

Central Community College

College History: 2006-2017

*Celebrating 50 Years of Service
In Central Nebraska*



Central
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

**Joni Ransom
Michelle Setlik**

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Dedicated to all of the employees and board members of Central Community College who have served the college faithfully over the past 50 years.

This book would not have been possible without all of the contributions made over the years to Central Community College publications including the *Central Connection* employee newsletter; *Community Connection* alumni magazine; and all of the annual reports of the college, foundation, campuses, and centers. Thank you to everyone who has worked so diligently over the years to record events, achievements, and activities at Central Community College.

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Central Community College is a comprehensive community college in Nebraska with central administrative offices in Grand Island; campuses in Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings; centers in Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington; and a learning center in Ord.

2006

Tyson Retires, Smith Steps In To Fill Position

The transition of gaining a new executive vice president at Central Community College has been underway since the appointment of Dr. Greg Smith to the position in December. The transition is nearing completion as the previous executive vice president, Dr. Dennis Tyson, begins his full-time retirement from the college. Tyson had stayed on to help Smith ease into his new job. With his retirement, his long-time employment with the college comes to an end.

Tyson joined the CCC staff in 1967 as a business instructor at the Hastings Campus. He went on to serve as coordinator of instructional design and as dean of instruction before becoming the Hastings Campus president in 1981. He was promoted to college executive vice president in 1984.

He graduated from Broken Bow High School, the University of Nebraska-Kearney with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in education, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a doctorate in philosophy. He worked for three years as an assistant manager at J.M. McDonald Company in Broken Bow before joining the CCC staff.

Tyson is a member, past board member and past president of Rotary International; a past board member and vice chairman of the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce; a past executive committee member of the Nebraska Council for Literacy Initiatives; a member and past president of Gideons International of Nebraska; a past chairman of the Laymen's Council for the Nebraska District Council of the Assembly of God; and an active member of the Northridge Assembly of God in Grand Island. He has served on the boards of the Nebraska Vocational Association, Vocational Foundation of Nebraska, North Central University in Minneapolis, Nebraska Propane Education and Research Safety Council, Hastings Economic Development Corporation and Hastings United Way. He also has been active in the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) and has served on its chief instructional officers and audit committees since 1983.

Tyson received the 1988 Achievement Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service from the Nebraska Vocational Association and the 1989 President's Award and a 2006 Friend of the Community Colleges Award from the NCCA.

He and his wife, Faith, have two children: Tami Texley of Albion and Jeff Tyson of Lincoln. They also have four grandsons.



Dr. Dennis Tyson



Like Tyson, Smith has a long professional career in higher education.

Prior to joining the staff, he was employed by Central Arizona College in Coolidge, Ariz., as dean of academic services and most recently as executive director for strategic planning and evaluation.

He also taught psychology at the University of Denver and served as a research psychologist at the university's Denver Research Unit. He went on to be director of research and planning for the Colorado Community College System and vice president for institutional effectiveness, planning and technology at the Community College of Denver.

Smith has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Western Illinois University and a master's degree and doctorate in experimental-social psychology from the University of Denver. In 2004, he completed the League for Innovation's Executive Leadership Institute.

Dr. Greg Smith

His professional and community involvement encompasses fundraising, research and grant-writing activities; publications, technical reports and papers; and presentations and workshops.

Smith served as president of the American Vocational Information Association, Colorado Association of Planners and Institutional Researchers and the New and Related Services Division of the Colorado Vocational Association; as chairperson of the Sixth Congressional District Advisory Committee on the Education of Exceptional Children; as vice president of the Board of Partners Inc., a national organization serving delinquent youth; and as a program evaluator on the Ford Foundation's National Center for Urban Partnerships. He also served on the National Center for Education Statistics National Postsecondary Education Cooperative System, the American Association for Community College's Commission on Research, and the Colorado Governor's Educational Goals Panel. Smith led collaborative partnerships with Denver Public Schools, Denver Housing Authority, Denver Public Library, Mayor's Office of Employment and Training and various other entities.

He is a member of the National Council of Instructional Administrators, American Educational Research Association, Association for Institutional Research and National Council for Research and Planning and a past member of the American Psychological Association and American Vocational Education Research Association.

2005-2006 Enrollment Report

- 25,463 students enrolled - 13,603 in credit courses; 7,003 in noncredit courses; 2,693 in avocational classes; 2,164 in Adult Education/English as a Second Language
- 83% of students from the 25 county service area
- Students from 92 of 93 Nebraska counties, 44 states, and 20 countries

Four Individuals Honored By NCCA

Four people affiliated with Central Community College received awards February 28 at the Nebraska Community College Association's annual convention in Lincoln.

Linda Aerni, a member of the CCC Board of Governors, received a Distinguished Alumni Award. She was one of six people to receive the award — one from each of the state's six community college areas.

Jack Crowley, executive director of the CCC Foundation, received a Friend of Community Colleges Award. The award is the highest recognition that the NCCA can bestow on a non-trustee. It recognizes individuals and/or organizations for their ongoing commitment and support of community college education.

Joyce Meinecke, a human services instructor at CCC-Grand Island, received the Faculty Member Award from the association. Meinecke joined the CCC staff in 1991 and was responsible for establishing the human services program on the Grand Island Campus. She went on to develop the state-approved courses that CCC provides to drug and alcohol counselors for their initial training and certification requirements as well as college-wide practicum and internship guidelines.

Dr. Dennis Tyson, retiring executive vice president of the college, received a Friend of Community Colleges Award. The award is the highest recognition that the NCCA can bestow on a non-trustee. It recognizes individuals and/or organizations for their ongoing commitment and support of community college education.

CCC Employees Earn Degrees

Columbus Campus employees who earned associate of applied science (AAS) degrees were: Wendy Beal, learning support specialist, in commercial art, and Kim Severyn, campus security officer and custodian, in criminal justice. Renee DeWyke, a drafting lab assistant, received a diploma in drafting.

Hastings Campus employees who received AAS degrees were: David Engel, coordinator and trainer for community-based job training, in business administration; Randy Manning, diesel technology instructor, in diesel technology; and Troy Schamens, computer training center coordinator, in electronics technology. Joni Schlatz, a business technology instructor, received a diploma in health information management services.

Shelly Stump, administrative assistant at the Holdrege Center, received an AAS degree in business technology.

CyberCamp4Girls

Nearly 50 junior and senior high school girls attended CyberCamp4Girls June 6-8 at the campuses in Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings. Campers attended half-day sessions where they learned about jobs available in the information technology field, how to create a Flash animation, a kiosk computer application and a computer program for their cell phone.

In Memoriam

Steven F. Smith, 59, of Columbus died June 28 at his home. Services were July 1 at St. Anthony Church in Columbus. Burial with military honors was at the Sts. Peter and Mary Cemetery in rural Bellwood. He had been employed as a heating, venting and air conditioning maintenance technician at Central Community College-Columbus since 2000. Survivors include his wife Cathy; six daughters, Stephaney Jedlicka of Schuyler, Ericka Gronenthal of Humphrey, Shana Smith of Columbus, Jamie Didier of Omaha, Laura Nickolite of Rising City and Megan Vesely of Omaha; two sons, Ryan Didier of Omaha, and Chris Vesely of Norfolk; four brothers, James Egr of Bellwood, Paul Smith of Columbus, Roger Boss of Bellwood, and Jack Boss; two sisters, Marie Lewis of Bellwood, and Nancy Jacobs of Petersburg; and five grandchildren.

Milton Arthur Woods, 79, of Ayr died June 5 at Perkins Pavilion in Hastings. Services were June 7 at Butler-Volland Funeral Home in Hastings. A private family burial was planned for a later date. After retiring from the U.S. Postal Service in 1983, he attended Central Community College in Hastings. He graduated in 1988 and became a computer instructor for CCC, teaching adult night classes. He was a computer instructor at the Hastings Correctional Center Education Department from 1996-2000. Survivors are his wife Virginia; two brothers, Don of Lincoln and Charles of Columbus, Mont.; and one sister, Doris Pauley of rural Harvard.

Robert Joseph "Bob" Buhrman, 82, of Grand Island died Sept. 22 at home. Services were Sept. 25 at St. Leo's Catholic Church. Burial with military honors was in Westlawn Memorial Park. He worked as a dental laboratory technician and then owned and operated Buhrman Dental Service until his retirement in 1989. He also wrote and taught dental laboratory technology at CCC-Hastings and worked as a dental laboratory technician at the Grand Island VA Medical Center. Survivors include his wife Delores; sons John of Arvada, Colo., Donald of Scottsbluff and Jim of Omaha; daughters Mary Luebbe of Holdrege and Ginger Nowak of Festus, Mo.; brother Leonard of North Platte; 10 grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

Steven Gizinski, 37, of Kenesaw died Dec. 6 at University Colorado Hospital, having battled cystic fibrosis. Services were Dec. 10 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Kenesaw with burial in the Kenesaw Cemetery. He joined the Hastings Campus staff as a part-time truck driving instructor in 1996, was promoted to full-time status in 1998 and resigned in 2001. Survivors include his father and stepmother, Kenneth and Pat (Means) Gizinski of Kenesaw; two stepbrothers, Tim Arandus of Lincoln and Terry Arandus of Grand Island; and a stepsister, Shelly Harpham of Juniata.

Outstanding Alumni Awards

- Bonnie McPhilips (Columbus) Associate Degree 1980
- Sue Nelson (Grand Island) Associate of Applied Science Human Services 1999
- Carey Rohr (Hastings) Associated of Applied Science Agribusiness 1994

Raiders Make It To National Quarter-Finals

The Central Community College Raiders ended the 2005 volleyball season in the Elite Eight at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCCA) Division II National Tournament Nov. 17-19 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Johnson County Kansas Community College defeated the Raiders 30-20, 28-30, 30-16, 31-33 in a quarter-final contest and went on to win the national title.

“The fourth game was a heart-breaker, but we walked away feeling that we gave it our best effort and really have no regrets,” said coach Mary Young.

Amanda Cielocha led the team with 14 kills and 15 digs, while Katie Volk added 12 kills and 3 stuff blocks; Jessica Glatter had 47 set assists.

The volleyball Raiders lost their first match in the national tournament to another Kansas competitor, Cowley County Community College, the tourney’s top seed, which defeated the CCC team 23-30, 28-30 and 23-30.

“The team was in the match, but missed some crucial serves, and Cowley had some very big Brazilian players that were difficult to hit over,” CCC-Columbus athletic director Jack Gutierrez said.

The Raiders won their second match in the national tournament, downing Genessee Community College, N.Y., 30-25, 30-24, 30-18.

During the second playoff game, the Raiders beat Williston 30-32, 30-21, 30-15, and 30-20.

The Raiders earlier captured the Region IX Division II Volleyball Tournament, beating Southeast Community College in the finals 30-14, 30-20, and 30-25. They defeated North Platte Community College earlier in the tourney.

Amanda Cielocha, Jessica Glatter, Alyssa Tonniges and Kylie True were named to the All-Region IX and Region IX All-Tournament team. Cielocha, Glatter, True and Heidi Zoucha received Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference (NCCAC) honors. Cielocha also was named to the Division II NJCAA All-Tournament Team and the Division II NJCAA First Team All-American while Glatter garnered Second Team All-American honors.

The Raiders finished the season 31-10, with seven losses to Division I teams, including six that were ranked. The remaining losses were to teams that made it to the national tournament.

“It’s overwhelming and quite awesome what this group of young ladies did,” Young said. “I couldn’t be more proud of the way our team represented Central Community College. Words truly cannot express how proud I am of them.”

Young also was honored for her part in the Raiders’ success. She was named Coach of the Year by the NCCAC, Region IX Division II, and NJCAA District L.

TRiO Program Helps Students Succeed

A federally funded student support program at Central Community College is helping students succeed. TRiO provides individualized academic planning; career, personal and financial advising; educational and social activities; workshops that cover academic, professional and personal development and leadership enhancement; diversity awareness and advocacy; technology assistance; transfer assistance; and campus and community resource referrals. The 160 students served by the program in 2005-2006 included 110 who are from low-income families and are first-generation college students, one from a low income family, 36 who are first-generation college students, seven who have disabilities and six who have disabilities and are from low-income families.

During the 2006 spring semester, 33 TRiO students had a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, including eight who had 4.0 averages; 18 percent were on the Dean's Honor List; 25 received degrees; 14 received diplomas; nine graduated with membership in Phi Theta Kappa international honorary society; and 19 transferred to other colleges.

College Starts Entrepreneur Program

Nebraskans who want to own their own business but aren't sure how to get started can get the training they need through a new entrepreneurship certificate program developed by the state's six community colleges. The program came about because of Nebraska Rep. Tom Osborne's vision of providing entrepreneurship education across the state. The six colleges worked together to develop the six courses in the program and also sought input from high school instructors who teach entrepreneurship classes in order to coordinate curriculum and avoid duplication.

The 18-semester-hour program is offered as a stand-alone certificate as well as an area of specialization in CCC's business administration degree program. Would-be entrepreneurs also can take just the courses they need to help them get started in business. The courses also can be valuable for people who already own a business but want to improve their knowledge in a specific area.

CCC Soups Up Auto Program With A New Option

Automotive technology students will build and install a high performance engine and do other mechanical work to assemble a replica 1967 427 S/C Cobra. George Anderson, owner of Gessford Machine Inc. and Motorsport Park Hastings is helping with the project as a consultant for engine and chassis design. The experience will be part of a new performance automobile certificate offered as part of the automotive technology program. The certificate will include six courses covering building and rebuilding high performance engines, power trains, and brakes and suspensions.

The courses will be added as an option to the curriculum for the two-year associate of applied science degree and one-year diploma in automotive technology. Alan Hartley, Dean of technical programs, said the certificate is offered for students who might be interested in careers in the growing custom car industry.

Retirements

Columbus

- Leon Sanders - Associate Dean of Business and Humanities
- Carol Taczek - Secretary for Business and Industry Department

Grand Island

- Al Hult - Information Technology Instructor
- Clark Keffer - Media Service Coordinator

Hastings

- Lloyd Brown - Business Administration Instructor
- Wayne Foster - Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Instructor
- Clark Haberman - Biology Instructor
- Roger Nealeigh - Biology Instructor

Foundation Office

- Rod Hansen - Assistant Director

CCC Foundation Hall Of Fame

Ken Morrison of Hastings was inducted into the Central Community College Foundation Hall Of Fame on Oct. 16 at the foundation's 16th annual appreciation dinner.

Morrison grew up near a small town in Kansas and attended college for two years before returning home to work with his father on the family farm. An inquisitive mind drove him to learn about all aspects of agriculture and agribusiness and he soon ventured into trading farm commodities and developing agricultural properties. With his help, the family business expanded to include grain storage, trucking and oil production.

