

**CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 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](http://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>.

Chair Linda Heiden called the Jan. 22, 2026, meeting to order at 1 p.m., with nine board members present.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**POLICY ITEM**

Heiden announced the slate of officers for 2026. They are as follows:

- Linda Aerni, Chair
- Roger Davis, Vice Chair
- Jason Buss, Secretary
- Dann Smith, Treasurer

MOVED BY DAVIS, SECONDED BY SKILES to accept the slate of officers.

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

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Jason Buss and Rita Skiles were appointed as Nebraska Community College Association representatives and Jason Buss, Roger Davis, Trevor Lee and Dann Smith were appointed as Enrollment and Financial Audit Committee members for 2026.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Aerni asked college representatives to introduce guests and staff members.

**REVIEWING CLAIMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Jason Buss will review the claims prior to the Feb. 19, 2026, 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 Jan. 22, 2026.
2. Minutes of the Nov. 20, 2025, Board of Governors meeting.
3. Claims for the periods from Nov. 1 through Nov. 30, 2025, and from Dec. 1 through Dec. 31, 2025.
4. Financial reports as of Nov. 30, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2025.
5. Purchases: None
6. Personnel:

**Jerry Muller, Columbus:** The College President recommends that Jerry Muller be offered the position of mechatronics faculty on Columbus Campus, effective Jan. 1, 2026.

**Mirisa Hernandez, Kearney:** The College President recommends that Mirisa Hernandez be offered the position of nursing faculty in Kearney, effective Jan. 1, 2026.

**Jack Annen, Kearney:** The College President recommends that Jack Annen be offered the position of mechatronics faculty in Kearney, effective Jan. 20, 2026.

7. Honorary Award Policy as amended on Jan. 5, 2026.
8. Civil Rights Procedures as updated in December 2025.

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9. UNK License Agreement: The agreement is between the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and CCC for a nursing classroom in the University of Nebraska-Kearney's health sciences building.

10. Legal Support for Copyright Review.

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

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

**PARNERSHIP/OWNERSHIP**

**Arts, Science and Business Report**

Associate deans Todd Heier and Kyle Sterner presented the following:

- The division's staff support, faculty experience, curriculum instruction assessment, and physical and virtual resources.
- Highlights including faculty attending and presenting at conferences, 23 fine arts performances, 67 admissions and recruiting events, three grants received, expansion of eight-week course offerings, revision of the business program, increasing live video options for early childhood education, and relocation of the Hastings library.
- In 2024-2025, the awarding of 300 degrees, 176 diplomas and 358 certificates. This amounted to 63% of the college's FTE, 42% of its degrees and 28% of its awards.

Theater instructor Stephanie Tschetter highlighted the following:

- Shakespeare in the Park, a public performance at Frankfort Square in downtown Columbus. CCC partnered with Paws and Claws to feature adoptable dogs during the event, collaborated with downtown businesses, hosted three local food trucks, and participated in Trunk or Treat, drawing more than 2,000 attendees.
- Junie B. Jones the Musical, a touring production presented at area elementary schools. About 300 students attended the play at Columbus' five public elementary schools. Schuyler Elementary School hosted two performances that reached about 700 students.

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- Charlie Brown Christmas, which was an immersive audience experience that included pre-show activities. The show itself featured a combined band and choir concert with a staged Charlie Brown Christmas performance.
- Gage County NE, which is a documentary theater production based on the wrongful conviction of The Beatrice Six that was featured on HBO's Mind Over Murder. The CCC production will feature nine actors and a raked stage design in the shape of Nebraska.

**DISCUSSION OF CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS**

**2026-2030 Strategic Mission, Vision, Values and Major Initiatives**

The College President recommends approval of CCC's strategic mission, vision, values and major initiatives for 2026-2030.

MOVED BY SKILES, SECONDED BY DAVIS to approve the 2026-2030 strategic mission, vision, values and major initiatives.

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

**Energy Technology Program Teach Out**

The College President recommends approval of the teach out of the energy technology program in compliance with the Higher Learning Commission's expectations for accredited institutions.

MOVED BY DAVIS, SECONDED BY SMITH to approve the energy technology program teach out.

