

CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2025

Public notice of the time and place of the Central Community College Board of Governors' meeting was given in advance to the board members, college administrators and the five daily newspapers within the 25-county area. The agenda was available to the public in the college president's office and on the CCC website, www.cccneb.edu. The college adheres to the Open Meetings Act, a copy of which is available in the college president's office.

The meeting was held in the Administration Office Board Room at Central Community College, 3134 W. Highway 34, Grand Island, Nebraska.

All supplemental documents from this meeting are available at:
<https://meeting.sparqdata.com/Public/Organization/CCC>.

Chair Linda Heiden called the Aug. 21, 2025, meeting to order at 1 p.m., with nine board members present.

ROLL CALL

Aerni – present	Keller – present
Borden – absent	Pirnie – present
Broekemier – absent	Skiles – present
Buss – present	Smith – present
Davis – present	Werner – present
Heiden – present	

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Heiden asked college representatives to introduce guests and staff members.

REVIEWING CLAIMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Michelle Broekemier will review August claims prior to the Sept. 25, 2025, board meeting in Grand Island.

REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION OF CONSENT ITEMS

Heiden asked board members for items in the consent agenda they would like to move to discussion of consent/action items.

CONSENT ITEMS

Consent items included:

1. Agenda for Aug. 21, 2025.
2. Minutes of the June 26, 2025, Board of Governors meeting.
3. Claims for the period from June 1 through July 31, 2025.

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4. Financial reports as of June 30 and July 31, 2025.
5. Purchases: None
6. Personnel:

Brian McDermott, Hastings: The College President recommends that Brian McDermott be offered the position of quality technology instructor on the Hastings Campus, effective August 1, 2025.

Gary (Chris) Junker, Hastings: The College President recommends that Gary (Chris) Junker be offered the position of electrical technology instructor on the Hastings Campus, effective August 1, 2025.

Samanga (Sam) Amarasinghe, Hastings: The College President recommends that Samanga (Sam) Amarasinghe be offered the position of business administration instructor in Hastings, effective August 1, 2025.

7. Animal Use and Presence Policy: Service animals may accompany students, employees, and visitors with disabilities to all Central Community College (CCC) events, activities, and locations. Local, state and federal laws regulate the use of service animals at CCC locations and/or events. Animals associated with a college-related program of study (e.g., livestock) or research laboratory activity are allowed.

MOVED BY SKILES, SECONDED BY SMITH to approve the claims, with the exception of payments to themselves, and also to approve the other consent items.

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – absent	Pirnie – aye
Broekemier – absent	Skiles – aye
Buss – aye	Smith – aye
Davis – aye	Werner – aye
Heiden – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

PARTNERSHIP/OWNERSHIP

Faculty Resource Center and Learning Support Services Report

Abie Ott, FRC educational planning director and LSS interim supervisor, highlighted the following:

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- The LSS department provides technical and trouble-shooting support for Canvas, the college's learning management system, and serves as a technical resource for faculty members.
- The FRC supports teaching and learning by providing faculty with one-on-one or group consultations, workshops and professional learning sessions, program and curriculum design and college-wide assessment.
- The New Educator Workshop is a collaboration of the FRC, LSS and HR. It covers such a wide range of topics that include CCC's negotiated agreement and benefits; inclusive learning; student and disability services; assessment, grading, registration and financial aid advising; and the Library Resource Centers.

The presentation featured feedback about the New Educators Workshop. In a written message, Chelsea Richards, associate dean of arts, science and business at the Hastings Campus, expressed appreciation for being included as a new administrator, which allowed her to gain a sense of the CCC community and culture. Two other participants addressed the board in person:

- Denise Kozel, electrical technology instructor at the Grand Island Campus, started teaching several months before participating in the workshop. She said the first thing she learned was how badly she needed the workshop, which taught her different strategies for reaching students. She said it has helped her triple enrollment in her own program.
- Dr. Samanga (Sam) Amarasinghe, a business administration instructor at the Hastings Campus, said the workshop has given him solid ideas for getting students interested and motivated so they can not only earn academic credentials but can also do the work.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Delphi Greene, a student on the Grand Island Campus, expressed ongoing concerns about Raider Ready, the college bookstore's delivery system for books and other course materials.

DISCUSSION OF CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

FTE/REU/RAE Report Acceptance

Kim Pearson from Dana F. Cole & Company, Certified Public Accountants, presented the Statements of Reimbursable Full-Time Equivalent Student Enrollment and Reimbursable Educational Units report. The company has issued an unmodified audit report for Central Community College, the best rating it can award, for the years ending in 2024 and 2025.

