

## **President's Report October 2021**

**Dr. Matt Gotschall**

**CCC-Columbus**

- 1) The board is invited to the first all-college CCC Winter Commencement to be held Friday, December 10, 2021, at 2 p.m. The event will be held at the Nebraska State Fair Grounds in the Aurora Cooperative Pavilion. Please let Joni know if you'll be attending for robe-planning purposes.
- 2) Remember there will be no November board meeting, but rather it will be held on Thursday, December 16, with a noon work session followed by a 1 p.m. meeting. The main topic will be approving any redistricting changes due to the 2020 census. No draft maps are available from the consultant yet, but the only likely change will be in how Buffalo County is split between two of our districts and how Boone County is split with Northeast Community College.
- 3) Rita Skiles, Diane Keller, Sam Cowan and multiple CCC administrators attended the NCCA annual meeting in Scottsbluff in October with Diane Keller receiving the governor's award and Chandra Anderson being recognized as Central's outstanding alumni. Good meetings were held regarding multiple changes by the Higher Learning Commission, that CCC is working to implement.
- 4) John Novotny and I attended the ACCT Leadership Conference in San Diego with John's report included under the President's report. Overall good presentations ranging from Covid recovery funds, pending national legislative or executive orders, workforce development partnerships, dual credit and university partnership trends and board governance topics. I remain confident we have a great board and following or creating many best practices.
- 5) I also attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities virtual meeting as I am an associate institution board member. Topics included potential DACA changes and federal funding opportunities to address student success initiatives especially focused on Hispanic/Latinx.
- 6) We were saddened to have both a student and an adjunct faculty member pass away in the past few weeks. Support to the families have been extended during this difficult time. Full-time electrical and substitute faculty are working well to cover the open instructional duties.
- 7) The University of Nebraska Board of Regents recently passed a Transfer Student Graduation Guarantee that should help more of our students transfer and graduate within four years total. I appreciate the work being to be more inclusive and supportive of all students in the state.
- 8) The Hastings Manufacturing Pathways Advisory Team held an informal meet-and-greet with students enrolled in advanced manufacturing, construction, design/drafting technology and welding. Several students were hired for part-time work with some follow-up visits also planned.
- 9) Over 130 students from across the state attended the annual Diesel Technology Career Fair on October 7. Twenty-five vendors helped prospective students learn about the field and employment opportunities.
- 10) Congressman Adrian Smith brought his entire Nebraska and Washington, D.C., staff to CCC-Hastings to learn about the heavy equipment operator program, talk to students and faculty and get interactive with the simulators and actual heavy equipment. Brad Wagner with Midlands Contracting and an HEOT advisory board member and employer also addressed the group about employer needs in Nebraska.

- 11) An on-site Driver Training School audit was conducted, and results were satisfactory. Thanks to Matt McCann and trainers for being prepared and running a great program.
- 12) Two adult registered apprenticeships have been created, one with CNH in Grand Island in welding and another with A&E Electric in Hastings. Both have students enrolled with several more companies in discussion with CCC, including Orthman Manufacturing, Chief Ag, Eaton, Blueprint Engines and Lindsay Corporation.
- 13) The hospitality management and culinary arts program has the largest freshman class since 2016 this fall. Blue Fork Kitchen of Hastings visited the campus, talked to students and hired several students for their new operation in the community.
- 14) Student Jacob Snyder has been hired by NE EPSCoR grant to confirm aerial imagery to estimate tree heights in urban forestry. He also has been accepted to attend the American Society of Agronomy annual meeting in Salt Lake City to present the data collected. He is working with Dr. Dirk Charlson, agriculture instructor on the project.
- 15) Business technology and business administration faculty are working together on the discontinuation of the AAS degree in BTEC and continuation of students into BSAD due to enrollment and employability changes.
- 16) The Women Entrepreneurship Conference held in Columbus involved 26 local attendees and another 22 from Lincoln and two from Kearney.
- 17) Carlos Barcenas has been hired as our part-time Entrepreneurship Center coordinator in Grand Island with various agreements and processes now being planned for the opening of that center in downtown Grand Island. We're waiting on furniture before an open house is held, but construction is complete.
- 18) Dr. Jerry Wallace and Amanda Groff have submitted the Bunker University video to the Sundance Film Festival and will submit to SXSW Omaha and Boulder Film Festivals.
- 19) Since the start of fall courses, approximately 180 hours of counseling have been provided to students from counseling and prevention services.
- 20) Veterans day activities will be held collegewide this year. The Veterans Resource Center was also a recipient of 23 items from national illustrator George Withers, a WWII veteran who went on to become featured in the Saturday Evening Post. His son donated these pieces to CCC after seeing our strong reputation as a Best for Vets program and visiting with director, Barry Horner.
- 21) Fifty-two businesses and organizations attended the Columbus Part-time Job and Resource Fair with over 130 students also attending.
- 22) Approximately 70 students from area high schools attended the day-long Health Sciences Health Expo held in Grand Island. Students learned about each program through hands-on experiences, discussion and informative presentations.
- 23) The health information management systems program completed new accreditation standards by the October 1, 2021, deadline and the medical laboratory technician program successfully completed their virtual accreditation visit.
- 24) Dental hygiene students have been providing dental services at Headstart childcare facilities in Grand Island, Hastings and Lawrence and at Sandy Creek.
- 25) Financial aid distributed almost \$5 million in coronavirus relief and recovery aid in October with many letters of thanks and encouragement from students.