

CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2025

Public notice of the time and place of the Central Community College Board of Governors' meeting was given in advance to the board members, college administrators and the five daily newspapers within the 25-county area. The agenda was available to the public in the college president's office and on the CCC website, www.cccneb.edu. The college adheres to the Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is available in the college president's office.

The meeting was held in the Red Cloud Educational Hub, 402 N. Webster St., Red Cloud, Nebraska.

All supplemental documents from this meeting are available at:
<https://meeting.sparqdata.com/Public/Organization/CCC>.

Chair Linda Heiden called the May 15, 2025, meeting to order at 1 p.m., with nine board members present.

ROLL CALL

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Aerni – absent | Keller – present |
| Borden – present | Pirnie – present |
| Broekemier – present | Skiles – present |
| Buss – present | Smith – present |
| Davis – present | Werner – absent |
| Heiden – present | |

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Heiden asked college representatives to introduce guests and staff members.

REVIEWING CLAIMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Tom Pirnie will review the claims prior to the June 19, 2025, board meeting in Grand Island.

REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION OF CONSENT ITEMS

Heiden asked board members for items in the consent agenda they would like to move to discussion of consent/action items.

CONSENT ITEMS

Consent items included:

1. Agenda for May 15, 2025.
2. Minutes of the April 17, 2025, Board of Governors meeting.
3. Claims for the period from April 1 through April 30, 2025.
4. Financial reports as of April 30, 2025.

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5. Purchases:

Center for Health and Sciences Roof Replacement, Grand Island: The College President recommends acceptance of the low acceptable bid from Tri-Cities roofing of Grand Island for \$181,733.00 to provide the labor and materials for the new roof on the Grand Island Campus.

Steam Unit Heater Replacement, Hastings: The College President recommends acceptance of the low acceptable bid from Grunwald Mechanical to provide all labor and material to replace the steam unit heaters in the Hamilton Building on the Hastings campus.

Used Diesel Truck, Hastings: The College recommends the search for and purchase of a vehicle that meets the designated specifications in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for a used semi-truck for the diesel technology program.

Lincoln 300C Welders, Columbus: The College President recommends acceptance of the bid for \$52,668.75 from Matheson for three Lincoln 300C welders to be used on the Columbus Campus.

6. Personnel:

Thomas Quinn, Columbus: The College President recommends that Thomas Quinn be offered the position of math/physics instructor in Columbus, effective Aug. 1, 2025.

7. Foundation Agreement: The agreement outlines the foundation's commitment, college support services, leadership and governance, and funding for a three-year period from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2028.

8. September Meeting Date Change: The date of the September 2025 Board of Governors meeting has been moved from Sept. 18 to Sept. 25.

MOVED BY KELLER, SECONDED BY BORDEN to approve the claims, with the exception of payments to themselves, and also to approve the other consent items.

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| Aerni – absent | Keller – aye |
| Borden – aye | Pirnie – aye |
| Broekemier – aye | Skiles – aye |
| Buss – aye | Smith – aye |
| Davis – aye | Werner – absent |
| Heiden – aye | |

UNANIMOUS "AYE" VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

PARTNERSHIP/OWNERSHIP

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Community and Workforce Education Report

Jerry McCartney, director of Red Cloud Heritage Tourism Development, spoke about the community's revitalization efforts, which began with embracing its identity as the childhood home of author Willa Cather. Revitalization has meant restoring old buildings, building a new hotel and embracing other individuals with ties to Red Cloud such as Silas Garber, the town's founder and the state's third governor, and baseball players Dazzy Vance and Cy Young. In 2023, The Smithsonian Magazine named Red Cloud as one of the best small towns to visit.

Also addressing the board were Manager Ana Armstrong, who talked about the services available through CCC's new Red Cloud Educational Hub, and Sara Stroman, health programming director at CCC-Hastings, who said 30 people were trained in CPR during the first four classes offered in Red Cloud.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Pennie Morgan stated no one had signed in for Public Participation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heiden requested an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues at 1:42 p.m.

MOVED BY DAVIS, SECONDED BY SMITH that the Board of Governors recess the regular meeting in order to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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| Aerni – absent | Keller – aye |
| Borden – aye | Pirnie – aye |
| Broekemier – aye | Skiles – aye |
| Buss – aye | Smith – aye |
| Davis – aye | Werner – absent |
| Heiden – aye | |

UNANIMOUS "AYE" VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Heiden reconvened the regular session of the Board of Governors meeting at 1:55 p.m.

