

President's Report March 18, 2021
Dr. Matt Gotschall

- 1) The Chamber ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for Friday, March 26, at 11 a.m. for the Grand Island Campus' Center for Health and Technology building. The lieutenant governor is scheduled to attend, and tours and student demonstrations will be held. The great cooperative effort on this multiphase remodel and addition reflects investment in our students, in our employees' work environments, and in employers seeking talented and skilled workers.
- 2) COVID-related cases continue to decline for both employers and students compared to the beginning of the semester. Nearly 100% of the employees throughout our service area who wanted vaccinations have received the first dose.
- 3) I have been providing legislative updates as requested to Greg Adams with the Nebraska Community College Association, primarily concerning use of federal relief aid and tax-funded expenditures.
- 4) A sabbatical request from Allan Stenzel, mechatronics instructor in Columbus, was approved for the 2021 fall semester. His work will focus on multiple updates/videos of mechatronics concepts for use in courses and the federal iMec grant, meetings with business and other colleges with similar programs, and continuing education/professional development for him.
- 5) An agreement was signed this past week for completion of a CCC-Grand Island Entrepreneurship Center in downtown Grand Island. Remodeling of the space will begin soon.
- 6) CCC will receive an estimated \$8,1766,000 as part of the recently passed American Recover Plan Act. Fifty percent (\$4,088,000) is required to be spent on direct student aid and is available through September 2023. We're still awaiting additional guidance from the U.S. Department of Education about institutional expenses and lost revenue allowances for these funds as well as the last CRRSAA relief funds awarded in January 2021.
- 7) Sarah Kort has been promoted from associate dean of health sciences to dean of health sciences. There will continue to be several openings posted over the next few months as retirement announcements and job changes occur more frequently in the spring.
- 8) I participated in a League for Innovation in Community College President's webinar where we exchanged ideas concerning the pandemic and eventual post-pandemic changes, lessons learned and new best practices. Overall, I'm pleased with the positive fiscal position of CCC in relation to several peers across country.
- 9) I continue my active involvement in the Heartland Area United Way and will assume the board chair position in April 2021. I'm learning more about the multiple support agencies not only in Hall County, but also in Hamilton, Merrick and Hamilton counties.
- 10) I hosted virtual and in-person Open Forums for Hastings, Area Office and Columbus staff this month and will meet with Grand Island staff later in March.
- 11) The \$4 million fundraising goal was reached in the CCC-Columbus campaign. Construction continues to progress despite snow and rains.
- 12) Skilled and technical sciences instructors Laurel Bain, Renee DeWyke and Amy Stuart participated in a Women in STS presentation for the Grand Island Career Pathway programs.

- 13) The auto body program is expecting a record number of graduates and awards earned for the 2021 spring semester with 13 students set to graduate with associate of applied science degrees.
- 14) The construction technology and electrical technology programs have been identified as pilot programs for new apprenticeship models and will include streamlined efforts between faculty, industry, and state and federal apprenticeship administrators.
- 15) CCC counseling services is currently offering a support group for single parents. An LGBTQ+ support group will begin in late March via WebEx.
- 16) The Veterans Military Resource Center is adding a new flag and emblem due to the creation of the sixth U.S. branch of service, Space Force, that has been created and is headquartered in Alabama. Outreach to the County Veteran Services Officers (CVSOs) is underway with VRMC staff planning to visit all 25 counties to meet, network and leave promotional and support materials.
- 17) A virtual nursing job fair will be held March 18 with events planned throughout the day. A booklet of employers and employment opportunities will be shared in addition to video presentations, NCLEX application processes, ATI remediation and interviews. Ninety-eight new students have been accepted to begin the nursing program this fall.
- 18) Campus visits, new student orientation, registration days and other enrollment management events continue to occur in person and virtually. The scholarship deadline was March 1 with slightly fewer completed applications received.
- 19) In-person graduation ceremonies are being planned for Friday, May 7. Grand Island and Hastings commencements will both be held at the Heartland Events Center in Grand Island. The Grand Island ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. and the Hastings ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. The CCC-Columbus commencement will begin at 7 p.m. in the Raider Fieldhouse. The capacity at the Heartland Events Center will likely accommodate regular attendance crowds for both Hastings and Grand Island; at this time, we are considering reduced capacity in Columbus. Face coverings will be required for everyone attending commencement, including employees, students and guests. More information will follow as plans are made. After cancelling graduation services last year, we are looking forward to the 2021 celebrations.