern Omaha.

- 17) I co-presented a World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP) and Post-Secondary International Network (PIN) international webinar: Lessons from the Pandemic: Re-Engagement with President and CEO of Lambton College in Ontario, Canada and Chancellor of University of Hawai'i Maui College. I will serve as panel moderator for another international webinar with the same groups in August on Lessons from the Pandemic: Re-Invention.
- 18) I remain actively engaged as president of the Heartland United Way board this year with a strategic planning retreat, executive, finance, campaign and board meetings.
- 19) Several meetings have been held over the summer with representatives from both residential and commercial construction employers and agencies on workforce development topics, including potential funding opportunities to expand student graduates in those areas.
- 20) Representatives from the Peter Kiewit Foundation participated in meetings in Grand Island and Hastings while getting updates on Columbus-based projects as well. Great exchange of ideas and updates on past and potential future funding opportunities.
- 21) Anatomage tables – virtual human anatomy tables have arrived for installation on our campuses and will be utilized beginning this semester in Grand Island and Kearney. Human anatomy and physiology and nursing instructors requested these be purchased following examples seen at UNK and UNMC while realizing limitations of manikins and other dissection species. Dental hygiene and agriculture instructors may also find uses of this technology in the near future.
- 22) Year 3 Results from the Nebraska Math Readiness project remain positive with CCC working with several area high schools and over 230 students to reduce the need for developmental math coursework after graduating from high school.
- 23) Recently, Brenda Preister career and employment director at CCC-Columbus, and Steve Heinisch, biology instructor at CCC-Columbus, invited several faculty members to take part in a tour of the Manufacturing Technology Innovation (MTI) Packaging Lab at BD in Columbus, one of only six labs of its kind in North America. During this tour, MTI Packaging Engineer Manager Donovan Kuehler promoted the internship collaboration available to Central Community College. This opportunity, which is being piloted only in their Columbus Lab, allows students to gain valuable hands-on work experience while earning an hourly wage. After one year in this program, interns become BD employees, allowing them to qualify for various benefits such as their 401k match. This internship program will be available to four students each academic year and will fit well for students with an interest in quality assurance, mechatronics, statistics, engineering, mechanical systems and other STEM-related fields.

- 24) Tours of the Hamilton Building have been held recently with representatives of Nebraska Economic Development Association and Chief Ethanol Fuels.
- 25) An Industry and Career Exploration Day and Diesel Technology Career Fair will be held in Hastings on September 23 and October 8, respectively. The Hastings Manufacturing Pathways Advisory Team (MPAT) will be hosting career expo days the first week of classes for students in advanced manufacturing, construction, design technology and welding. Employers will visit with students about job opportunities with high school students also invited to attend.
- 26) Landon Hunt, Columbus welding instructor, completed a certified welding instructor certification following training in Troy, Ohio. Fellow Columbus welding instructor Bryce Standley provide a robotic welding class for Lindsay Manufacturing and a special MIG welding class for low-income, unemployed or underemployed students in our state-sponsored GAP program.
- 27) John Wilmes, CCC-Grand Island welding instructor, participated in the Eagle Scout Merit Badge University July 23-25 where over 300 registrants attended. John helped scouts obtain merit badges in welding.
- 28) A five-day Haas training led by instructors Troy Davis and Brian Davis was held in July with five participants from Wisconsin and Millard public schools. The Gene Haas Foundation is providing funding for the training with CCC now being identified as one of three active regional training centers for Haas.
- 29) The diesel technology program received a \$25,000 grant from NMC (Nebraska Machinery Company) with a matching grant submitted to the Caterpillar Foundation. Grants provide funding for scholarships, equipment and travel to Caterpillar in Peoria, Ill., every other year in the program.
- 30) CCC-Kearney mechatronics instructor Jared Pettit conducted training in Mankato, Minn., and then at CCC-Columbus for high school instructors teaching introductory courses as part of the iMEC grant. Nebraska high schools participating include Aurora, Axtell, Kearney, Columbus Lakeview, Lexington and Schuyler.
- 31) Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts Club students and sponsors traveled to Las Vegas this summer for their annual field trip and had a behind-the-scenes tour of four restaurants and experience fine dining in addition to visiting with a CCC culinary graduate who works at the MGM and the Wolfgang Pucks company.