After his family moved to Hastings in 1947, Morrison and his brother joined John Quirk in forming Morrison and Quirk. The company was a pioneer in the development of the alfalfa dehydration business and greatly expanded its involvement in grain production and storage, livestock production and farmland development and management operations. A reorganization in 1986 created the current Morrison Enterprises. The company continued to grow and has had farming operations in Nebraska, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, North Carolina, Virginia and Colorado, as well as in Guatemala, Argentina and British Columbia. More exotic ventures have included shrimp farms in Ecuador and Malaysia and a commercial fishing operation in Chile.

In 2005, CCC became a major beneficiary of Ken Morrison's benevolence. A substantial gift – half from Morrison personally and half from the Kenneth Morrison Foundation – will strengthen the college's allied health programs. A portion of the gift will be used to update facilities and equipment such as microscopes and dental chairs. The remainder will endow a scholarship fund that will provide assistance for students in the allied health programs.

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Wendy Beal - Multiple Heartland Print Gallery Awards for Columbus Campus Promotional Materials including Best in Student Division for 2005 Volleyball Poster
- Janis DeHaven, Karin Rieger, and Leon Sanders - Presenters at League for Innovation in Community College Conference in Atlanta “An Innovative Approach for Remote Access to Software Applications Anytime, Anywhere”
- Gary Nelson - FutureForce Nebraska Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Service
- Leon Sanders - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Marcene Wurdeman - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year

Grand Island

- Bob Niemann - Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation Outstanding Community Contribution Award
- Guy Suganuma - Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award for New Advisers
- Dennis Tyson (retired) - Recognition for Commitment to Adult Education at Annual Adult Education Conference
- Dana Wert - Completed ControlLogix Maintenance and Troubleshooting Training

Hastings

- Campus Award - Wellness Councils of America Silver Well Workplace Award
- Sandra Block - Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Initiation
- Deb Brennan - Leadership Hastings Class 2006
- Laura Bulas - Coleman Foundation Grant for KidzBiz Entrepreneurship Camp
- Pat Cecil - Leadership Hastings Class 2006
- Bill Hitesman - FutureForce Nebraska Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Service
- Fred Kuta - Drag Racing Team Spirit Award
- Brad Lang - Honorary State FFA Degree
- Coleen Murray - Drag Racing Spirit Award
- Kathy Marble - National Endowment for Humanities Award to attend Western Kentucky University Workshop “Mammoth Cave: People, Place and History”
- Howard Ransom - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award

Lexington

- Cassie Smith - Recognition for Commitment to Adult Education at Annual Adult Education Conference

“Hollywood Arms” will be the first play presented in a newly refurbished CCC-Columbus Fine Arts Theater.

Audience members can look forward to enjoying the remodeled theater, which includes new seats, carpet, curtains, and lighting and sound systems.

40th Anniversary Celebration Officially Begins

Central Community College officially began its 40th anniversary celebration this week, it was announced Thursday to the college Board of Governors.

The college decided to begin the celebration in conjunction with this year's graduation activities, which began April 18 with a graduation breakfast at the Hastings Campus, according to Rod Hansen, assistant director of the college foundation and chairman of the anniversary planning committee.

CCC began with the founding of Central Community College-Hastings in 1966 as Area Vocational School #1. Central Community College-Columbus started in 1969 as Platte Junior College. Following legislation establishing Nebraska's current community college system, the two campuses merged in 1973 to form Central Nebraska Technical Community College Area.

Administrative offices for the college were established in Grand Island shortly after the merger and Central Community College-Grand Island started in 1975. In addition to the three campuses, the college operates three centers: the Kearney Center, which had its beginning in 1970 when the Kearney Public Schools practical nursing program became part of the Hastings Campus; the Lexington Center, opened in 1977; and the Holdrege Center, opened in 1995. The college serves 25 counties in central Nebraska.

The Central Community College Foundation also is participating in and helping to support the anniversary celebration. The foundation was established in 1989 as a separate organization to raise support for the college.

A number of events are scheduled for the May-to-October celebration:

- May 11, the Hastings Campus will host a Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" event.
- June 7, the Kearney Center will host a Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours" event.
- June 29, the Columbus Campus will host an open house, followed by a reception.
- September 29, the Grand Island Campus will host a Grand Island Chamber "Business After Hours" event.

Scholarships At Record Level

- \$656,000 in scholarships awarded to students during the 2005-2006 academic year
- 2005-2006 scholarships awarded represents an increase of \$117,000 over last year
- More than \$5 million in scholarships have been channeled through the CCC Foundation since it was founded in 1989
- CCC Foundation ended the year with \$4.5 million in endowed funds

Medical Transcription Partnership

A career in medical transcription is as close as your home computer, thanks to a partnership between Central Community College and MediGrafix Inc. CCC and the Omaha-based company have developed a training program for medical transcription specialists that can be completed through a combination of online study and courses completed at CCC's campuses in Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings; permanent centers in Holdrege, Kearney and Lexington; or learning centers the college operates in libraries and schools in communities throughout its 25-county service area.

MediGrafix was established in 1986 and provides medical transcription services for clinics and hospitals throughout the U.S. The company gives CCC students access to online medical records systems, helping them get the experience necessary for employment in the medical transcription field. Students who do well in the 29-semester-hour training program are eligible for paid, 120-hour internships with MediGrafix, which has had good experience with CCC graduates it hired previously, according to company President Stephen Stott.

According to the bureau's Occupational Outlook Handbook, more than 105,000 medical transcriptionists currently are employed in the U.S. and demand is expected to grow by 18-26 percent through 2014.

"Having a partnership with a well-established company like MediGrafix is a great benefit for our medical transcription students," said Kathryn Ballobin, associate dean for business programs at CCC-Columbus. "Access to actual medical records dictation files greatly enhances our curriculum, and the paid internships with MediGrafix provide an opportunity that can be challenging for our students to find."

CCC Relay For Life Teams Raise Money

Central Community College was well represented this summer at the Kearney and Hall County Relay for Life events, which were sponsored by the American Cancer Society. The Grand Island team, which consisted of students and employees, achieved a campus record of \$1,670.50 and received a Bronze Team Award from the American Cancer Society for collecting more than \$1,500 in donations.

Student members of the Grand Island team were Jenny Clark, Chereé Hibler, Katie Labeledz, Ava Loveland, Kathy Lutt, Gloria Parr and Kathy Staggs. Employee participants represented the Grand Island Campus and the Administrative Office. They were Kathy Brownell, Karen Cox, Maureen Eggert, Nick Freelend, Stephanie Jacobson, Kristi Korensky, Donna Murphy, Sharon Oakeson, Javier Rendon, Guy Suganuma and Tom Peters.

The Kearney team raised \$1,000 through the efforts of its nursing students: Stephanie Bondegard, Haylee Handley, Jennifer Hoatson, Jen Hoffart, Kylie Jones, Lori Malcolm, Diane Martin, Misty McIntire, Natasha Nelson, Amber Olson, Ashley Urbanski, Jessica West and Kendra Wohlers.

2007

Board Takes A Step Toward New Building

Central Community College moved one step closer to a new health and science education center at its Grand Island Campus when the college Board of Governors approved a program statement in August.

The 48,720-square-foot building would house the associate degree in nursing (ADN) and practical nursing (PN) programs and would accommodate increased enrollment in the ADN program.

Graduates of the one-year practical nursing program are eligible to take the exam required to become a licensed practical nurse. Graduates of the two-year ADN program are eligible to take the exam required to become a registered nurse.

The Grand Island Campus is the primary location for the ADN program but the college also has ADN students at its Columbus Campus and Kearney Center. All three sites have PN programs. Total enrollment is 140 for the ADN program and 100 for the PN program. The proposed new facility is part of CCC's effort to help alleviate a shortage of nurses in Nebraska, according to Dr. Deb Brennan, dean of health occupations. She said the Nebraska Center for Nursing projects a 20 percent shortfall in registered nurses and a 23 percent shortfall in licensed practical nurses by 2020.

CCC recently increased admission to the ADN program from 60 to 80 students a year, but the 2008 class already is full and the college is admitting students for the class beginning in 2009. The new building will use the latest technology to supplement the clinical experience students get in local health care facilities, making it possible for the college to increase admission in the ADN program to 100 students a year.

The proposed building plans include classrooms; biology, chemistry and physical science labs; and four simulation labs featuring computerized mannequins.

Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education is expected to act on the proposal Dec. 6. If the project is approved, the college will open construction bids in February 2008, with groundbreaking slated for the following month and completion for April 2009. Construction cost for the building is projected at \$9.9 million.

New Board Member

Rita Skiles of Huntley was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board resulting from a resignation. Skiles is director of transition services for Educational Service Unit #11 and was employment services director for Region III services from 1987-1992. She joins Merikay Gengenbach of Lexington in representing CCC District 2, which encompasses Dawson, Furnas, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney and Phelps counties and 12 precincts in Buffalo County.

First-Ever Ram Round-Up

The Beta Alpha Delta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Central Community College-Hastings will have its first-ever Ram Round-Up celebration on Aug. 19. The event is designed for all new and returning students, their family and friends. Activities will include an open campus bookstore from 5 to 7 p.m.; a barbecue catered by Murphy's Wagon Wheel from 6 to 7:30 p.m.; campus tours and fun events such as sumo wrestling and human bowling sponsored by Tank, sand volleyball, dodgeball and soccer from 6 to 9 p.m.; and a street dance sponsored by Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. and Boyds Vending from 9 p.m. to midnight. The event is free to all CCC students and \$3 each for family and friends.

25th Ram Run And Walk

The 2007 Ram Run and Walk will be September 8 at Central Community College-Hastings. The event, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, is open to the general public and will feature five-mile and two-miles courses which participants can either run or walk.

CyberCamp4Teachers

Forty-one individuals attended the CyberCamp4Teachers June 19-21 at the Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings campuses. The camp was funded by an innovation grant from the Nebraska Department of Education in an effort to get more women interested in the information technology career field. Participants learned about programming with Alice software, Flash computer animation, cyber security, digital photography, and various information technology careers.

Participants represented the following schools: Adams Central in Hastings, Anselmo-Merna, Aurora, Bruning-Davenport, Central City, Clarkson, Clay Center, Columbus Scotus Central Catholic, Doniphan-Trumbull, Exeter-Milligan, Franklin, Harvard, Hastings, Hastings St. Cecilia, Kenesaw, Lawrence-Nelson, Lindsay Holy Family, Litchfield, Osceola, Overton, Red Cloud, Schuyler Central and Silver Lake in Roseland. The two Kansas schools were Belleville and Smith Center.

CCC Students Place In SkillsUSA Competition

Nine Central Community College students competed in the National SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference in June in Kansas City, Mo. They were among 4,800 high school and postsecondary students who earned the right to compete at the national level by placing first in their respective state competitions. CCC results were:

CCC-Columbus: Kevin Swartz of Columbus, fifth in technical computer applications; Audrey Churchill of Holstein, seventh in photography; James Swartz of Columbus, ninth in computer numerical control turning; Aaron Brant and Bryan Korus, both of Columbus, ninth in the mechatronics team event; Derek Veburg of Clarks, 10th in technical drafting; and Veronica Olnes of Petersburg, 12th in architectural drafting.

CCC-Hastings: Chris Sayers of Clarkson, 20th in diesel equipment technology, and David Shuck of Juniata, 28th in collision repair.

New Career Services Website

Students and alumni looking for jobs and employers looking for workers can get together through the new Career and Employment Services (CES) section of the Central Community College website. The CES offices on CCC's Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings campuses collaborated in developing the Web site, which includes job postings for all of the campuses and all CCC student postings. Alumni and current students can access the site's services, including job postings submitted by employers, searching for specific employers or specific types of employment, and submitting their resumes for review by potential employers. Employers can post positions at any time, view how often students have accessed their postings, search for job candidates and review resumes. All services are available free of charge.

College Addresses Nebraska's Nursing Shortage

It's common to see a story about the shortage of nurses in Nebraska. The Central Community College Board of Governors is concerned about the shortage, and now the college is taking action to address it. "We've taken the first step, which is admitting 20 additional ADN (associate degree in nursing) students for the fall 2007 semester," said Dr. Deb Brennan, dean of health occupations. "These students have either completed their first year in the PN (practical nursing) program or they are already practicing LPNs. They will be admitted as second-year nursing students and will graduate in May 2008."

Columbus Community Hospital is helping the college expand the ADN program.

"They want to help support the expansion by giving a nursing staff member release time to teach for us," Brennan said. "It's a very generous offer, and I think it's the type of partnership we will need to form with other hospitals to solve the nursing shortage." Support for both the ADN and the PN programs also is provided by Saint Francis Medical Center in Grand Island, Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney and Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings in the form of clinical experiences for students, donated equipment and student scholarships.

The additional openings will increase enrollment in the ADN program at CCC's Columbus and Grand Island campuses and Kearney Center to a total of 80 students, however, the college will continue to have a waiting list to get into the program. "We still have a waiting list of at least a year and are now enrolling for the fall of 2009," said Cindy Hadenfeldt, associate dean of nursing.

College Wins Regional Head Start Award

Central Community College has received a 2007 Nebraska State Champion Award from the Region VII Head Start Association. Region VII, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, annually presents the award to an individual or group from each state that has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to improving the lives of children, youth and families. Central Community College was honored for its efforts as a recipient of a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant to help Head Start employees in central Nebraska obtain their degree by providing them with tuition, books and tutors.

Retirements

Columbus

- Verne Buhl - Agriculture Programs Director
- Connie Cornwell - Nursing Instructor
- Rich Flynn - Quality Control Instructor
- George Steinsberger - Political Science and Sociology Instructor

Grand Island

- Bob Sanner - Accounting Instructor
- Paul Sears - Drafting Instructor

Hastings

- Karen Baird - Psychology Instructor
- Larry Eastwood - Diesel Technology Instructor
- Jim Johnson - Diesel Technology Instructor

Grimminger Endowment Funds Scholarships

The largest contribution ever received by the Central Community College Foundation will provide scholarships for Hall County students to attend CCC. Foundation Executive Director Jack Crowley said he was notified by John McDermott, an attorney with the Grand Island law firm of Shamberg, Wolf, McDermott and DePue, of a nearly \$1 million gift from the estate of Myrtle Grimminger of Grand Island. Crowley said the bequest ranks among the largest donations ever received by a Nebraska community college.

