

**CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Board of Governors' Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 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 Hall Student Union, Cottonwood Room, at Central Community College-Hastings, 550 S. Technical Blvd., Hastings, Nebraska.

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

Chair Linda Aerni called the March 19, 2026, meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., with 11 board members present.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Aerni asked college representatives to introduce guests and staff members.

**REVIEWING CLAIMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Linda Heiden will review the claims prior to the April 16, 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 March 19, 2026.
2. Minutes of the Feb. 19, 2025, Board of Governors meeting.
3. Claims for the period from Feb. 1 through Feb. 28, 2026.
4. Financial reports as of Feb. 28, 2026.

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5. Purchases:

**Stand-Alone Diesel Engine, Hastings:** The College President recommends purchasing the engine from Cummins of Omaha for \$49,804.96.

**Irrigation Pivot, Hastings:** The College President recommends accepting the offer to purchase the pivot from S & P in the sum of \$105,318.56 as a replacement for the Hastings Campus.

6. Personnel:

**Carlos (Charlie) Simmons, Grand Island:** The College President recommends that Carlos (Charlie) Simmons be offered the position of Electrical Technology Faculty in Grand Island, effective March 23, 2026.

7. 2027-29 Instructional Calendar.

8. Security Services Bid (tabled for a future meeting).

9. Athletics Expansion.

MOVED BY DAVIS, 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 – aye
Buss – aye	Skiles – aye
Davis – aye	Smith – aye
Heiden – aye	Werner – aye
Keller – aye	

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

**PARNERSHIP/OWNERSHIP**

**Hastings Campus Report**

Campus President Dr. Christopher Waddle recognized Kylie Merchant, a graphic design student from Bradshaw, who designed the latest Hastings Campus annual report.

Sarah Kort, CCC dean of health sciences, and Nikki Hamer, Head Start administrative specialist, gave an overview of the partnership that provides dental care to vulnerable kids. CCC dental hygiene students go to Head Start facilities to provide on-site dental assessments and education and, when needed, referral to a dentist. Since 2009, 1,500 kids have been served through the partnership who might not otherwise have received dental care.

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Nate Allen, dean of career and technical sciences, gave highlights on CCC's long involvement with SkillsUSA. The organization has student members and advisors on all three campuses, who participated and did well in multiple individual and team events at the 2025 state competition. The seven students who won a gold medal advanced to the national competition in Atlanta, Ga.

**Foundation Report**

Executive Director Traci Skalberg shared the following highlights:

- Naming rights have been secured for Automotive Careers Training Center.
- A strategic planning plan was adopted on Feb. 19.
- The CCC Foundation board has reviewed the mission and vision statements. Mission: Partnering with donors to invest in students' dreams and community success. Vision: A future where communities thrive because everyone has the opportunity to build a better life through education.
- Objectives are to expand philanthropic resources, strengthen the internal infrastructure, elevate awareness of the foundation and the college, and optimize program impact.
- Projects in the works include the Columbus Raider Fieldhouse, Grand Island Residence Hall and Ord Pollinator Garden Expansion Project
- Upcoming events include the ribbon-cutting celebration for the Holdrege Center on March 24 and the CCC Foundation Golf Tournament on Sept. 14 at the Riverside Golf Club in Grand Island.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Aerni said there was no need for an executive session.

**DISCUSSION OF CONSENT/ACTION ITEMS**

**Tuition, Fees, Food and Housing Rates**

For 2026-27, tuition will increase from \$99 to \$102 per credit hour. Fees will remain the same at \$16 per credit hour. Housing will increase by 3% with a single occupancy rate of \$3,502 per semester and double or triple occupancy rate of \$1,751 per occupant per semester. Food will increase for the 200-meal plan from \$1,909 to \$1,991 and the 300-meal plan from \$2,241 to \$2,338 per semester. Tuition for Early College ranges from \$0 to \$102, depending on the high school's ability to cover instructional costs. All Early College students will pay the general fees at \$16 per credit hour. The fee for Raider Ready is \$24.50 per credit hour.

MOVED BY SKILES, SECONDED BY DAVIS to approve the tuition, fees, food and housing rates for 2026-27.

Aerni – aye

Lee – aye

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

**Employee Wages and Benefits**

Tabled for a future meeting.

**Automotive Center Naming Rights**

The naming rights recommended for approval represent gifts ranging from \$20,000 to \$500,000 and recognize donors who chose to name a space within the facility.

MOVED BY SMITH, SECONDED BY BUSS to approve the naming rights for the Automotive Careers Training Center as presented by the CCC Foundation.

