

## **President's Report, January 2022**

**Dr. Matt Gotschall**

- 1) The fall semester ended with us up in enrollment and that has carried over to the spring semester with official numbers coming out next week following free drop/add. We continue to see a trend of growing part-time, distance students.
- 2) Unfortunately, COVID numbers are on the rise with both employees and students, yet we remain open and able to provide coverage as needed. Faculty, staff and administrators continue to do an excellent job of making adjustments and working to provide quality experiences even in pandemic times.
- 3) Much of December and January has been spent with state legislative issues, bills and funding proposals due to a wide range of bills introduced to date or in development. These range from eliminating community college board levy authority for operating expenses to \$90 million in federal ARPA funds for community colleges, \$50 million in additional apprenticeship and internship funds, \$33 million for dual credit scholarships, moving Nebraska Career Scholarship funding from biennial appropriations to state law, to additional scholarships for nursing students. Hearings have started with regular appearances planned over the next few months.
- 4) The NCCA Legislative Day is set for Feb. 3, please let me know if you want to attend. Senator schedules are very tight, though, since they have floor debate each morning and hearings each afternoon. I have been emailing the 10 senators who represent part of CCC's area and have met with Sen. Moser of Columbus and Sen. Briese of Albion in person. I also attended The Grand Island Chamber's legislative session with Sens. Friesen, Halloran, Briese, Aguilar and Lowe and Gov Ricketts.
- 5) I attended and thanked the governor personally at his GI Fly In, which followed his State-of-the-State address and where he announced including \$90 million for Nebraska community colleges as part of his ARPA budget request. That now goes to the legislature for changes or approval.
- 6) I visited CCC-Lexington last week and spoke with the approximate 20 CCC employees participating in the eight-month Excellence in Leadership program that is designed to educate and inspire future leaders at CCC from all employee groups and all campuses.
- 7) The AMDT faculty and students were featured in the MoldMaking Technology magazine for January 2022. Great testimonies and involvement of individuals affiliated with that program.
- 8) I will be attending the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., Feb. 6-9. The Rural Community College Association is also meeting on that last day in conjunction with ACCT to discuss funding opportunities specifically for rural and small community colleges.
- 9) I have attached a PowerPoint of items covered at my welcome back virtual presentation in January to all CCC and will use some of these slides at the Grand Island Chamber's State of the City panel in February.
- 10) The welding program and extended learning services department hosted a one-day short course on Saturday, Jan. 8, to provide training for the Nebraska Blacksmith's Welders and Machinists Association. Participants came from Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas.

- 11) Heavy equipment operator students will be recognized Jan. 20 at the Nebraska Land Improvement Contractors Association (N-LICA) with scholarships. This has been an annual event and the recognition so greatly appreciated.
- 12) The truck driving program is working with the Nebraska Department of Transportation to assist students with completing new federal regulations and guidelines that take effect in February 2022.
- 13) The construction program will be completing their first townhomes as part of the Hastings Economic Development project. The goal is to have them finished in April with a sale occurring in May prior to starting on another townhome.
- 14) Unfortunately, extreme cold weather caused pipes to freeze in the ceiling and caused damage to the Woodlands Dining area in Hastings. Temporary arrangements have been made for the hospitality and culinary students to use other rooms with the goal of getting back into that space by March.
- 15) All program faculty from all campuses participated in annual Assessment of Student Learning meetings in January with final reports due in May. I appreciate the faculty and staff involved in documenting these important measures of student learning and success.
- 16) An open house for the new Grand Island Entrepreneurship Center will be held Feb. 15. The time is still being finalized and will be held in cooperation with the chamber.
- 17) CCC and Wayne State College will be holding a signing ceremony on Jan. 24 to announce a new transfer agreement designed to assist working adults in completing bachelor of technology and other degrees.
- 18) Dr. Wallace continues as a board member on the Hastings Economic Development Council as does Dr. Kemnitz on the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce Board and Dr. Fuchser on the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce Board. I appreciate their active involvement and leadership in these important community-based groups.
- 19) CCC entered into an agreement with Harvard High School to loan some advanced manufacturing equipment as part of building a manufacturing pathway between them and CCC.
- 20) Health programs continue to work with collecting vaccination records or waivers from students and faculty. They're working with multiple clinical partners in Kearney, Columbus and Grand Island to remain in compliance with clinical requirements They're also collecting other regular immunization documents for TB and flu, per clinical requirements. Nursing is preparing for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) March 1-3. CCC received a good report from the state accreditation visit this fall. The fall nursing advisory board meeting was held Dec. 6, 2021.
- 21) We will be opening summer registration as early as March with registration for the 2022 fall semester beginning in April to provide more time for students to plan for classes.