

President's Report November - December 2021

Dr. Matt Gotschall

CCC-Grand Island

- 1) Thanks to many of you attending the first all-college CCC Winter Commencement which had over 89 of the 337 eligible graduates participating, including 17 military veterans we served through our Veterans Resource Centers. This event was a success for being the first time and I think we were all in the mood to celebrate our students' successes.
- 2) CCC was notified we were selected as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute based on college excellence as measured in five areas: degree and credential completion, transfer to a four-year institution and bachelor's attainment, teaching and learning, workforce development, and equity. Once notified, we submitted a detailed application to be considered as a top 10 finalist with the top college receiving \$1 million to be awarded in 2023.
- 3) Representatives from all three campuses and the Ord Learning Center were recognized by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum for a Community Landscape Award due to our sustainable pollinator gardens and student/community-focused activities. Congratulation especially to Ben Newton and our Students 4 Sustainability for leading that effort.
- 4) Apprenticeships have been flourishing this late fall, and I joined a representative from Lindsay Corp and Grand Island Public Schools at the Governor's press conference in November following National Apprenticeship Week and the declaration of Nebraska's Apprenticeship month in December. To date, Catrina Gray, our director, has worked with signings for CNH Industrial in Grand Island in welding; A&E Electric in Hastings in electrical technology; Lindsay Corp. in Lindsay in welding; Standard Iron in Grand Island in welding; Chief Building/Chief Fabrication/Heartland Electric in Grand Island in electrical, welding and exploring advanced manufacturing; and Protex Central Accounting in Hastings in accounting. Several more are in the works in other subject areas.
- 5) Access Early Scholarships (ACE) are designed to provide financial support to help low-income students complete college coursework while still in high school. Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education reported this month that for 2020-21, CCC had the largest number of students (483) receive the largest number of scholarships (756), earning the largest number of credits (2,311) compared to all 19 colleges and universities who participated last year. CCC's numbers included 64 different schools (largest in the state) and 29 different subject areas.
- 6) As a reminder, Linda Aerni, Roger Davis Diane Keller, Austin Miller and Rita Skiles are up for re-election in 2022 so will need to follow Secretary of State incumbent filing deadlines.
- 7) A CCC Foundation search committee has been created to begin work on replacing Dean Moors' executive director position effective October 2022. Ads will go out in January with a goal of selection by July to provide some overlapping work together.

- 8) Please let Joni know if you want to participate in the ACCT Community College National Legislative Summit to be held in Washington, D.C. Feb. 7-9, 2022. A one-day new trustee academy is scheduled for Feb. 6.
- 9) I attended the AACC Commission on Small and Rural Colleges in early November. Topics included federal grants and rural college initiatives, mental health, housing and childcare challenges in rural America, enrollment challenges and workforce development initiatives.
- 10) In December we recognized several dozen employees who celebrated service anniversaries in 2021 for a collective 1,055 years of service. We also celebrated the 90th birthday of full-time student services employee Pat Sinnard in November. Student services in Hastings held an open house in her honor.
- 11) The Columbus Campus multicultural club sponsored a student tour of a Dominican-Cuban restaurant in Columbus to learn about entrepreneurship and sample authentic foods.
- 12) Over 1,200 students were reported as struggling in classes as of the third student progress notification system. Contacts were made with each student from student services for referral to resources, instructor contact or withdrawal.
- 13) High fidelity manikins have been received in the paramedicine program using coronavirus relief funds. Faculty and staff are participating in hands-on training.
- 14) Dental hygiene students participated in Project Connect in Grand Island to provide dental screening, fluoride varnish application, silver diamine fluoride varnish application and dental health education. The students also partnered with Public Health Solutions Health Department to serve over 500 children at the Crete Headstart and Beatrice Headstart in November.
- 15) Over 3,900 high school seniors will be called regarding Central Visit Days planned for winter and spring.
- 16) Veterans Day ceremonies were held on each campus and at Kearney with good coverage and recognition from the media.
- 17) The advanced manufacturing and design technology program at the Hastings Campus will be featured in the January edition of Mold Making Technology magazine. The six-page profile will include 12 photos, and AMDT instructor Bruce Bartos and student Stefany Chavez Gomez will appear on the cover.
- 18) The CCC Foundation hosted a successful Community Appreciation Event in Grand Island this past month. Congratulations again to the CCC Foundation Hall of Fame inductees honored for their generous support of CCC through time, talents and treasures.
- 19) Although this federal grant has ended, from 2015 through 2021, 1,710 people enrolled in Project HELP. They completed 1,002 short-term and 368 long-term training sessions, and 1,008 participants entered a health care profession for the first time. Their wages grew on average by \$4.66 per hour compared to their income when they started the program. "We met all our goals," our Project HELP director, Rebecca Fausett, said.
- 20) Medical lab technology students participated in the first national Cell Bowl sponsored by ASCP, the agency that administers the MLT Board of Certification. This is a friendly competition for the ID of blood cells that includes both bachelor and associate degree medical technology programs. Success in each round was determined by the speed and accuracy with which the students identified the blood cells presented.

- 21) Three CCC admissions professionals were elected to board officer position at the latest NACRAO Board meetings hosted in Kearney. Congratulations to Ulises Valencia, Kristin Hoelsing and Erin Lesiak and thank you for your willingness to serve.
- 22) Two veteran students and VMRC Coordinator Shawn Patsios will attend the Student Veterans of America National Convention in Orlando, Florida in January. They will provide briefings and reports following their return.
- 23) The Hastings Campus Leapfrog Winter Holidays event in December was an outstanding success with 256 people participating, including employees, students and community members. Hosts and volunteers were not included in the count. In addition to a reception at the Elks club, family events, holiday decorating contests, new food truck presentation and Spectrum performances were held.
- 24) The CCC band, CCC choir and Spectrum performed together for the first concert since the pandemic in a wonderful holiday music event this month. Spectrum also sang at the Hasting Holiday Open House and the winter commencement in Grand Island.
- 25) I met with Senator Tom Briese this week since he is now representing part of Hall County. I also attended the Grand Island Chamber Legislative Updates, which included the governor and five area state senators.