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

**REPORTS**

**Student Success Report**

Dr. Walton shared the following results from the 2025 Employer Survey:

- Employers rated 19 professional skills (general education outcomes) and technical skills (different for each program).
- Those who hired CCC graduates in the last two years rated them as advanced, 18%; proficient, 51%; progressing, 24%; and beginning, 7%.
- Those who haven't hired a CCC graduate in the last two years rated general skill sets as very important, 55%; important, 36%; somewhat important, 8%; and not important, 1%. These responses indicate CCC is on target training graduates in the skills needed by employers.

**Dr. Gotschall's Report**

Dr. Gotschall reported the following:

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- Participated in residence hall CMR interviews regarding Grand Island residence hall progress. (postponed due to 8 bidders so finalist interviews to be held in April).
- Attended the Holdrege Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner.
- Participated in the CCC Foundation quarterly meeting and Kearney donor visit, as well as board nominating committee meeting.
- Attended Association for Innovation & Transformation (AFIT) national conference and learned about quantum computing, exponential organizations and use of AI agents in higher education.
- Attended NBDC press conference and award ceremony at the state capitol with entrepreneurship department.
- Participated in new Workforce Pell meeting with Midwest Higher Education Consortium and with the state of Nebraska task force.
- Participated in welding ribbon-cutting event attended by the governor and local, state and international leaders. Following the ribbon-cutting event, I gave Nebraska Department of Labor Commissioner Katie Thurber a tour of the Grand Island Campus including the area Health Career Fair.
- Held Open Forum at CCC-Hastings and met with various faculty and staff on campus.
- Regular communications with presidential peers and NCCA regarding legislative changes.
- Participated in weekly meeting regarding Lexington response and training/support given.
- Reviewed and scored over 45 scholarship applications for new and returning CCC students as part of areawide effort to review applications between March 1 due date and goal of awards by mid-March.
- Will be attending the Higher Learning Commission annual meeting next week and renewed my appointment to the HLC peer review corp.
- Hosted administrative budget planning meeting for 2026-27 fiscal year.
- Participated in AACC's Small & Rural College Commission.
- Participated as member of Greater Nebraska Workforce Board meeting in Columbus.
- Attended dinner with CCC theater department with guest artist, playwright Cecilia Rubino.
- Signed off on letter of support with the University of Nebraska-Kearney regarding rural health care educational opportunities for possible US Senate appropriation.

Reports from area vice presidents include:

- Occupational therapy assistant self-study report for accreditation has been completed, reviewed and submitted. Additionally, OTA students completed ergonomics assessments on the Grand Island campus and the community practice course students will do some work at Mid-Nebraska Individual Services in Kearney, working with individuals on life skills training and activities. The program is working on a new sensory space at the Kearney Children's Museum and accepting youth for Getting It Write Camp, a summer fieldwork and a sensory motor camp.
- Four new EMS Instructors have been completely credentialed for EMR and EMT courses.
- Initiated development of a video podcast series for human services instructors to enhance student communication and connection in the online learning environment. The project is

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designed to serve a dual purpose: supplemental content for current students and a recruitment tool for prospective students

- Health sciences is working on a partnership with Sandy Creek School to implement a phlebotomy class in the fall with a potential phlebotomy certificate program the following year.
- Grand Island's Walnut Middle School visited the CCC campus on February 2, bringing more than 230 eighth-grade students. MEDA, MEDT, and PHRM were among the stops. They spent nine minutes at each rotation hearing about the programs. Additionally, in February, NA/MA, OTHA, PHRM, MEDT, MEDA and PARM/EMS participated in the GISH Junior Exploration Day. This was a great opportunity to showcase CCC programs to the high school by providing information along with hands-on activities. Approximately 160 students attended.
- Numerous programs attended Lexington High School for the Dawson County Career Fair.
- There were over 154 applicants for this year's nursing admission event. Staff have been going through the applications to determine if each applicant meets criteria and to establish cohort lists.
- The Holdrege Center successfully made the move to its new location in downtown Holdrege. A ribbon-cutting is scheduled for March 24 at 1p.m.
- This summer, CCC has 17 workshops scheduled to support Early College. That is a jump from last year's 13, and many of the sessions will feature new divisions, subjects and faculty participation.
- KAAPA Ethanol signed a \$62,000 industrial training contract on December 10, 2025, for nine industrial training workshops to be completed by March 13, 2026.
- The advanced manufacturing/machine tool training team hosted a business meeting on January 23 to present the new training series and new CNC mill and CNC lathe. Nineteen business leaders from 10 businesses attended the luncheon meeting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At least two students signed up for training after the meeting.
- A CCC second-language student enrolled in the injection molding training program was featured in an interview session conducted by Telemundo Nebraska.
- CCC-Kearney is hosting four Saturday labs for phlebotomy training beginning in mid-March.
- iMec summer workshops are planned for four summer professional development workshops beginning on June 9 and ending on July 1. Sixty-four professional development registrations have already been submitted, and up to 80 registrations are expected.
- A seven-week industrial training workshop series was offered in Lexington beginning on March 2. This sequence is offered to both GAP-eligible and publicly available participants. Commercial construction course is also to start mid-March with 10 preregistered students.
- Numerous CCC faculty and staff will be recognized at the League for Innovation in Community College national conference in mid-March.
- CCC-Holdrege has been selected as one of nine qualifying locations for the State Fair Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament. The top three teams from each location will go to the State Fair.
- Osceola High School, in partnership with Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Hospital and CCC, completed its first certified nursing assistant Course offered onsite at the high school during the fall semester.

