

## President's Report, January 18, 2024

### Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Spring 2024 has gotten off to a cold a snowy start, with classes starting this week and free drop/add continuing for another full week. Fall semester entered up in enrollment so planning on that continuing for this coming semester as well.
- Met with State Chamber President and Nebraska Economic Development Director regarding a new state initiative that the Governor may announce as part of his state of the state address this January. The initiative involves creating regional workforce groups following the community college boundaries. More to be shared later.
- Signed agreement with SOL Systems LLC for 2021 and 2022 RECs for a total of \$21,251.
- I, Northeast CC President & NCCA Director met with the Governor and staff a couple weeks ago on behalf of the NCCA Presidents sharing our commitment to work toward workforce development and expanded educational offerings. Answered questions regarding scheduling of programs and positive impact of dual credit programming, seeking his support for additional funding once ARPA funds expire in 2026.
- Several NCCA Presidents' meetings regarding legislative changes we seek as well as responding to other bills introduced this session. Please let me know if you are not getting the weekly from Courtney as she is now sending those out to all Board members.
- Attended webinar from the White House regarding multiple federal grant and funding programs for community colleges centering on advanced manufacturing. Have shared with grants office as we continue to be successful in such opportunities.
- Continue active participation in Heartland United Way in Executive, Finance, Nomination and full board meetings. My six year terms ends in March 2024.
- Attended the Columbus Fieldhouse Ribbon cutting, this over \$40 million investment is a great addition to the region and should provide opportunities for CCC in availability to athletic and wellness offerings.
- CCC teams are beginning to plan for the completion of our ten year Higher Learning Commission portfolio that will be finalized in 2024 prior to our site visit in March 2025. Board will be involved in some of this as well so more to come on this.
- Two faculty and I will be attending the AACC Workforce Development Institute in New Orleans in support of two of our current grants – All Within My Hands/Metallica Scholars grant and the Microsoft Cyberskills for All grant.
- Participated in the Nebraska Virtual Manufacturing Roundtable and a webinar from AACC regarding federal legislative priorities.
- Nursing Dean, Dr. Pam Bales reports 2023 NCLEX pass rates for our nursing students include 40 LPN students: 100% pass rate vs 87% national and 94% Nebraska pass rates and 41 ADN students: 91% pass rate vs 89% national and 95% Nebraska pass rate. In both cases CCC has the third largest number of candidates behind Southeast CC and Metro CC.
- Criminal Justice Program Director, Michael David reports that in 2023, Several Law Enforcement Agencies utilized the Crime House for training since it opened. Areas of Training included Crime Scene Mapping, Forensics and K-9. Not only did we get great feedback from the Agencies, but stated how much they appreciated having this resource available to them.
  - Columbus Police Dept (2)
  - Grand Island Police (2)
  - Hall County Sheriff (2)
  - Kearney Police Department
  - Hastings Police Department
  - Nebraska State Patrol
- Have had a couple interactions with GI Public School administration regarding changes in programming for 2024-2025 and ways CCC may be able to assist in their fiscal cuts.

## President's Report December 18, 2023

### Dr. Matt Gotschall

- It was great seeing many of you at our mid-term commencement attended by 100 students from across the service area. Over 411 degrees and diplomas were earned by 372 graduates this semester. The 100 student-attendees were our largest attendance since starting the ceremony three years ago.
- We have received tentative state aid allocation amounts using the new funding stream taking effect for 2024-2025. Thus, I have already begun working with the Cabinet to prioritize budgeting requests for next year as we approach spring personnel, tuition, and facilities decisions. As expected the planned increase should allow us to address some pending and future needs while lessening our reliance on annual cash reserves.
- Last week, a small group from CCC were invited to Holdrege to look at a downtown facility that has become available. We will follow-up with additional discussions with potential Holdrege partners in January prior to bringing any formal requests to the Board for your consideration. Wanted you to know though as rumors or press sometimes jump to conclusions before we can communicate.
- Still seeking a nomination for the CCC Board Treasurer position, so please reach out to Rita (chair) or Tom (incoming chair) if you are willing to serve.
- CCC's industrial maintenance program iMec, has been selected as one of ten finalists for a national Bellwether Award, so representatives will be presenting our program at a national meeting in February 2024.
- CCC was also recognized as a Top 150 community college in the nation by the Aspen Institute which allows us to apply for a \$1 million prize to be announced in 2024. Several of us submitted a very detailed application this month which helps to reinforce the positive work we have accomplished and opportunities for continued growth in understanding factors of student success of all demographics of students.
- The CCC Foundation has been successful in getting several automotive and autobody business leaders to agree to be on a fundraising committee for our new facility in Hastings. Important work will continue throughout 2024.
- Since our November meeting, I have been busy with several meetings with the Heartland United Way, attended a partner meeting with Bellevue University, updated an articulation agreement with Hastings College, attended an articulation meeting with Clarkson College, attended the Nebraska Chamber's Economic Development Summit, met with architects regarding the UNK/UNMC Rural Health Complex, participated in a Metallica Scholars update meeting, attended a CCC donor check presentation in Hastings, and gave out employee service awards in Kearney and Area office.
- Greatly enjoyed the first CCC Madrigal Feast held in Columbus with sold out crowds both Friday and Saturday nights and a large attendance on Sunday. Great opportunity to highlight the talented musicians, actors, and artists in our region.
- Attended the GI Chamber Legislative Kickoff session where the Governor made several positive comments regarding CCC and the work community colleges do for students and area workforce needs. Several area legislators also attended and shared their priorities for the upcoming session.
- A couple weeks ago, I was notified that I was nominated and will appear on the ballot in February for a seat on the American Association of Community College (AACC) Board. Six presidents will be elected from the eleven nominations. Currently there are no representatives on the Board from Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota or Iowa. Coming from a relatively small state, may not get enough votes to make the cut, but have letters of support from presidential peers from Nebraska, Kansas, Arizona, Hawaii, and Virginia, so we will see what happens.