

President's Report – November 20, 2025

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Attended Aksarben Ball as guest of Aksarben for our work with scholarship programming and planned apprenticeship expansion across the state.
- Attended the annual fundraiser for the Grand Island School Foundation and the Legacy dinner of the Greater Grand Island Community Foundation where the Hornady family was honored.
- Participated in multiple CCC Foundation strategic planning meetings as well as a two-day retreat.
- Participated in multiple 6 Regions/1 Nebraska meetings related to Trades on the Move, Childcare and Housing.
- Attended legislative hearing on LR261 looking at unfunded tuition waiver mandates from the state for various student groups attending higher ed. Also was invited and participated on a panel with Sen. Ibach in Lexington regarding workforce development. Attended meeting with Sen. Lippincott.
- Attended Platte Institute Annual Meeting in Lincoln regarding legislative updates and priorities.
- Hosted President' Quality Action Council and led employee open forums in Grand Island/Area Office, Hastings and Kearney/Centers.
- Attended men's soccer and women's volleyball competitions.
- Attended the Grand Island, Hastings and Columbus retiree events.
- Hosted meetings regarding training opportunities for JBS and the new Gothenburg Fertilizer plant.
- Participated in HLC peer review training and will be participating in a mid-cycle review of another College in early December.
- Completed annual safety training and new NSF compliance online training.
- Held a board orientation for Trevor Lee. Toured Holdrege facility/remodel.
- Attend Governor Pillen's tailgate event and the two days of the NCCA annual meeting.
- Attended meeting with the Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation regarding current and potential new programming.
- Participated in a special meeting for Presidents by the Higher Learning Commission and was interviewed as part of Nebraska's new P-20 study.
- Participated in planning meeting for the Postsecondary International Network (PIN) of which I continue to serve as treasurer with CCC Foundation holding both checking and savings accounts.
- Central Community College has been named to The Princeton Review's Guide to Green Schools list for 2026. Based on real student feedback, this list celebrates the schools that go above and beyond to show their commitment to sustainability
- In mid-October, I was recognized as one of two 2025 Impact Award winners of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Educational Administration Department due to impact in higher education. Nice ceremony with family in attendance.
- Survived youngest daughter's wedding in Austin, Texas – YEAH!

Reports from area vice presidents include:

- Completed 2+2 Transfer Pathways to UNK for elementary education, SPED, early childhood education, and middle grades education. Finalized agreement should be approved in November.
- Science faculty have begun collaborating on online and hybrid classes that have traditionally only been offered in person. Work is in progress on online and hybrid A&P I and II and hybrid Principles of Biology I and II.
- Met with representatives from the Nebraska National Guard regarding coursework for recruits including personal health and body conditioning. We also discussed improving the credit for prior learning process for service members to maximize their credits at CCC.

- Plans have begun for the annual Early Childhood Conference held in Grand Island each February. Last year, we had record attendance and are hoping to expand that this year.
- On October 5, 19 students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society. The ceremony in Grand Island was attended by 106 people.
- The CCC Shotgun Sports team shot at the ICCAC Conference Championship in October, competing across multiple disciplines over three days. The awards included trap, fifth place out of 11 teams; doubles trap, fourth place; skeet, third place; super sporting: fourth place; doubles skeet: third place; and sporting clays, third place Kallista Joy, Logyn Jarman, Austin Holtzen and Nick Brodsky earned ICCAC All-Region honors. The team concluded the season on a high note at the Bobcat Invite, capturing second place in sporting clays and first place in trap within the Two-Year College Division. Bryce Schuster etched his name in program history by posting the Raiders' first-ever perfect 100 straight in trap competition.
- Men's soccer had a tremendous October and is waiting to see if they are selected for an at-large bid to the national tournament in Wichita. They played the fifth-toughest schedule according to the Massey ratings and were in the most competitive region in 2025. Out of the 10 teams in our region, six were ranked in the national top 20, making it one of the most competitive regions in the country. The last seven games of the season were against NJCAA D2 Top 20 Opponents (5-1-1 record). Out of those seven games, six were against opponents in the Top 10 at some point in the rankings (4-1-1 record).
- The Grand Island Entrepreneurship Center hosted the Big Idea contest in early November with great turnout. The center also started and taught the trades cohort classes on Thursday evenings. This is in partnership with GIAEDC as we are using LB840 dollars to give out \$3,000 at the end of the cohort. There are 14 businesses attending with two CCC students that are HVAC and will be starting their own companies once they have graduated.
- The Hastings entrepreneurship director is continuing the “Sink or Swim” podcast. The last three interviews were with the Perrys, Joy Ride Pedal Company; Mikaela Krueger, Optika; and Jeb Brant, Shelter Insurance. He also started a second podcast series with Randy Chick of the Hastings CRA titled “Downtown Revitalization” on Spotify.
- Big Idea Buffalo County was a huge success for year one. We had over 175 attendees and received a lot of positive feedback. It was a Big Idea like Kearney has not seen and we look forward to growing the event. The winner was Ana with Gunnar’s Place, a daycare that will focus on providing care for children with disabilities or medical needs. Second place went to Alex with Renegade Removal, which focuses on dog waste removal but is expanding to indoor pets; and third place went to Kara with Social Cart, a rentable cart with different set up options for cold/warm food.
- Ord Entrepreneurship is working with the CCC culinary department to explore dual-credit and/or accreditation classes in Ord to start a workforce pipeline of restaurant employees in the Valley County region. An instructor who is willing to assist has been identified. Planning an Ord site visit in November to view potential teaching space.
- Successful productions of CCC theater, concert and band events occurred in November with a holiday concert planned for December.
- Amy Santos (PARM), Angie Eilts (MEDT), Shelly Steinkruger (DENT), Michel McKinney (MEDA), and Kerri Dey (PHRM) attended the Cambridge career fair on Oct. 8. Shawna Stump (HIMS), Angie Eilts (MEDT), Carol Hipke-Muske and Michel McKinney (MEDA), Kerri Dey (PHRM), and Shelly Steinkruger (DENT) attended the Career Exploration Fair in Kearney on Oct. 15. They were able to talk to many potential students.
- MEDT’s hematology classes, taught by Janet Rasmussen, have been participating in the Cell Bowl 2025 sponsored by The Lab Lady Gill, a professor from the College of Southern Maryland. This competition is six weeks in length, has regionals, playoffs, and second-chance events. The players are student groups from medical lab programs across the country who are quizzed on identifying cells from the body, including white blood cells, red blood cells, etc. As of Oct. 27, the Central Community College MLT Raiders are in the JV Second Chance Playoffs event. This is the second year in a row our students have stayed in the event and made it to junior varsity.