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- The Albion Hub held a scones class that was well received with 27 attendees. The local brewery, Highway 14, has an open space they rent to people for gatherings and meetings. Because of the number of people attending, they allowed CCC to use the room for free.
- A STEM Boot Camp will be offered in partnership with the Omaha Archdiocese from June 1 through June 18. The camp open to Columbus Scotus Central Catholic students entering 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Valerie Bren held leadership training in Red Cloud in January with 10 students.
- There are 11 CCC students in the UNK residence halls this semester and there were 15 students during the fall semester.
- Amy Hill and Dr. Kelly Christensen met with Gov. Pillen in Lexington to continue working toward serving those impacted by the closure of Tyson in Lexington.
- CCC will start teaching the new science for the American Heart Association on March 1. CPR instructors must have their skills updated by February 1. To date, we have updated 57 of the 70 CPR instructors in the Columbus service area.
- CCC reached an all-time high in Early College enrollment, with 5,382 students, 548 FTE and more than 16,000 credits. It is an accomplishment to have so many high school students start at CCC.
- CCC continues to be a leader in Nebraska Math Readiness activities across the area and in partnership with statewide partners and at least three more schools interested in starting.
- BIOS 1500 will be offered in the fall through hybrid scheduling. Dr. Mendadala will lecture via live video, and in-person labs will be available in Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings and Kearney. Four biology instructors are collaborating to offer the same labs to all students regardless of location.
- An early childhood conference was held February 7 in Grand Island. It was very successful with over 150 attendees. Due to demand and limited space, plans are being made to offer two conferences next year in separate locations to serve a greater portion of the service area.
- A new process has been implemented to better track Level 6 GED students and keep them progressing through each test in a timely manner. It has only been a few weeks, but there has been improvement.
- Women's basketball player Lexi Fiscus was honored for the fifth time as ICCAC Player of the Week and was named NJCAA player of the week. She broke CCC's single-game scoring record (44 points), surpassed 1,000 career points and became the school's new career scoring leader this season. She was selected ICCAC First Team for basketball
- Shotgun sports will be competing at the ACUI Nationals in San Antonio the week of March 16.
- Kickin' with the Raiders will be held April 11 in Lexington. The soccer teams will put on a camp for grades 2-6. Lexington and CHS will play soccer at Raider Field in Columbus on March 19.
- The CCC Entrepreneurship Center and its directors will be recognized March 12 as the Nebraska Business Development Center 2025 Business Award winner. NBDC and its home institution UNO are committed to empowering entrepreneurs with the resources and support they need to succeed. Congratulations to Aimee Steinhardt-Duysen, Stephanie Berry, Scott

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Snell, Katie Walmsley and Lisa Windedahl for their continued work with entrepreneurs across the CCC area and for their collaborative relationship formed with NBDC.

- 2026-27 Scholarships: Phase 1 scholarships closed on March 1. The college received 1,163 completed applications. This was an increase of 86 applications from a year ago. They are currently in the review process. CCC offered 154 Transition Advantage scholarships totaling \$188,496 to students who are on target to complete 12 CCC Early College credits by their high school graduation. The college also offered 75 Committed to Your Success scholarships totaling \$38,500 to students nominated from the 25-county area high schools.
- The scheduled Office of Civil Rights review for the Columbus Campus was successfully completed on February 11. This state review includes facilities, practices and interviews with students and staff to ensure compliance with federal and state laws. Each campus will be reviewed about every 10 years.
- College Central Network, the college's area-wide online job board, has already helped connect current students and CCC alumni with 426 job opportunities in 2026, representing a 27.2% increase from this time last year. CCC-Grand Island had 58 employers come to the Nursing and Health Career Fair on March 4.

The following reports were also submitted for board review:

- Enrollment Report
- Grants Report
- Purchasing Report

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY LEE, SECONDED BY HEIDEN to adjourn.

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

UNANIMOUS “AYE” VOTE – MOTION CARRIED

Aerni declared the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.