



Community & Workforce Education Division Report January 2024 – VP Dr. Kelly Christensen

Partnerships/Event

Ord Center hosted a career discovery day for 60 students the first part of December with over 55 volunteers representing a variety of career paths.

The Kearney Hub published article about CCC Kearney student Akikin Pungupung: From honorable discharge to a college degree at Central Community College in Kearney https://kearneyhub.com/news/local/cccs-veterans-military-resource-center-a-helping-hand-back-to-civilian-life/article_4db4ec6c-7f44-11ee-8a36-1324db9e710c.html?utm_source=kearneyhub.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fdaily-headlines&utm_medium=cio&lctg=d6f30700de3edf3e&tn_email_eh1=c704c0acbd908d8c9f25b15511abf3ac87bf2350a942182ebce8b9544153ca51

Fall Early College classes have been completed and graded with a record number of enrollments and staff is working with high schools to enrollment students for Spring.

Valerie Bren, Leadership Trainer, completed Real Colors training for GIPD with 20 participants and will be providing an Assertive Communication for Cozad Healthcare (3/12/2024 & 3/28/2024).

Community Builders was held in Fullerton on Monday, November 27. Visits included meeting with Fullerton City Administrator, Allen Chlopek, and visiting with local entrepreneurs at the following businesses: Overtime Bar & Grill; 308 Roots Salon; Flower Barrel & Coffeehouse; River's Edge Meat Locker, LLC; and Smith & Sons Repair, LLC. CCC is a sponsor along with Loup Power District and Cornhusker Public Power District.

Early College Adjunct Training was held area-wide in December as preparation for the Spring semester.

Karen Mroczek and Susan Schoenhofer assisted Kelli Faltys, CCC Entrepreneurship Center Coordinator, with the Big Idea Columbus event held on November 9th at the Columbus Innovation Center.

CCC CWE Hastings staff attended Big Idea Hastings. Community Education will partner with the winner of the competition to host classes on wine and cheese pairings. Jason Davis met with the winner of the competition and toured the facility that will open first quarter next year.

Sonya Wemhoff attended the Northeast Region Town Hall meetings with State of Nebraska to discuss the statewide assessment of EMS with SafeTech Solutions.

Karin Rieger, Marni Danhauer, and Doug Pauley assisted with the Exhibitor booth at the Nebraska Association of School Boards in Omaha on November 15th promoting Early College opportunities.

Hastings hosted an Industrial Technology workshop on 11/14/23 on campus and CCC invited area leaders from manufacturing, Chamber DOL and others to discuss future training opportunities and grants. This was a very successful meeting with many leads for future trainings and relationships regarding INDT and Workforce Education.

Program Updates

The Community Education brochures for Spring 2024 have been mailed and are starting to arrive in mailboxes.

The Holdrege Center hosted over 100 attendees for the Regenerative Ag Conference in last November with the theme of “Building Your Soil from the Ground Up,” had speakers Dr. Kris Nichols and Lance Gunderson. The conference had over 100 in attendance. Sponsors were Agoro Carbon Alliance, Arrow Seed Co. Inc., Better Fed Foods, Center for Rural Affairs, Green Cover, Heartland Soil Services LLC, Huma Gro, Hybrid85, Midwest Soil Restore, Phelps County Community Foundation, Roberts Seed, The Nature Conservancy, Tri-Basin Natural Resources District, Earth Optics, Elevate Ag, Regen Ag Lab, Central Valley Irrigation, CHS, Indigo Ag, Inc., Kansas Soil Health Alliance, Little Blue Natural Resources District, No-Till on the Plains, RegeNErate Nebraska, and Titan Machinery Inc..

Heartwell Renewables of Hastings has completed 5 of the 8 planned training classes with new hires and more will be scheduled later this year.

The Lexington Center hosted a Mechanical Systems class with students from the City of Lexington, UNK, and Chief Ethanol.

Jeanne Micek. Columbus Nurse Assisting, is developing a hybrid course offering for Medication Aide course.

Blacksmith Training was held on Saturday, January 6 on the Columbus Campus. Bryce Standley and Landon Hunt, Welding Faculty, are working with CWE staff to offer the training.

Jason Davis is working the Hastings health team consisting of CCC, MLMH, and HPS finalized spring offerings at HHS. CNA and HHS will continue next Spring and a hybrid modality was added to serve an additional 12 students.

Mike Sobota provided OSHA training for employees at JBS in Grand Island.

Grant Updates

The iMec project was selected as one of 10 finalists for the Bellwether Award with an upcoming presentation in February 2024.

Doug Pauley attended the National Career Pathways Network Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina on November 8-10. He gave a presentation to approximately 25 high school administrators, counselors, and teachers about our Dual-Credit Mechatronics project. This was part of the National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing through NSF.

On November 20 and December 7 Doug spoke to Doniphan Trumbull High School and Holdrege High School respectively about possibly involving them in the Dual Credit Mechatronics Program. They are both very interested in getting started next fall.

Training and Workshops

January 10th – Plastic Injection Molding Workshops – Columbus
January 17th – Interactive Virtual Leadership Development – Web-based
January 24th – Six Sigma Training in Columbus
January 24th – Six Sigma Training - Columbus
February 9th – 8-hour Hazmat Training – Grand Island
February 14th – Leadership Development Series – Columbus
February 28th – Start of the Industrial Maintenance Series – Hastings and Columbus
February 26th – 40 Hour Hazwoper – Hastings
May 21st – Leadership Development Series – Columbus
Ongoing Training

- Entry-level Truck Driver Training
- Google Professional Certificates

The Kearney Center will be working to support Les Lukert Fire Instructors Conference at Holiday Inn (2/2/2024 – 2/4/2024).

The Lexington Center will be participating in the Dawson County Career Fair (2/14/2024) at the YMCA.