

**CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes
October 16, 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 Rooms 176/177 at Central Community College, 4500 63rd St., Columbus, Nebraska.

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

Vice Chair Linda Aerni called the Oct. 16, 2025, meeting to order at 1 p.m., with seven board members present.

ROLL CALL

Aerni – present

Broekemier – present

Buss – present

Davis – present

Heiden – absent

Keller – present

Pirnie – absent

Skiles – present

Smith – present

Werner – absent

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Aerni asked college representatives to introduce guests and staff members.

REVIEWING CLAIMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Lynne Werner will review the claims prior to the Nov. 20, 2025, board meeting in Grand Island.

REQUEST FOR DISCUSSION OF CONSENT ITEMS

Aerni 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 Oct. 16, 2025.
2. Minutes of the Sept. 25, 2025, Board of Governors meeting.
3. Claims for the period from Sept. 1 through Sept. 30, 2025.
4. Financial report as of Sept. 30, 2025.

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5. Purchases:

Scholarship Platform, Collegewide: The College President recommends awarding the scholarship platform contract to NextGen for \$74,000. This selection aligns with CCC's goals of improving efficiency, enhancing the user experience, and supporting continuous access to scholarship for students throughout the academic year.

6. Personnel:

Jason Davis, Areawide: The College President recommends that Jason Davis be offered the position of dean of student success and enrollment management, areawide, effective Nov. 1, 2025.

7. Approval of New Board Member: The CCC Board of Governors committee of Linda Heiden, Tom Pirnie, Diane Keller and Dr. Roger Davis recommends that Trevor Lee of Gibbon be appointed to fill the remaining term of Sandra Borden.

8. Nebraska Community College Association 2026 membership renewal for \$77,041.44.

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

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Scott Miller stated no one had signed in for Public Participation.

PARTNERSHIP/OWNERSHIP

CCC Foundation Report

Executive Director Traci Skalberg highlighted the following:

- As of June 30, 2025, the CCC Foundation has combined assets of \$53,310,850.
- In 2024-25, \$1,215,264 went to scholarships and \$5,165,558 went to projects and facilities impacting CCC students.
- Events this past year included a groundbreaking for the Automotive Careers Training Center in Hastings, a kickoff for the Holdrege Center construction project, the 35th Annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament, and a Community and Alumni Appreciation Event.

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- The foundation has started a strategic planning process with reviewing its mission, vision and values that will lead to a new three-year strategic plan.
- New board members are Barry Meyer, Landmark Implement, Hastings; Dave Long, Mary Lanning Healthcare, Hastings; Doug Fargo, Retired CFO, Grand Island; and Byron Hansen, Precision Financial Group, Kearney. Jeff Anderson of Hastings and Kevin Brostrom of Grand Island have retired from the board.

Columbus Campus Annual Report

Welding instructor Landon Hunt, along with students Edger Alarcon of Schuyler and Kyle Olmer of Columbus, gave an overview of the Slama Stove Project, which took them to Togo, Africa. In addition to installing 11 stoves, they toured local welding businesses and met with local community members and village elders. One of the students said the trip was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: "It's not everyday you can say you went to Africa." Hunt said students are in the process of building 10 more stoves. Dr. Kathy Fuchser, Columbus Campus president, thanked Dr. Chris Waddle, Hastings Campus president, and Dr. Nate Allen, dean of career and technical sciences, for their support in making this project a reality.

Hunt also is an advisor for the campus SkillsUSA mechatronics team of Joseph Fickenscher and William Grosch, who competed in and won at the National Skills and Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Whitney Hank, XR Lab coordinator, talked about the Extended Reality Lab and efforts to get more programs involved in using the lab. She talked about how the VR Molding Expert, Nano and Virtual Speech applications are helping students have expanding immersive learning experiences.

Dr. Fuchser gave kudos to agribusiness instructor Wade Hilker for his volunteer work of bringing new life to 16 plant containers for the City of Columbus. The city said he created something that people can enjoy every day.

REPORTS

Student Success Report

Fran Davis and Ankamma Reddy Kolli presented the following information from the 2024-25 enrollment report:

- The 2020 census listed Nebraska as having a population of 309,986. The estimated population in 2024 was 313,000, reflecting growth of 3,014 or 0.97%.
- CCC's enrollment of 21,416 includes 18,686 students from inside CCC's service area, 2,188 Nebraskans living outside the service area, and 331 out-of-state students.
- The 18,686 students living in CCC's service area reflect the college serving 10.69% of its target population.

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- The educational goals of the 10,166 credit students were career and technical award, 3,025; academic transfer, 1,352; course only (includes Early College), 5,262; and job skills/vocational, 527.
- The top five majors of credit students were: academic transfer, 1,352; business administration, accounting and logistics, 698; associate degree in nursing, 245; criminal justice, 217; and welding technology, 206.
- The Adult Education program had 2,510 ABE, ESL and GED students in 2024-25. The students came from 51 countries and spoke 48 languages other than English. Eighty-five students passed the tests to obtain their GED high school diploma.