Residents of Hall County or graduates of Hall County high schools can apply for the Myrtle Grimminger scholarships. To be eligible, students must have a "C" grade-point average. CCC second-year students can requalify for the scholarship. Financial need will be a consideration in awarding the scholarships. Scholarship recipients can enroll in any field of study at any CCC location or learning center. The \$1,000 scholarships can be awarded to part-time, full-time or nontraditional students and can be used for tuition, fees, books and equipment. "Mrs. Grimminger's main goal in making this gift was to help as many people as possible enhance their lives through education," Crowley said. "She wanted the criteria to be liberal and flexible enough that anyone who wants a college education and is willing to work for it can get help from the Grimminger endowment."

Outstanding Alumni Awards

- Mike Fleming (Columbus) Associate of Applied Science Business Administration 1978
- Deb Jackson (Grand Island) Associate of Applied Science Office Technology 1993
- Nancy Jenny (Hastings) Associate of Applied Science Biotechnology 1988

Student Selected For National Choir

Central Community College-Columbus student Carla Stenzel of Monroe has been selected as a member of the Two-Year College Honor Choir that will perform in March during the American Choral Director Association national convention in Miami. Stenzel, a 2006 graduate of Twin River High School in Genoa, is an academic transfer student. After graduating from CCC, she plans to complete a bachelor's degree in political science and then go to law school. She cites CCC's competitive costs, small-college atmosphere and the opportunity to continue her participation in music among the reasons she decided to attend the Columbus Campus. She also liked what she saw when she was on campus competing in the district music contest during her four years of high school. She performs with the Columbus Campus College Choir and the Spectrum vocal jazz ensemble. Bruce Rogers of Mt. San Antonio College at Walnut, Calif., will direct the Two-Year College Honor Choir during rehearsals March 8 and 9 and during a concert March 10 in the Jackie Gleason Theater.

CCC Students Named To Phi Theta Kappa Nebraska All-State Academic Team

Six Central Community College students were honored as members of the 2007 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Nebraska All-State Academic Team during ceremonies April 5 at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln. The event was sponsored by PTK, an international honor society for two-year colleges, and the Nebraska Community College Association to honor students for academic achievement, leadership and community service. A medallion and certificate were presented to the 26 All-State Academic Team members, including the following CCC students:

- Starlight Fonseca - Hastings Campus Academic Transfer
- Jennifer Gdowski - Columbus Campus Academic Transfer
- Jayme Krejdl - Grand Island Campus Elementary Special Education
- Alec Nyce - Hastings Campus Mathematics
- Trevor Shalon - Columbus Campus History Education
- Kathy Staggs - Grand Island Campus Human Services

Raider Player Named Setter Of The Week

Amanda Nelson was selected National Junior College Athletic Association Division II Setter of the Week in October. Nelson is a 5-foot-6 setter on the Raiders volleyball team at Central Community College-Columbus. During the week, she averaged 11.7 assists, 0.3 kills, 3.5 digs and 0.3 service aces over 19 games. CCC-Columbus went 3-2, defeating Southeast Community College, #16 Marshalltown and D1 Western Texas and losing to #4 Johnson County and D1 #6 Iowa Western.

"This is an outstanding honor for Amanda and her teammates," said Raiders coach Mary Young.

Nelson is enrolled in the business academic transfer program at CCC-Columbus.

FOCUS Offers Opportunities To Explore Cultures

Central Community College-Grand Island students Neima Blanco Vasquez and Ana Flores (pictured right) follow a group of dancers at the Fort Omaha Pow Wow Sept. 22 in Omaha. Also attending the event was CCC-Grand Island student Aaron Beye and sponsor Nancy Reese. FOCUS stands for Friendships of Culturally Unique Students and is open to any student interested in learning about different cultures. In addition to the pow wow, FOCUS members annually participate in Campus Awareness Day; hold a raffle for two parking spaces, one for an employee and one for a student; and for their most popular activity, sponsor an ethnic food auction. FOCUS members also have attended the Heartland Latino Leadership Conference and participated in community projects such as Habitat for Humanity.



New System Results In Student Success

CCC began exploring a closed-entry system in September 2005 with a pilot program and implemented the new system for ESL classes in July 2006. Through the closed-entry system, new students aren't accepted after orientation, are placed in a cohort group, and as part of the attendance policy students can only miss 20 percent of their classes. "We wanted to do two things with the new closed-entry system," Adult Education Coordinator Ann Chambers said. "The first was to put value on a free class and the second was to allow students to work with their cohort groups without the disruption of new students coming into the class."

The results have been positive. Following is information about students enrolled in ESL programs in Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney and Lexington during the 2006-07 academic year. Included are the number of students who enrolled and the number of those with 12 hours or more who moved up a level. Also included are the state requirements.

- Beginning ESL literature, 316 students enrolled with 148, or 46.84 percent, moving up a level. The state requirement is 39 percent.
- Low beginning ESL, 221 students enrolled with 118, or 53.39 percent, moving up a level. The state requirement is 30 percent.
- High beginning ESL, 209 students enrolled with 95, or 45.45 percent, moving up a level. The state requirement is 36 percent.
- Low intermediate ESL, 133 students enrolled with 69, or 51.88 percent, moving up a level. The state requirement is 44 percent.
- High intermediate ESL, 65 students enrolled with 41, or 63.08 percent, moving up a level. The state requirement is 42 percent.

In Memoriam

Gerry Vodehnal, 78, of Clarkson died Feb. 1 at Colonial Manor Nursing Home in Clarkson. Services were Feb. 6 at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Clarkson with burial in the Clarkson National Cemetery. She taught nursing assistant classes at Platte College. She is survived by one sister, Frances Pochop of Gregory, S.D., and was preceded in death by her husband, Slavy.

Eugene J. "Gene" Budde, 77, of rural Cairo died Nov. 12 at Good Samaritan Center in Wood River. Services were Nov. 16 at All Faiths Funeral Home in Grand Island with burial in the Grand Island City Cemetery. He worked for The Grand Island Independent, Sperry New Holland and Chief Industries before joining the Central Community College-Grand Island staff as a business instructor in 1976. He retired in 1996. Survivors include his wife Nadene; three sons, Lynn of Phillips, Dennis of Grand Island and Robby of Marquette; a daughter, Sherry Siwinski of Central City; 11 grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Alan E. Krueger, 68, of Hastings died Dec. 10, 2006, at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings. Services were Dec. 14 at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hastings. Burial was in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery at Blue Hill. He graduated from Blue Hill High School in 1956 and Central Community College in 1969. He was an instructor at CCC-Hastings in the heating, air conditioning and refrigeration department. Survivors include his wife, Nancy of Hastings; two daughters, Candace of San Leandro, Calif., and Sherry Bourquin of Centennial, Colo.; a sister, Elaine Beezley of Red Cloud; five brothers, Leslie of Hastings, Paul and Wendel of Blue Hill, Glen of Auburn and Jim of Norfolk; four grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Carl Brown, 74, of Hastings died May 11 at the Veterans Medical Center in Grand Island. A celebration of life was held May 19 at his home. Memorials may be given to the Hastings Public Library or Central Community College Foundation. He worked as a chemist for an oil company in Thermopolis, Wyo., and taught math and coached football at Thermopolis Public Schools before moving to Hastings in 1967. He joined the Central Community College-Hastings staff that year as an electronics instructor. He also served as chief instructor, acting chairman of the electronics program and chairman of technical programs. He was associate dean of industrial occupations when he retired in 1996. Survivors include his wife Mershonne; three daughters, Julie of Boulder, Colo., Cathy of Fort Collins, Colo., and Peggy of Duluth, Minn.; a brother, Bill of Sacramento, Calif.; a sister, Ruth of Cumberland, Md.; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Robert E. Hemberger, 75, of Roseland died Feb. 1 at his home. Services were Feb. 5 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Roseland. Burial was in Roseland Cemetery at Roseland. He had been a teacher, including serving as a math instructor at Central Community College-Hastings, and retired from Chief Ethanol Fuels. Survivors include his wife Joan, daughters Lisa Dirks of Hastings and Brenda Heeren of Juniata, son Troy of Lincoln, sisters Verna Meyer and Betty Mooney of Hastings and Gertrude Hurd of Escondido, Calif., brothers Lester of Hastings and George of Concord, Calif., and eight grandchildren.

Harold Buhrman, 75, of Grand Island died March 31 at his home. Services were April 4 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church with burial in Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. He was manager of Service Master and head of housekeeping at Grand Island Memorial

Hospital before joining the CCC-Grand Island staff in 1987. He was head custodian when he retired in 1997. Survivors include his wife Mary; two sons, Randy of Omaha and Andy of Phillips; a daughter, Sandy of Grand Island; two sisters, Marcella Petersen and Gerrie Johnson, both of Grand Island; a brother, Ron Buhrman of Topeka, Kan.; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Sharalin Lou (Watson) Wilson, 55, of Plattsmouth, formerly of Edgar, died Feb. 22 at Golden Living Center in Plattsmouth. Services were Feb. 26 in the Roby Funeral Home chapel in Plattsmouth with burial in the Edgar Cemetery. She worked as a secretary in the Nuckolls Building at the Hastings Campus circa 1969-70.

Lester "Les" William Oelschlager, 82, of Kenesaw died Oct. 18 at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings. Services were Oct. 24 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kenesaw with a private family burial with military rites. He worked at Sherman's International Harvester and Diamond T Trucking before being hired as head of the diesel department at Central Community College-Hastings. He retired from that position in 1987. Survivors include his wife LaVergne; two sons, Dennis of South Bend and Steve of Columbus; one sister, Gladys Wicht of Grand Island; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Clark Keffer, 65, of Grand Island died Aug. 14 at St. Francis Medical Center. Services were Aug. 18 at the First Presbyterian Church in Grand Island with burial in the Grand Island Cemetery. He moved to Grand Island in 1980 when he accepted a position as a welding instructor at Central Community College-Grand Island. He later became the media services coordinator, which was the position he held when he retired in 2006. Survivors include his wife, Kathy; a daughter, Denise Callahan of Grand Island; two sons, Mike Saddler and Bryan Saddler, both of Grand Island; a brother, John of Graham, Texas; and 11 grandchildren.

Jerry Allan Lee, 71, of Punta Gorda, Fla., died Sept. 18 at Charlotte Harbor Health Care in Port Charlotte, Fla. Memorial services were Sept. 22 at the Punta Gorda Chapel in the Roberson Funeral Home. He earned his doctorate in administration in higher education at Southern Illinois University, where he served as assistant to the vice chancellor. In 1970, he accepted employment at Central Community College-Columbus. Within two years, he was named president of the campus where, during his tenure, he instituted an open-entry, open-exit policy that allowed students to complete coursework at their own pace. Survivors include his wife, Lynn; three daughters, Christine Scott of Downingtown, Pa., Kathleen Johnson of Columbia, Md., and Jennifer Klein of Houston, Texas; one son, Matthew of Baton Rouge, La.; and nine grandchildren.

Alvena Laurine Tuepker Garrido, 80, of Kearney died July 6 at Good Samaritan Hospital. Services were July 9 at Higby- McQuiston Chapel in Aurora with burial in the Aurora Cemetery. She worked in the media centers for the Kearney Public Schools. In 1976, she went on to teach both day and evening GED classes at Central Community College-Kearney. She also taught classes at the Kearney Jail. Survivors include a son, Kenneth Garrido of Harleysville, Pa.; two sisters, Phyllis Willuweit of Kearney and Shirley Dyson of National City, Calif.; and a grandson. Alvena Garrido's family has donated \$15,000 to the Central Community College Foundation to endow a scholarship in her name. The Alvena Garrido Memorial Scholarship will be awarded annually to a resident of Buffalo County who has earned a high school diploma through Central Community College's GED program.

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Shelley Frear - Awarded A.A. Degree from Central Community College
- Matt Gotschall - Appointed to the State Leadership Council for Community Health Charities of Nebraska
- Andrea Hays - Recognized as a Friend of the Center at the Center for Survivors annual meeting
- Pat Marquis - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Karin Rieger - Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska Distinguished Service Award
- Judy Wurdeman - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year

Grand Island

- Stan Coleman - Awarded A.A.S. Degree in Electronics Technology from Central Community College
- Karen Niedfelt - Central Nebraska Legal Professional of the Year
- Wendy Keezer - Nebraska Center for Nursing Nurse Who Makes a Difference Award
- Paul Powell - Presented an essay, "Infinite Games in the Age of Novelty," at a conference on Consciousness in Literature and the Arts at the University of Aberystwyth in Wales
- Sandy Olson - Elected Secretary of National Association of Parliamentarians
- Terry Schifferns - Poem "When They Go" was selected for inclusion in "Nebraska Presence"
- Jeff Schulz - "An Empirical Analysis of Gender-Based Ethics Among College Students and how Symbolic Interactionism may Hold the Answers," has been accepted for publication in two journals
- Dianne Vordestrasse - Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics Don Miller Service Award

Hastings

- Nate Allen - Appointed to the Professional Development Committee of the National Council of Instructional Administrators
- Maryann Bolton - Completed Student Teaching and Course Work at Hastings College for Recertification in 9th-12th grade business education teaching
- Deb Brennan - Recognized by YWCA Adams County at its 19th annual Tribute! To Women celebration
- Robin Buckallew - Awarded a Doctorate in Environmental Science from the University of North Texas in Denton
- Kelly Christensen - Earned a Certificate in Community College Leadership from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Sherrie Dux-Ideus - Selected to participate in National Endowment for the Humanities Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop in Boston
- Larry Eastwood - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award

- Pat Evans - Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Commendation Award
- Ray Gangwish - Hastings Campus Spirit Award
- Suwimon "Ju" Hall - Nebraska Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award
- Susan Rinker - Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska Rookie of the Year
- Michael Schlachter - Completed DOT/TSI Management Series Course
- Joni Schlatz - Awarded A.A.S. Degree in Health Information Management Services from Central Community College
- Craig Shaw - Awarded Master of Arts Degree in Teaching from Hastings College
- Gregg Smith - Certified as PowerPoint Microsoft Office Specialist and Internet and Computing Core Authorized Instructor from Certiport Inc.
- Jim Svoboda - Posthumously received SCORE Chapter 300 Platinum Leadership Award

Holdrege

- Diana Watson - Missouri Valley Adult Education Association Achievement Award

Kearney

- Marianne Kindsfater - Appointed to the Family Resource Council Board
- Marcia Leonard - Good Samaritan Hospital Award for Educational Excellence

Lexington

- Cassie Smith - Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska Outstanding Adult Educator Award

Administration

- Sherry Desel - Awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems from Bellevue University

CCC Alumni Honored By NCCA

Pete Kortum of Grand Island received a Distinguished Alumni Award March 6 at the Nebraska Community College Association's annual convention in Lincoln. He was one of six people to receive the award – one from each of the state's six community college areas. Kortum earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Central Community College-Grand Island in 1999. Kortum joined the Grand Island Police Department in 1972 and is now captain of the department's patrol division. In addition to attending CCC, Kortum has continued his professional education by attending the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., graduating from the academy's 11-week police management training in 2000 and earning 17 hours of college credit from the University of Virginia. In the fall of 2005, he enrolled at Doane College-Grand Island, where he currently is a senior.

