

**President's Report**  
**CCC-Hastings, February 20, 2025**  
**Dr. Matt Gotschall**

- Much of January and early February has been seeking to keep updated on the numerous federal executive orders, including the freezing and then unfreezing of federal funding sources and responding to state legislative fiscal notes and pending legislation. Overall, CCC seems in compliance with all executive orders and our federal funding has not directly been cut. We do have several federal grants pending that are uncertain of when or if they will be funded. State legislative meetings have been positive even when looking at significant budget constraints at the state level. Met and/or distributed CCC materials to all 10 senators representing part of CCC's service area on January 24 and will be returning February 26 as part of the NCCA Legislative Day, and again on February 27 for Appropriations Committee hearing on dual credit and community college traditional state funding.
- Participated in a community appreciation event in conjunction with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours. Highlighted the impact of students and alumni in the Columbus area.
- Participated in the State Chamber of Commerce Education Policy Council meeting, attended the State Chamber of Commerce annual meetings and Hall of Fame induction. Also attended the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Attended Red Cloud Chamber of Commerce annual dinner where CCC was recognized with our "first dollar" of investment due to our new educational hub. Assisting to coordinate tours and meetings in Red Cloud of representatives from across the CCC area as part of the State's 6 Regions-One Nebraska initiative that will support growth in childcare, housing and workforce development/entrepreneurship.
- Assisted in final reviews of USDE Federal Compliance documents and Higher Learning Commission portfolios prior to submission.
- Participated in the monthly Transportation Center Campaign in conjunction with the CCC Foundation. Also working with foundations on upcoming donations, board nominations and an updated agreement between CCC and the CCC Foundation.
- Participated in the NCCA Board of Directors' meeting held at Southeast Community College and toured its new center for bioscience and technology.
- Participated in the Heartland United Way community investment presentations making recommendations of future funding for various agencies serving Hall, Howard, Hamilton and Merrick counties.
- Met with City of Lexington officials (administrator, mayor, high school) regarding desire for additional programming and planned follow-up meetings in Dawson County.
- Participated in on-going funding requests for the Nebraska Math Readiness Project and Elevate Apprenticeship grant.
- Participated in the Nebraska Manufacturing Advisory Council meeting held at Nucor in Norfolk. They asked me to remain as council secretary. Grand Island will be hosting the next meeting as part of the State SkillsUSA contests being held in April.
- Participated in the esports recognition of two national champion teams, including meetings with parents, coaches and guests in conjunction with a men's basketball game.
- Attended the Association of Community College Trustees national legislative summit learning about federal priorities and legislative agendas of ACCT, AACC and federal delegates. Participated in Capitol tour presented by Sen. Fischer's staff. Nebraska delegate breakfast canceled due to the weather, but CCC materials left at each federal delegate's office.

- Welcomed All CCC faculty as part of Data Day where they review assessment of student learning data and recommend improvements based on the data collected from students, graduates, employers and faculty and administrative peers.
- Participated in an etiquette and professional dinner experience with TRIO students on the Grand Island Campus.

Updates from Area Vice Presidents include:

- Each CCC heavy equipment operator technician student received a \$500 scholarship at the annual Nebraska Land Improvement Association Convention in Lincoln in January.
- Over 30 members of the Nebraska State Chamber Leadership class participated in hands-on demonstrations and activities at the Hornady Crime House as part of their central Nebraska tour. This was coordinated by criminal justice instructors Connie Hultine, John Sumsion and Jim Davis and director Michael David.
- Ben Newton, sustainability director, and Taylor Schneider, energy technology instructor, represented CCC in Washington D.C. at a Higher Education Leadership Summit where CCC was recognized as the Climate Luminary Honoree in Workforce for its contribution to sustainability.
- Agriculture instructor Wade Hilker took 10 Columbus Campus students to Fort Worth, Texas, to tour a USDA Research facility, Fort Worth stockyards and Fort Worth Stock Show.
- Hospitality management and culinary arts students served at the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce banquet in February.
- CCC-Grand Island welding instructors John Wilmes, Michale Snell, and Brandon Piersol assisted with and judged the District FFA welding competition at Lexington High School on Feb. 1.
- Agriculture faculty will be hosting district FFA contests in Hastings and Columbus. Over 580 students planned to compete in multiple competitions and state degree interviews.
- CCC is a partner on a U.S. Department of Energy grant for workforce development with Northeast Community College as the lead college to expand energy education and professional development.
- Updates to the Nebraska Transfer Initiative course have been updated by faculty, approved by Ed Services and the College Cabinet for inclusion in the fall 2025 catalog.
- A recent meeting with University of Nebraska-Kearney business faculty was positive, leading to plans on hosting career and transfer events for UNK and CCC business students.
- Taylor Brase led a team of community and advisory council members to plan and host the Early Childhood Education Conference. Attendance was the highest ever, with 175 registrants.
- Becky Fausett, adult education director, has joined a community safety planning team in preparation for immigration enforcement in an effort to help CCC students be prepared.
- A Dec. 12 meeting with International Workforce Services in Aurora focused on a possible workplace literacy partnership. They offer CDL classes and CCC adult education would offer ESL to their students. Workforce Services is looking for funding for the instructor and CCC is looking for the instructor.
- Athletic rosters for CCC student athletes for 2024-25 (Fall 24 Team GPA) include:
 

