

**CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026**

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>.

Treasurer Dann Smith called the Feb. 19, 2026, meeting to order at 1 p.m., with seven board members present.

ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Smith asked college representatives to introduce guests and staff members.

REVIEWING CLAIMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Roger Davis will review the claims prior to the March 19, 2026, board meeting in Hastings.

REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION OF CONSENT ITEMS

Smith 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 Feb. 19, 2026.
2. Minutes of the Jan. 22, 2026, Board of Governors meeting.
3. Claims for the period from Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, 2026.
4. Financial report as of Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, 2026.

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5. Purchases: None

6. Personnel:

Courtney McCarty, Grand Island: The College President recommends that Courtney McCarty be offered the position of math faculty in Grand Island, effective Aug. 1, 2026.

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

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

PARNERSHIP/OWNERSHIP

Dr. Pam Bales, dean of nursing, gave the following highlights about CCC’s nursing program.

- Positive qualities include 17 faculty members with diverse backgrounds, Alpha Delta Nu honorary, and the pinning and first year ceremonies.
- The program is open to anyone who meets the admission criteria. About 200 students enroll in the program each semester.
- The program shows a three-year average pass rate of 88% for students taking the NCLEX-RN licensing exam and of 96.3% for students taking the NCLEX-PN.
- The program has an 85% completion rate.

DISCUSSION OF CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS

Capital Improvement Budget Tentative Approval

Craig Boroff, college facilities manager, presented the 2025-26 capital improvement budget for tentative approval. The budget will be presented for final approval at the September board meeting.

MOVED BY KELLER, SECONDED BY LEE to give tentative approval of the 2025-26 capital improvement budget.

Aerni – absent	Lee – aye
Broekemier – aye	Pirnie – absent
Buss – absent	Skiles – aye

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Davis – absent
Heiden – aye
Keller – aye

Smith – aye
Werner – aye

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Columbus Physical Education Center Case Study

Boroff also presented the program statement to be sent to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education for the renovation of and addition to the Physical Education Center on the Columbus Campus.

MOVED BY SKILES, SECONDED BY HEIDEN to approve the Physical Education Center program statement for submission to the Nebraska Coordinating Commission.

Aerni – absent
Broekemier – aye
Buss – absent
Davis – absent
Heiden – aye
Keller – aye

Lee – aye
Pirnie – absent
Skiles – aye
Smith – aye
Werner – aye

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

Student Success Report

Francesca Davis and Samreen Ahmed from CCC’s institutional effectiveness office provided information on the 2025 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Data Feedback Report. They covered enrollment measures; number of academic awards; tuition and required fees; and retention, graduation and transfer-out rates for first-time, full-time award-seeking students. When compared to its IPEDS peer group, CCC has:

- Higher enrollment of White and Hispanic students and slightly lower enrollment of Black or African American students.
- Lower tuition and fees.
- Significantly more diplomas and certificates.
- Higher full- and part-time retention rates.
- Higher graduation rate with lower transfer-out rate and higher graduation rates for most ethnic groups.

Dr. Gotschall’s Report

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- Hosted the quarterly President's Quality Action Council meeting with representatives from all campuses, employee groups and students. Shared updates on spring initiatives and updates on the board approval of the CCC mission, vision, values and major initiatives.
- Attended the American Association of Community Colleges' Workforce Development Institute in New Orleans, La., with over 900 attendees and interacted with major community college corporate donors like Metallica, Microsoft, Lowes, Snap On and Festo. Included sessions on dual credit, Workforce Pell and community college baccalaureates to address ongoing workforce development needs.
- Several community college president's meetings regarding legislative issues including visiting area senators, submitting appropriations testimony and presenting oral testimony opposing LB 1247, and prioritizing issues for engagement.
- Participated in Lexington Response updates hosted by Nebraska Department of Labor.
- Continued with faculty negotiation discussions with administrative team and attorney.
- Participated in discussions regarding expanded programming opportunities in Columbus, Kearney and Ord. Participated in CCC athletics planning meetings.
- Attended American Association of Community College Trustees meetings in Washington, D.C., with representatives from each of the six Nebraska community colleges and Courtney Wittstruck. In addition to ACCT sessions regarding national legislative priorities and Workforce Pell, met with Sens. Deb Fischer and Pete Ricketts and Reps. Mike Flood and Adrian Smith. Attended Nebraska Breakfast that included all of the above and Rep. Don Bacon.

