

President's July-August Report
August 21, 2025, CCC-Grand Island
Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Summer has flown by and Fall kicked off since my last report! Overall, a lot of positives as highlighted in my Welcome Back PowerPoint slides that I posted and shared with All CCC last week. Additional highlights follow.
- We received official word of Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaffirmation of accreditation so next comprehensive visit will be 2035. Federal Compliance was also accepted, all with no sanctions, monitoring reports or additional visits. We will have a mid-term checkup and other reports to submit during the next 10 years, but overall in great shape so thank you for your involvement as board members and support of the faculty, staff, students and administration throughout this process.
- State audits for enrollment were completed and financial with results to be presented to you this month and this fall. We also received the certified allocations from our two state aid funds: A 3.5% increase in community college future fund and a slight increase in “regular” state aid that also reflects our share of the additional \$5 million the legislature allocated for dual credit tuition reductions. Final budget will be presented in September but should be only minor changes from the tentative budget you approved in June. Under my report include amounts distributed to CCC as well as the other five community colleges who had enrollment changes ranging -2.69% to +12.63% with CCC coming in at +3.14%.
- We received positive news this summer that two federal grants we thought in jeopardy of not being funded, TRiO and Adult Education, have both been funded. We do have a new requirement of confirming citizenship or qualified alien status of adult education students though. This will take some additional work on our part and secure storage of that personal information but will complete in order to stay in compliance on new guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.
- Attended meetings and events this summer including: Panelist regarding apprenticeships with Nebraska's Commission of Department Labor at Nebraska Governor's Summit Ag and Economic Development; attended the State Chamber Federal Legislative Summit where Sens. Fischer and Ricketts and Congressman Flood gave updates; attended a national conference of the Association for Innovation and Transformation, of which CCC is a new invited member; attended the Proteus farmworkers annual awards luncheon; participated in NCCA Strategic Planning Board meeting and several NCCA presidents' meetings; co-emceed a Columbus Days event; CCC Foundation board meeting, welcomed U.S. Department of Energy community college grant meeting that CCC hosted; lead a 40+ member CCC Action Summit; participated in an Aksarben Foundation meeting regarding apprenticeships; 6 Regions, 1 Nebraska planning and implementation meetings; UNL President Gold's reception at Stuhr Museum; UNK/UNMC building update meeting; Hastings and Grand Island CCC retiree events; attended Sam Cowan's funeral; potential business training meetings with Bosselman Enterprises and Fiserv; Grand Island Senior High curriculum meeting; CCC new educator orientation; PIN Executive Board Meeting; Nebraska Diplomat's meeting; and Nebraska Manufacturing Advisory Council (NeMAC) meeting.

Updates from area vice presidents include:

- Central Community College students who participate in SkillsUSA had a good showing at the organization's national convention last month in Atlanta. Joseph Fickenscher (Axtell) and William Grosch (O'Neill) earned a gold medal in the mechatronics competition while Chase Ostdiek (Blue Hill) took home a silver medal in the heavy equipment operator technology (HEOT) match. Keaton Connelly (Grand Island) finished fourth in auto body while Wyatt Kreutzer (Kearney) and Hunter Trumble (Aurora) placed 11th in advanced manufacturing design technology (AMDT).

Finally, Corey Tilley (Hastings) finished 18th nationally in the automotive technology competition. Congratulations to the students and advisors who took part. All seven of the above students had previously earned GOLD at the state contest in April.