2008

Dr. LaVern Franzen To Retire

When Franzen stepped onto the grounds of what was then Central Technical Community College in Hastings on July 1, 1967, he began a journey that is only ending now – 41 years later – with his retirement as president of the Central Community College system.

Back in 1967, however, Franzen was fresh out of Kearney State College, bachelor's degree in hand, with his only thoughts on his new job as an accounting instructor at the Hastings Campus. The campus had been established the previous year on the former grounds of the Naval Ammunition Depot, and many of the brick buildings had been remodeled for their new purpose of providing education.



Dr. Lynn Black and Dr. LaVern Franzen

The surroundings weren't the only new thing. So was individualized instruction. The 20 or so faculty members – 90 percent of whom came from business and industry, not education – banded together to develop standardized learning packets. "There was a huge learning curve, but we were all in the same boat so we leaned on each other," Franzen said. "It was exciting to be part of something new."

Three other CCC traditions also began in those early days. The first was the emphasis on using the latest technology in both instruction and in instructional delivery, the second was serving nontraditional students and the third was continuous quality improvement.

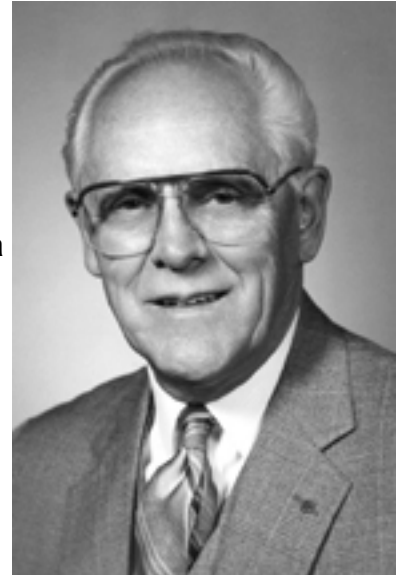
Franzen was promoted to chairman of the Hastings Campus business department in 1969. In 1977 when the college decided to open the Lexington Center he was appointed to the position of associate dean in Lexington, where he worked for 10 years on building awareness, generating excitement and interest, and improving the college's services.

Franzen went on to serve in the newly created position of dean of instruction on the Grand Island Campus for nine years where he gained experience in working with the faculty and administration. In 1996, he returned to the place where his career had started, but this time to serve as president of the Hastings Campus. In 2002, he replaced the retiring Dr. Joe Preusser as president of the entire system. Franzen considers himself to be fortunate to have had six different rewarding and fulfilling positions with the same employer.

Franzen will continue as president until June 30, but will remain at the college until September 30 to help with Dr. Greg Smith's transition into the position.

CCC's Founding President Chet Gausman Dies

Dr. Chester H. "Chet" Gausman, 92, died July 15 at Hospice House in Rapid City, S.D., after a brief battle with cancer. Gausman was born Nov. 26, 1915, in Milford to Bertha (Kemper) and John Gausman. He married Mary Bastian on Dec. 27, 1944, in Cheyenne, Wyo. Gausman graduated from Dorchester High School in 1933 and went on to earn a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a master's degree and a doctorate in education from the University of Wyoming.



His career as a vocational educator spanned more than 40 years, including teaching electronics at the Merchant Marine Academy during World War II while serving as a U.S. Marine Corps officer. He held teaching assignments in Nebraska and Wyoming before moving to Lincoln where he served as vocational and adult education programs director for Lincoln Public Schools for 11 years.

Following his appointment as president of Central Nebraska Technical College (CNTC) in Hastings on July 1, 1966, Gausman supervised converting the World War II-era Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot into Nebraska's first multicounty area vocational-technical college. It opened just two months later on Sept. 1, 1966, with 196 students.

On July 1, 1973, Gausman became president of Central Community College, formed through the legislatively mandated merger of CNTC and Platte College in Columbus. Under Gausman's leadership, the college's central administrative office and a third campus were established at Grand Island and an education center was established in Lexington. Enrollment grew to more than 20,000 students in classes offered on campus and in communities throughout CCC's 25-county service area.

He developed an international reputation for pioneering individualized instruction, a flexible teaching method that allows students to begin courses at any time and advance at a pace that permits them to master course competencies. The teaching method has attracted observers from colleges throughout the nation and abroad to CCC, which continues to use the method extensively.

Gausman was a founding member of the Postsecondary International Network, an alliance of colleges that currently has members in Australia, Canada, Fiji Islands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. He had extensive experience as a consultant, most notably in Jordan in 1983. Numerous honors received during his career include the National Education Association's National Pacemaker's Award, the Nebraska Technical Community College President's Trophy, the Nebraska Vocational Association Achievement Award and the Nebraska Association of Adult and Continuing Education Outstanding Adult Educator Award.

Following his retirement from CCC in 1984, he moved to Custer, South Dakota. Left to cherish his memory are his wife; sons John and Hal; daughter Kris; and five grandchildren.

CCC Board Names New College President

Dr. Greg Smith has been named to succeed Dr. LaVern Franzen as president of Central Community College by the college's Board of Governors. He will assume the presidency on July 1. Franzen will retire as president on June 30 while continuing to work with the college through September during this transition of leadership.

Before joining CCC's staff in January 2006 as executive vice president, Smith was executive director for strategic planning and evaluation at Central Arizona College where he also had served as dean of academic services. His prior work includes 15 years with the Colorado community colleges, both as vice president for institutional effectiveness, planning, and technology at the Community College of Denver and as director of research and planning for the state Community College System in Denver.

Beginning his professional career as a psychologist advising on educational and mental health policy issues for the Research Institute at the University of Denver, Smith had attended Dartmouth College and received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Western Illinois University. His master's degree and doctorate in social psychology were conferred by the University of Denver. In 2004, he was accepted in the League for Innovation's Community College Executive Leadership Institute, which is a training program for community college presidential aspirants.

Brennan Appointed Executive Vice President

Dr. Deb Brennan of Grand Island has been promoted to executive vice president of Central Community College effective August 1. She succeeds Dr. Greg Smith.

Brennan has been employed with the college since 1985 when she joined the staff as an instructor in the hotel, motel and restaurant management program at the Hastings Campus. She served in the position for 12 years before being promoted to associate dean of business and health. In 2005, she became dean of health occupations for the college. Prior to joining the CCC staff, she owned an antique store and did a variety of jobs in the restaurant industry before becoming general manager of the Piccadilly Dinner Theater in Grand Island.

Brennan is a graduate of Scottsbluff High School who went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska-Kearney, a master's degree in teaching from Hastings College and a doctorate in higher education leadership from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She also earned certification as a culinary educator and executive chef from the American Culinary Federation and received the Nebraska Chef Educator of the Year Award in 1990.

She serves on the boards of The Spirit of Nebraska Girl Scout Council and the Central Nebraska Area Health Education Center. She is a longtime member of the League of Women Voters, a past member of the Hastings Chamber of Commerce and a past advisory board member of the Nebraska Restaurant Association.

Brennan states "It's exciting and humbling to accept the position of executive vice president at a college where I have served the past 23 years."

Crowley Builds Successful Foundation

In 1989, Central Community College had two foundations: one at the Columbus Campus and one at the Hastings Campus. Their combined assets were around \$110,000.

In the following two decades, the two foundations became one and the assets grew to a high of more than \$7 million before recent market downturns. The growth of the Central Community College Foundation happened under the leadership of Hastings businessman Jack Crowley, who retired June 30.

Crowley was working for the Business Improvement District in Hastings when he agreed to become the first executive director of the CCC Foundation. Not only was he already familiar with the college from serving as a member and chairman of the CCC Board of Governors, but he also brought a wealth of business experience.

After teaching business and doing some coaching at Kearney High School for two years, he decided to enter the business world. He worked in management positions for the Sears Company in Sioux City, Iowa, and Aberdeen, S.D., before buying Geyermans Clothing Store in Hastings. He renamed the store Crowley's and eventually opened six stores in downtown and mall locations in Norfolk, Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings.

When it comes to the foundation's growth, Crowley is quick to share the credit, saying that such success was possible because of the commitment of a strong CCC Foundation Board of Directors and the ongoing support of CCC employees.

Among the foundation's accomplishments was the establishment of a CCC Foundation Hall of Fame and alumni and retiree associations. The foundation also has a planned giving program; offers staff development grants; provides student emergency loans; and underwrites some college activities such as receptions, flowers for hospital stays and funerals, and special equipment for educational programs.

Through these types of services, the foundation will give back almost \$1 million to CCC this year, Crowley said, but the foundation's greatest contribution to the college is through scholarships to students. In 2007-08, that was \$720,000. "It's very gratifying to know that the foundation has helped students," Crowley said.

CCC Foundation Announces New Director

The Central Community College Foundation Board of Directors has appointed Dean Moors of Hastings to become executive director of the foundation on July 1, replacing Jack Crowley of Hastings, who will retire on June 30 after nearly 20 years in the position.

Moors has an extensive background in banking, with more than 28 years of experience in the industry. He has been president of Heritage Bank Hastings since 2000. He previously was president of City National Bank and Trust Company, vice president of the corporate division at the National Bank of Commerce in Lincoln, a loan analyst for First National Bank in Kearney, an auditor with Commerce Group Inc. in Lincoln, and a bank examiner for the Nebraska Department of Banking.

Crowley will help with the transition until the end of 2008.

CCC Designated As Haas Training Center

Officials at Central Community College-Hastings have announced a new partnership that will help assure that its machine tool education program has access to the latest in manufacturing technology. Kelly Christensen, associate dean for trade and industry programs at the campus, said the machine tool program has been designated as a technical training center, or HTech, by Haas Automation Inc., a California-based company that is one of the world's largest manufacturers of CNC (computer numeric controlled) machine tools, including vertical and horizontal machining centers, CNC lathes and rotary tables.

The Hastings Campus machine tool program has two Haas mills and two lathes, purchased at a discount through the Haas educational pricing program. Christensen said that with each machine purchased, Haas provides at no cost to the college a simulator that has the same computer controls that the machine tool uses for programming. In addition, machine tool technology instructor Bruce Bartos has access to all Haas training manuals, and CCC students can attend Haas equipment demonstrations at a discounted price.

The machine tool program offers a two-year associate of applied science degree with options in general machinist, plastic mold making and tool and die making. One-year diplomas, one-semester certificates, and short-term training for industries are also offered.

Young Scores 400th Win

Raider volleyball coach Mary Young of Columbus, formerly of Arcadia, chalked up her 400th career win Sept. 25 in a home game against McCook Community College, ranking her sixth among active coaches in National Junior College Athletic Association Division II. The Columbus Campus team defeated the MCC Indians in straight sets: 25-15, 25-21 and 25-17, bringing the season record to 25-12.

Young's milestone win was even sweeter because it was played on the same court where she competed while attending Central Community College-Columbus. She received an associate of arts degree from CCC before earning a bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and a master's degree in counseling and student affairs from the University of Nebraska-Omaha.



Mary Young and family

Returning to the Columbus Campus in 1995 as volleyball coach, Young continued the Raider tradition of focusing on Nebraska student athletes. Over the past 13 years, she has coached 47 All-Conference players, 39 All-Region players, seven All-American players and 25 Academic All-Americans. Her teams won eight Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference championships. In 2005 and 2006, Raiders were ranked eighth nationally by the National Junior College Athletic Association and competed in the NJCAA Division II national tournament both years. Young has been named NCCAC Coach of the Year six times and Region IX Coach of the Year five times, and was selected as the American Volleyball Coaches Association West Region Coach of the Year in 2002.

CCC Starts High School Entrepreneurship Programs

Central Community College in Columbus and Holdrege have each started High School Entrepreneurs in Action programs. The program is designed for high school students interested in running their own businesses. Each student will decide on a business venture that matches their interests and abilities with a local need identified through a community analysis. They will then develop a business plan that includes a financial feasibility analysis, pricing strategy and a marketing plan.

State Approves Counseling Courses

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has notified Central Community College that its courses in drug and alcohol counseling have been approved as meeting new standards set by the department last year. The college offers an associate of applied science degree in drug and alcohol counseling as part of the human services program at its Grand Island and Hastings campuses.

Instructor Joyce Meinecke said the degree program qualifies graduates to apply for a provisional license as a drug and alcohol counselor. It also counts as 1,000 of the 5,000 hours of field experience needed to qualify to take the national test required to become a fully licensed drug and alcohol counselor. The CCC human services program prepares graduates for employment in a variety of positions with psychiatric treatment facilities, social services agencies, school systems, nursing homes and other settings. Students planning careers in drug and alcohol counseling include eight courses in related topics as part of their program as well as completing a required practicum experience in a drug and alcohol counseling setting.

College Launches New Ethanol Program

Central Community College-Grand Island has launched a new program in renewable fuels to help provide trained employees for Nebraska's booming ethanol industry. Bob Niemann, associate dean for trade and industry programs at Grand Island, said the program includes a two-year associate of applied science degree, a one-year diploma and a one-semester certificate. Although the program initially is being offered on the Grand Island Campus, the college's long-term goal is to make it available online as well, he added. The college also will offer short-term training programs to meet specific needs of the ethanol industry.

College Offers Online Logistics Courses This Fall

CCC is offering two new courses in logistics online this fall to help people prepare for anticipated growth in transportation-related jobs in Nebraska. Long-term plans call for the college to offer an associate of applied science degree in logistics through off-campus study within its 25-county service area. Nebraska's central location makes it attractive to businesses across the nation as a transportation hub, and the state Department of Labor projects a need for more than 1,200 transportation, storage, distribution and material moving managers through 2012 and nearly 8,000 material moving workers.

