

President's Report February 19, 2026

CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Matt Gotschall

- Hosted the quarterly President's Quality Action Council meeting with representatives from all campuses, employee groups and students. Shared updates on spring initiatives and updates on the board approval of the CCC mission, vision, values and major initiatives.
- Attended the American Association of Community Colleges' Workforce Development Institute in New Orleans, La., with over 900 attendees and interacted with major community college corporate donors like Metallica, Microsoft, Lowes, Snap On and Festo. Included sessions on dual credit, Workforce Pell and community college baccalaureates to address ongoing workforce development needs.
- Several community college president's meetings regarding legislative issues including visiting area senators, submitting appropriations testimony and presenting oral testimony opposing LB 1247, and prioritizing issues for engagement.
- Participated in Lexington Response updates hosted by Nebraska Department of Labor.
- Continued with faculty negotiation discussions with administrative team and attorney.
- Participated in discussions regarding expanded programming opportunities in Columbus, Kearney and Ord. Participated in CCC athletics planning meetings.
- Attended American Association of Community College Trustees meetings in Washington, D.C., with representatives from each of the six Nebraska community colleges and Courtney Wittstruck. In addition to ACCT sessions regarding national legislative priorities and Workforce Pell, met with Sens. Deb Fischer and Pete Ricketts and Reps. Mike Flood and Adrian Smith. Attended Nebraska Breakfast that included all of the above and Rep. Don Bacon.
- Presented welcome and interacted with faculty groups as part of the annual Data Day on Assessment of Student Learning.
- Participated in planning meeting regarding Grand Island residence hall progress.
- Participated in CCC Foundation board meeting.

Reports from area vice presidents include:

- Spring 2026 military-connected enrollment is strong, with 142 students — slightly below the usual 152 average but boosted by the recovery of 16 students from earlier terms. Of the current students, 81 are veterans or service members and 61 are family members.
- For the 2026-27 academic year, we are seeing some increase in numbers between scholarship applications and ISIRs. For ISIRs (federal financial aid), we have started importing and processing, and we are up roughly 500 ISIRs from this time last year. For CCC scholarship applications, we continue to be up roughly 200 applications compared to this time last year.
- At the start of spring classes, counseling services completed eight new intakes, 1 crisis visit, nine consultations and 70 individual appointments.
- Disability services staff completed 28 new intakes (21 ADA, seven Title IX). Additionally, there have been five follow-up visits, 13 consultations with faculty and staff, and 10 student consultations. There are 698 Active Access Plans.
- Updates to the Early College enrollment and approval process have begun with additional training and implementation of new processes this spring and summer.
- By March 16, the registration office will have an estimated count of certificates, degrees and diplomas anticipated for completion for the spring and/or summer terms.
- Career and Employment Services closed January with 216 new jobs on the CCC Job Board, which is up from 168 in January 2025.

- The admissions office is implementing a targeted plan for signing day outreach college wide. The students who are eligible to participate in these programs are being texted, emailed, and called to try and build the excitement of this great experience.
- Math faculty attended a meeting demonstrating a new AI math tutorial tool in development. New online and hybrid courses are in development for several biology courses. The goal is to bring new modalities and offerings to all campuses. Some faculty are experimenting with AI-powered podcasting tools to enhance online classes.
- CCC hosted the annual Early Childhood Education conference in Grand Island on Feb. 7. Over 150 early childhood educators attended the event.
- We have continued to enroll students in Lexington with our final cohort planning to begin classes on Feb. 23. We will continue to monitor the need and make necessary adjustments.
- Raider golf will have its first golf meet on March 2. Softball had first games on Feb. 16 and CCC Raider volleyball will be represented at the NJCAA Beach Pairs exhibition May 1-3 in Huntsville, Alabama.
- Connections and meetings with the new St. Paul economic development director and Phelps County economic development director. Aurora is researching a possible Big Idea as are some other smaller communities in the CCC service area.
- Successful 2026 Singing Valentine's fundraiser. Seventeen students were present for this opportunity.
- Both first- and second-year dental hygiene students began their clinical experiences, including community-based rotations at Head Start, elementary schools, the VA, nursing homes and federal clinics. These rotations provide supervised, real-world clinical training aligned with workforce preparation and student success.
- In the OTHA 1220 community-based practice course, students will be initiating a few community projects that include working on a sensory space/pathway for Kearney Children's Museum. Some students will be working on life skills with adults with developmental disabilities at Mid-Nebraska Individual Services.
- The medical assisting lab was a rotation stop for 220 students from Barr Middle School on Jan. 20 and more than eighth graders from Westridge Middle School on Jan. 27. They shared program information, demonstrated suturing, and discussed the different scissors used in clinics.
- Health sciences students were invited by the UNMC Diagnostic Medical Sonography program to volunteer for sonography labs for spring 2026. This is an opportunity for the UNMC students to practice with live patients.
- Afternoon nursing assistant and medication aide courses have been established in Lexington to support retraining and re-entry into the healthcare workforce for former Tyson employees. In addition, exploratory conversations are underway with area hospitals, medical clinics and community partners regarding potential phlebotomy offerings to further expand workforce pathways across Lexington, Cozad, Gothenburg, Kearney, Holdrege and other communities.
- CHI Health St. Francis donated IV poles to the paramedicine and EMT programs. They will be used for paramedic students in the lab, and each campus will have one for EMT students. The EMT program across our service area has been grateful for all the recent additions to equipment and programming needs the college has provided.
- There are currently 33 EMT students who will complete their EMT courses in February/March. We have 64 new enrolled EMT students for spring 2026. Paramedicine has 11 students completing their final semester, with an internship to follow in the summer of 2026.
- Second-year courses at the Kearney Center continue to be held at the new UNK/UNMC Health Science Building #2 without major issue. There is a slight disruption with maintaining or acquiring a Wi-Fi signal through Eduroam. The IT team from UNK has been a great help in working through this issue.
- Jan. 31- Feb. 6, 2026, is the application period for the 2026-27 academic year in nursing. Application numbers are as expected in the 140s range. The goal is to fill cohorts by mid-April, early May.