

President's Report April 15, 2021

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- 1) There was a great turnout for the Grand Island Chamber ribbon cutting for the Center for Health and Technical Sciences building. Both the Nebraska lieutenant governor and Grand Island chamber president were very complimentary and pleased with the tours and show of support from the community, faculty, students and employees.
- 2) We have been able to get additional students vaccinated area wide so I'm pleased with the progress to date.
- 3) I continue to participate in AACC/ACCT updates related to federal stimulus funds, including the AACC Commission on Small and Rural Colleges, which covered topics such as broadband expansion opportunities, best practices and ideas for federal stimulus funding, supporting student veterans and other student support challenges due to the pandemic. I also participated in the Higher Learning Commission annual president's meeting.
- 4) As part of the federal stimulus funds, we have decided to provide an opportunity for up to five extra days of compensation for full-time employees (contract grade 8-11) and full-time faculty for documented pandemic-related work completed from March 13, 2020 (date of national emergency declaration), through May 17, 2021 (last day of the 2021 spring semester). Hourly staff would have had all hours worked already compensated but will be getting up to \$500 for additional expenses due to working remotely for technology, connectivity, supplies, etc. I had been waiting on clarification from the U.S. Department of Education prior to sending out an application to all CCC full-time employees who may be eligible.
- 5) Representatives from the Haas Foundation were in Hastings April 12-13 to present a check for \$250,000 toward the advanced manufacturing remodel and \$30,000 toward student scholarships. Great work by many in making that happen.
- 6) CCC occupational therapy assistant students have been promoting an idea for an inclusive playground to be built in a Grand Island city park. Over 20 community members attended a session on April 13 to learn more.
- 7) For a variety of reasons, including the fact that mandatory assessment has been waived at CCC and other institutions for much of the past year, the College Cabinet approved changing the practice of mandatory assessment to recommended assessment to match the change to recommended placement made several years ago. Reducing this additional barrier to enrollment should allow more students to make decisions on enrollment and ultimately get into more of the classes they want to take while keeping general education communications and critical thinking competencies intact for graduation.
- 8) I enjoyed an excellent meal and hospitality as part of the Hastings graduate dining experience. I was very proud to share the success of the program with friends who purchased the dinner as part of the Taste of Columbus event and who are interested in further support of our culinary arts students and program.
- 9) The virtual nursing job fair was a success at College Park in March. Even though the employers joined virtually, students had opportunities to connect with them and learn about various health care facilities.

- 10) The admissions office partnered with Early College staff to go to the high schools to promote summer scholarships. These \$250 scholarships go to current juniors and graduating seniors who want to take a summer class. The application deadline is April 15. Registration days are scheduled for spring and summer as well.
- 11) Students continue to seek individualized counseling sessions. Since the start of the spring semester, the counseling services office has provided 208 individualized counseling sessions to students. The most common concerns/diagnoses include stress, anxiety and depression.
- 12) Due to many businesses and four-year colleges being closed to visitors, the TRIO coordinators are planning an onsite career/transfer event. They will invite several local business representatives as well as transfer specialists from four-year colleges to attend a roundtable event for students this month.
- 13) On March 22, Ashley Weets invited all current University of Nebraska-Kearney/CCC pathway students (4 out of 5 showed up!) to a Pathway and Pizza event where they could enjoy some pizza and conversation about their pathway experiences. Tom Knott from UNK attended as well. Students provided feedback, and there were several ideas on how to enhance the opportunity for future students.
- 14) Conversations with GI Express are continuing as we explore a partnership with the truck driving program. GI Express is currently sending students through the six-week course. Matt McCann and Abie Ott continue to develop a refresher course in Canvas for an online completion of theory before completing about 10 hours of lab and driving refresher. A progress meeting was held April 7 with the online portion of the course scheduled to be ready by May 3 for students to enroll.
- 15) Members from BD Medical – Pharmaceutical Systems, BD Medical – Medication and Procedural Solutions, Hornady Manufacturing Company, and Parker Hannifin – Baldwin Filters recently visited programs in Columbus. These companies presented information on their plants, processes and career opportunities available to CCC graduates. All these businesses met with mechatronic students and faculty.
- 16) Welding faculty have been working with Timpte for an aluminum exchange. Timpte has been willing to provide scrap aluminum for the welding program to use. After the students weld on the scrap, it is returned to Timpte, and a new batch of scrap is acquired for students to use for practice welding.
- 17) Work continues on expanding apprenticeship opportunities with area employers, and we're close to announcing the first registered apprenticeship in the next few weeks.
- 18) CCC-Kearney mechatronics instructor Jared Pettit was selected for the 2021 Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction Recognition from the American Association of Community Colleges. This national recognition has been established to recognize individuals who are making a difference in the classroom.
- 19) CCC is organizing an areawide Tree Campus Committee Group to help plan for the removal of dead trees, planting of new trees and overall tree health.
- 20) In-person graduation ceremonies are still on for Friday, May 7. Grand Island and Hastings commencements will both be held at the Heartland Events Center in Grand Island with the Grand Island ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. and the Hastings ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. The CCC-Columbus commencement will be held at the Raider Fieldhouse at 7 p.m. The capacity at the Heartland Events Center will likely accommodate regular attendance crowds for both Grand Island and Hastings, but at this

time, we are considering reduced capacity in Columbus. Face coverings will be required for all those attending commencement including employees, students and guests. After cancelling graduation services last year, we are looking forward to the 2021 celebrations!

- 21) Ten employees recently received the League Excellence Award from The League for Innovation in the Community College for demonstrating leadership and excellence in programming, research, grants, teaching and/or support for students. They are Barb Beck, Grand Island early childhood education instructor; Dan Davidchik, Columbus process controls and instrumentation instructor; Gene Friesen, Hastings drafting and design technology instructor; Yunteng He, Kearney chemistry instructor; Vicki Kucera, college financial aid services area director; Brian McDermott, college effectiveness and research director; Libby Paro, Grand Island occupational therapy assistant instructor; Jared Pettit, Kearney mechatronics instructor; Karin Rieger, Columbus associate dean of extended learning services; and Dr. Callie Watson, Grand Island occupational therapy assistant program director.