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Campus Award - Columbus Area Business Hall of Fame Power and Progress Award
- Janis DeHaven - Became one of the first people nationally to receive the Microsoft Master Specialist Instructor Certification for Office 2007
- Kathy Ewers - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Bode Hill - Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference Coach of the Year
- Ron Kluck - 2008 Outstanding Adult Educator Award from Adult and Continuing Education Association of Nebraska
- Emily Pierceall - "Stress and Coping Strategies Among Community College Students" was published in *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*
- Willie Piitz - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Beth Przymus - Graduated from the Academy for Leadership and Development
- Dan Rumsey - Certified as Licensed Penetration Tester by International Council of E-Z Commerce Consultants
- Joan Wilkins - Exceptional Student for the Business Administration Program Award

Grand Island

- Dixie Codner - Received \$1,000 Library Technical Assistant Scholarship from the Nebraska Library Commission
- Barb McGraw - Certified Nurse Educator designation from National League for Nursing
- Steve Millnitz - Nebraska Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators Bob Minturn Special Recognition Award
- Sandy Olson - Received a BEST (Belong, Excel, Study, and Travel) Award from Nebraska Career Education Conference
- Colleen Quadhamer - Certified Nurse Educator designation from National League for Nursing

Hastings

- Maryann Bolton - Honored by VITA for training and mentoring students who volunteer as income tax preparers for low- and moderate-income taxpayers
- Wanda Cloet - Selected to serve on Advisory Council for Institute for the Excellence in Clinical Education and Leadership (IEXCEL)
- Pat Evans - Nebraska Statewide Arboretum Commendation Award
- Heidi Farrall - "What I Would Do With One Year Off School" essay selected from 3,900 student essays for inclusion in the book "Authors of Tomorrow"
- Wayne Ganow - Inducted into the Nebraska Dental Association Hall of Fame
- Sondra Meyer - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award
- Gordon Wheeler - Hastings Campus Spirit Award

Administration

- Jim Strayer - Elected to two-year term as District 5 director for the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations

Retirements

Grand Island

- Don Ballard - Student Accounts Director
- Wayne Vian - Science Instructor

Hastings

- Karleen Beckman - Early Childhood Education Instructor
- Howard Ransom - Building Services Technician
- Diana Springer - Resident Hall Supervisor
- Carol Szlanda - Sociology and Psychology Instructor

Administration

- Maggie Cassey - Administrative Assistant in Human Resources Department
- Barb Thornton - Purchasing Department Buyer

In Memoriam

Kenneth Motley, 89, of Hastings, formerly of Glenvil, died Nov. 22, 2007, at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital. Services were Nov. 27, 2007, at Butler-Volland Chapel with burial in the Blue Valley Cemetery. He was a self-employed farmer and worked for the State of Nebraska at Crystal Lake and at Central Community College-Hastings in security. Survivors include two daughters, Merna Daniel of Bellevue and Barbara Classen of Hastings; a son, Keith Motley of Hebron; and seven grandchildren.

Harold E. Smith, 77, of Hastings died Feb. 8 at his home. Services were Feb. 13 at the Harvard United Church of Christ with burial in the Harvard Cemetery. After he retired from farming, he moved to Hastings where he and his wife, Ruth, began marketing antiques and glass grinding. He also worked as a security guard at the Hastings Campus. Survivors include two daughters, Debra Tobler of Harvard and Brenda Prieksat of LeMars, Iowa; two sons, Lonnie of Benninton and Timothy of Blair; 13 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Karen Baird, 65, of Clay Center died Aug. 19, 2008, at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings. Memorial services were Aug. 23 at the Dawson Building at Central Community College-Hastings. She joined the CCC staff in 1973 as a human resources instructor and was a psychology instructor when she retired in 2007. Survivors include her husband, Jim Baird of Clay Center; a daughter, Molly Dilsaver of Lincoln; a son, James Baird of Golden, Colo.; and two grandchildren.

Edmund J. Kasarda, 76, of Genoa, died Aug. 20 at his home. Services were Aug. 25 at St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Krakow, which is located in rural Genoa. Burial was in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Krakow with military honors by the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard from Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha. After retiring from the military, he worked for Lammers Electric and Hoessel Electric. He taught electronics at CCC-Columbus for 13 years. Survivors include daughters, Mary Ann Schreiber of Columbus and Andrea Shemek of Lincoln; his special friend, Helen Munson of Genoa; and six grandchildren.

CCC Receives \$2.1 Million Health Grant

Central Community College in partnership with Southeast Community College has been awarded a \$2.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor under the President's Community-Based Job Training Grants Initiative. CCC and its partners will use the funds to prepare students for health care careers. The Healthcare Synergy Grant will focus on occupational therapy assistants (OTA), physical therapy assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, dental assistants and medical assistants. Currently there is no OTA program in Nebraska. CCC will be working with the Nebraska Postsecondary Coordinating Commission to develop the new program.

In order to address a critical shortage of occupational and physical therapy assistants, licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and dental and medical assistants and to increase awareness of these careers, Healthcare Synergy will focus on developing new occupational and physical therapy assistant programs, curriculum development integrating technology-based learning, innovative training and capacity building strategies, career awareness, workforce development, ninth through 12th grade early-college medical terminology, and limited English proficiency (LEP) health care classes. Fourteen hundred community college students, workers and individuals from untapped labor pools will participate in the training. The project is a regional approach to educating members of the workforce, secondary students and teachers, and LEP students in new technological advances and career opportunities in high-growth, high-demand health care industries.

Student Receives TRiO Achiever Award

Wei Liu of Schuyler received the Postsecondary TRiO Achiever Award at Nebraska TRiO Day, a statewide meeting that was held recently in Omaha. Liu is an accounting major at Central Community College-Columbus where she has been an active participant in the TRiO Student Support Services Program since the fall of 2006. The TRiO/SSS Program helps first-generation and low-income students with a demonstrated academic need overcome barriers to their dreams. At CCC, Liu recruits new students into TRiO and helps them maneuver the college system; serves as treasurer of the Multicultural Club and historian of the Business Club; and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA..

Students Place In National SkillsUSA Contest

Ten Central Community College students competed in the National SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo. They were among 4,800 high school and postsecondary students from across the U.S. who earned the right to compete at the national level by placing first in their respective state competitions.

Karen Swartz of Columbus won a gold medal in related technical math, and Audrey Churchill of Holstein placed eighth in photography. Other students who competed were Jim Swartz, CNC turning; Kevin Swartz, computer maintenance; and Lisa Posposil, technical drafting. Scott Bohn of Gibbon placed fourth in diesel technology while Josh Martin of Elm Creek and Kurtis Einspahr of Holyoke, Colo., placed fifth in team welding fabrication. Other students who competed were Casey Stout, welding, and David Shuck, collision repair.

Nursing Program To Observe Anniversary

The nursing program at Central Community College-Kearney is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. In honor of the anniversary, CCC-Kearney will have an open house from 3 to 5 p.m. on April 25. The public is invited to attend.

The practical nursing program was established in 1958 by the Kearney Women's Club and Kearney Public Schools, according to Colleen Quadhamer, who teaches nursing and serves as coordinator of the nursing program at CCC-Kearney. It became part of the CCC system in 1970. It was originally under the administration of the Hastings Campus, Quadhamer said, but was transferred to the Grand Island Campus in 1989 with the introduction of the associate degree in nursing (ADN) program.

Doane College and CCC Form Partnership

Students interested in earning a bachelor's degree while remaining in central Nebraska now have a new option to consider. Doane College and Central Community College have formed a 2 + 2 partnership that will allow students to complete an associate's degree at CCC and then transfer to Doane College to complete a bachelor's degree. Because the Doane/CCC 2 + 2 Program is open to any student enrolled at any Central Community College location, it is a "win-win for people living in central Nebraska," said Dr. Lynn Black, president of CCC-Grand Island. "A student will be able to acquire both an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree at a very reasonable cost through this partnership."

More Than A Game

Bradshaw Park in Columbus saw a good turnout April 24 for a make-up game between the Central Community College and McCook Community College softball teams. The game also was a benefit in honor of Columbus Campus employees Dee Barber and Emily Uzendoski who are battling breast cancer. CCC softball team members wore and sold pink T-shirts. From sales and the gate entrance fees, more than \$1,000 was raised.



2009

Campus To Expand Services In Ord Area

Central Community College will be expanding its educational services in the Ord area. In partnership with Greater Loup Valley Activities Inc. (GLVA) and Valley County Economic Development (VCED), CCC began construction on classrooms and an expanded learning center at the end of October. Along with expanded educational opportunities, more extensive partnerships with economic development will be implemented over the next year. A federal grant was submitted for the creation of a rural entrepreneurship academy, that if awarded, would be developed in 2010.

Karin Rieger, associate dean of Extended Learning Services at Central Community College -Columbus explained that this expansion will bring new opportunities for career and technical training, academic and career planning services, professional and continuing education classes, and easier access to higher education. Dr. Matt Gotschall, president of CCC-Columbus, declared the expanded facilities should greatly increase the quantity and quality of distance learning opportunities for individuals in the northwest corner of our CCC service area. A survey conducted in May shows that people in the Ord area want expanded services. Out of 384 responses, 55.1 percent would “very likely” and 31.3 percent would “somewhat likely” use CCC if it were located in Ord. Top class preferences for classes were:

- Computer skills, 53.9 percent
- Business, 48.5 percent
- Health care, 38.7 percent
- Human and social services, 24.9 percent
- Foreign languages, 24.1 percent
- Sciences, 23.2 percent
- General Education Development (GED), 15.5 percent

“We’re excited about this new opportunity to meet the diverse educational needs of people living in the Ord area,” Rieger said. “We’re looking forward to taking our services to a whole new level while still being able to offer quality education at an affordable price.”

CCC Declared A Great Place To Work

Central Community College is one of 28 community colleges nationwide recognized by The Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2009 Great Colleges to Work For program. CCC was cited for two employee benefits: its 403(b) plan, which matches employee contributions up to 8 percent; and for its tuition reimbursement plan, which waives tuition for employees and their dependents who take classes from the college. Employees pay student fees for classes. Survey results are based on responses from nearly 41,000 administrators, faculty members and staff members at those institutions. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was the employee feedback collected from the faculty and staff.

Filipi Estate Gives Back To Community

The Lucille and Dr. Ed Filipi Scholarship Fund has been announced by the Central Community College Foundation after it received a gift for funding scholarships for Leigh and Clarkson area students to attend college at Central Community College-Columbus. Dr. Filipi was a dentist who practiced out of his home in Leigh for many years. In addition to serving his local community, he used his dentistry skills to serve his country while in the U.S. Army, eventually achieving the rank of major. He died in Williston, Vermont in 1988. Mrs. Filipi was born near Dwight, and Leigh was where she and her husband raised their daughter, Joan. Following a time in Vermont, Mrs. Filipi moved back to Nebraska and died in Columbus in January 2009. "Lucille had a strong belief in education. She always felt that she had more to 'study,' whether by reading the encyclopedia and dictionary or listening closely to what people were telling her. She always used to say 'we have a lot to learn,'" said her grandson, Kris Wigness of New Jersey.

Mrs. Filipi always carried a special bond with the local communities in and around Leigh and Clarkson. The scholarships will be awarded by the Central Community College scholarship committee to full-time or part-time students primarily from the Leigh and Clarkson area who attend CCC-Columbus. Scholarship recipients can include current high school students approved to take college-level courses. Up to 50 percent of the funds can be used to support students pursuing health-related fields of study.

CCC To Offer Statewide Online Library Program

Central Community College is offering a new statewide online program for Nebraskans who want to work in libraries. Students in the new library and information services (LIS) program will develop practical skills in acquisition, processing and circulation of all types of information resources. The focus will be on library management in small rural libraries as well as assistance in large more urban resource centers. The LIS program replaces one that was offered jointly by Nebraska's six community colleges, with each college offering one or two courses online.

Dr. Eric Jones, dean of educational services at CCC-Grand Island, developed a proposal for the college to offer all of the library information courses and make them available statewide. The chief instructional officers' council of the Nebraska Community College Association approved the proposal last summer.

Students completing the six LIS courses offered online by CCC will receive a certificate from the college and will meet Nebraska Library Commission requirements for Nebraska Public Librarian certification. The library courses were developed in cooperation with the Nebraska Library Commission. Participants who complete the program will meet library commission requirements to work in a small Nebraska library. Public libraries must have a certified librarian to be eligible for state grants and for federal funds administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

10.11% increase in enrollments for 2009-2010 school year gives CCC two consecutive years of record enrollments

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Karen Mroczek - Columbus Sertoma Club Service to Mankind Award
- Chris Wagner - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Jeff Kitson - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Jeff Kitson - Presented "From Zero to Sixty: Recruiting and Revitalizing in the Two-Year College" at the American Choral Directors Association Conference in Oklahoma City

Hastings

- Sharon Maul - Nebraska Weed Control Association Presidential Special Recognition
- Maryann Bolton - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award
- Bob Shields - Hastings Campus Spirit Award

Retirements

Columbus

- Nick Wagoner - Alternative Fuels and Industrial Technology Instructor

Grand Island

- Leslie Christensen - Administrative Assistant in Counseling Office

Hastings

- Nancy Fricke - Administrative Assistant in Academic Advising Center
- Bob Shields - Special Populations Counselor
- John Wood - Coordinator and Trainer for Transport for the Future Transportation Grant

CCC Team Competes In Grand Island Games

A team consisting of eight Central Community College employees and two family members competed in the annual Grand Island Games July 17-19. The Grand Island Games is an Olympic-style team event. It is designed to give participants a chance to experience a wide variety of recreational activities, meet new people, build company pride, promote community unity, and have some fun. People were able to participate in such activities as free throw shooting, doubles table tennis, coed basketball, aerobics, obstacle course, soccer, golf chipping, coed sand volleyball, bowling, billiards, and tug of war.

CCC team members were Donna Anderson; Melissa Dill; Jamie Meyer and her husband, Steve; Pat Muth and her daughter, Shelby Thieszen; Jeff Schulz; Judy Weston; Margaret Williams; and Randy Zalman. Although they didn't win any awards, "we had fun and lots of it," said Williams, who served as team captain. "We want to do it all over again next year."

In Memoriam

Frank O. Zimmerman Jr., 81, of Kearney died March 1 at Good Samaritan Hospital. Services were March 7 at First Christian Church with burial in the Kearney Cemetery. He worked most of his life as a printer. He was employed with Zimmerman Printing in Kearney, Albee Printers in Grand Island, Classical Graphics in Kearney and in the print department at the Hastings Campus. Survivors include his wife Jacqueline; son, Michael Zimmerman; daughters, Julie Tarr, Linda Johns, and Kelly Zapp; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Bernie Friedrichsen, 80, of Columbus, died June 12 at the Bryan LGH East Hospital in Lincoln. Services were June 17 at Peace Lutheran Church in Columbus with burial in the Columbus Cemetery. After graduating with an accounting degree from Wayne State College, he received his certified public accounting credential. He worked as an accountant most of his life in various settings in the Columbus area. He served on the Central Community College Board of Governors and taught business classes at the Columbus Campus. Survivors include his wife Myrna; son Bruce; daughters Deb Kobus and Michelle Ernst; and seven grandchildren.

