

President's Report February 2022

Dr. Matt Gotschall

CCC-Hastings

- 1) I'm very pleased to announce a drastic drop in COVID cases reported by both students and employees after a spike in January. Several protocols continue, but cases are dropping throughout our area communities.
- 2) Much of January and early February was spent with state legislative issues and funding proposals due to a wide range of bills introduced to date or in development. The NCCA legislative day proceeded, and later Diane Keller and I presented at a hearing for LB 873. Hearings and legislative debate will continue through April. There is strong support for the ARPA funding request for the community colleges, but it's not finalized yet. I have met with Senators Aguilar, Halloran, Moser and Briese or their staff.
- 3) I attended the ACCT National Legislative Summit and went along with NECC's visits to Congressmen Bacon and Fortenberry and Senators Fischer and Sasse. We had good meetings with our delegates and also heard from First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, the U.S. Secretary of Labor and U.S. Secretary of Education and representatives from U.S. Department of Agriculture and the White House. The last day of the summit was designated for small and rural colleges with good presentations and networking regarding issues involving colleges like ours. The AACC/ACCT Community College Federal Legislative Priorities show some positive developments already in both the Congress and Senate regarding expanded short-term Pell grant opportunities for programs under one year in length (like truck driving).
- 4) Congressman Adrian Smith toured CCC-Lexington this past month and learned more about our adult education program and Tyson mechatronics project there.
- 5) We held a successful signing with Wayne State College that highlighted up to 80 credits from CCC that can be transferred to WSC to pursue a bachelor of applied science degree in industrial technology that will be a benefit to many of our AAS majors. It's also a great opportunity especially for alumni living and working throughout our service area.
- 6) Eight CCC representatives attended the Kearney Area Chamber Banquet where CCC Foundation Board member Jon Abeggan was honored as one of the award winners.
- 7) I participated as a presenter and panelist at the Grand Island Chamber Young Professionals State of the City address this week.
- 8) After forty years of service, Area Financial Aid Director Vicki Kucera is retiring so her position is being posted to provide time for overlap training time.
- 9) Over 3,900 high school seniors are being called regarding reminders of Central Visit Days to be held on each of our campuses.
- 10) Grand Island Student Veteran Association members are participating in quick reaction force opportunities to help fellow veterans deal with emergencies in our area, such as organizing an honor guard for a local veteran funeral. These are coordinated with other local veteran support groups.
- 11) With the start of the spring semester, the Academic Success Center personnel in Columbus have promoted their services to over 45 classes. These include tutoring, test prep, anti-stress techniques, writing coaches and study areas.

- 12) An open house for the new Grand Island Entrepreneurship Center was held February 15 with great attendance including several members of the Chamber of Commerce, college and community.
- 13) The Nebraska Nurse Association is holding an event February 24 where many of our faculty and students will learn more about nursing's current role, challenges, policies, team-based nursing models for patient care and how legislative policies are made for nursing in health care in the State of Nebraska.
- 14) The human services faculty have worked closely with the University of Nebraska-Kearney faculty on a new 2+2 agreement that will be finalized and announced this spring. It will create a pathway for our CCC generalist and drug and alcohol counseling majors to transfer into a UNK social work program.
- 15) Occupational therapy assistant students are engaging in many community-based projects this spring. These include helping Kearney Mid-Nebraska Individual Services create a sensory room for clients, helping with a special needs formal gala at the Kearney Archway, promoting OTA profession at Schuyler Central High School, and providing sensory kits for local day care centers and a school in Central City.
- 16) Dental hygiene second-year students are resuming rotations at nursing homes, Head Start, VA Hospital, elementary schools, Heartland Health and Third City Clinic.