

President's Report, March 20, 2025

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- I met with the President's Quality Action Council for our quarterly updates on strategic initiatives and covered some updates regarding the HLC peer visit in early March.
- Met with two representatives of the Nebraska Ethanol Board about industrial processing training and classes we offer through mechatronics. A tour of the Columbus instrumentation classroom is scheduled for March and possible presentation to full board in June.
- Met multiple times with Lexington administrator regarding updated lease, as well as updates to the Holdrege relocation lease.
- Participated in the construction selection interviews for the Automotive Training Center.
- Attended NCCA Legislative Day with board members Dann Smith and Rita Skiles, Scott Pathway Director Brett Wells and four Scott Scholars.
- Participated with about 15 other CCC employees and students in a Community College virtual townhall with Rep. Mike Flood.
- Attended the Appropriations Committee hearing where dual credit and CCC state aid allocation requests were discussed. Jason Buss, representing business, CCC and parents provided quality testimony in addition to multiple presidents, superintendents, students and over 70 online support comments. Biweekly NCCA president meetings are ongoing.
- Hosted the HLC peer reviewers through one and a half days of in person meetings. Thanks to board members Linda Heiden, Rita Skiles and Sandra Borden for participating as well.
- Participated in a Nebraska Department of Economic Development focus group meeting regarding recruiting new and returning residents to Nebraska.
- Held a CCC administrative planning meeting regarding new position requests and funding levels for next year. Collegewide budget training will occur in March.
- Participated in a couple of meetings regarding future student housing in Grand Island as well as the Governor's 6 Regions, 1 Nebraska initiative promoting childcare, housing and workforce development.
- Participated in a HLC peer review training for new criteria that takes effect later this year.
- Participated in an Open Forum for the Grand Island Campus and Administrative Office to provide CCC updates and answer questions from faculty and staff.
- Plan to attend the Phelps Economic Development luncheon in Holdrege. Continued reaching out to potential donors to support our possible Holdrege relocation and remodel.

Updates from Area Vice Presidents include:

- Changes in UNL's English requirements will cause disruptions to CCC offerings and prerequisites. After gathering information using our transfer specialists, Drs. Walton and Mancini, will be meeting with English instructors to devise a plan to move forward. Early College has been included in this discussion.
- The vocal group Spectrum continued its tradition of Singing Valentines on Feb. 13. The group delivered 38 valentines and raised \$1,180. Spectrum will also be performing at the Columbus Public Library for a special program on March 23 at 2 p.m.
- The arts, sciences and business division leadership has started sending a "Faculty 5" update at the end of each month via email. The goal is to encourage continued personal and professional development of all faculty. Topics are personal growth, teaching and learning, library resources, campus and community, and artificial intelligence. The email contains a link to an article or video on each topic. Participation is optional, and feedback has been positive.

- 6 Regions, 1 Nebraska has granted \$250,000 to each region. The central region is the only one focused on early childcare, creating a champions group based on the Buffalo Co. Childcare Champions. All Early Childhood champions also happen to be graduates or current students in our program.
- The Valley Development Center in Red Cloud will be partnering with CCC and ECED to conduct educational parent programs.
- The draft constitution for a new student organization, National Adult Education Honor Society, was submitted to student services and approved.
- The adult education director has been working with a subcommittee to incorporate GED graduates into the May commencement. The team and students are excited for this opportunity to showcase the hard work of our graduates.
- The golf team will be playing in its first spring tournament in March.
- Softball is 5-7 with solid Region wins over NPCC. The Raiders have had eight dates altered due to weather at this point!
- Shotgun sports is off to the national meet in San Antonio the week of March 17. The squad had a couple of meets prior to nationals. Most recently, at North Platte the Raiders finished first in trap and tied for second and miss the event win by one target in sporting clays. Schyler Schwisow swept the female events and took the Female HOA. Nick Brodsky took second in sporting clays after a shoot off.
- Esports is competing in five events and has begun spring competitions.
- Hastings Entrepreneurship had several positive articles in the newspaper in March and has been working on a partnership agreement with the city-run Hastings Museum to offer several entrepreneurial workshops this coming August-October.
- All sites reporting new entrepreneurship founders that our centers are supporting.
- All three campuses hosted District FFA events, each bringing in over 600 hundred high school students as well as parents, community and high school instructors to see and use our facilities.
- Mechatronics (INDT) hosted the Kearney Catholic Robotics Team at the Kearney Center which included tours of the lab and center. Approximately 400 Kearney High freshmen also visited the INDT program facilities this spring.
- The hospitality management program hosted an etiquette lunch for Sandy Creek High School on Feb. 26 on the Hastings Campus.
- The automotive technology and auto body technology programs hosted Automotive Day on Feb. 26 on the Hastings Campus. About 110 high school students attended along with 20 industry partners showcasing their industry, job possibilities, along with program activities.
- Hospitality and culinary program director Clarence Charles, and instructor Kimberly Milovac will travel with six HMRM students on a Study Abroad Cruise Experience during Spring Break.
- Various classes in criminal justice will be attending court, visiting the women's prison in Tecumseh and learning about the Hall County Emergency Communication Center.
- Students from all three campuses are preparing for State SkillsUSA contests to be held in Grand Island and Hastings April 10-12.
- The selection process for the fourth cohort of the Walter Scott Foundation Scott Scholars has begun. The application deadline was March 1, with nearly 60 students applying for the scholarship. Student selections will be finalized in March.
- Graduating dental hygiene students attended the NDHA Legislative breakfast on Feb. 7 with faculty. In addition, students also attended some legislative sessions at the capitol.
- The pharmacy tech program had its virtual reaccreditation visit on Feb. 28. The visit went well, and we received positive feedback about the facilities, overall program, administrative support, and faculty/staff.
- The health information management faculty will be working on the Annual Program Assessment Report for accreditation that is due by June 23. The national RHIT First-Time Test Takers average