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

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**REPORTS**

**Dr. Gotschall's Report**

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Dr. Gotschall gave updates that covered 2025 successes, Nebraska graduation trends, CCC graduate outcomes, student and employee surveys and other topics. He also reported the following:

- Participated in peer review meetings and a site visit of a Kansas college for the Higher Learning Commission.
- Visited the Ord Center, multiple visits, including a job fair, to Lexington following Tyson closing announcement and Holdrege due to relocation efforts.
- Amy Hill, Kelly Christensen and I participate in biweekly phone calls regarding Lexington response and support coordinated by Nebraska Department of Labor and other state agencies.
- Met with State Board of Nursing representatives.
- Participated in new National Science Foundation Business Leadership Team meeting in Columbus with about a dozen area manufacturers to plan projects and initiate iMec training in their plants.
- Attended fundraiser and follow-up meetings with Edgerton Explorit Center and Trades on the Move initiative for the 6 Regions/One Nebraska group.
- Hosted Governor Pillen at CCC-Grand Island in new welding building for his State of the State media tour across Nebraska.
- Attended Aksarben event in Ashland regarding study on economic development opportunities.
- Attended several meetings regarding new micro-credential in advanced manufacturing funded by a statewide \$7 million Nebraska Department of Labor investment.
- On-going faculty negotiations meetings.
- Attended event at University President Dr. Gold's residence regarding statewide P-20 education coordination and representatives from state legislature's Education Committee.
- Participated in winter commencement with over 355 diploma/degree recipients invited as well as 40 GED graduates.
- Attended meeting with JBS-GI regarding possible training opportunities.
- Attended Hastings Campus and area office employee service awards.
- Attended some federal workforce Pell implementation webinars.
- Participated in a CCC-Grand Island residence hall progress meeting as well as other area capital projects and opportunities.
- Conducted college-wide presentation regarding the state of the college and welcome back for the new year. A copy of the PowerPoint is available under President's report.
- Met with Peter Kiewit Foundation regarding current and potential future projects, attended Scott Foundation meeting regarding Higher Education efforts.
- Met with several state legislators during first week of session and attended BioNebraska legislative event in Lincoln.
- Attended Heartland United Way Nominating Committee meeting to discuss new board members and UW leadership.
- Participated in an American Association of Community College focus group.
- Attended athletic basketball competitions in Columbus.
- Participated in early part of All College Faculty Senate meeting.

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Reports from area vice presidents include:

- Press release from the University of Nebraska-Kearney was released to area media regarding new 2+2 Transfer Pathways to UNK for elementary education, SPED, early childhood education and middle grades education.
- Spring enrollment so far is up with a few days of free drop/add remaining. Official media numbers should be released next week.
- We are full-staffed in nursing faculty positions for the first time in several semesters. Faculty and students began meeting at the new UNK/UNMC Rural Health Building on Jan. 13, a new agreement has been negotiated and CCC will cover cost of student and faculty parking as needed.
- Jan. 31- Feb. 6, 2026, are the dates for nursing applications for the 2026-27 academic year. The new process is a lottery system. Students will have the entire week to submit items then complete applications will be picked randomly.
- Callie Bridges, occupational therapy assistant program director, is meeting with the College of Saint Mary for a combined case study activity with their OT students and our OTA students to meet some accreditation standards.
- We completed an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) instructor course in December. Many of the new instructors will be assigned to a mentor instructor to work with this spring during EMT courses. This will increase our instructor pool for EMS courses throughout the CCC area starting in summer 2026.
- The dental hygiene program provided preventive care for 200 children at two elementary schools in Columbus on Dec. 10.
- Faculty continue to add AI (artificial intelligence) into their courses, including AI podcasts in psychology.
- CCC is participating in a Computer Science Futures grant, which is focused on building computer science and computer science education pathways. All six community colleges and all three Nebraska University campuses are participating in the state-wide project.
- Taylor Brase, early childhood director, and Dr. Amy Mancini, dean of arts, science and business, presented at the Nebraska School Board Association on "On Ramps to Teacher Education" which highlighted the para certificate and the human relations training.
- The General Education Committee began analyzing the offerings at other community colleges in Nebraska. The committee looked at the gen ed groups, number of credits required per group, and the courses in each group. In January, the work will continue when the committee reviews the same information from four-year public colleges in Nebraska.
- Adult Education staff have helped with coverage at job fairs in Lexington. Class attendance was down significantly in December, but interest in January classes is still strong. We have delayed enrollment in Lexington so we can see the impact of the closure before classes start and can successfully serve as many as possible while still meeting grant requirements.
- Team GPA for fall 2025 for CCC athletic teams were: men's basketball, 3.01; women's basketball, 3.39; men's golf, 2.83; men's soccer, 3.40; women's soccer, 3.15; women's softball, 3.81; women's volleyball, 3.80; coed esports, 2.60; and coed shotgun sports, 3.36.

