

President's Report July-August 2024

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Work continues administratively on the writing of our Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation that is due in December prior to their visit in early March 2025. We will provide some board updates and opportunity for input prior to then in case the reviewers want to meet with you when they come. Overall, I'm confident we will be in good shape. While cumbersome and time-consuming, it is a good process to remind ourselves of why we exist and the best practices we can continue or improve upon.
- Sitting at over 93% NCLEX first-time pass rates so far for the spring ADN and 100% for PN graduates, so that is good.
- I hosted an Action Summit in July with over 50 employees to highlight accomplishments from last year and initiatives for the future.
- In July we hosted the "6 Regions – One Nebraska" initiative of the Governor/State Chamber/Nebraska Economic Development, where almost 100 residents from the CCC area came to identify strengths and opportunities for action regarding workforce development in the CCC area. Not surprising the top three involve housing, childcare and people attraction/workforce development – so now smaller teams of individuals will work on generating actionable proposals in each prior to an October meeting to further prioritize and begin to implement. I have participated in several follow-up calls on these topics since that initial meeting.
- Summer enrollment was strong at over 8.5% increase. So far fall looks up about 3% with New Student Orientations occurring on all three campuses and at Kearney this week, so looking forward to next week's year-to-date comparison.
- Two weeks of new faculty orientation was held with training and onboarding for new faculty hired over the past year. Several faculty positions remain open but are being covered by adjuncts or full-time faculty overload when needed.
- Nebraska Postsecondary Coordinating Commission representative toured our new ITS building remodel funded through the ARPA funds from the state.
- Participated in Metallica Scholars grant meeting and press releases for our grant renewal. CCC remains the only Nebraska institution with this program that is now in all 50 US states.
- Hired a new Dean of Student Success and Enrollment Management who will begin in September.
- Was invited to and attended new NU President's Dr. Jeff Gold's reception at UNK and a UNL reception by UNL Chancellor Dr. Rodney Bennett.
- I have approved a lease for a new location of the Holdrege Center with the option to terminate if remodeling bids come in too high by April 2025. Architects have met with CCC Holdrege staff and at least two potential subtenants regarding space needs for consideration in final design.
- The FTE audit was successful as well as preliminary financial aid reviews. Estimates of new state aid will be distributed later this month for final budget consideration at our September meeting.
- Participated in a grant in which CCC is a partner to provide additional career pathways for high-need students. The multimillion-dollar federal grant to the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation will include service area high schools of Adams Central, Harvard and Hastings Public.
- Participated in a Postsecondary International Network Executive Board meeting regarding November conference.
- Participated in several Columbus Days activities as well as a Nebraska Diplomat's dinner and Governor's Ag and Economic Development Conference.
- Participated in the NCCA Board Strategic Planning and Quarterly meeting. Congratulation to Rita Skiles on being elected president for the upcoming year. I will serve as chair of the president's group.

- I conducted an All-College Welcome Back webinar for all employees and participated in the All Faculty meeting.

Reports from area vice presidents include:

- At Nebraska Administrator Days, CCC administrators promoted the college's para certificate program, substitute teacher class and early college to state superintendents and principals.
- The CCC theater and music departments will collaborate to put on a Shakespeare in the Park performance in downtown Columbus in October.
- In 2023, CCC enrolled 2,346 students from 48 countries who spoke 48 languages as part of the Adult Education program.
- The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) recognized a record 42 CCC student athletes for academic achievement during 2023-24. The CCC honorees exceed the previous record of 37 in 2020-21. Twenty-four current students earned a 4.0. Five teams earned Academic Team of the Year honors by posting a team GPA of over 3.0. Those were: volleyball (3.63 GPA), women's soccer (3.52), softball (3.47), women's basketball (3.31) and men's soccer (3.25).
- Grand Island entrepreneurship held a Women in Business roundtable in collaboration with the Small Business Administration and Center for Rural Affairs. Staff also presented to the Central City Economic Development Board about e-ship services.
- Dr. Wanda Cloet, director of the dental hygiene program, presented a virtual presentation to dental hygiene program directors through Educational Platforms on Innovation and Program Growth. She also attended the ADHA annual session to serve as a speaker regarding faculty calibration.
- The medical laboratory technology program will continue its partnership with Grand Island Senior High with 11 students preregistered for 2024-25. Nursing assistant classes will continue to be offered in conjunction with several area high schools including Sandy Creek, Superior and Hastings High.
- CCC received \$50,000 from the Aksarben Foundation to support career and technical education programs as well as promote Intern Nebraska.
- The 2026-2030 TRiO grant has been submitted with notification expected in 2025.
- Student housing is nearly full on both the Columbus and Hastings campuses (with one Hastings residential hall offline due to construction/updates). Waitlists will be started.
- This summer, the Hastings Campus hosted residential camps that included the Titan Diesel Camp, Sertoma Football Camp and Verizon Camp. The Columbus Campus held the Central Honors Institute and the Grand Island Campus hosted the Boy Scouts University.
- Veteran Services held two meetings with UNK VMCR, UNK ROTC, Army Reserve and Army National Guard Recruiters to plan a four-mile ruck march in September. The route begins at Cottonwood Park, goes through town, across the UNK campus, near the Kearney Center, and ends at Yanney Park. There will be speakers at the start and finish lines and recognition of outstanding military-connected students from UNK and CCC. The rucksacks will be filled with nonperishable goods for the CCC and UNK food pantries with any excess donated to local charities. The event is set for the morning of Sept. 13, with an option to walk around the one-mile lake at Yanney Park afterward. ROTC cadets will also fulfill one of their required distances.