Jim Cassey, 69, of Grand Island died Dec. 7, 2008, at St. Francis Medical Center. Services were Dec. 12 at Central Catholic High School in Grand Island. He was a speech and English teacher and gymnastics and debate coach at high schools in O'Neill and McCook as well as at Grand Island Senior High School. He retired in 2001, but went on to teach at Central Community College for three years and, beginning in 2005, at Central Catholic High School. Survivors include his wife, Maggie, of Grand Island.

James Leroy Cronin Sr., 72, of Bladen died Aug. 26 at his home. There were no services or visitation; his remains were cremated. He farmed and worked at Central Community College-Hastings. He began his employment at CCC on July 1, 1966, as a stockman storekeeper. He was later promoted to supervisor of shipping, receiving and grounds and retired as physical plant supervisor in 1999. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; son, James Cronin Jr; daughters, Deborah Palanza and Crystal Strasburg; and three grandchildren.

Harold F. Keil, 89, of Columbus, died Aug. 9 at his home. Funeral services were Aug. 13 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Columbus with burial in St. Bonaventure Cemetery in Columbus. Military honors were provided by the American Legion Hartman Post #84 Honor Guard. He was an over-the-road driver for Behlen Mfg. Co. for three years and worked at Central Community College-Columbus for 15 years until his retirement. Survivors include daughters Judy Meays, Cindy Hiermeier, and Kathy Klug; son, Jay Keil; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Jim D. Rawhouser Sr., 69, of Columbus died Aug. 3 at the Columbus Community Hospital. Funeral services were Aug. 7 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Columbus with burial in All Saints Cemetery in Columbus. The couple lived in Columbus where he owned a his own truck and drove for Moorman Feed. He later worked for Central Community College-Columbus, retiring in 2003 after 30 years. Survivors include his wife Teena; sons, Mike Rawhouser and Jim Rawhouser Jr.; and four grandchildren.

Campus Breaks Ground For New Residence Hall

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Oct. 15 for the new residence hall at Central Community College-Columbus. The 11,260-square-foot building will cost an estimated \$1.8 million to build. Adding in the furniture, equipment and professional services brings the total estimated cost to \$2.3 million.

The new residence hall will include 18 rooms that will house two or three students each, a commons area, a kitchen, a study room, an open computer lab and a laundry. It also will include sustainable features such as:

- Precast concrete exterior walls,
- Room motion sensors to turn off and on room lighting,
- Dual-flush toilets,
- Low-flow faucets and showers,
- Fluorescent lighting with energy efficient T-8 lamps,
- Double-glazed, low E windows,
- Roof insulated to R-18.6,
- Walls insulated to R-15,
- Recyclable carpeting,
- Construction waste management,
- Use of renewable or recycled materials,
- Energy management system and
- Other devices to reduce energy waste.



Dr. Matt Gotschall unveils new residence hall

The residence hall is scheduled for completion in June 2010, and students will be able to move in for the 2010 fall semester.

Columbus Campus Unveils New Raider Logo

Central Community College-Columbus unveiled a new look for the Raider logo at the Nov. 17 basketball game against Iowa Western Community College. Athletic Director Jack Gutierrez said this is the first major makeover for the CCC Raider since the early 1980s. Prior to 1980, the Raider was a Viking figure. A student first designed the cowboy figure which had been updated five or six times.



The new Raider was designed by Beam Team Design of Arlington, Texas, a firm that specializes in sports logos and offers special rates for colleges like CCC that are members for the National Junior College Athletic Association. The new Raider will be used for all the Columbus Campus intercollegiate sports: basketball, golf, softball and volleyball.

New Equipment On Display At Open House

More than 270 people visited one of the nation's best-equipped machine tool technology education programs on Oct. 29 when Central Community College-Hastings sponsored an open house for its Midwest Center for Plastics and Design. A big draw for representatives



Bruce Bartos demonstrates one of the new pieces of equipment at the open house

of some 50 businesses and industries who attended the open house was 15 new CNC machine tools recently added to the campus machine tool technology program, including mills, lathes, a surface grinder, vertical machining centers and sinker and wire electrical discharge machines, as well as CNC classroom simulators.

Alan Hartley, dean of trade and industry programs, said it is unusual for a community college to have that much CNC equipment. "I've visited a lot of machine tool programs during my 10 years as dean and I've never

seen one as well-equipped as this one. I'm sure there's nothing like it in the Midwest," Hartley said. "Not only do we have a lot of equipment but it is brand new, state-of-the-art. The faculty did an outstanding job of selecting the equipment needed to meet local industry needs."

The new equipment was provided through a \$2.1 million Community-Based Job Training grant from the U.S. Department of Labor awarded to the college to develop a program in design technology and to establish the Midwest Center for Plastics and Design. The new design technology program will combine elements from CCC's existing drafting and machine tool technology programs to give program graduates an in-depth understanding of product design. The Community-Based Job Training grant also is providing funds to develop an emphasis in plastic injection molding, a commonly used manufacturing process, from the initial design phase through plastic mold-making and production of the finished product.

Training Department Receives Recognition

The Central Community College training and development department received the Pike's Peak Award at the Bob Pike Group fall conference in Minneapolis.

The award is presented to organizations and individuals committed to implementing participant-centered techniques.

The CCC training and development department have been using hands-on, participant-centered techniques for years. The trainers have found that interactive training is much more productive than traditional lecture-based training. In addition, during the past five years, CCC has had more than 3,000 people go through its seven-session leadership program.

Students In Action



Neima Blanco was one of several members of the FOCUS multicultural club at Central Community College-Grand Island who wrapped gifts Dec. 7 at the Conestoga Mall in Grand Island. The money raised from the freewill donations will be used to fund the group's activities.

Attendees at an unveiling ceremony of a new sculpture at Columbus: Jaime Finecy of Columbus; K.C. Belitz from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce; Renee DeWyke, drafting instructor; Leon Finecy, machine tool instructor; Duane Matson, associate dean of instruction; and Matt Gotschall, campus president. A Lowe's grant allowed the SkillsUSA chapter to design and build the sculpture and a trophy case.



Ellie Neid of Columbus learned the printmaking process at one of several summer enrichment camps offered jointly to Columbus Middle School students by Central Community College-Columbus and Columbus Middle School.

Middle and high school teachers attended the Transportation Career Pathways Academy. Pictured are: (back row) Pam Glodowski, Gothenburg Middle School, and Robin Bailey, Hastings Public Schools, and (front row) Terry Smith, Meridian High School in Daykin; Gordon Eggers, Litchfield High School; Angie McMahon, David City High School; and Dave McMahon, David City Aquinas High School.



Robots Draw Teachers To Institute

Twenty-one instructors expanded their horizons when they attended the Summer Robotics Institute June 15-26 at Central Community College-Columbus.

The 21 teachers from 13 different area schools attended "Teaching Mathematics and Science Using Robots." Participants built robotic cars or CEENBots with the help of faculty from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering. The teachers also developed new lessons and adapted existing lessons for their classrooms with help of faculty from the University of Nebraska-Omaha College of Education.

The institute was funded by a Career Education Partnership Act grant that Columbus Public Schools submitted in partnership with CCC, UNL, UNO and the Peter Kiewit Institute.



CCC Students On All-State Academic Team

Six Central Community College students were honored as members of the 2009 Phi Theta Kappa Nebraska All-State Academic Team during ceremonies that were held April 22 at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln. The event was sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges, and the Nebraska Community College Association to honor students for academic achievement, leadership and community service. A medallion and certificate were presented to the 29 All-State Academic Team members, including the following CCC students:

- Robert Baer of Columbus is enrolled in the academic transfer program at the Columbus Campus. He plans to transfer into the pre-physician's assistant program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and eventually wants to work at a sports medicine clinic.
- Danielle Brown of Sutton is a business administration major at the Hastings Campus. After graduating this spring, she plans to transfer to Hastings College.
- Melissa Dill of Aurora, formerly of Hastings, is a business administration/accounting major at the Grand Island Campus. After she earns her associate's degree, she plans to transfer to Bellevue University to complete a bachelor's degree.
- Laura Gregoski of Upland is a music education major at the Columbus Campus. She plans to transfer to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall and ultimately plans to earn a doctorate in music.
- Lindsay Griepenstroh of Dannebrog is a media arts student at the Hastings Campus. After she earns her associate's degree, she plans to use her media skills in a camp ministry.
- Apollo Stack of Aurora is a biology/pre-medical major at the Grand Island Campus. He plans to transfer into the biology and chemistry programs at Hastings College.

CCC Receives Multiple Grants

American Dental Hygienists' Association

Students in the dental hygiene program at Central Community College-Hastings will now be able to bring educational and preventive programs to preschool children, thanks to a grant from the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) through the National Children's Oral Health Foundation.

The grant also allowed the dental hygiene program to hire a part-time faculty member, Deb Schardt, who will supervise the students when they visit preschools. Their first visit was to Hastings Head Start on Sept. 8.

According to Wanda Cloet the grant actually grew from another ADHA grant that awarded CCC-Hastings and four other colleges – Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, Ill.; the University of Missouri in Kansas City; Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio; and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis – funding for start-up costs to join the National Children's Health Organization Affiliate Network. The network gives its members access to donations from companies with excess supplies such as dental film, anesthetic, high-speed hand pieces and restorative material. It also gives them the opportunity to apply for more grants – which is what CCC-Hastings did to get the funding for bringing dental education and preventive programs to preschools.

National Endowment For The Humanities

Central Community College has been awarded a \$138,641 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop two one-week workshops titled "Legacies and Landmarks of the High Plains Native Americans" that will be open to 50 community college faculty members. The grant is one of 10 awards nationally for the NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture for Community College Teachers program.

"This part of the United States is rich with the history of the High Plains Native Americans and we want to take people to places where important events happened and get a feel for the area," said Dr. Dianna Parmley, dean of educational services at Central Community College-Columbus and director for the project. "Significant populations of Native Americans lived in this region and it is important to know how they lived, the trials and tribulations they faced, where they went, and what they are doing now to preserve their culture."

Parmley said the workshops will be a scholarly study of High Plains Native American history and culture from 18th century to modern times. CCC-Columbus will be home base for the two workshops, scheduled for June 20-25 and June 27-July 2, 2010, but will include visits to several sites including the former Genoa Indian Industrial School, now the Genoa U.S. Indian School Museum; the site of a large fortified village of the Kitkehaki Pawnee near Republic, Kan.; and the Winnebago Indian Reservation.

The grant was part of \$29 million awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities for 184 projects. CCC is one of two community colleges to receive awards.

National Science Foundation Grant

Central Community College has received a \$870,156 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). CCC's partners for the three-year Project SHINE (Shaping High-quality Integrated Nebraska Education) grant include the Nebraska departments of education, labor and economic development; the University of Nebraska; FutureForce Nebraska; Columbus Public Schools; and Nebraska businesses representing energy, bio-fuels, food processing and manufacturing.

"The goal of the project is to bring secondary and college faculty into collaborative relationships with business and industry," said Doug Pauley, training and development director at CCC's Columbus Campus. "It's our belief that if we can get educators to work more closely with business and industry, the curriculum will improve and include real work examples that will engage students, especially in the areas of math and science." A key component of Project SHINE is the opportunity for 72 secondary and college instructors to participate in a program focusing on professional development in applied science and mathematics skills, problem-based learning and student recruitment. Each year, 24 instructors will participate in 19 days of activities, work with business mentors for at least one year and develop learning and teaching resources as a result of their experiences.

The project also will include development and adaptation of materials that integrate problem-based learning into existing curricula. Over the course of the project, about 190 problem-based learning resource materials will be placed on the Mechatronics Education Center website (www.mechatronics-mec.org) and linked to existing NSF centers.

U.S. Department Of Health And Human Services

A federal grant will help prepare nurses for any patient care or emergency situation they may not get to experience as part of their education. The grant will be used to purchase high-fidelity mannequins that can be programmed to simulate various health care scenarios that student nurses might not encounter during clinical rotation. In addition, the grant will fund a full-time nursing simulation instructor position at CCC and a half-time simulation trainer at St. Francis to support the development of scenarios for students and nurses for the development of critical thinking skills.

Funding for the project is provided by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration. The project is recommended for a three-year grant totaling \$757,844. First-year funding totaling \$228,988 has been awarded. Awards for the following two years are contingent on the availability of funds.

An adult male mannequin and a pediatric mannequin will be purchased in the first year and join "Noelle," an adult female mannequin, and "Baby Hal," a maternal birth infant mannequin, which were acquired through a Department of Labor grant. The mannequins will be housed in the simulation laboratory that will be part of a 44,000-square-foot Health-Science Education Center under construction at Central Community College-Grand Island. The project is scheduled for completion in July 2010. The simulation laboratory will be used by CCC students and will be available to the area health care community.

2010

CCC Enrollment Hit New High In 2009-2010

The Central Community College Board of Governors got good news at its August meeting when members learned that the college had a record full-time equivalent student (FTES) enrollment in 2009-2010. Dr. Deb Brennan, college executive vice president, reported that enrollment totaled 4,431 FTES for the year, a 12.2 percent increase over 2008-09. FTES is a measure used by higher education to account for both full- and part-time enrollment. One FTES equals 30 semester-hours of credit.

The number of full-time students increased by 17.8 percent in 2009-10 while the number of part-time students decreased by 1.9 percent. The total number of students decreased from 25,961 in 2008-09 to 25,020 in 2009-10. Brennan said the reduction in the total number of students is due largely to reduced demand by businesses and industries for training programs provided by the college, a result of cutbacks caused by the recession. In addition, enrollment in avocational or personal interest courses has decreased, Brennan said. The enrollment total includes students at CCC's Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings campuses and Holdrege, Kearney and Lexington centers; students taking classes online; high school students taking college credit classes through the Early College program; and students enrolled in credit, noncredit and Adult Education classes provided by the college throughout its 25-county service area. Brennan said 20,951 of the students, 84 percent, were from the CCC service area, but the college had students from every county in Nebraska, 41 other states and 18 other countries.

Veteran Students To Benefit From Grant

Central Community College has received a three-year \$393,993 Central to Veteran Student Success grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

"The most exciting and interesting aspect of this grant is that it establishes a Center of Excellence that may serve as a model for other institutions of higher education," said College President Dr. Greg Smith. "As such, it may have a positive impact on the education of veterans not only locally but also regionally and nationally." Through the center, veterans will have access to coordinated and consolidated student services such as campus tours, orientation sessions, tutoring and mentoring. By providing these services, the college hopes to increase its enrollment, retention and graduation of veterans. The goal is to increase enrollment from 175 to 834 by 2013 and retention from 40 to 80 percent.