- Annual meeting to discuss usage was held with Labster, a supplement for science lab courses offered via distance; 1,202 Labster licenses with 12,035 simulation plays were used in 2024-25. Other items of note: 24 faculty use Labster in 11 courses. 72% of our usage is in online biology. Students rate Labster very positively in 90% of plays.
- Three full-time (1 new, 2 replacement) business administration faculty were hired this summer.
- The Library Resource Center supervisors began training on the new catalog system, and the initial data pull of information from the old system has been completed. Digital resources expanded with the addition of Libby (audio and e-books for checkout) and Kanopy (online movie streaming).
- We had a successful end of the adult education program year with our highest performance ever. Staff and students enjoyed a break in July. Classes began again on August 4.
- Central had 53 student-athletes recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) for academic achievement during 2024-25. The 53 CCC honorees surpasses the previous record of 42 in 2023-24.
- The Raiders had five teams that earned NJCAA Academic Team of the Year honors for posting a combined 3.0 GPA or better. Volleyball posted a 3.58 GPA while men's soccer sported a 3.54 GPA. Softball posted a 3.50 GPA and women's basketball women's soccer each posted a 3.20 GPA. The National Junior College Athletic Association Esports (NJCAAE) honored six CCC student-athletes for their academic performance during the spring 2025 semester.
- Partnership with CCC entrepreneurship center, GI Economic Development Council and the city of Grand Island for a skills trade cohort. Businesses with two or fewer employees (welders, plumbers, drywall, concrete) to learn how to grow and hire. It starts in October. They receive a \$3,000 mini grant. Limit 10. (paid for by the city and GIEDC)
- The CCC-Hastings entrepreneurship center is supporting the new Schnase building incubator in downtown Hastings and created a new program called Tuesday Muse Day for entrepreneurs and business leaders to meet at the Schnase and a podcast called "Sink or Swim." The CCC-Columbus entrepreneurship center is working with several people to have regular visits by the Center for Rural Affairs. CCC-Kearney is working on a Big Idea Buffalo County competition and CCC-Ord is connecting with Ord Public Schools on building out their School to Work program matching students to business sponsorships or apprenticeships with CCC.
- CCC-Grand Island hosted Boy Scout's Merit Badge University, July 25-27. We had multiple employees participate: John Willmes for welding and Michael David, John Sumsion and Jim Davis for criminal justice. Amy Santos, Carla Uhlir, and Kerri Dey helped with medical check-ins and sustainability director Ben Newton facilitated a badge course as well.
- CCC Nursing Dean Pam Bales met with two critical care access hospitals (Broadstone in Superior and Cozad Community Hospital) to discuss clinical space. No decisions made at this time. Will meet with Lexington later this month.
- Dental assisting students completed their final clinical rotations, attended the CODA-required Dental Assisting Clinical Seminar, and received their Coronal Polish Certifications. All students are currently employed.
- OTHA students completed 14 cognitive assessments and practiced blood pressure on residents in two nursing home facilities and completed therapy groups on varying topics to assistive living and memory care individuals in the community. Students also participated in a two-day seminar on Physical Agent Modalities with the expert in the United States and participated in lymphedema training. OTHA also sponsored a Getting It Write summer camp with over 25 kids/campers were assisted on sensory motor, behavior, and handwriting skills.
- Several health science representatives met with GISH representatives to discuss MEDT, EMT, and NA/MA. It has been decided to have GISH EMT students come to campus for class. This should

give the students more opportunities to utilize all of our equipment here. So far, 15 students have applied for the MEDT pathway.

- Hastings College announced three new majors added in environmental studies, skilled and technical sciences education, and agricultural education. Their press release credits their partnership with CCC for the two education ones.
- The annual Super Tech competition, which features the best entry level Diesel technicians across the state of Nebraska, was held on the Hastings CCC Campus on July 17. CCC had one student from Diesel Technology represented in the student competition, Schuyler Eatherton, where they placed second place among other top college students participating. The competition is held at only two community colleges in Nebraska. Southeast Community College will host the 2026 competition and then return to Central in 2027.
- Dan Davidchik, mechatronics (INDT) instructor, led four training courses this summer for the early college INDT classes available for college credit for high school instructors wanting to become facilitators June 10 through July 2. Participants attended from Nebraska, as well as from out-of-state. Two summer workshops in CRIM were held June 18 and June 26-27 for high school teachers. MART instructor, Dani Schwinn, held a workshop for high school teachers and guidance counselors on June 3-4. Agricultural Science instructor, Jeff Buescher, held a workshop for high school teachers and guidance counselors on June 4-5. Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts (HMRM) team, Clarence Charles, Dylan Krings, and Courtney Rempe, held workshops for high school teachers and guidance counselors on June 4-5 and June 12.
- The Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska (FCSTN) awarded the Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts program their Partnership Award on June 10 in Kearney.
- Diesel faculty hosted the third annual Titan Diesel Camp on June 2-3. Twenty-four high school students from Nebraska and Iowa participated in hands-on learning activities in the diesel technology and heavy equipment areas of the campus on June 2. Students wrapped up the camp on June 3 in Grand Island, where they toured the Case IH Combine plant and then toured and participated in more educational activities at the newly opened Titan Machinery store also in Grand Island. Dates will be set for 2026 to continue with this camp.
- CCC received \$100,000 from the state Perkins grant to assist in funding a cobot welding system for the new welding facility in Grand Island.
- Criminal justice instructors Dr. James Davis and Duane Collins passed FAA 107 drone exam this summer to receive Remote Pilot Certification to authorize them to fly drones for commercial and educational purposes.
- In memory of Sam Cowan, I wanted to share a photo of his sign-in table at the funeral, complete with his certification of election to the CCC board following the November 2008 election, two past CCC Board Chair plaques and his CCC Columbus campus Faculty Member of the Year award. A great servant to our CCC students, peers and communities.

