

President's Report, December 2024 – January 2025

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- The obvious highlight of December was the conferring of degrees and diplomas as part of the fourth annual winter commencement with a record number of 110 graduates making reservations to attend. The fall semester ended with collegewide head count numbers up 2% but FTEs up over 4%. So far, the spring semester looks up about 2.5% with two weeks of drop/add yet to go.
- Since the last board meeting in November, a successful open house was conducted in Red Cloud; Traci Skalberg, Candace Walton and I attended the Postsecondary International Network; and CCC hosted the second annual Statewide Apprenticeship Conference in Kearney, NCCA President's meetings and Region 6 planning meetings.
- December activities included the final employee service awards which allowed us to recognize several 20, 30, 35 and even one 50-year service award recipient!
- I attended a legislative kick-off with four of the state legislators representing the Grand Island area to hear of their priorities and offer my support regarding information important to community colleges. Last week I sent introductory messages to each of the 10 state legislators representing our 25-county area and am optimistic of the support of community colleges that several have voiced or acted on already.
- Attended a UNK chancellor's holiday reception in Kearney.
- Met with representatives from Bellevue University, signing an updated agreement to extend Bellevue-funded tuition assistance to full- and part-time CCC employees and their dependents. This is a great partnership in which we are happy to participate.
- Attended CCC's music group's holiday performance at Stuhr Museum as well as the holiday concert in Columbus including both vocal and instrumental student performances.
- Met with the Nebraska State Colleges' Chancellor Turman to discuss their proposed new associate of general studies degree to be awarded to students who have discontinued enrollment at a state college prior to earning a bachelor's degree or previous associate degree from a community college. The proposal will go to the Nebraska Postsecondary Coordinating Commission this spring.
- Toured Aurora's Edgerton Center to discuss possible partnerships with mobile educational training in the trades. Very impressive local resource I needed to learn more about.
- Met twice with DG fuels CEO regarding possible facility and training needs as that project advances in the Holdrege region. He was interested in courses offered at the Holdrege and Kearney centers.
- Working with additional CCC team members on finalizing HLC documentation and narrative to submit for our reaccreditation, which involved multiple meetings, reviews, edits and documentation compilation.
- Finalized request and received written confirmation regarding the \$1.5 million donation from an anonymous Kearney donor for our space in the UNK/UNMC rural health building.
- Attended two Adult Education/GED ceremonies in Grand Island – very impressive and moving experience for everyone involved.
- Participated in the Heartland United Way Car give-away event and the annual board nomination meeting.
- Faculty negotiations started in October and continued through November and December so met regularly with administrative team on proposed terms and conditions. Hope to bring final agreement to board this spring.
- Met a few times with architects regarding Grand Island housing proposal RFPs and questions from possible contractors. Hope to have a recommendation to board on next steps by March.

- Appreciated the opportunity to rejuvenate over the extended semester break.
- Held two collegewide welcome back webinars – slides included in the President's Report folder. Met with faculty groups and individually with several staff on campuses.
- Participated in an Open Dorse webinar to continue to learn more about impacts of name, image and likeness opportunities for student athletes and our institutions supporting these teams.
- Participated in Nebraska Chamber Forum on property tax reforms.
- Coordinated board replacement applications and interview for CCC board vacancy while prepping some board orientation for the three new members.

Updates from area vice presidents include the following:

- 2025-26 scholarship applications are going strong with 312 submitted, a large increase from last year at this time. To assist in FAFSA completion, the financial aid offices will be holding events in January and February on each of the campuses and at Kearney to assist prospective and current students and their parents complete the FAFSA. Hastings College and UNK asked to participate with us so they will be included.
- The Scott Scholar program will be expanding eligible programs to include agriculture.
- JBS has updated its agreement with CCC to provide tuition assistance to employees and their dependents.
- *Military Times* named CCC Best for Vets, #1 Community College in Nebraska, #2 Community College in America, #3 public college in Nebraska, #8 public college (of 34) in Central Region. This is the 12th consecutive year of being nationally ranked and the third year of competing against and being ranked against four-year institutions.
- In fall 2024, counseling services completed 14 new student intakes, 16 crisis visits and 18 consultations and had 33 students return for services areawide. Disability services completed 82 intakes, 17 consultations, and 15 follow-up visits. Two staff members will be attending the national conference in January 2025.
- Residence life retention from fall to spring appear strong on both the Columbus and Hastings campuses.
- Allie Remm, career and employment specialist, completed her national Facilitating Career Development certification and was selected by the American College Personnel Association, (ACPA), Commission for Two-Year College's New Professional Award.
- Career and employment services staff members will present a roundtable, "Careers and Transferable Skills for the Humanities Major," at the 2025 National Career Development Association conference in Atlanta this June.
- A new CCC Bookstore program called Raider Ready was planned and implemented for Spring 2025, so far so good with students getting information and making decision to opt out or stay in the program designed to reduce overall textbook costs for students.
- New academic recovery procedures will officially be implemented this spring with over 17 student success and enrollment management staff trained to assist with personalized interventions/coaching for award-seeking students who have fallen into academic recovery status.
- Nursing applications for the Fall 2026 cohort open on January 31, 2025. A new application will be used that is more streamlined and user-friendly for students. The form has examples of necessary documents needed to meet criteria, so students can visualize how the document appears. Students are not allowed to submit application until all fields have been completed, thus eliminating several emails and files being uploaded. This should improve understanding of the first-time, first-serve time opening. All uploaded documents speak to Perceptive and are changed to a PDF form. The form is more cyber-secure as IT helped to create the document. Kudos to Donna Moore for assuming initiative to improve the process and collaborate with other college divisions to increase safety and efficiency.

- Of 101 first-year students who began in Fall 2025, 95 completed the semester successfully. Of the 77 second-year students, 67 completed successfully to begin their final spring semester.
- A new offering, HLTH 1240 Phlebotomy, will be held for the first eight weeks in Kearney and the second eight weeks in Grand Island. A class in Lexington is planned for this summer.
- Spring EMT classes are being held on Hastings Campus; Edgar/Clay Center Fire Hall; Columbus Campus (first time to have a class on campus); Gibbon and Elwood.
- The Kearney High School nursing assisting classes for Fall 24 included 22 students, with all passing; Lexington High had 11 students, with all passing; and Holdrege High had 10 students, with nine passing.