INFORMATION

Joel King provided a preliminary review of the 2025-26 budget.

DISCUSSION OF CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

Approval of CCPE Program Reviews

Drs. Candace Walton, Sara Kort, Amy Mancini and Nate Allen presented information on the dental assisting, dental hygiene, early childhood education and heating, air conditioning and

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refrigeration programs, which are undergoing their seven-year review as required by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

MOVED BY SKILES, SECONDED BY DAVIS to approve continuation of CCC's dental assisting, dental hygiene, early childhood education and eating, air conditioning and refrigeration programs.

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| Aerni – absent | Keller – aye |
| Borden – aye | Pirnie – aye |
| Broekemier – aye | Skiles – aye |
| Buss – aye | Smith – aye |
| Davis – aye | Werner – absent |
| Heiden – aye | |

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Approval of College President's Contract

MOVED BY BUSS, SECONDED BY DAVIS to allow the board chair to negotiate with the college president and to sign the presidential contract for the 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 contract years.

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|------------------|-----------------|
| Aerni – absent | Keller – aye |
| Borden – aye | Pirnie – aye |
| Broekemier – aye | Skiles – aye |
| Buss – aye | Smith – aye |
| Davis – aye | Werner – absent |
| Heiden – aye | |

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

Student Success Report

Jason Davis gave an overview of the process that went into opening the Red Cloud Educational Hub and of the opportunities now available to people in Red Cloud and the surrounding area.

Ana Armstrong shared letters she received from two students. The first was from a recent Red Cloud High School graduate who had already earned 39 college credits through the Early College classes she had taken since she was a sophomore. The second was from a 33-year-old single mother who said the educational hub saved her the time and expense of driving elsewhere and gave her flexibility when she needed to take care of sick kids. Armstrong said the educational hub gives students of all ages the benefits of both in-person and online learning.

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Dr. Gotschall's Report

Dr. Gotschall reported the following:

- Participated in three graduation ceremonies where over 500 students attended. Thanks to everyone for your support of this important milestone for students and CCC.
- Participated in a townhall meeting with Congressman Adrian Smith in Grand Island, small group of about a dozen attendees from economic development, chamber and business. Asked for his continued support for tax-free Pell and higher education in general given these uncertain times.
- Arranged for CCC directors Jesse Barto and Carmen Taylor to present an online webinar on technical efficiencies CCC has implemented with our commercial vendors. Presentation was to the members of the Postsecondary International Network.
- Facilitating multiple budget meetings as we set next year's 2025-26 budget for operations, facilities and personnel.
- Participated in several Six Regions, One Nebraska meetings to advance initiatives for workforce development, housing and childcare needs across the area. The group went to Red Cloud and toured our education hub and started the day with meetings on our Hastings Campus.
- Held open forums with employees in Hastings and Columbus and virtually with outreach centers.
- Attended the annual Scott Scholars Graduation weekend in Omaha. Students were amazing and I'm proud of their accomplishments and the respect CCC staff have earned with the Walter Scott Jr. Foundation team.
- Attended the Phelps County Economic Development lunch and next month presented at the Holdrege Noon Rotary. Both provided opportunities to discuss our upcoming move and remodel.
- Participated in a couple of meetings regarding apprenticeship expansion across Nebraska given our leadership of the federal grant. Opportunities may be available through governor's office, Nebraska Department of Labor and/or Aksarben Foundation.
- Attended the opening of the Migrant Education Center in Lexington and a couple of weeks later hosted meetings in Gothenburg, Cozad and Lexington to listen to community needs and opportunities for CCC.
- Attended the annual American Association of Community College's meeting in Tennessee. CCC honorees included student Steven Esquivel, Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship winner, and psychology instructor Emily Mach, Faculty of Distinction. CCC staff Jerry Muller and Doug Pauley presented a session on the iMec program, Community and Workforce Education dean Marni Danhauer attended as part of the AACC Future Leaders program and Dr. Marcie Kemnitz and I participated in separate commission meetings for the organization.
- Attended the CCC college play held at Columbus High School for area first-grade students.

