

President's Report, March 21, 2024

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Three CCC employees and I participated in a two-day celebration of graduates hosted by the Suzanne and Walter Scott Jr. Foundation in Omaha. Sixteen Scott Scholars from CCC were recognized from our first class of graduates. They attended the event with other Scott Scholars from Metro Community College, Notre Dame, Creighton, UNO, Hastings College and Colorado State University. Over 70 applications have been received for selection of the new 2024-26 cohort.
- Held several meetings regarding the cumulative positive results and continuation planning for the Nebraska Math Readiness program that is reaching several hundred students struggling with high school math in the CCC service area.
- Met Senator Ricketts for an open forum he conducted on the CCC-Columbus campus.
- Three other CCC representatives and I attended and presented our pitch for the Futures Assembly Community College Bellwether Award in Workforce Development. While we did not win, we still placed in the top 10 nationally and learned about many other best practices from across the country to share or replicate at CCC.
- Appreciated Dan Quick and Chris Waddle representing CCC at the NCCA state legislative day to meet with senators and educate them on the positive work of our institutions and answer questions regarding upcoming legislation.
- Signed a letter of intent and am now planning a community meeting in Holdrege regarding a potential new downtown site that would allow for expansion of programming as well as community partnerships.
- Heard and viewed updates on the Rural Health Building with CCC/UNK/UNMC. Good progress being made with professional facilities being built in that community to help us expand our nursing numbers in the Kearney area.
- Completing my six years of service with the Heartland United Way board this month but am still busy with board, agency and committee meetings this past month.
- Participated as the training providers representative in the committee and board meeting of the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board, which was hosted over two days at CCC-Hastings.
- Attended the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce dinner along with others from CCC and the CCC Foundation.
- Although not successful on the ballot for a position on the board of AACC, will be attending the annual conference in April. AACC invited me (as one of 20 presidents) to attend a 7000+ attendee Artificial Intelligence conference (ASU+GSV Summit). This summit will explore technology solutions and access from "Pre-K to Gray."

Updates from area vice presidents include:

- Nursing assistant, medication aide and emergency medical services programming has continued to see demand and inquiries for more offerings in local high schools. Continued growth in EMS seems to drive the need for the paramedicine growth we been seeing.
- May 1 will be the ribbon cutting for the Pirnie Inclusive Playground at Ryder Park in Grand Island. Gotschall grandchildren have been testing it out with unanimous support and excitement.
- The Nursing/Heath Sciences Career Fair was held at College Park on Feb. 28. There was outstanding participation with 48 employers, four college/universities, and 220 students in attendance. In addition to nursing students, students from occupational therapy assistant, paramedicine, medical technology, medical assistant and pharmacy tech programs attended.

- Business administration has been busy recruiting. In the last two months, the faculty have shared information about the programs with almost 1,000 prospective students from six different schools.
- Early College will incorporate behavior management (MANDT) training into the education practicum, saving districts money and making the paraeducator certificate highly marketable.
- Dr. Amy Mancini, dean of arts, science and business, conducted two “Using AI in the office” webinars as part of the employee training series that CCC hosts on one Friday per month. Two faculty members are partnering to design a personal development course with a focus on ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) in school and at work.
- The new XR/Virtually Reality lab on the Columbus Campus has continued to see strong and varied uses, including animal cell and bacteria cell activity, Black History Month event, theater’s virtual tour of the Anne Frank house, and physics and nursing labs.
- Financial aid cycle I scholarship application closed on March 1. We ended up with 988 submitted applications and 318 who had started the application but did not finish/submit the application. Those non-completers were reached out to and will be a group targeted for cycle II.
- The Columbus Campus admissions department will host 375 eighth graders on March 27 for a college visit. The Kearney Center Student Success and Enrollment Management staff recently hosted a group tour from KHS, with over 400 9th graders touring the center.
- In February, the Hastings career and employment services department witnessed a notable surge in our Job Board activity with the addition of 22 new employers and a total of 146 job postings. Additionally, our efforts in student engagement resulted in 76 new student registrations with the Job Board and 28 students adding their resumes to it.
- Nebraska Land Improvement Contractors Association (NLICA) conference held its annual conference in Kearney on Jan. 18 and awarded scholarships to our heavy equipment operator (HEOT) students. We appreciate their continued support of our HEOT students each year!
- Multiple industry advisory board meetings were or will be held this spring. Examples include agriculture, March 1; information technology and services, March 5; hospitality management and culinary arts, March 25; and media arts, March 27.
- Nebraska Blacksmiths, Welders and Machinists Association met for the 2024 Short Course Program on the Columbus Campus on Jan. 9. Led by WELD faculty Bryce Standley and Landon Hunt, participants learned about laser welding, silicone bronze welding, and Hypertherm cutting applications. The group also took a tour of Valmont Industries.
- Over 1500 area high school agriculture students competed in district FFA contests on the Columbus, Hastings and Grand Island campuses with contests coordinated by high school and CCC faculty and staff.
- CCC welding students Aiden Bock (1st), Levi Gillming (5th) and Matthew Gleeson (6th) placed well in a Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW) invitational welding competition at North Central Technical College in Beloit, Kansas.
- The Columbus welding program has completed two stoves for the international Salma Stove project with an additional three in progress. The faculty are hoping the current three will be completed by the end of the month. Plans are for a shipment overseas sometime in April.
- CCC will be partnering with UNL to offer summer professional development workshops. They include 12 unique sessions and 13 offerings. Online registration will open on April 2. The schedule is placed in spring packets for area counselors and sent electronically through the state listserv to instructors and contacts we work with throughout our service area.
- Sam Matticks, the new CCC-Kearney automotive program instructor, continues to do well with classes and with enrollment resulting in 58 students recently completing a course. Sam is also working on the potential donation of an automotive hoist from NAPA Auto Parts.
- A Nursing Camp will be held June 2-5. The camp is for students entering seventh and eighth grades and limited to 15 students. The community and workforce education and nursing department are involved.