

President's June Report
June 26, 2025, CCC-Grand Island
Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Participated in the Construction Kick-off at the Holdrege Center where the \$100,000 donation from Phelps Memorial Health Center was announced along with a great showing of community supporters to celebrate the regional investment.
- Several meetings regarding the Central Regions, 6 Region/1 Nebraska Trades on the Move initiative to partner with Edgerton Explorit Center to institute a mobile training lab for middle-school youth throughout Nebraska. Still seeking outside funding to implement.
- Participated in the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development meeting representing educational providers.
- Sent thank-you notes to CCC area senators and the governor for their support of community college initiatives this past session. Attended one of the last in-person sessions of the season prior to adjournment.
- Attended the 2025 Aksarben Stakeholders' meeting where sessions centered around Nebraska's BioEconomy, specifically the sustainable aviation fuels plant in Phelps County and the fertilizer plant in Gothenburg. Both are planned as multi-billion-dollar investments that will employ individuals needing additional workforce training and education beyond high school.
- Participated in strategic planning meetings for the CCC Foundation and hosted an initial CCC strategic planning meeting for the development of Central's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and major initiatives.
- Participated in some introductory meetings with a new organization CCC was invited to join – Alliance for Innovation & Transformation (AFIT), a group of approximately 60 community colleges from across the United States. CCC is the only Nebraska college to be a member with multiple professional development opportunities provided annually for executive and other college employees.
- Visited CCC-Ord and met with chamber executive and owners of the building GLVA.
- Participated in the NCCA quarterly meeting and multiple meetings with the NCCA presidents and executive director as legislative, and post-legislative events occurred.
- Accepted invitation to serve on a Department of Labor panel at the Governor's Summit on Ag & Economic Development in August.
- Attended the Susan T. Buffett Annual Research Meeting where results of scholarship funding for students were discussed and data shared on other STB-funded higher education initiatives, including a proposed new Nebraska College Access Network (NeCAN) on which CCC has a steering committee representative.

Updates from area vice presidents include:

- The occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program held its advisory board meeting on May 27. They had a great turnout that included membership from: a current and past student, one of who is employed at a local therapy clinic as well as representatives from a handful of other clinical partners.
- OTA director Dr. Callie Bridges and instructor Libby Theoharis have been invited to present their "AI in Education" session to the University of Findlay's Department of Occupational Therapy and GO Physical Therapy, following the success of their presentation at the national occupational therapy conference. Their session was attended by over 420 participants.
- Dental hygiene program director Dr. Wanda Cloet received the Educator of the Year Award from the American Dental Hygienists' Association This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate

exemplary dedication and innovation in their dental hygiene roles. She will be presented with the award at the ADHA Annual Conference in October 2025 in California.

- Approximately 35 EMT students completed and passed the NREMT psychomotor exam this spring across the college. This number includes 10 high school students from Wood River and Grand Island high schools, both of which offer the EMT program. Many of these students have also passed their written exams and are in the process of becoming licensed to practice. The college received excellent feedback from the high school students who tested at CCC, particularly regarding the high-quality equipment available. EMT classes that were taught at Grand Island Senior High School (GISH) will be moved to CCC-Grand Island beginning this fall.
- Beginning this fall, the nursing assistant and medication aide courses at GISH will continue to be offered in a trimester format, as successfully implemented this past year. This expanded scheduling model allowed an additional 52 students to enroll and complete these courses annually, bringing total annual enrollment to approximately 152 students.
- The medical laboratory technician (MEDT) program and partnership at GISH continues to thrive, having completed its second year offering the 13-credit phlebotomy certificate. Students complete part of the coursework online and attend hands-on lab sessions at CCC. This fall, seven to nine students are expected to be welcomed into the next cohort. These 13 credits seamlessly ladder into the MEDT AAS degree, providing a strong foundation for early college students interested in pursuing a career in the medical laboratory field.
- During last month's Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association (NJJA) annual conference in Kearney, CCC's new introduction to peer support course and the 15-credit peer support advocate certificate were highlighted during the "Be the Change You Want to See" breakout session. Following that recognition, two individuals completed the application and registration process for the human services program the very next week.
- The Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) curriculum is being finalized this summer for a planned launch in Fall 2026. This is a set of two new courses that align with updated Nebraska licensure standards and national certification requirements, expanding on EMT training with advanced airway management, IV therapy, and limited medication administration. Designed to enhance emergency care in rural areas, AEMTs help fill the gap between EMTs and paramedics. Currently, CCC is the only college in the state offering the curriculum and the only training agency offering it as college credit.
- Hastings Fire and Rescue has received an education grant and is planning to pay for several students to take the EMT courses this fall.
- Through the Nursing Pinning Ceremony survey, program was able to collect job placement of graduates hired at main clinical partner facilities.

Hospital	Number of Students
Mary Lanning	6
CHI-St. Francis	6
CHI-Good Samaritan	1
Bryan-Kearney Regional	7
Columbus Community College	1
Bryan-Grand Island Regional	4
Other	19
Not Answered	22

- Nursing Completion Rates for 2024-25 Year

Second-Year Cohort

Second Year Location	Number Completed/Number Started Students	Completion Ration/Attrition Rate
Columbus	9/11	81.8%/18.2%
Grand Island	36/39	92.3%/7.7%
Kearney	21/28	75%%/25%
Program	66/78	84.6%/15.4%

First-Year Cohort

First Year Location	Number Completed/Number Started Students	Completion Ration/Attrition Rate
Columbus	18/21	85.7%/14.2%
Grand Island	39/46	84.7%/15.3%
Kearney	30/38	78.9%/20.1%
Program	87/105	82.8%/17.5%

- The fine arts department is continuing to be promoted on Saturday afternoons at the Community Building in downtown Columbus in the launch of “Artful Afternoons” hosted by the City of Columbus. This open event gives the public a chance to create art with each other and CCC personnel to promote fine arts programs. In July, CCC is showcasing a sculpture made by the welding department. Whitney Hank has taken the lead on this initiative in partnership with faculty colleagues.
- The Columbus Campus is working with the City of Columbus on a new project, “Senior to Senior,” which will bring senior citizens and graduating seniors together in an art collaboration. CCC will be a sponsor for this event.
- A successful expansion has the molding department collaborating with the XR lab in virtual molding simulations. CCC’s XR lab is showcased in a video interview with *Mold Making Technology*. We will continue to expand this project with the help of Karl Anderson.
- Grand Island entrepreneurship is partnering with the City (Laura McAloon) and EDC (Mary Berlie) for a tradesman skill cohort in the fall. Each will receive \$3,000 to elevate their business.
- The Schnase 1906 District is officially open in Hastings. The CCC entrepreneurship director is assisting with finalizing the terms and conditions and lease agreement documents with the Schnase Board and attorney so that the 12 office spaces can be leased.
- Conversations with UNK transfer administrators and education faculty will culminate in new teacher education pathways for CCC students transferring to UNK.