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- Worked through selecting national peer review colleges with the Coordinating Commission for their comparison processes that are reviewed every 10 years.
- Watched the Grand Island Signing Day for students coming to CCC for selected career and technical programs. Also attended the CCC Alumni and Community appreciation event in Grand Island – great demonstrations and engagement of faculty, staff and students.
- Grant follow-up meetings regarding Perkins, Nebraska Math Readiness and Apprenticeship.
- Emceed the All-Nebraska PTK Team and Aksarben Scholarship Recognition ceremony at the state capitol, introducing the governor and representative from all six Nebraska community colleges.
- Participated in committee and board meeting of the Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Board meeting.
- Submitted newspaper op ed across the area and participated in TV interview as part of national community college month.
- Attended and spoke at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Automotive Training Center. Was available to sign paperwork following auction of CCC house constructed by students.
- Attended the Buffalo County Economic Development luncheon in Kearney.
- Attended an open house at the Edgerton Explorit Center as a new CCC partner on the 6 Regions: Trades-on-the-Move initiative. Working with the governor's office on an invitation to construction companies to seek their support for the joint initiative to get more students grades 5-8 aware of occupations/careers in the trades.

Updates from area vice presidents include:

- The 2025 dental hygiene class sat for their clinical boards on May 2. Dr. Wanda Cloet, program director, was pleased to announce we had 100% passing rate again.
- CCC subscribes to Films on Demand, a service that enables faculty to include links to videos in both online and in-person classes.
- The General Education committee created “Guidelines for Inclusion in General Education,” which were presented at Educational Services. The committee will be launching a review of general education courses and groups at other Nebraska colleges.
- The Nebraska Math Readiness Project team conducted training for 20 high school teachers in the project. The day's agenda included tips for teaching in a lab setting and opportunities for networking.
- An Adult Education instructor in-service on March 17 drew 31 instructors and volunteers. Selected instructors presented to their peers on student engagement/retention and Krashen's five theories. Small groups discussed creating a safe and welcoming classroom as well as keeping students engaged in learning outside of the classroom.
- Work for “Big Idea” competition across the area are underway to take place during the 2025-26 academic year. Directors working with several business founders and small businesses.

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- During the Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NeASFAA) annual conference in March, Jordan Eisenmenger was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award in honor of her outstanding achievements in the financial aid profession.
- In March, Counseling Services completed five new intakes, three crisis visits, five consultations, two psychoeducation sessions, and 66 individual appointments.
- Since the start of the spring semester, Disability Services has completed 43 new intakes, 22 follow-up visits and 13 consultations. Director Kim Ottman continues in her role as president of WINAHEAD, preparing for the annual statewide conference in May.
- Career and Employment Services in Columbus organized two large fourth-grade career days for Columbus Public Schools and Shell Creek as well as a Career Opportunity Fair which provided early career exposure and resource connections for local youth.
- Student recognition ceremonies have been held across the area promoting student engagement in the classroom as well as in student organizations.
- Summer planning for 2025 camps involving the residential hall in Hastings includes: HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership), Titan Diesel Camp and Sertoma Football Camp in addition to non-residential Verizon Technology camps.
- Strong participation and achievement from State SkillsUSA student participants and advisors and dozens of CCC faculty and staff that served as judges, volunteers or coordinators.
- The Kearney Center has been contacted to host the Nebraska Developmental Education conference on Sept. 26.
- Drs. Pam Bales and Kelly Christensen met with Dr. Kyle Meyer who is heading up the final phase of the UNMC Rural Health Education Center on the UNK campus. Dr. Meyer is helping to coordinate CCC and our needs for students and faculty in preparation for offering primarily classes in the CCC-dedicated classroom starting in 2026.
- Early College Director Jamey Peterson-Jones said 1,079 high school seniors have met or plan to qualify for honors, 116 college certificates, two college diplomas, and 104 students on track to receive the Transition Advantage Scholarship (TAS). Early College instructor training will begin in June.
- CWE Dean Marni Danhauer worked with Fran Davis in the institutional research office to pull data regarding the Early College iMec program enrollment and matriculation to CCC after high school graduation. Key takeaways include a 70% increase in enrollment from 2023-24 to 2024-25; close to 25% of students matriculate to CCC after high school graduation; of those that come to CCC, 47% continue their education in mechatronics amounting to 32 students in the last three years; and most of the students are from Schuyler, Lexington and Columbus high schools.
- Dr. Kelly Christensen was interviewed by KRVN in a response to recent op-ed by Dr. Gotschall regarding April being Community College Month.
- Janet Eppenbach served on the leadership team for the Big Give to Valley County event on March 13. CCC-Ord received a total of \$1,545 from ten donors. The money raised will be designated for scholarship dollars for area students.

