

President's Report, January 22, 2026

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- 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.

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 January 13, a new agreement has been negotiated and CCC will cover cost of student and faculty parking as needed.
- January 31- February 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 December 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.
- 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 November 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 January 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 February 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.
- 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.