○ Men's Basketball	13	(2.94 GPA)
○ Women's Basketball	10	(2.93 GPA)
○ Men's Golf	10	(3.49 GPA)
○ Men's Soccer	29	(3.37 GPA)
○ Women's Soccer	21	(3.02 GPA)
○ Women's Softball	11	(3.57 GPA)
○ Women's Volleyball	12	(3.63 GPA)
○ Co-Ed Esports	14	(3.04 GPA)
○ Co-Ed Shotgun	14	(3.27 GPA)
○ Overall	134	(3.25 GPA)

- The Grand Island entrepreneurship director has been involved in several advisory board meetings and presentations at Grand Island Senior High, EV Railyard committee, childcare conference, (BAIL) session and 1 Million Cups.
- The Hastings entrepreneurship director is developing an “Entrepreneur Pitch Innovation Competition” EPIC Big Idea High School Competition, helping a new founder with a chiropractor business and continuing to connect with multi-counties' leadership. He has been appointed to the Adams County UNL Extension Board to represent entrepreneur opportunities.
- A total of 162 students applied for nursing student slots. There were 187 applicants with 25 of those applications being duplicates.

Grand Island = 63 applications

Kearney = 66 applications

Columbus = 33 applications

This is the largest number of applicants in total for several years and largest number for each location especially Columbus.

- Libby Paro, occupational therapy assistant instructor, recently earned two certificates qualifying her as a Certified Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinical Specialist and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Related Service Provider. These certificates support her teaching in pediatrics, treatment interventions, activity analysis, and documentation within pediatric occupational therapy.
- The paramedic program is putting together a proposal for a one-year accelerated plan of study to keep up with competing academic institutions who currently offer this format. Advisory board members, key program partners (employers) and students have been advocating for this similar format from CCC, and indicate they prefer to send students here locally.
- Superior High School and Brodstone Memorial Hospital are partnering with CCC to offer nurse assistant training to hospital employees who want to broaden or increase their skills. CCC, which already offers NA training at Superior High School, will now have two sections running: one that consists of hospital employees and one that consists of high school students. This is an example of true community collaboration and partnerships. Red Cloud is also interested in this type of partnership.
- The first phlebotomy class is being held at the Kearney Center with nine students enrolled.
- The financial aid department is preparing to review approximately 1,000 scholarship applications and is hoping to increase the number of reviewers to read and score those applications.
- Student enrollment management/registration team members have now been trained to register any online students in the following programs: business administration, accounting, criminal justice, early childhood, environmental health and safety, information technology and quality. Once registered, the registration staff provides CCC Next Steps to students and is the point of contact for any questions they may have. The registration staff then asks the faculty advisor to plan the student's program of study in Student Planner.
- Luz Colon-Rodriguez and Alyson Wolfe- Nelson have completed their Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) course. They are now working on their certification by completing consultation hours. DBT is an evidence-based psychotherapy used to treat personality disorders and interpersonal conflicts. It's also useful in treating mood disorders and suicidal ideation as well as for changing behavioral patterns such as self-harm and substance use.
- The disability services directors met with early college staff to assist in ensuring information and access for dual-enrolled students. They also are meeting with facilities staff on each campus to assess the availability and access for more ADA-accessible tables.
- Sixty organizations have signed up for the annual Nurses and Health Careers Job Fair.
- The CCC Online Job Board had 19 employers register, posting 92 jobs, while 16 resumes were uploaded in January. Account totals included 1,049 student accounts, 1,892 alumni accounts, and 2,486 employer accounts.