

## **President's Report January 21, 2021**

**Dr. Matt Gotschall**

### **Area Office & Video/IP**

- 1) We had over 280 December candidates for graduation with one-year diplomas and/or two-year associate degrees. While we chose to not celebrate in person, they were recognized in media releases and those who had RSVPed to attend the canceled in-person graduation reception received a gift box in the mail with CCC alumni memorability and a cupcake! They are also invited to participate in the May 2021 graduation recognition.
- 2) In terms of COVID 19 vaccinations, we sent a combined list of 367 CCC employees (out of 597 considered essential – all full-time and regular part-time plus elected board of governors) who expressed they were ready for vaccines to each of the various health departments and the Nebraska National Guard which is coordinating distribution. Total employees at CCC, including student and community education, runs around 1, 440 each month. The breakdown of those ready for vaccines include 107 in Columbus, 133 in Grand Island; 92 in Hastings; 10 in Holdrege, Lexington and Ord combined; and 25 in Kearney. Hopefully we can get individuals worked in as soon as the health departments give us the green light, but we're likely looking at another month, or even early March. Note the numbers above do not include several CCC employees and board members who have reported they are, or are already on a list to be, vaccinated due to fitting priority A categories such as health care and first responders so I'm pleased about that.
- 3) Shawn Patsios, the new Veterans Resource Center Coordinator for Kearney and Grand Island, held his promotion ceremony at CCC-Kearney on January 15. The Nebraska Air National Guard used the Kearney Center's lecture hall to recognize his promotion from technical sergeant to E7 master sergeant. There was some urgency to get the promotion done that week as he participated in President-Elect Biden's inauguration this week. Shawn is married to CCC-Kearney nursing instructor Heidi Patsios, and we thank them for their service.
- 4) According to the Department of Education, Central Community College will receive \$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 will be spent for student grants with the remainder used for other COVID-related expenses or lost revenue due to COVID. We will finalize plans once final guidance is given by the Trump or Biden administration. Also passed at that time were significant changes in the FAFSA, the federal needs-based scholarship program that will be implemented starting in 2023-24. Many more students should qualify due to the simplification of the application form.
- 5) Spring 2021 enrollments are nearly even to last spring 2020, which is encouraging given fall enrollments were down about 5%. Classes started on January 11, 2021.
- 6) Ninety-nine employees were recognized in a CCC-first ever areawide service award video this month celebrating a collective 1,325 years of service to our students and communities. The video included two 45-year employees, Laura Emde and Deb Payne.
- 7) Several program advisory boards were held from November through January with representatives from business meeting with faculty to review curriculum, budget needs, enrollment and current trends in the industry. Involved programs included automotive technology, quality, diesel technology and drafting and design technology.
- 8) Entrepreneurship business coaching continues to expand in the Hastings and Columbus areas with growing interest in Grand Island and Kearney.
- 9) Areawide student activities personnel will be hosting week-long events remembering the Holocaust Remembrance Day and including a national speaker, Holocaust survivor and genocide scholar, Peter Stein, who will speak virtually at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27.

- 10) Coordinated outreach efforts have yielded positive results for the veteran military resource centers with over 98% return rate of fall 2020 veteran students enrolled in spring 2021 classes and overall enrollment growth of 43 veterans in summer 2020, 88 in fall 2020 and 124 in spring 2021. Congratulations to new director, Barry Horner, and his staff.
- 11) Ashley Weets of the Kearney Center joined the directorate board for the American College Personnel Association Commission on 2-year Colleges.
- 12) CCC and UNK submitted an application to be considered for an Equity Transfer Initiative (ETI) grant through the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), American Association of State College and Universities (AASCU) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) to develop multiple pathways for completion of bachelor programs. If selected, work will begin in January 2021 and be completed by September 30, 2022 on these multiple transfer pathways targeting increased completion rates of minority students in central Nebraska.