

President's Report, June 18, 2026

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Multiple meetings with donors this month regarding current and upcoming opportunities, including Kearney, Omaha, Columbus and Grand Island.
- Co-presented a session regarding our successful statewide Nebraska Math Readiness project at the annual Susan T. Buffett Foundation Higher Ed Research Convening. Learned about several other funded projects we may be able to replicate. Attended STBF dinner prior to the event following day.
- Co-presented a session regarding our successful Elevate Apprenticeship program at the Aksarben Foundation Board meeting. Attended foundation reception prior to the event following day.
- Along with other community college presidents, met with Nebraska Governor and Nebraska Department of Labor Commissioner regarding opportunity to assist with more workforce development initiatives across state. Draft proposal from them should come over the summer as U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Education continue to blend roles and align duties.
- Attended open house for new EPIC Children's Discovery Center in Grand Island.
- Attended Nebraska Economic Development Association meeting in Kearney.
- Attended the Nebraska Manufacturing Alliance's "Manufacturing Nebraska's Future" event and tour of the Nebraska Innovation Center in Lincoln.
- Participated as a team to recertify the Grand Island America's Job Center for the Nebraska DOL.
- Employee meetings held and announcements and job description reviews completed on Administrative Services reorganization and changes. Supportive responses to date with implementation July 1, 2026.
- Hosted area budget finalization meeting with college vice presidents and deans.
- Attended update meetings regarded new workforce Pell opportunity at state and federal level.
- Participated in CCC Foundation feasibility study findings and funding recommendation meetings as well as CCC Foundation-sponsored retiree event and June board meeting.
- Drafted narratives for final ARPA grant submissions for the \$10 million in state funds received and expended on four CCC capital and equipment projects over past four years.
- Drafted agenda and invitation list for annual CCC Action Summit to be held in July.
- Attended Chief Industries open house of new corporate headquarters in Grand Island.
- Continue discussions with staff and Nebraska Chamber regarding next steps for 6 Regions/1 Nebraska initiative.

Reports from area vice presidents include:

- The medical laboratory technology program celebrated a significant milestone in student achievement. Ten students successfully completed the requirements for the AAS degree. Among these graduates, one student also earned the phlebotomy certificate alongside the full MLT degree. Nine students also were recognized for completing the requirements for the phlebotomy certificate. In total, 10 students received the credential. This is the largest cohort of phlebotomy certificate recipients in the program's history.
- Whitney Williams, an HIMS student at Central Community College-Hastings, has been named a 2026 New Century Workforce Scholar and will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. This scholarship program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. New Century Workforce Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom.
- Occupational therapy assistant accreditors (two evaluators) will be on campus June 22-24. The final report is scheduled on June 24; everyone is welcome to attend on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the OTA

lab. The OTA program is also holding a Getting it Write youth campus for seven weeks starting in June from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Dr. Wanda Cloet presented a poster, “Making a Paradigm Shift with AirFlow Technology Polishing in the Dental Hygiene Curriculum” at the American Dental Educators Association program directors meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 6.
- Four Meta Quest 3S virtual reality headsets were purchased for the Medical Lab Technician program. Setup will begin SU26 for implementation with the FA26 cohort. This platform will provide students with access to molecular and nucleic acid extraction (PCR) instrumentation, compressed gas simulation, laboratory information systems, eLearning courses, and job training through 12 different laboratories, over 100 pieces of laboratory equipment, and a 50,000-square-foot virtual facility.
- Working with Tri County Hospital and Cambridge High School to start HLTH programming in their area of the CCC service area. Sandy Creek Public Schools is starting a phlebotomy course at their high school.
- CCC-Columbus submitted the voluntary compliance plan for Central Community College following a regular review of ADA compliance by state Department of Education.
- Ten CCC students were recognized for winning or placing or competing in the National SkillsUSA contest in Georgia this month. These included Wyatt Kreutzer and Hunter Trumble (Hastings), first place in additive manufacturing; Zander Sohl (Hastings), first place in career and technical educator; and Ashton Behmerwohld and Carson Kunze (Columbus), fourth place in Mechatronics.
- CCC-Hastings welcomed nine high school students from communities across central Nebraska, including Hastings, Kearney, Hildreth, St. Libory, Trumbull and Grand Island for a hands-on camp to introduce them to cybersecurity, networking and other information technology careers. Over the past three years, 24 students have attended the camp.
- CCC was successful in obtaining a \$100,000 revision Perkins grant to assist with updating equipment in CCC’s commercial construction program. CCC will also receive a special occupational training grant of \$250,000 that comes from the state community college funding formula for occupational training for those impacted by the Lexington plant layoff and who do not directly qualify for Nebraska Department of Labor funds. These funds will come off the top of the state community college formula, meaning each of the other six colleges will get less state funding, but they all agreed to the unique and impactful opportunity to provide training to keep more residents in Nebraska as many may be moving across state for work. This will provide short-term training in construction, computer literacy, basic education, mechatronics and other identified fields of study.
- New Student Registration and Orientation days are scheduled all summer with faculty and staff advisors available.
- The automotive technology program held NC3 electricity introduction, measurements and circuits certification May 28-29 in Hastings.
- The Titan Diesel Camp was hosted June 1 in Hastings by the diesel technology faculty. Eighteen high school students interested in diesel technology participated.
- Auto Body 101 was held June 2-4 in Hastings. Eleven high school instructors and staff participated. Additional high school teacher training is planned in culinary arts, mechatronics, welding, advanced manufacturing, media arts and instrumentation.
- Columbus welding instructor Bryce Standley was recently named instructor of the year for his region by the district American Welding Society for his work with area welding students and current welders through robotic, blacksmith and customized training. He was recognized at the American Welding Society (AWS) Nebraska Section on May 14 in Omaha.
- Columbus mechatronics instructor Allen Stenzel presented “Basic Mechatronics Class Concepts” at the Nebraska Career Educators Conference on June 9.