MOVED BY SKILES, SECONDED BY BUSS to accept the 2024 and 2025 Statements of Reimbursable Full-Time Equivalent Student Enrollment and Reimbursable Educational Units as presented by Dana F. Cole & Company

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – absent	Pirnie – aye
Broekemier – absent	Skiles – aye
Buss – aye	Smith – aye

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Davis – aye
Heiden – aye

Werner – aye

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

Dr. Gotschall's Report

Dr. Gotschall gave a recap of the 2025 Fall Welcome Back presentation he made to college employees. He also reported the following:

- We received official word of Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaffirmation of accreditation so next comprehensive visit will be 2035. Federal Compliance was also accepted, all with no sanctions, monitoring reports or additional visits. We will have a mid-term checkup and other reports to submit during the next 10 years, but overall in great shape so thank you for your involvement as board members and support of the faculty, staff, students and administration throughout this process.
- State audits for enrollment were completed and financial with results to be presented to you this month and this fall. We also received the certified allocations from our two state aid funds: A 3.5% increase in community college future fund and a slight increase in “regular” state aid that also reflects our share of the additional \$5 million the legislature allocated for dual credit tuition reductions. Final budget will be presented in September but should be only minor changes from the tentative budget you approved in June. Under my report include amounts distributed to CCC as well as the other five community colleges who had enrollment changes ranging -2.69% to +12.63% with CCC coming in at +3.14%.
- We received positive news this summer about two federal grants we thought in jeopardy, but TRIO and Adult Education, have both been funded. We do have a new requirement of confirming citizenship or qualified alien status of adult education students. This will take some additional work on our part and secure storage of that personal information.
- During the summer, I served on an apprenticeship panel with Nebraska's Commission of Department Labor at the Nebraska Governor's Summit Ag and Economic Development; participated in NCCA Strategic Planning Board meeting and several NCCA presidents' meetings and an Aksarben Foundation meeting regarding apprenticeships; co-emceed a Columbus Days event; gave the welcome at a U.S. Department of Energy community college grant meeting that CCC hosted; led a 40+ member CCC Action Summit; and attended the State Chamber Federal Legislative Summit; Association for Innovation and Transformation national conference and Proteus farmworkers annual awards luncheon, 6 Regions 1 Nebraska planning and implementation meetings, UNL President Gold's reception at Stuhr Museum, UNK/UNMC building update meeting, Hastings and Grand Island CCC retiree events, Sam Cowan's funeral, business training meetings with Bosselman Enterprises and Fiserv, Grand Island Senior High curriculum meeting, CCC new educator orientation, PIN Executive Board Meeting, Nebraska Diplomat's meeting; and Nebraska Manufacturing Advisory Council meeting.

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Updates from area vice presidents include:

- CCC students who placed in the SkillsUSA national convention this summer in Atlanta were Joseph Fickenschier of Axtell and William Grosch of O'Neill, gold medal in mechatronics; Chase Ostdiek of Blue Hill, silver medal in heavy equipment operator technology; Keaton Connelly of Grand Island, fourth in auto body; Wyatt Kreutzer of Kearney and Hunter Trumble of Aurora, 11th in advanced manufacturing design technology; and Corey Tilley of Hastings, 18th in automotive technology. All seven students had earned a gold medal at the state contest in April.
- An annual meeting was held to discuss usage with Labster, a supplement for science lab courses offered via distance. In 2024-25, there were 1,202 Labster licenses with 12,035 simulation plays. Twenty-four instructors use Labster in 11 courses with 72% of the usage is in biology. Students rate Labster very positively in 90% of plays.
- Three full-time business administration instructors were hired this summer.
- The Library Resource Center supervisors began training on the new catalog system, and the initial data pull of information from the old system has been completed. Digital resources expanded with the addition of Libby (audio and e-books for checkout) and Kanopy (online movie streaming).
- The adult education program ended the year with its highest performance ever. Classes began again on August 4.
- CCC had 53 student-athletes recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) for academic achievement during 2024-25. This surpasses the previous record of 42 honored student-athletes in 2023-24.
- Five Raiders teams earned NJCAA Academic Team of the Year honors for posting a combined 3.0 GPA or better: volleyball, 3.58 GPA; men's soccer, 3.54 GPA; softball, 3.50 GPA; women's basketball, 3.20 GPA; and women's soccer, 3.20 GPA. The National Junior College Athletic Association Esports (NJCAAE) honored six CCC student-athletes for their academic performance during the spring 2025 semester.
- A skills trade cohort will start in October, thanks to a partnership with the CCC entrepreneurship center, Grand Island Economic Development Council and the city of Grand Island and a \$3,000 mini grant from GIEDC and the city. The cohort will help up to 10 businesses with two or fewer employees learn how to grow and hire.
- The CCC-Hastings entrepreneurship center created a new program called Tuesday Muse Day for entrepreneurs and business leaders at the new Schnase building in downtown Hastings and a podcast called "Sink or Swim." The CCC-Columbus entrepreneurship center is working to have regular visits by the Center for Rural Affairs. CCC-Kearney is working on a Big Idea Buffalo County competition and CCC-Ord is connecting with Ord Public Schools on building out their School to Work program by matching students to business sponsorships or apprenticeships with CCC.
- CCC-Grand Island hosted Boy Scout's Merit Badge University, July 25-27. CCC employees who participated were John Willmes for welding; Michael David, John Sumsion and Jim Davis for criminal justice; Amy Santos, Carla Uhlir and Kerri Dey, who helped with medical check-ins; and Ben Newton, who facilitated a badge course.