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- CCC Entrepreneurship received \$10,000 from the national entrepreneurship organization NACCE to assist with Big Idea competitions. Presentations have occurred at various high schools including Grand Island Northwest, Grand Island Public, Kearney Catholic and Ord. Looking at opportunities to support Lexington businesses or individuals considering starting own business following layoffs.
- Fine arts faculty attended the Nebraska Music Educator Association and Nebraska State Activities Association state one-act competitions with booths representing CCC programs. Over 540 people attended the successful Charlie Brown Christmas two-day event on the Columbus Campus.
- Associate Dean Brian Hoffman attended the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Metallica – All Within My Hands Foundation annual meeting Nov. 5-6 at the College of Southern Nevada. The criminal justice (CRIM) program is in the fifth year of funding from the foundation to support scholarships for CRIM students.
- Dr. Nate Allen, dean of career and technical science, attended the SkillsUSA state leadership conference and competition planning meeting on November 12 for the state conference and competitions held annually in Grand Island in April. Planning is in full swing with identifying contest coordinators and planning for each competition.
- Students and faculty in auto body technology (AUTB) were presented with a \$20,000 check to support the new Automotive Training Center building project from the Nebraska Rod and Customs Association (NRCA).
- The Media Arts (MART) faculty and administration hosted UNO faculty and administration on December 4. Program tours, discussion of 2+2 options for students, and discussion of the two programs were held.
- The heavy equipment operator (HEOT) program students, faculty and staff, Alison Feeney and Dr. Cheri Beda attended the Nebraska Land Improvement Contractors' Association (LICA) conference in Lincoln on Jan. 15. LICA continues to provide each HEOT student with a \$500 scholarship. The scholarships were presented at the conference.
- The hospitality management and culinary arts faculty and staff will host the State High School ProStart culinary competition on Feb. 18 on the Hastings Campus. New competitions have been added this year and over 50 high school students will participate. CCC will be the host for the next three years.
- The CCC-Columbus farm ground lease was awarded to REDSTAR LLC. They offered their support to provide more opportunities for agriculture students to gain more hands-on learning through various test plots. Students will be able to engage in all phases of field crop production.
- Mechatronics instructors Brent Konwinski and Allen Stenzel attended the Automation Fair in Chicago.
- Agriculture instructor Jeff Buescher and AGRI students attended the Holdrege Regenerative Ag Conference.
- Advanced manufacturing design technology and drafting and design technology faculty and administration are engaged in a project with Mentor Connect to explore an ATE grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Troy Davis, Amy Stuart, Alison Feeney and Joe Black are teaming together on this project.

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- The 2026-27 scholarship applications look very promising with 1,317 scholarship applications started as of January 11. Of those, 628 have been completed. At the same time last year, CCC had roughly 200 completed scholarship applications.
- For the new year and new term, 132 military-connected students are registered. Nine are new students, 123 are returning. Twelve of the returning students were recovered from 2024 or previous years thanks to the teams' outreach. Of the 132 students, 70 are veterans or service members and 62 are family members. The average course load is 10 credits per student. The oldest student is 70, eight are over 50 and the youngest is 18.
- CCC Director Luz M. Colon-Rodriguez was named director of the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) Central Site. BHECN was created by the Nebraska Legislature in 2009 and is housed at UNMC.
- The CCC-Columbus Academic Success Center had 456 students sign into the ASC for the fall semester: 33 for computer use, 106 for independent study, 81 for skill builder, 26 for study break, 24 for supplemental instruction, 112 for tutoring and 74 for the writing coach.
- The Hastings career and employment services office collaborated with 10 local businesses to set up CCC job board accounts, discuss internship opportunities, and explore sponsorships. These businesses included Olsson Engineering, Professional Agronomy Services, Kingery Construction, Cozad Services, Rafter Custom Holmes, and others.

The following reports were also submitted for board review:

- Enrollment Report
- Grants Report
- Purchasing Report

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Aerni requested an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues after a short break at 2:22 p.m.

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

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Aerni reconvened the regular session of the Board of Governors meeting at 2:55 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY SKILES, SECONDED BY HEIDEN to adjourn.

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Aerni – aye

Broekemier – aye

Buss – aye

Davis – aye

Heiden – aye

Keller – aye

Lee – aye

Pirnie – absent

Skiles – aye

Smith – aye

Werner – absent

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Aerni declared the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.