Dr. Gotschall's Report

Dr. Gotschall reported the following:

- The Kearney Center was host of the Annual 6 Regions/One Nebraska meeting for the Central Region with approximately 50 community members from across our area represented. To date, the group assisted with creating new licensed childcare opening for at home childcare, implemented some housing studies and CCC, Edgerton, and other partners expanding a Trades on the Move project for K-12 youth to learn more about construction trades.
- Several CCC administrators participated in the Grand Island Public School Foundation annual fundraiser.
- CCC-Grand Island hosted the statewide Nebraska Transfer Initiative meetings with representatives from all of the Nebraska community and tribal colleges, state colleges and university. Good progress continues to be made on seeking to streamline courses for better transfer.
- CCC is part of a consortium of colleges and universities in Iowa and Nebraska as a finalist for a National Science Foundation grant. Representatives will be attending Iowa State for interviews prior to final selection by the federal government. This would help expand Central's iMec program for more schools across the Midwest.
- Will be attending the Aksarben annual fundraiser and recognition event as part of their new scholarship commitment and collaboration in expanding apprenticeships across Nebraska.
- CCC has been active in a new statewide initiative that the Governor announced on Oct. 14, highlighting over \$7 million in state dollars to promote apprenticeships in cooperation with the state chamber, Nebraska Manufacturing Council and all six Nebraska community colleges.
- Second meeting of faculty contract negotiations also occurred Oct. 14 and progressing as planned.
- Preliminary results from the State Board of Nursing visit in October were positive with over 90% of students recommending CCC's nursing program, and faculty surveys were also positive.

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- Hosted the President's Quality Action Council meeting, gaining support for the proposed revisions to the CCC mission, vision, values, major initiatives. These will be included in a college-wide survey to all employees soon.
- Participated in vacancy promotion and interview for new Board member – thank you Diane, Tom, Roger and Linda H for participating as the interview team.
- Participated in the CCC Foundation Board meeting and Hastings Retiree Brunch this week.

Reports from area vice presidents include:

- A RFP request was sent out in July looking at a potential new scholarship management platform. AwardSpring contract is set to expire in November 2026 so it was the right time to look to see if there was a better platform to utilize. A recommendation to change platforms is being brought forward based upon that review and RFP process.
- The Veterans Resource Center reports we have 159 total military-connected students this fall (after free add/drop) so we had a great recovery effort and we're above the 142 average for the term.
- SVAB testing on Grand Island Campus continues to provide services to both students and military prospects. Fifteen tests were given in September, bringing the total of tests given since June 1 to 69. Three prospects from the September number stated they want to start college as soon as they return from basic and advanced individual training and have said they will register with CCC.
- Since the start of fall semester, counseling services has completed 29 new intakes, five crisis visits, nine consultations, and 90 individual appointments.
- Disability services staff have completed 51 new intakes. Additionally, there have been six follow-up visits and five consultations. There are 644 Active Access Plans. There is marked increase of students with significant medical and mental health needs, which require increase outreach, research and collaboration to support effectively.
- Over 180 people participated in the October Diesel Day event to learn about the industry.
- One hundred registrations have been received for the CCC-GI Criminal Justice in Action in mid-October.
- CCC-Hastings is hosting an Industry Exploration Day in mid-October with over 60 registrations and 11 programs participating.
- In September, admissions staff attended 17 NACRAO college fairs. In October, they have five College Fairs planned. On Oct. 1, admissions hosted 320 students from Columbus Middle School.
- The Columbus Academic Success Center reported in September that it had 21 Skill Builder visits, 37 tutoring sessions, 14 writing coach sessions, and four supplemental instruction sessions.
- In Grand Island, the career and employment services office has had 12 new employers register for the online job board with 78 jobs approved for posting to our students and alumni.

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- Grand Island's Phi Theta Kappa honorary gained 26 new members and hosted a blood drive.
- The CCC-Hastings Food Pantry team placed a large back-to-school order. With Linda Wilttrout's help, a TRIVENT matching funds grant was secured for the Oct. 15–Nov. 15 Food Drive. The goal is to collect 500 items to receive a \$500 donation to the CCC Foundation.
- The Fifth Annual Winter Commencement will be held on Friday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. at the Columbus Campus. The Collegewide Commencement Team has planning underway.
- Shelly Steinkruger (DENT), Karen Smallwood (PHRM), Angie Eilts (MEDT) and Carol Hipke-Muske (MEDA) attended the UNK career fair on Sept. 24 in Kearney.
- CPR classes continue to be in very high demand within the community, averaging 10-15 classes per month. The Red Cloud Hub is back on the schedule for CPR this month as well. The MA class in October is full with a waitlist, and NA classes continue to be at capacity.
- The newly approved sublease in Red Cloud was signed with the Willa Cather Foundation vs Discover Red Cloud group since the Foundation handles the groups finances.
- Two groups considering subleasing space in the Holdrege Center are still on track for opening prior to Spring 2026 semester.

The following reports were also submitted for board review:

- Enrollment Report
- Grants Report
- Purchasing Report

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Aerni said there was no need for an executive session and requested a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY SMITH, SECONDED BY DAVIS to adjourn.

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Aerni declared the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.