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- CCC nursing dean Pam Bales met with two critical care access hospitals (Broadstone in Superior and Cozad Community Hospital) to discuss clinical space. No decisions have been made at this time. A meeting in Lexington is planned later this month.
- Dental assisting students completed their final clinical rotations, attended the CODA-required Dental Assisting Clinical Seminar and received their coronal polish certifications. All students are currently employed.
- Occupational therapy assistant (OTHA) students completed 14 cognitive assessments; practiced blood pressure on residents in two nursing homes; completed therapy groups to assistive living and memory care individuals in the community; and participated in a two-day Physical Agent Modalities seminar. OTHA also sponsored a Getting It Write summer camp where 25 kids were assisted on sensory motor, behavior, and handwriting skills.
- CCC and Grand Island High School representatives met to discuss medical laboratory technician (MEDT), EMT, nursing assistant and medication aide classes. They decided to have GISH EMT students come to campus for class, so they have more opportunities to use CCC's equipment. So far, 15 students have applied for the MEDT pathway.
- Hastings College announced three new majors in environmental studies, skilled and technical sciences education, and agricultural education. Their press release credits their partnership with CCC for the STS and agriculture ones.
- The annual Super Tech competition, which features the best entry-level diesel technicians in Nebraska, was held July 17 on the Hastings Campus. Schuyler Eatherton, a CCC diesel technology student, placed second in the student competition.
- Workshops for high school instructors and guidance counselors were held this summer by mechatronics instructor Dan Davidchik; media arts instructor Dani Schwinn; agricultural science instructor Jeff Buescher; culinary arts instructors Clarence Charles, Dylan Krings and Courtney Rempe; and the criminal justice department.
- The Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska awarded the Hospitality Management and Culinary Arts program their Partnership Award on June 10 in Kearney.
- The third annual Titan Diesel Camp June 2-3 drew 24 Nebraska and Iowa high school students. They participated in hands-on learning activities in the diesel technology and heavy equipment areas at the Hastings Campus and toured the Case IH Combine plant and the newly opened Titan Machinery store in Grand Island.
- CCC received \$100,000 from the state Perkins grant to assist in funding a cobot welding system for the new welding facility in Grand Island.
- Criminal justice instructors Dr. James Davis and Duane Collins passed FAA 107 drone exam this summer to receive Remote Pilot Certification to authorize them to fly drones for commercial and educational purposes.
- He remembered former board member Sam Cowan, who died Aug. 2, as a great servant to CCC. Prior to serving on the board from 2009 through 2024, he taught at CCC-Columbus in the 1990s and was the recipient of the campus' Faculty Member of the Year Award.

The following reports were also submitted for board review:

- Enrollment Report

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- Grants Report
- Purchasing Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Heiden requested an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues after a short break at 2:22 p.m.

MOVED BY SMITH, SECONDED BY BUSS that the Board of Governors recess the regular meeting in order to go into executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues.

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – absent	Pirnie – aye
Broekemier – absent	Skiles – aye
Buss – aye	Smith – aye
Davis – aye	Werner – aye
Heiden – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Heiden reconvened the regular session of the Board of Governors meeting at 2:56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY KELLER, SECONDED BY WERNER to adjourn.

Aerni – aye	Keller – aye
Borden – absent	Pirnie – aye
Broekemier – absent	Skiles – aye
Buss – aye	Smith – aye
Davis – aye	Werner – aye
Heiden – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Heiden declared the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.