

## President's Report, November 2023

### Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Military Times magazine published their 2023 results of Best for Vets schools. Central Community College was ranked #1 among all two-year colleges, #4 in the Central Region and #27 among all colleges nationwide (including four-year and two-year colleges). Of the 26 four-year schools ranked higher than CCC, Colorado State, UNO and UNL were the three institutions ahead of us from the Central Region.
- Thanks for those of you who attended the Nebraska Community College Association annual meeting in North Platte this month. Good presentations and meetings were held, and we were happy to be able to honor CCC-Kearney Chemistry instructor Dr. Yunteng He as CCC's 2023 Outstanding Faculty Member and Ross and Karen Pesak as our Outstanding Alumni.
- There are 370 students who are eligible for graduation for the 2023 Winter Commencement Ceremony. In 2022, there were 346 eligible graduates, and in 2021, there were 336 eligible graduates. Dr. Kellie Pickett, vice president of college access and success from the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation will be the keynote speaker.
- Participated in the Phelps County Economic Development annual meeting to learn more about their initiatives and heard from Gov. Pillen, who presented the keynote.
- This week, CCC was the lead host of the first statewide apprenticeship conference. The goal was for 100 participants and ended up with over 250! The governor gave a welcome and heard from both company employers and apprentices about the advantage of this work-based learning experience. Two national speakers presented and included community college attendees from all six Nebraska community colleges, tribal college, a Kansas and Virginia community college.
- Attended the CCC Foundation Board meeting with a significant outcome being their support to assist with a capital campaign for the Hastings Transportation Training Center.
- Met with CCC's Tandem Cybersecurity consultant and requested an update to be shared with the Board of Governors in November.
- Hosted my quarterly President's Quality Action Council meeting with representatives from students, faculty, staff and administrators from across the area. Also hosted Grand Island/Administrative Office, Hastings and Columbus open forums this semester. Will add Kearney to the mix in the spring.
- Attended Heartland United Way meetings, First National Bank Open House, Grand Island Chamber Childcare Focus Group, and a CCC volleyball game.

Updates provided by area vice president include:

- At just 13 years old, Chance Rohda, a freshman at East Butler High School, achieved a perfect score on his ACT. CCC-Columbus has been part of his journey since 2019 when, at the age of 9, he attended the Central Honors Institute (CHI) Academic Camp. At the time, an exception was made to accommodate Chance at camp, given the fact he was significantly younger in age than the other incoming seventh and eighth graders. Extraordinarily gifted, Chance returned to CHI Camp in 2022 as an incoming eighth grader. His story is a testament to the impact of early educational opportunities and the remarkable achievements that can result.  
[https://journalstar.com/news/local/education/chance-rohda-east-butler-brainard-perfect-act-score/article\\_a042f308-7d90-11ee-bd05-13937b925b47.html](https://journalstar.com/news/local/education/chance-rohda-east-butler-brainard-perfect-act-score/article_a042f308-7d90-11ee-bd05-13937b925b47.html)
- Kearney's 27th Annual Career Exploration Day was held on Oct. 18. This year, 63 businesses and roughly 500 students (traveling from as far as Valentine) were in attendance. This was a great event for CCC to showcase several of its programs.

- Upcoming Community and Workforce Education Training and Workshops include the Leadership Development Series in Hastings, Nov. 8; National Electrical Code Review in Columbus, Nov. 16; Microsoft Excel training in Grand Island, Nov. 21; 8-Hour Hazmat training in Columbus, Nov. 29; Industrial Maintenance Series in Lexington, Dec. 19; and Six Sigma training in Columbus, Jan. 24. There is also ongoing entry-level truck driver training and Google certificates.
- Craig Potthast, industrial coordinator/trainer, has been named RJG's Qualified Trainer of the Year.
- Doug Pauley, associate dean of workforce development, attended the National Career Pathways Network Conference in Charlotte on Nov. 8-10. He presented on the iMEC project for high school students.
- CCC-Kearney received the ESGR (Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve) Statement of Support. Learn more about the ESGR at [www.esgr.mil](http://www.esgr.mil)
- CCC-Holdrege was included in an article in the Phelps County Development Corporation's (PCDC) Fall Business Journal, highlighting our new Early College, early-morning nursing assistant class.
- A CCC-Kearney student, Akikin Pungupung, was interviewed for a Veterans Day article for the Kearney Hub. The article shared his challenges with returning to civilian life and how CCC helped him in the transition.
- In a guest article in the Kearney Hub on Nov. 14, Kearney Public Schools Superintendent Jason Mundorf, recognized CCC and other community partners behind the school district's successful support of students.
- Mallory Swantek, LIMHP, is now an ADHD-Certified Clinical Services Provider. This means that she has completed a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education, with 24 hours specific to ADHD assessment and treatment topics; three hours specific to psychopharmacology and three hours specific to managing ADHD in an educational setting.
- Counseling Director Luz Colon-Rodriguez was selected as one of 20 licensed mental health providers across the Midwest Region to participate in the Decolonizing Supervision and Training Conference in Omaha, sponsored by the Mid-America Mental Health Technology Transfer Center. The center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and is housed at the University of Nebraska Medical Center). As part of this cohort, she will be able to access ongoing consultation, professional development and support for the continued development of mental health and prevention services at CCC.
- First Responder Act implementation has been approved by the board. Information on how students apply has been sent to those that had previously requested information. We have had two legal dependents complete the full process and receive the tuition waiver.
- Four financial aid team members attended the RMAFAA (regional financial aid association) conference at the beginning of October. During this conference Jordan Eisenmenger from CCC-Kearney, was the recipient of the Oscar R. "Jack" Hendrix Award. This is equivalent to the Rookie of the Year Award.
- Topsy Tuesday event hosted by Student Activities and Counseling and Prevention Education got news coverage. <https://www.ksnblocal4.com/2023/11/03/preventing-drunk-driving-with-limited-transportation-options-hastings/>
- CCC-Hastings Career and Employment Services Director Andrea Hays coordinated a Career Day on Oct. 11, and the participation was record-breaking. There were 90 employers and a total of 248 students who attended this event.
- Residence Life helped organize the most recent LeapFrog Village event, a Halloween-themed evening for children on the Hastings Campus on Oct. 26. Over 200 people attended, eating a wonderful meal prepared in our cafeteria and then partaking in several activities in the gym. There were arts and crafts, educational materials, and dancing. Over 30 CCC student volunteers from the HMRM program event management class and early childhood education

classes and resident assistants helped with setup, assisted children with activities and maintained a safe and fun environment throughout the event.

- The occupational therapy assistant, pharmacy technician, medical lab technician, medical assisting and paramedicine programs provided 67 Lexington and Harvard students with hands-on activities on Oct. 30. These students were specifically interested in the health programs.
- Students from the 2023 graduating class who have taken the (optional) Dental Assisting National Board examination have passed the exam and are now Certified Dental Assistants. Several students in the current group are already working part-time in dental offices and are successfully combining work and study. 100% of the current class participated in the recent campus job fair and have strong leads for employment opportunities.
- Vanessa Crookshank, adjunct dental hygiene instructor, was one of the speakers for the Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association virtual fall conference on Oct. 6. Her presentation was "From Confusion to Compliance: Understanding Dental Unit Waterline Safety."