As part of the grant, the college will have veterans' centers on all three campuses. The centers will provide veteran students a place to congregate and socialize. A coordinator being hired through this project will also give veterans a single point of contact for when they need information about the college or other services for veterans. As part of the center, the college will also work with outside groups to provide support services for vets who have questions about non-college issues such as V.A. benefits.

New Facilities Welcome Students Back To CCC

Health Science Building - Grand Island Campus

At the dedication of the new Health/ Science Education Center Aug. 19 at Central Community College-Grand Island, Campus President Dr. Lynn Black and College Business Officer Larry Glazier hold the ribbon in preparation for the cutting ceremony. Onlookers are Joey Hausmann, building contractor; Jeff Hinrichs, architect; Dr. Greg Smith, college president; and Linda Aerni, CCC Board of Governors chair.



Residence Hall - Columbus Campus

At the dedication of the new residence hall Aug 18 at Central Community College-Columbus, Chamber Commodore Karin Zimmerman makes a presentation to Campus President Dr. Matt Gotschall. Onlookers are Mike Miller, resident assistant; Sam Cowan, CCC Board of Governors member; Dale Luedtke, an original Board of Trustee member; and Linda Aerni, CCC board chair.



Holdrege Learning Center

The Holdrege Center located at the Phelps County Ag Center underwent a \$364,569 renovation project that more than doubled the center's space. It includes a third video conference classroom and adds the ability to originate as well as receive video classes. The center also has additional classroom space for training activities and community education classes; quiet study and testing areas; a dedicated computer lab; and new space for nursing assistant, medical assistant, CPR and first aid classes.

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Doris Lux - Nebraska Association of Community College Entrepreneurship 2010 Recognition Award for Specialty and Outreach Programs
- Doug Hann - Bachelor's degree in business administration from Wayne State College
- Shelley Frear - Bachelor's degree in history from Chadron State College
- Kim Garretson - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Lori Hodtwalker - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Mary Young - Named to Arcadia High School Huskies Wall of Fame

Grand Island

- Ann Chambers - Graduated from Academy for Leadership and Development
- Karen Niedfelt - Elected treasurer of Nebraska Legal Professionals Association
- Vicki Mackenstadt - Won picture contest at Associated Writers Program in Denver
- Terry Schifferns - Won picture contest at Associated Writers Program in Denver
- Kristi Korensky - Received 2010 NEBMATYC Excellence in Teaching Award from Nebraska Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges
- Joyce Meinecke - Certified as Human Services Board Certified Practitioner by Center for Credentialing and Education and National Organization of Human Services
- Tricia Stephens - Named National Multiple Sclerosis Society representative to Community Health Charities' West Central Nebraska Board
- Pennie Morgan - Certified as Professional in Human Resources

Hastings

- Kelly Christensen - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award; Received Leadership Nebraska Program diploma from Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Marie Desmarais - Graduated from Academy for Leadership and Development
- Marcie Kemnitz - Appointed to the Hastings Public Schools Board of Education
- Chris Waddle - Hastings Campus Spirit Award
- Jane Stratman - Named Nebraska Dental Hygienist of the Year
- Troy Davis - Certified Production Technician certification earned from the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council
- Carole Meyer - Received Higher Education Art Educator Award from Nebraska Art Teachers Association
- Janice Hill - Certified as Human Services Board Certified Practitioner by Center for Credentialing and Education and National Organization of Human Services
- Kathy Marble - Certified as Human Services Board Certified Practitioner by Center for Credentialing and Education and National Organization of Human Services
- Barry Lewis - Won top honors in Street Legal category at National Hot Rod Association Nebraska State Championship drag racing competition
- Lisa Tschauner - "Central Community College Pilot Workshop Hits the Mark," published in Community College Entrepreneurship

Students Named To All-State Team

Six Central Community College students were honored as members of the 2010 Phi Theta Kappa Nebraska All-State Academic Team during ceremonies March 31 at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln. The event was sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges, and the Nebraska Community College Association to honor students for academic achievement, leadership and community service. A medallion and certificate were presented to the All-State Academic Team members, including the following CCC students:

- Amanda Ballweg of Columbus is a business major at the Columbus .
- Laura Beahm of Hastings is a media arts major at the Hastings Campus.
- Heather Dworak of Kearney is enrolled in the academic transfer program as a pre-engineering major at the Columbus Campus.
- John Lundholm of Grand Island is an electronics major at the Grand Island Campus.
- Levi Ochsner of Sutton is a business administration major at the Hastings Campus.
- Michael Wolff of Gothenburg is an electronics major at the Grand Island Campus.

Phi Theta Kappa Honors

Central Community College received numerous awards at the Phi Theta Kappa international convention April 8-10 in Orlando, Fla. Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society for two-year colleges.

Chi Sigma Chapter - Columbus Campus

- Amor Silva received the Distinguished Chapter President Award
- Taylor Anderson received the Distinguished Chapter Officer Award

Alpha Tau Tau Chapter - Grand Island Campus

- Lauren Gibilisco received the Distinguished Chapter Member Award

Beta Alpha Delta Chapter - Hastings Campus

- Hastings Campus President Bill Hitesman was one of 17 recipients of the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction
- Erica Buescher received the Distinguished Chapter President Award
- Levi Ochsner received the Distinguished Chapter Officer Award
- Christopher Demers received the Distinguished Chapter Member Award
- Adviser Vickie Liles received the Distinguished Adviser Award
- Adviser Christopher Waddle received the Paragon Award for New Advisers

All three chapters were recognized at the five-star level for success in planning and implementing quality programs.

In Memoriam

Merle Anderson, 91, of Hastings died Oct. 1 at his home. Services were Oct. 5 at First United Methodist Church in Hastings with burial at Blue Valley Cemetery in rural Adams County. He worked at Perry Rankin Realty and Rose Realty before establishing Merle Anderson Realty. He kept his real estate license until he was 90. He served four terms on the Central Community College Board of Governors, holding every position before he left the board in 1994. He also served on the National Association of Community College Trustees. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; three sons, Dick, Alan and Scott; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Chester J. "Chet" Woodward, 85, of Harvard died June 30 at St. Francis Medical Center in Grand Island. Services were held July 5 at the Harvard United Church of Christ. Burial with military rites was in the First Evangelical Cemetery. He worked at the same location for almost 44 years, first for the Navy Ammunition Depot (NAD) and then for Central Community College when it acquired the depot buildings and land. He joined NAD's fire department staff as a civilian employee in March 1946 and continued to work in that department when CCC opened on July 1, 1966. "One day I was working for the Navy and the next day I was working for the college," he once said. After the City of Hastings took over the fire department's responsibilities, he transferred to the security and physical plant departments. He retired as coordinator of the physical plant in 1989. Survivors include his wife, Shirley; son, Duane; three daughters, Charlotte Madden, Bonnie Campbell and Connie Ayer; an adopted daughter, Kim (Mihm) Emil; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Charlotte Mae (Shannon) Smith, 79, of Hastings died Oct. 7 at St. Francis Medical Center in Grand Island. Memorial services were Oct. 23 at St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral with inurnment will be in All Soul's Chapel at St. Mark's Episcopal Pro-Cathedral. She was one of the first employees who went to work at Central Community College-Hastings when it opened on July 1, 1966. She was a bookkeeper, secretary for the business office and a proofreader in the print shop before becoming a secretary to the dean of students in 1974. She retired in 1994. Survivors include children, Shane Smith, Jodi Cramer and Scott Smith; 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Dr. Emily Jane Uzendoski, 67, of Columbus died Dec. 7, 2009, at the Columbus Community Hospital. Memorial services were Dec. 10 at the First United Methodist Church in Columbus. Palmer Funeral Home in Fullerton was in charge of arrangements. She joined the Central Community College-Columbus staff on Aug. 15, 1978, as an English instructor, the position she held until her death. In 1977, her bibliography, "A Handlist of Nebraska Authors," was published by the Nebraska Department of Education. She also had articles printed in "Nebraskaland," "A River and Its People" and "The Journal of American Culture;" edited "The Salt Creek Reader;" was on the staff of "The Saltillo;" and served as co-chairman of the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival. In 1985 she was selected as the college representative to the American Association of University Women. In 1992, she was the compiler and manager of a database of Nebraska authors and their published works. Survivors include a daughter, Michele.

Channing Keith Boyle, 81, died Feb. 9 after a lengthy hospitalization in San Antonio, Texas. A memorial service will be held at the First Christian Church in Trumbull at a later date. His wishes were to be cremated. He worked in the automotive service business for many years, including at AH Jones, and owned Hillcrest Garage. He retired from Central Community College-Hastings where he was an automotive tech instructor for more than 20 years. Survivors include his wife, Ruth; one son, Jack; one grandson; and two great-grandchildren.

Josephine P. Hill, 96, of Blue Hill died Jan. 24 at the Blue Hill Care Center in Blue Hill. Services were Jan. 28 at the First Baptist Church in Mason City with burial in the Mason City Cemetery. She moved to Hastings in 1967 and worked at Central Community College-Hastings as a secretarial science instructor until she retired. Survivors include a son, Paul, and a daughter, Linda.

Leon E. Schafer, 77, of Kenesaw died Aug. 7 at the Kenesaw Haven Home. Services were Aug. 11 at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in Hastings with burial in the Kenesaw Cemetery. He was employed as an electrician at Central Community College-Hastings from 1987 until his retirement in 1995. Survivors include a daughter, Gail Whitsel; a son, Douglas Schafer; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

H. Dayle Johnson, 62, of Lincoln died Aug. 2 at his home. Services were Aug. 5 at the Metcalf Funeral Home Chapel in Lincoln with burial in the Craig Cemetery in Craig. He was a welding instructor at Central Community College-Hastings in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Survivors include his sons, Aaron Johnson and Darren Johnson; and two grandchildren.

Retirements

Columbus

- Twila Wallace - Business Technology Instructor

Grand Island

- Virginia Ahlschwede - Career and Employment Services Director

Hastings

- Ray Gangwish - Physical Plant Director
- Terry Gangwish - Administrative Assistant in Admissions Office
- Wayne Huntley - Parts Sales and Management Instructor

Administration

- Nancy Bjorklund - Grants Manager

Workshop Explores Legacies, Landmarks Of Plains Native American Tribes

Fifty community college faculty members from 26 states attended a week-long workshop either June 20-25 or June 27-July 2 in Nebraska focusing on the culture and history of three Plains Native American tribes. Central Community College-Columbus served as host for the workshop, which was part of the National Endowment for the Humanities summer program for community college faculty. Funding was provided by a \$138,641 NEH grant.

The workshops provided an in-depth study of the Pawnee, Ponca and Omaha people from the time of western expansion to the present. They explored the culture of these Native Americans and discovered how the way of life they cherished was altered forever by western expansion. Participants visited the Pawnee Indian Village Museum in Republic County, Kan.; the Genoa U.S. Indian School Museum; Pawnee village archaeological sites in Genoa and Fullerton; Joslyn Art Museum and Durham Museum in Omaha; Omaha Indian Reservation and Nebraska Indian Community College in Macy; and the Neihardt Center and Sacred Hoop Prayer Garden in Bancroft. Speakers included authors Joe Starita and David Wishart from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and native speakers Judi Gaiashkibos, executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs; Pat Leading Fox, head chief of the Pawnee nation's Nasharo Council; Wynema Morris, enrolled member of the Omaha tribe; Gary Robinette, director of cultural affairs for the Ponca tribe of Nebraska; and storyteller Matt Jones.

Attendees came from Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.

Program Chosen As Bellwether Finalist

The Mechatronics Education Program (MEP) at Central Community College-Columbus has been recognized as one of 10 national finalists for the Bellwether Award in the workforce development category. The Bellwether Award recognizes outstanding and innovative programs and practices that have been successfully implemented at community colleges. The finalists were honored Jan. 26 at the Community College Futures Assembly in Orlando. More than 50 projects were nominated from across the U.S. for the workforce development category. CCC was recognized for offering professional development opportunities to high school and middle school teachers, providing short-term training for business and industry, and developing a two-year degree program in mechatronics and industrial automation.

As a past Bellwether Award winner in 2000, CCC was invited to become an institutional member of the Community College Futures Assembly Bellwether College Consortium. The consortium, which is sponsored by the University of Florida, promotes the sharing and replication of cutting-edge, trendsetting programs between colleges. It also pursues national grant funding to meet this goal.

CCC Receives \$9.5 Million Health Grant

Central Community College has received a \$9.5 million Health Profession Opportunity grant from the federal Health and Human Services Department to prepare some 1,600 low-income people for careers in health care professions over the next five years. According to Dr. Greg Smith, it is the largest grant that CCC has received. "It is significant for central Nebraska on several levels. It provides the funding needed for the college and its partners to train people with low incomes for relatively high-paying careers while helping to meet the rapidly growing demand for health care workers in the region," he said.

The college plans to recruit 1,620 people into a Project Health Education Laddering program with a goal of at least 90 percent of the participants completing basic skills training before branching out into various health care training and education areas.

The project calls for participants to complete at least 1,766 certificates or certifications and 557 diplomas or associate degrees through CCC in such areas as nursing assistant, medication aid, electronic medical record keeping, medical assisting, medical laboratory technician, occupational therapy assistant and central sterilization technician.

The college also will work with several partners to assist at least 170 registered nurses who have a two-year associate degree in nursing (ADN) to continue their education and earn bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degrees. As a project partner, Doane College Grand Island Campus will offer ADN-to-BSN courses in eight-week classroom or online sessions for current nurses who want to earn a bachelor's degree.

Cargill Learning Center Serves Schuyler

Maryjan Fiala has one goal in mind: to connect people in the Schuyler area with the resources that can help them improve their lives. As coordinator of the Cargill Community Learning Center located at the Cargill Meat Solutions facility, she oversees the variety of classes and services offered through the Central Community College Adult Education Program.

Classes offered in the center include English as a second language, GED, citizenship, and Spanish driver preparation classes through the Nebraska Safety Council. In addition to classes, the learning center offers a full-service library and computer lab with internet access. Other services include a free tax clinic in which a representative from Nebraska Legal Aid provides information. Fiala wants the center to provide students from all walks of life with the opportunity to learn a whole array of skills.

Hastings Named Tree Campus USA College

Central Community College-Hastings has been named a 2009 Tree Campus USA College by the Arbor Day Foundation for its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. The campus met the required five core standards of tree care and community engagement in order to receive Tree Campus USA status. Those standards are establishing a campus tree advisory committee; evidence of a campus tree care plan; verification of dedicated annual expenditures on the campus tree care plan; involvement in an Arbor Day observance; and the institution of a service learning project aimed at engaging the student body.

