

President's Report, August 20, 2026

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Summer flew by, but most importantly we have successfully completed enrollment and financial aid audits, hired numerous faculty and staff to serve students, oriented and enrolled hundreds of students and welcomed back faculty and students for the 2026 fall semester and 2026-27 academic year!
- Completed the four-year Elevate Grant that promoted apprenticeships across the area. Continue to move toward long-term sustainability and potential new grant support as the model moves from three community colleges to a statewide approach. CCC went from having a waitlist of employers wanting apprentices to a waitlist of apprentices looking for employer opportunities.
- Participated in an Albion employer meeting to promote apprenticeships.
- Met with Nebraska Children & Families Foundation regarding grants they are pursuing and coordinating efforts throughout our service area with their community collaboratives.
- Multiple NCCA president meetings regarding planning for next legislative year including funding, reduced credit bachelor's degrees, possible funding cuts, rural health grants, and hosted NCCA quarterly board meeting at Kearney Center.
- Hosted Action Summit with about 75 administrators, faculty and staff and Welcome Back Webinar with all CCC.
- Attended True Potential Scholarship Dinner in Omaha where our students were highlighted.
- Attended Columbus Day Royalty Coronation and was co-emcee for Running of the Frankfurters.
- Meetings with Susan Buffett Foundation regarding grant ideas and support.
- Represent community colleges on the Nebraska P-20 Alliance, a group working to support collaboration and smooth transitions in all public institutions.
- Signed and announced new 2+1 reduced credit bachelor's degree opportunities for CCC students and alumni in criminal justice, paramedicine and business with Yavapai College in Arizona, one of the first in the nation to offer such degrees.
- Meeting with Aurora leaders regarding offerings in their community.
- Multiple PIN planning meetings prior to annual Leadership Summit in September.
- CCC Foundation update meetings regarding campaigns, personnel and donor support.
- AACC Federal Policy Update webinar and asked to judge awards for Western Region of ACCT.
- Toured Metro Community College's fire science program to discuss potential support for programming in central Nebraska.
- Attended Grand Island retiree reception and had one-to-one with another alumni, a potential donor.
- Participated in success coaching training as I will be serving as a volunteer student success coach to four students this semester.
- Participated in legislative roundtable regarding lab hours called by Sen. Dan Quick.
- Met with faculty and staff on Hastings campus, toured new facilities. Attended all-faculty meetings in Grand Island.
- Asked to serve on a statewide ALICE research advisory board. This is a United Way-sponsored group looking at helping families who are employed, yet asset limited and income insecure.
- Attended Nebraska Chamber Foundation events in Kearney regarding workforce.
- Multiple meetings with Nebraska Department of Labor personnel regarding workforce issues and Lexington response efforts, including invited to a national dislocated worker meeting Nebraska is hosting in August.

Reports from area vice presidents include:

- Special courses offered in Lexington since Spring 2026 (in addition to Adult Ed/ESL) include: basic construction, 22 students in two classes; forklift, 24 students in one class; heartsaver total CPR, 22 students in two classes; nursing assistant, 50 students in six classes; medication aide, 10 students in one class; phlebotomy, 10 students in one class; OSHA general industry, six students in one class; 10-hour OSHA construction: 22 students in two classes, INDT technical diagrams, four students; INDT mechanical systems, four students, INDT electrical fundamentals, four students; INDT electro-pneumatics, four students; INDT motor controls and relay logic, four students; INDT variable frequency drives, four students; INDT RSLogix 5000 PA controls, three students; and welding, 29 students in three classes. Two students participated in the truck driving program at Hastings. They both passed and are employed with trucking companies.
- Twelve more registered military-connected students, bringing the total count for fall to 112. Barry Horner is working with two other students who are not yet registered, and the two campus coordinators are working with five more. Final numbers will be solid after free add/drop day.
- Alyson Wolfe-Nelson was selected for the 2026-2027 Behavioral Health Leadership Academy. The academy sponsors 12 behavioral health providers from across Nebraska to participate in one-year leadership training at no cost to the participants. The academy provides participants with a structured curriculum designed to foster leadership growth and professional development within the behavioral health field.
- Central Community College was recognized as a Diamond Level Exemplary Member Institution for demonstrating a commitment to prevention excellence by participating in all three key programs and completing all core NECPA-led activities in 2026.
- There are 746 Active Access Plans reported by CCC Disability Services for CCC students.
- Calling campaign targeting students who had planned schedules in system but were not yet registered resulted in a conversion rate of more than 20%.
- We will have about 48 international students between the Columbus and Grand Island campuses. Hastings and Kearney will not have any international students this semester.
- An all-college Tutor Training Handbook is now in use to provide standardized tutor training across our Academic Success Centers.
- Residence halls are strong with in Columbus with 152 students and nearly 250 students in Hastings.
- Nursing new admission numbers for 2026-27: Columbus, 19 students; Kearney, 40 students; and Grand Island, 40 students. Students moving to their second year: Columbus, 17 students; Kearney, 27 students; and Grand Island, 29 students. The total numbers are 99 first-year students and 83 second-year students.
- Phlebotomy continues to see strong demand, with full June cohorts offered in Lexington, Hastings and Columbus. The occupational therapy assistant program successfully completed its accreditation site visit in June on the Grand Island Campus.
- Staffing efforts have been very successful this spring and summer. Searches for the paramedicine faculty position, medical assisting program director, health information management faculty, Hastings health programming director, and Grand Island nursing assistant coordinator have all attracted qualified applicants, resulting in successful hires or candidates moving through the final stages of the hiring process.
- In July, OTA students went to Prairie Commons Eventide (formerly known as Tabitha) to run some groups with senior residents and to Primerose Retirement Community and do cognitive assessments and practice blood pressure.
- Four Meta Quest 3S virtual reality headsets were purchased for the medical laboratory technology program. Implementation began in the summer and will be used for the 2026 fall cohort. This new technology will give students access to advanced laboratory experiences that would be difficult and often cost-prohibitive to provide in a traditional campus setting.
- Sarah Kort, Amy Santos Marcie Kemnitz, and Jessica Rohan worked together to develop a \$903,525 EMS grant proposal titled RISE UP, which was submitted to DHHS on July 31, 2026.

Although the grant covers one year, additional funding may be available through separate annual applications. RISE UP is designed to strengthen and expand EMS education while building Nebraska's rural healthcare workforce. The proposal has a strong early-college focus, supporting our priority of bringing EMT training to more area high schools.

- In July, 52 part-time nursing assistant instructors from across the college came together in Grand Island for a summer training focused on consistency, connection, and instructor support. This group represented the full reach of our nursing assistant program, including instructors who teach at area high schools and partner hospitals, as well as those teaching at CCC campuses, centers and educational hubs. One participant shared that she had been teaching in this role for 13 years and that this was the first time the instructors had ever gathered as a group. The response was overwhelmingly positive.
- CCC signed an MOU with Columbus Public Schools to use their middle school gym for CCC practices and games during the next year while our facilities are being remodeled. New softball and flag football coaches were hired and are starting during the 2026 fall semester.