

## **President's Report, February 2024**

### **CCC-Hastings**

#### **Dr. Matt Gotschall**

- Following free drop/add, CCC's spring enrollment continues to be up from Spring 2023 in both headcount and FTE.
- NCCA Legislative Day is Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Capitol in Lincoln. Meetings may begin as early as 7 a.m., with conclusion by noon. Please let me know if interested in attending. Dr. Chris Waddle will attend on my behalf as I will be returning from a presentation.
- Doug Pauley, Jerry Muller, two high school instructors and I will give a presentation on the iMec grant project as a top 10 finalist for the national Bellwether Award for innovation in workforce development. The program involves 13 Nebraska high schools in our service area. Since Fall 2021, 275 students have enrolled in 433 courses with 30% attending CCC following high school graduation. Presentations, instructor training and/or equipment have been shared with high schools or colleges in 13 states (OR, CA, UT, CO, NE, MN, MO, AR, TN, FL, GA, NC, CT, DC) and the District of Columbia.
- Community college presidents meet weekly to discuss legislative issues, submit letters or attend committee hearings. Weekly updates to the board are provided by Executive Director Courtney Wittstruck so let me know if you aren't getting her weekly email.
- I attended the Nebraska State Chamber meeting and Hall of Fame banquet honoring the Hornady family and Sid Dinsdale. Great showing from the Grand Island area and presentations included two related to workforce initiatives in Nebraska. One handout presented is attached for your review regarding new workforce regional boards the governor is seeking to fund in cooperation with Nebraska Department of Economic Development, State Chamber of Commerce and each of the six community colleges.
- I remain involved in Heartland United Way reviewing agency requests and serving on finance and executive committees in addition to the full board. My term ends in March.
- Faculty members Michael David and Dan Gompert and I attended the AACC Workforce Development Institute where national foundation, federal representatives and corporate partners shared ideas and efforts to collaborate resources. We were there because of the Metallica Scholars and Microsoft/Cyberskills for All grants. Many sessions regarding advanced training and education in AI, cybersecurity, early college, instructor recruitment and networking with industry reps. Hopefully the National Education Director from Snap On will visit CCC this summer based on this conference interaction.
- I continue to meet with community representatives from Holdrege and Red Cloud regarding expanded or new space for CCC in their communities.
- CCC-Columbus hosted Congressman Mike Flood's Workforce Housing Summit with strong attendance and positive comments from the congressman and others regarding our hospitality.
- Several CCC and CCC Foundation representatives attended the Kearney Chamber annual meeting. I interacted with Senator Ricketts who also attended the event.
- I met with the CCC Foundation and representatives from multiple Omaha-based foundations this past month regarding future opportunities for funding and community development.
- I participated in the first automotive capital campaign meeting and attended the Grand Island welding facility meeting with industry seeking feedback and input on our new facility.
- I participated in a successful follow-up visit with ACEN, our national accreditor, and received preliminary notification of the recommendation for full reaccreditation. Final approval will not come for six months from the ACEN board, but congratulations to Dr. Pam Bales and the faculty,

students, clinical partners and nursing staff who presented a detailed report, interviews and site visits to earn the preliminary recommendation.

- I participated in the quarterly All-College Faculty Senate meeting and led the quarterly President's Quality Action Council meeting with areawide representatives from faculty, staff, administration and students.
- I attended Gov. Pillen's State of the State recap in Grand Island and had interactions at the State Chamber meeting and Hall of Fame banquet.
- I attended the Nebraska Manufacturing Advisory Council meeting held at Kiewit Hall (College of Engineering) at UNL. There are applied research and grant opportunities in engineering which CCC may be able to participate in along with local and state industry partners. I serve as secretary for that group.
- I participated in the quarterly meeting of our Postsecondary International Network (PIN) of which the CCC Foundation and I serve as treasurer and fiscal agent. Current representatives include colleges from the United States, Canada and South Korea.
- I participated in webinars sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Nebraska Math Readiness Project and am seeking to coordinate state support for another national apprenticeship grant with US DOL.

Updates from area vice presidents include:

- The arts, sciences and business faculty met with peers from other Nebraska community colleges to update courses as part of the Nebraska Transfer Initiative. These meetings were hosted in Grand Island.
- A new paraeducator certificate has been approved by Ed Services. Course design will begin this month, and promotion to local districts and ESUs will begin in March. Students who earn the certificate will be qualified for special education, Title I or early childhood programs. They will be MANDT, CPR, and Safe-with-You trained.
- We are now offering ESL in Ord because a local employer requested it for its employees and spouses. We worked with IT to get a WebEx cart set up for students to attend a remote class from the Ord Learning Center.
- The total number of student athletes at CCC this year is 129. Of these, 86 are Nebraska residents with an overall team academic GPA of 3.22 and 1,599 completed credits in the fall semester. We're proud of our student athletes, coaches, staff and administration for these strong outcomes. To date, the teams have assisted in raising over \$29,600 toward expenses.
- CCC has requested to move from our current Region 9 (three colleges) to a larger Region 11. Reasons include increased competitiveness and exposure to teams we see during the year and at districts. Region 11 includes Northeast Community College (Norfolk) and several Iowa colleges with whom we compete during the regular season. If accepted, this change could happen for the 2024-25 school year.
- We're seeking to fill entrepreneurship director positions in both Kearney and Hastings. Strong activity continues in both Grand Island and Columbus.
- CCC will participate for the first time in the Nebraska Assessment of College Health Behaviors (NACHB) Survey in Spring 2024 as part of our participation in the Nebraska Collegiate Prevention Alliance. NACHB collects data regarding substance use, student wellness and mental health concerns. Its results are provided through site-specific reports and comparison briefs highlighting differences between our students and those at other participating institutions.
- After add/drop, 130 military-connected students are registered for the term. Veterans Resource Center Director Barry Horner recently attended the NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) Military Symposium. Other Nebraska colleges attending the symposium have reached out to Barry, and reps from UNL, UNO, Central, Metro, Southeast and Northeast will be

meeting to discuss what they can do for each other and how they can build a framework for smooth transitions for veterans who are transferring.

- We received notice that the release of FAFSA data to schools won't happen until the first part of March. This is because of the Department of Education updating tables that will result in more students being eligible for Pell Grants. This also gives the Department of Ed an extension for getting information to software providers to have systems updated. We have crafted a timeline around the release of the student record data. The goal will be to have initial financial aid offers to students by mid-April.
- The Columbus Campus Student Engagement Office has implemented a new monthly activity series called "Adulting 101" that provides simple "fast facts" about a topic that students can take with them. February was Grocery Shopping on a Budget, March is Taxes, April is Cooking Simple Meals, and May is Making Friends When You Aren't in College.
- Joan McCarthy and the other Career and Employment staff have posted 125 jobs to the job board since the start of the semester.
- Allie Remm, Grand Island Admissions, has been working on additional collaborations with the Adult Education office to ensure that Adult Education students have a plan and can see that continuing their studies is possible. We will be having a monthly visit to offer resources and support.
- Spring semester Welcome Week activities attracted a significant turnout, with 80-100 individuals interacting daily. The week-long event provided new and returning students with opportunities to connect, explore campus resources, and participate in various activities. Additionally, Student Success hosted a Community Resource Fair with 100-120 students engaging with various community organizations and resources. This event facilitated connections between students and valuable community services, fostering a sense of belonging and support.