- The HIMS program faculty is working on the new standards for CAHIIM accreditation. The first phase of the standards is due in spring 2026.
- The CCC paramedicine faculty had an all-EMS instructor training development day on Nov. 8 in Grand Island. In addition to simulations, they trained on the new manikins that were purchased through the Perkins grant, which include one adult male, one adult female, one child, one infant and one simulate cardiac monitor to each campus for EMT training.
- Dr. Wanda Cloet, dental hygiene program director, was presented with the ADHA Educator of the Year on Oct. 4 in Long Beach, Calif.
- The CCC nursing is preparing for the annual admission week, which is slated for seven days in late January. Due to concerns over the years of having students submit criteria paperwork to obtain the first seat, this year we will pilot a lottery system. There will be an increase of 10 students admitted to the Kearney Center for a total of 40 students which matches the number of students admitted in Grand Island. Columbus will attempt to sit 20 students depending on the number of qualified candidates.
- CCC was contacted by the city administrator in Superior about a location for an education hub and more research will be done to study the possibility.
- The Holdrege Center hosted the Regenerative Agriculture Conference on Nov. 11 with close to 100 in attendance.
- Dr. Crystal Ramm and CCC are partnering with the City of Ord to maintain and expand the existing pollinator garden. Some fundraising will be needed to purchase more seeds and plant materials.
- Corey Hatt reported that he attended the NATM (state math conference) session on Oct. 3 and the NETA fall conference session on Nov. 3 and provided the NMRP Greater Nebraska Monthly Debrief on Sept. 25.
- On Sept. 30, Dan Gettinger led a CCC group meeting with Gothenburg High School about expanded programing including iMec, education, para and early childhood education. Cozad High School is interested in expanding Early College programs with more follow up planned. Dan also hosted a table at the Gothenburg Chamber after hours to share information.
- Planning and progress has been made with the relocation of the Holdrege Center with work underway to finalize construction. Preparation for data and A/V has been discussed along with furniture needs both in terms of items on order and what needs to be moved.
- The iMec program reported offering 13 sections with 218 students taking the courses in 21 high schools. CCC also presented a session at the National Science Foundation conference in Washington D.C. this past month.
- With the government shutdown, the Federal Register with the 2026-27 verification requirements hasn't been released. This is needed to create/update the required documents for verification. Typically, we allow around a month for students to complete verification before starting to award for the next academic year. This gives students the opportunity to submit the required documents and still be in the first awarding round. With the delay, we will wait until after December to start awarding the 2026/-7 academic year. This will hopefully give us time to make any changes that we might need to make due to the RISE committee reaching an agreement and the uncertainty of FSEOG and FWS funding for 2026-27.
- The Reimagining and Improving Student Education (RISE) Committee, which is focused on changes to federal loans advanced by the 1 Big Beautiful Bill Act, has reached an agreement. A couple of pertinent items within this act will affect our student population. The first is that we will be required to prorate loans based upon enrollment intensity. This means that a less-than-full-time student will not be eligible for the full loan amount. The full impact of how we will need to implement this has not been released but will go into effect July 1, 2026. The other item will be the ability to limit loan borrowing based on student cohorts. In prior years, we have not been able to decline a student on a federal loan. If they had eligibility, we had to allow them to borrow. With the new guidance, we will be given flexibility to limit borrowing. We are working with IR on data gathering to potentially propose procedures related to how we may approach limiting loan borrowing.

- The financial aid department hosted sessions at Grand Island Northwest and Lexington high schools on how to apply for financial aid. So far, those sessions have increased applications four-fold from last year.
- Since the beginning of fall classes, counseling services has completed 30 new intakes, 13 crisis visits, 24 consultations, and 177 individual appointments.
- Academic Success Center director Angie Araya attended the International College Learning Center Association Conference Oct. 20-24. The focus of the conference was on artificial intelligence and how to utilize it within college learning centers.
- CCC disability services reports 665 active access plans with students.
- Six students and two advisors attended the 47th Annual National Leadership Conference on Student Government held at the end of October in Kansas City, Mo.
- While not all will attend, a total of 355 diploma and/or degree students have been invited to participate in winter commencement. Forty individuals who have earned a GED have been invited to attend the ceremony. The Fifth Annual Collegewide Winter Commencement Ceremony will be Dec. 12 at CCC-Columbus.