

President's Report, August 2023

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- I can definitely tell summer is about over as meetings are in full force. Since mid-July, I have attended the quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Manufacturing Advisory Board at Kawasaki (Lincoln), virtual meeting of the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board, completed an HLC accreditation review for another Midwest community college, participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pirnie Inclusive Playground in Grand Island, United Way board and committee meetings, CCC FTE exit audit, Hastings Community Foundation fundraising meeting, Columbus Community Hospital Board meeting presenter, Columbus Days coronation, Columbus Days co-emcee for annual dog race event, Welcome back activities this week on campus, Governor's Ag & Economic Development conference in Kearney, Nebraska Diplomat's dinner, and meeting with GI City regarding ARPA funds/agreement.
- Welcomed 17 new faculty (includes some hired mid-year last year) for their two-week orientation that began August 1. Always impressed with the talent and strong backgrounds of our new faculty, who all come with big shoes to fill from experienced faculty before them. Still a few full-time positions open that we hope to fill by spring.
- Diane Keller and Dan Quick (in place of Rita Skiles) attended the quarterly meeting of the NCCA Board and strategic planning meeting held in Lincoln. Much discussion regarding legislative priorities for next year and expected property tax levies for 2024 which sets the new base for the state to assume after next year.
- CCC has been approved by the Coordinating Commission for \$4.7 Million for the Hastings Automotive Training Center (pending official CCPE approval in September) and \$3.3 M for the Grand Island Welding Training Center. This fully commits our \$10 million allocation from the state ARPA funds approved by the legislature in 2022. Funds must be expended now by 2026. Also received notice of CCC's allocation of \$876,183 from \$5 million annually the state approved for dual credit tuition assistance through 2025. CCC received the second largest amount of the six community colleges behind Metro who received \$2,226,919.
- CCC received preliminary state aid numbers for next year of \$11,623,411. This is \$341,056 more than last year. Final numbers will come by September 1.
- Dr. Lauren Gillespie, CCC-Columbus biology instructor, won the ACCT Western Region Faculty member of the year award and eligible for the national award to be presented at the ACCT national conference in October. Lauren served as a full-time biology instructor at CCC through this summer and then took a teaching appointment at Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland in August. She will still represent CCC and the western region at the event which will also be attended by board member John Novotny and CCC vice presidents Dr. Chris Waddle and Dr. Kelly Christensen.
- Updates from vice presidents across the area include:
 - HIMS submitted their APAR (Annual Program Assessment Report) for CAHIIM (Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education) Report. They were notified that it was accepted without any revisions.
 - The Pirnie Inclusive Playground groundbreaking was held in July with many community and college stakeholders present. Excellent media coverage and generous donors recognized.
 - Corey Hatt and Dr. Amy Mancini presented at the Nebraska School Administrators conference in Kearney regarding Math Readiness Grant and have two new districts as a result of this presentation.

- Adult Education held an instructor training day that included 46 staff and instructors in attendance. In program year 2023, CCC enrolled 2263 students from 49 countries speaking 51 native languages.
- The following NJCAA Academic Awards were earned by CCC student athletes this past year: Academic Teams (team GPA average over 3.0) went to
 - i. Softball (3.5 and first time in 28 years any team scored higher than volleyball)
 - ii. Volleyball
 - iii. Women's soccer
 - iv. Women's basketball
 - v. Men's soccer
 - vi. Golf
- Thirty-five individual student athletes earned NJCAA Academic Awards for GPA over 3.6 with 16 of those being 4.0. The Raiders won five of seven Region 9 championships in athletic competition.
- CCC-Hastings hosted representatives from Western Nebraska Community College as they are reviewing updated facilities to incorporate in the panhandle.
- Super Tech, a diesel technology technician competition, was hosted on CCC-Hasting campus in July with recent CCC graduate Adam Reinhard winning the student division and scoring as top scorer in two of the 10 competition stations. Adam plans to attend UNL this fall in engineering with a long-term goal of working for CAT to design and build equipment.
- Troy Davis, advanced manufacturing instructor, led a Haas Teacher training for four high school or college instructors from New York, Minnesota and Missouri.
- The Hastings Campus will be hosting the CCC Foundation's Appreciation night, Ram Run and Car Show September 7-9.
- Criminal justice and welding instructors participated in the Merit Badge University in Grand Island.
- Criminal justice will continue with a \$25,000 grant from All Within My Hands Foundation for the Metallica Scholars program. This is the third of five years the foundation has awarded funds to community colleges across the United States.
- CCC continues to implement the AACC and Google Serving Community Hub certificate program a one of only 20 community college partners and one of only 13 national community colleges awarded \$20,000 from AACC for Cyber Skills for All grant program.
- Orientation was completed for 95 first-year nursing students last week – good to see these numbers increasing again with only one nursing faculty position remaining open.
- We were successful in hiring an automotive instructor to teach full time at Kearney Public Schools for the upcoming year and are pleased to get that credit pathway program back up and running.
- Following the Governor's Ag and Economic Development Summit, CCC-Kearney hosted a tour of the Kearney Center to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development staff.
- The Ord Center hosted several summer camps for youth on coding, robotics, graphic design and illustration, science and entomology.
- CCC in partnership with Becton Dickinson was awarded \$500,000 from the Department of Economic Development's Developing Youth Initiative to continue and expand the Mechatronics Early College iMec 2.0 program. This will add high school partnerships.
- A sampling of CCC upcoming short-term training include plastic injection molding series, Columbus; Six Sigma, Columbus; leadership development series, virtual; leadership development, Grand Island; Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference, Holdrege; DOT hazardous materials, Columbus; and emotional intelligence, virtual.