Reports from area vice presidents include:

- Spring 2026 military-connected enrollment is strong, with 142 students — slightly below the usual 152 average but boosted by the recovery of 16 students from earlier terms. Of the current students, 81 are veterans or service members and 61 are family members.
- For the 2026-27 academic year, we are seeing some increase in numbers between scholarship applications and ISIRs. For ISIRs (federal financial aid), we have started importing and processing, and we are up roughly 500 ISIRs from this time last year. For CCC scholarship applications, we continue to be up roughly 200 applications compared to this time last year.
- At the start of spring classes, counseling services completed eight new intakes, 1 crisis visit, nine consultations and 70 individual appointments.
- Disability services staff completed 28 new intakes (21 ADA, seven Title IX). Additionally, there have been five follow-up visits, 13 consultations with faculty and staff, and 10 student consultations. There are 698 Active Access Plans.
- Updates to the Early College enrollment and approval process have begun with additional training and implementation of new processes this spring and summer.
- By March 16, the registration office will have an estimated count of certificates, degrees and diplomas anticipated for completion for the spring and/or summer terms.
- Career and Employment Services closed January with 216 new jobs on the CCC Job Board, which is up from 168 in January 2025.

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- The admissions office is implementing a targeted plan for signing day outreach college wide. The students who are eligible to participate in these programs are being texted, emailed, and called to try and build the excitement of this great experience.
- Math faculty attended a meeting demonstrating a new AI math tutorial tool in development. New online and hybrid courses are in development for several biology courses. The goal is to bring new modalities and offerings to all campuses. Some faculty are experimenting with AI-powered podcasting tools to enhance online classes.
- CCC hosted the annual Early Childhood Education conference in Grand Island on Feb. 7. Over 150 early childhood educators attended the event.
- Raider golf will have its first golf meet on March 2. Softball had first games on Feb. 16 and CCC Raider volleyball will be represented at the NJCAA Beach Pairs exhibition May 1-3 in Huntsville, Alabama.
- Connections and meetings with the new St. Paul economic development director and Phelps County economic development director. Aurora is researching a possible Big Idea as are some other smaller communities in the CCC service area.
- Seventeen students were present for a successful 2026 Singing Valentine's fundraiser.
- Both first- and second-year dental hygiene students began their clinical experiences, including community-based rotations at Head Start, elementary schools, the VA, nursing homes and federal clinics. These rotations provide supervised, real-world clinical training aligned with workforce preparation and student success.
- In the OTHA 1220 community-based practice course, students will be initiating a few community projects that include working on a sensory space/pathway for Kearney Children's Museum. Some students will be working on life skills with adults with developmental disabilities at Mid-Nebraska Individual Services.
- The medical assisting lab was a rotation stop for 220 students from Barr Middle School on Jan. 20 and more than 200 eighth graders from Westridge Middle School on Jan. 27. They shared program information, demonstrated suturing, and discussed the different scissors used in clinics.
- Health sciences students were invited by the UNMC Diagnostic Medical Sonography program to volunteer for sonography labs for spring 2026. This is an opportunity for the UNMC students to practice with live patients.
- Afternoon nursing assistant and medication aide courses have been established in Lexington to support retraining and re-entry into the healthcare workforce for former Tyson employees. In addition, exploratory conversations are underway with area hospitals, medical clinics and community partners regarding potential phlebotomy offerings to further expand workforce pathways across Lexington, Cozad, Gothenburg, Kearney, Holdrege and other communities.
- CHI Health St. Francis donated IV poles to the paramedicine and EMT programs. They will be used for paramedic students in the lab, and each campus will have one for EMT students. The EMT program across our service area has been grateful for all the recent additions to equipment and programming needs the college has provided.
- There are 33 EMT students who will complete their EMT courses in February/March. We have 64 new enrolled EMT students for spring 2026. Paramedicine has 11 students completing their final semester, with an internship to follow in the summer of 2026.

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- Second-year courses at the Kearney Center continue to be held at the new UNK/UNMC Health Science Building #2 without major issue. There is a slight disruption with maintaining or acquiring a Wi-Fi signal through Eduroam. The IT team from UNK has been a great help in working through this issue.
- Jan. 31- Feb. 6, 2026, is the application period for the 2026-27 academic year in nursing. The goal is to fill cohorts by mid-April, early May.

The following reports were also submitted for board review:

- Enrollment Report
- Grants Report
- Purchasing Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Smith requested an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues at 1:48 p.m.

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

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Smith reconvened the regular session of the Board of Governors meeting at 2:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY HEIDEN, SECONDED BY SKILES to adjourn.

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.