pass rate for the academic year is 80%. The CCC HIMS program had four students take and pass the RHIT exam, which is a 100% pass rate.

- Phlebotomy classes are being offered in Holdrege, Grand Island and Kearney this spring and in Hastings and Lexington this summer. We are working to add Columbus and Ord this summer.
- For Cycle 1 (Fall 2025 start) of our scholarship process, we received 1,077 completed applications. **This is our largest number of applications submitted to date!** In addition to the completed submissions, 602 students began the application but did not complete or submit it. We are actively exploring strategies to assist students in completing the application process.
- Calling campaign to drive sign-ups for registration events will begin the last week of March.
- Jordan Janssen, veteran and military services coordinator on the Hastings Campus, has re-enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard and has been accepted into the Officer Candidate School at Camp Ashland. Congratulation, Jordan, and thank you for your service!
- Steven Esquivel was named a 2025 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar through Phi Theta Kappa. He is an active student on the Columbus Campus through PTK and the men's soccer team and has a resident assistant for South Hall. He will receive a scholarship and will travel to Nashville in April to receive his award during the American Association of Community College (AACC) annual meeting.
- Columbus Career and Employment Services partnered with Adult Education to host a cover letter and resume workshop, which has led to an increase in students wanting their resumes and cover letters reviewed. Columbus reviewed 27 resumes in February.
- Emergency CPR training continues to grow. Columbus has increased card issues by about 300 per year for the past three years. For the year to date, Columbus and Ord have issued 1,659 student cards; Kearney, Lexington and Holdrege, 677; Hastings 469; and Grand Island, 277.
- It is estimated that almost 1,080 high school seniors will qualify for the transfer advantage scholarship as they have successfully earned 12 CCC credit hours or more while still in high school. One hundred sixteen students are expected to earn a CCC certificate and two students from the Hasting area should earn a one-year CCC diploma.
- Drs. Kemnitz, Kort and Christensen met with administration at the Kearney Regional Medical Center on March 14 to discuss student recruitment, placement and scholarship opportunities. KRMC is interested in creating scholarships to support nursing students at CCC.
- Janet Eppenbach was involved with the Big Give to Valley County event on March 13 and the Ord Center is a recipient for scholarship dollars for area students. Summer youth camp dates and topics are also being finalized.
- Karen Mroczek and Susan Schoenhofer are coordinating the Spring Gardening event on April 22 in Columbus. This is an event that typically brings in over 150 people.
- Phlebotomy classes started at the Kearney Center with nine students in the first Saturday lab on Jan. 25. The class is the first eight weeks of the spring semester. Holdrege will have a class the second eight weeks of this semester.
- Maggie Brooks scheduled psychomotor testing for March 10 on the Columbus Campus and has 13 prospective EMT students testing. She has lined up eight EMS continuing education classes for March.
- The Kearney E-ship Center is hosting a lunch-and-learn at the Nest Space on March 19 addressing the importance of financial statements and how to understand them.
- Registrations are being accepted for the ABC's of Child Care Conference on March 29 in Holdrege.