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- Two new pathways were approved by the Coordinating Commission for Post-secondary Education (CCPE) for Gap Assistance funding. They include 12 semester credits of Basic Refrigeration Certificate program, and 6 semester credits of Plastics Engineering Basics.
- CWE Columbus staff conducted a successful Community Builders gathering in Clarkson on March 27. The 25 participants visited five local businesses. It was neat to see how many young entrepreneurs are taking over family businesses in Clarkson.
- Karen Mroczek and Susan Schoenhofer are coordinating the Spring Gardening event on April 22 on campus. This is an event that typically brings in over 150 people. Registration looks strong again this year.
- Libby Theoharis and Callie Bridges will be presenting at their national conference in April in Philadelphia, including: Short Course 122 - Transforming Education: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Enhanced Teaching in Learning in OT.
- Dr. Wanda Cloet attended the American Dental Education Association meeting in Washington D.C. She served as a delegate to the ADEA House of Delegates, representing Central Community College.
- Grand Island Senior High School will be bringing 17 students to tour the medical laboratory technician lab in April. They are gearing up for interest in this pathway for the Fall semester.
- About 90 students sent letters and were accepted into the fall 2025 nursing program areawide.
- Dental hygiene was recently awarded \$1,500 for a grant (Adams County Early Dental Health Clinic Outreach). This grant will provide preventive dental services to approximately 300 children in Adams County.
- We currently have 19 high schools teaching the nursing assistant course and additional high schools that have expressed interest. We are seeing growing requests for medication aide, EMT, and phlebotomy in the high schools.
- Professional development remains important for keeping up to date. Some examples include: HIMS faculty Shawna Stump, Barbara Marsh and Joni Schlutz, Nebraska Health Information Management Association Annual Conference in Kearney; dental hygiene program faculty, program director and all students, Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association meeting at Mahoney State Park; Carol Hipke-Muske, medical assisting faculty and Michel McKinney, medical assisting program director, 59th Annual Nebraska Society of Medical Assistants Conference in Grand Island; Savannah Blanke, DENT faculty, Annual Nebraska State Dental Hygiene Meeting, and Shelly Steinkruger, DENT program director, Annual Nebraska Dental Assistants and Nebraska Dental Association meeting. Libby Theoharis, Occupational Therapy Assistant faculty, and Callie Bridges, Occupational Therapy Assistant program director, presented at a national conference with well over 400 in attendance and now are being asked to present to faculty (in their faculty meetings) across the US on integrating AI in OT curriculum. Two returning nursing faculty members graduated with advanced degrees: Amanda Rooker from Family NP and Theresa Martinez from MSN.
- Hastings entrepreneurship director attending monthly Schnase 1906 District Board meetings and working on finalizing the "Terms and Agreements" and 'User Lease

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Agreements” with their attorney and also designing programming for Schnase in the form of workshops and podcast development. Kearney entrepreneurship director talking with Lexington, Holdrege and Gothenburg on how to support those communities and hosting the June Kearney Chamber business and education committee at the Kearney Center.

- Some examples of recent uses of the VR/XR lab in Columbus include: Sean McDonald speech classes came in to do a virtual speech; the plastic molding department led by Karl Anderson intermittently uses the Molding Demo VR activity; Emily Mach’s psychology class had their sensation-seeking VR lab using the headsets for Richie's Walk the Plank and Roller coaster simulations; the Columbus Campus showed Columbus Middle School students the dorm tours on the MultiTaction wall; Dr. Nicholas Whitney’s A&P classes came to do Awake heart on the VR headsets; and Osmay Depablos Rivera’s chemistry class came to use the app Molecule Builder and learn about molecular bonds.

The following reports were also submitted for board review:

- Enrollment Report
- Grants Report
- Purchasing Report

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY SMITH, SECONDED BY DAVIS to adjourn.

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Aerni – absent | Keller – aye |
| Borden – aye | Pirnie – aye |
| Broekemier – aye | Skiles – aye |
| Buss – aye | Smith – aye |
| Davis – aye | Werner – absent |
| Heiden – aye | |

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Heiden declared the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.