Projects Teach Business Students The Business Of Helping Others

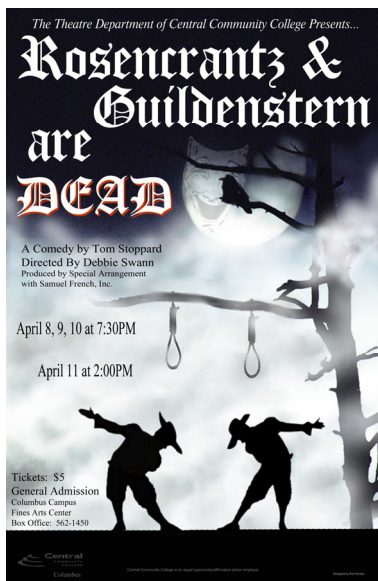
Business students at Central Community College-Hastings recently learned the business of helping others. The students in the leadership, law and ethics class assembled 3,888 rice-soy packaged meals for Kids Against Hunger, a nonprofit organization sponsored locally by the Hastings Kiwanis Club, according to business administration instructor Laura Bulas.

The same business students also collected \$145 for Mission Nicaragua. Proceeds from their fundraiser will buy supplies for a July Mission Nicaragua trip to provide optical and dental services to families living in that rural hill country.



Campus To Present Hilarious ‘Hamlet’ Spoof

Two of William Shakespeare’s most minor characters from “Hamlet” will share their side of the story in the Central Community College-Columbus production of Tom Stoppard’s “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead.” In this clever spoof of Shakespeare’s tragedy, the king of Denmark asks Hamlet’s childhood friends to come figure out what is wrong with the young prince. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern arrive and soon find themselves in a world that they don’t understand and can’t control. As they try to decide what to do, they meet a band of traveling actors who only add to the confusion.



Cast members are:

Albion: William Hosford as Soldier/Laertes;
 Clarkson: Cody Bos as Hamlet;
 Columbus: Josh Ryan as Rosencrantz, Kris Fleeman as Guildenstern, Jeremy Kasik as The Player, Robert Wachal as Tragedian/Alfred, Noah Swartz as Claudius and Sam Wemhoff as Polonius;
 Friend: Victor Beckler as Tragedian/Horatio;
 Mason City: Bryan Johnson as Soldier;
 Platte Center: Christina Condrey as Ophelia;
 Schuyler: Mike Grove as Tragedian/Fortinbras;
 Shelby: Mike Mecek as Tragedian;
 Shubert: Kodi Paysour as Courtier/Ambassador;
 St. Edward: Amanda Scheffler as Gertrude;
 Wahoo: Kelsy Luers as Tragedian.

Spectrum To Perform At Carnegie Hall

Spectrum, a 20-member select choir from Central Community College-Columbus, will perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City in May 2011. The opportunity came when Dr. Matt Hardin, choral director at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, was hired to do a concert at Carnegie Hall and called Jeff Kitson, vocal music instructor at CCC-Columbus, to ask him whether Spectrum wanted to perform as well.

The invitation was the result of “a lot of hard work,” Kitson said. Spectrum performs throughout the CCC service area as well as in Lincoln and Omaha. They also sing in the 50-voice College Chorus. In 2008, Spectrum became the first community college group to be selected by audition to sing for the Nebraska Music Educators Annual Conference. Spectrum will perform the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré which Kitson describes as “a very pretty piece that we’ll sing with a full orchestra and several other choirs. Matt Hardin will be conducting.”



Literature Class Field Trip



The American literature class at Central Community College-Grand Island celebrated spring by visiting the Genoa Indian School and the Genoa Historical Society and Museum. English instructor Terry Schiffers said the field trip was the result of her class reading “Land of Red Apples,” a book by Zitkala Sa about Indian boarding schools. During the trip, students spent a couple of hours at the boarding school and then went to the museum to see its impressive collection of Pawnee artifacts – all of which were found in the area.

Student Entrepreneurs Receive Recognition

Rep. Adrian Smith announced that two Boone Central High School students received a Third District Excellence in Economic Development Award. Lauren Bygland and Curtis Thompson were recognized for businesses they created through the Entrepreneurship in Action (EIA) program at Central Community College-Columbus. The EIA program is designed for high school students who are interested in running their own business. Bygland is owner of Green Revolution Handbags, which makes handbags from recyclable products. Thompson is owner of Wildcat Trailers, which builds and modifies trailers.

Board Of Governors Member Honored

Rita Skiles was honored at the 21st Annual National APSE Conference in Atlanta, Ga. Skiles is director of transition services at Educational Services Unit 11 in Holdrege. She received the Wendy Wood Award for outstanding contributions in the field of employment opportunities for students with developmental disabilities.

Bellevue University Offers New Opportunities

Central Community College students will experience a new way to learn beginning in March. On March 11, the CCC distance education system and Bellevue University will provide accelerated business courses via in-class television streaming. That means that CCC students in the accelerated bachelor of science business degree program can take courses without leaving their Columbus classrooms. The classes will meet from 6 to 10 p.m. on Thursdays.

Bellevue University also is offering an Academic Fellowship Award to CCC employees who want to enroll in the university. The award is available to any faculty or staff member in an accelerated undergraduate or graduate program. It is worth \$1,000 for full-time employees, \$750 for three-quarters employees and \$500 for part-time employees. Award recipients also will be given a \$200 book grant and be forgiven the application fee of \$50 for undergraduate programs or \$75 for graduate programs.

Hastings Presents Honorary Degree To Seberg

Dr. John R. Seberg of Hastings was granted an honorary associate's degree from Central Community College-Hastings at its May 8 commencement ceremonies. He was honored for his instrumental role in establishing the dental assisting, dental laboratory and dental hygiene programs at CCC-Hastings.

Seberg and his brother, Herb, opened their own dental office, Seberg and Seberg, in downtown Hastings in 1947. In 1953, they moved into their newly built clinic – Central Dental Group – which was located in a residential area by Longfellow School. They worked there until their retirements - Herb in 1990 and John in 2003.

When their practice was first established, the Seberg brothers had to train their own assistants. Seberg saw the need for a two-year program in Nebraska to train dental hygienists and actively lobbied Central Community College to start a program. After the college's Board of Governors approved the program, he provided advice on equipment, curriculum, staffing and numerous other details. He made presentations to local dentists and district societies soliciting their support in recruiting students and contributions and in securing instructors for science-related courses and clinic coverage by local dentists. He also was instrumental in forming and serving on the Dental Hygiene Advisory Committee.

"For more than 50 years, Dr. John R. Seberg was a dedicated member of the dental profession," said CCC-Hastings President Bill Hitesman in presenting the award. "While he may have retired in 2003, the legacy he built will continue for years to come."

McPhillips Receives NCCA Alumni Award

Bonnie McPhillips of Columbus received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Nebraska Community College Association. McPhillips graduated from Central Community College-Columbus in 1980 with an academic transfer degree. She graduated from Wayne State College with a bachelor's degree in counseling in 1982. She has been employed by Nebraska Workforce Development since 1982, holding several positions including employment interviewer, employment counselor and employment services manager. For the last five years, she has been regional manager for northeast Nebraska, which includes Columbus, Fremont and Norfolk. McPhillips was an instrumental member of a group of volunteers who helped to establish the "One Stop" Family Resource Center in Columbus.

Arc Welding Donation Benefits Students

Thanks to generous donations from several businesses, students at Central Community College-Columbus were able to build submerged arc welding equipment to replace old equipment that had burned up. Welding instructor Gary Senff said the donations included two power supplies and control panels from LBT Inc. in Omaha, the channel iron for the carriage from Duo-Lift Manufacturing in Columbus, spare parts from Lincoln Electric, and the tabletop from Behlen Manufacturing in Columbus. He also credited Bruce Gregory from Lincoln Electric for help with the initial planning and Nick Weidenback from Praxair Distribution Inc. in Omaha for encouraging LBT to donate the equipment. "We now have equipment that every student who takes our flux-cored submerged arc welding class will use," Senff said. "We appreciate the industry support that made the project possible."



CCC Selected As Fluid Power Key School

Central Community College has been selected as a key school by the Fluid Power Educational Foundation (FPEF). Fluid power is the study of hydraulic pressure and pneumatics or air pressure and their use in industry, said Duane Matson, associate dean of trade and industry at CCC-Columbus.

The college received the key school designation following a site visit to the CCC-Columbus Mechatronics Education Center this spring from FPEF Educational Coordinator John Nagohosian. He interviewed instructors, students and industry advisory board members; reviewed curriculum and lab equipment. In addition, he visited the Columbus High School's industrial technology program and a couple of area industries. Nagohosian noted that the college has the three legs of a stool that the FPEF believes is required to have a successful program. These legs include an energetic and committed faculty, an administration supportive of the faculty and program, and an advisory committee to help faculty keep abreast of changes in the technology and requirements of the local community.

2011

CCC Commits To Improved Completion

President Barack Obama has challenged community colleges across the nation to increase the number of students completing degrees. Central Community College agreed to meet the challenge by signing “Democracy’s Colleges Call to Action,” an agreement endorsed by six leading national higher education organizations: the American Association of Community Colleges, Association of Community College Trustees, League for Innovation, Center for Community College Student Engagement, National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development and Phi Theta Kappa.

During a White House Summit on Community Colleges on Oct. 5, Obama called for community colleges to produce an additional five million graduates by 2020. In his State of the Union address, he referred to a goal he set two years ago for the U.S. to once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

The agreement commits the college to promoting the development and implementation of policies, practices and institutional cultures that will produce 50 percent more students with high quality degrees and certificates by 2020, College President Dr. Greg Smith said. “Considering CCC’s recent enrollment growth, increasing our number of graduates by 50 percent in the next 10 years is a reasonable goal,” Smith said. Smith said that in 2009-10 CCC conferred 1,553 degrees and other awards to 1,119 graduates. Thus, CCC’s target numbers for 2019-20 are about 2,330 degrees and other awards to about 1,680 graduates.

The college had record enrollments the past two years: 4,431 full-time equivalent students in 2009-10, a 12 percent increase over 2008-09’s total of 3,949 FTE. (One FTE equals 30 semester-hours of credit.) CCC’s most recent enrollment report, issued Dec. 31, indicates the college could be on its way to another record year. It shows the total number of students taking college credit classes is up by 5.3 percent over the same time as last year and total FTE is up by 4.5 percent. Enrollments at community colleges across the nation have seen dramatic enrollment increases recently. The 1,200 U.S. community colleges already educate almost half of all undergraduates in the U.S. and they educate higher proportions of minority, low-income and adult learners.

The most recent graduate employment report shows CCC continues to provide a good return on investment for taxpayers, with 97% of graduates remaining in Nebraska including 81% who stayed in CCC’s 25-county service area and 3% taking jobs outside of the state.

2010-2011 Enrollment Report

- 24,679 students enrolled - 12,419 in credit courses; 5,918 in noncredit courses; 2,305 in Adult Education; 3,037 in avocational-recreational classes;
- 84% of students from 25-county service area
- Students from 93 of 93 Nebraska counties, 38 states, and 25 countries

Wolbachs Inducted Into Foundation Hall Of Fame

S.N. “Bud” and Gloria Wolbach were inducted into the Central Community College Foundation Hall of Fame Oct. 27 at the foundation’s annual appreciation luncheon. Inductees are selected on the basis of their philanthropy, service to CCC and/or the CCC Foundation, and community service. The Wolbachs have been generous donors and supporters of the CCC Foundation and the college, with Bud serving on the CCC Foundation Board of Directors from 1990 to 2006. Beyond their involvement with the CCC Foundation, both Bud and Gloria Wolbach were involved in numerous organizations, boards, volunteer activities, and Gloria started the Acts of Kindness group with the first AOK week held in 1999. In 2002, Mayor Ken Gnad and Gov. Mike Johanns proclaimed Grand Island the “City of Kindness.”

“Their commitment to Grand Island, the area and the state has been endless,” said CCC Foundation Executive Director Dean Moors. “We will hang the plaque honoring the couple after the Nov. 17 Board of Governors meeting in Grand Island.”

Bud and Gloria Wolbach join these other CCC Foundation Hall of Fame inductees: Lois Behlen, Wuanita Butler, Ron and Carol Cope, Jack Crowley, Bud and Rita Fleischer, Jim and Norma Merrick, Ken Morrison, Dr. Joe Preusser, Ken Torczon, Dale and Dolores Watley, Ken Wortman, and Dr. Jack and June Yost.

College Named Military Friendly School



U.S. Senator Ben Nelson visited veteran students at CCC’s Veteran Resource Center

Central Community College has been named a Military Friendly School for 2012 by G.I. Jobs magazine. The honor recognizes CCC’s ranking in the top 20 percent of U.S. colleges, universities and trade schools for doing the most to recruit and retain America’s veterans as students.

The list of schools was compiled through exhaustive research during which G.I. Jobs polled more than 8,000 schools nationwide. As a Military Friendly School, CCC will be listed in the 2012 Guide to Military Friendly Schools as well as online at www.militaryfriendlyschools.com.

CCC established Veterans Resource Centers (VRC) at its Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings campuses after receiving a \$393,993 Central to Veteran Student Success Grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. The VRCs support veterans and active duty, reservist and National Guard members while they make the transition from the military to student life. Through the centers, they have access to student services such as campus tours, orientation sessions, tutoring, mentoring and workshops as well as information about other veteran organizations, groups and activities.

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Dianna Parmley - Served as chairwoman of panel presentation at Community College Humanities Association national meeting in Fort Worth
- Marcene Wurdeman - National Community College Association 2011 NCAA Distinguished Faculty Member Award
- Dorothy Condrey - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Keith Manak - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Duane Waddle - Retired from U.S. Army as sergeant major at Fort Sam Houston Texas

Grand Island

- Linda Petroff - Named to American Psychological Association's Committee of Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges
- Larry Hummel - Nebraska Association of Teachers of Mathematics 2011 Donald W. Miller Distinguished Service Award
- Liz Luna - Military Service Union's Veterans Service Achievement Award
- Jeff Schulz - "A Global Longitudinal Study of Philosophical and Religious Attitudes from 1990 to 2010," was published in the National Social Science Journal

Hastings

- Harold Hamel - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award
- Heidi Farrall - Master's degree from Creighton University
- Cindy Gaskill - 2010-2011 Nebraska Dental Hygienist of the Year
- Sharan Ostdiek - Nebraska Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges 2011 NEBMATYC Excellence in Teaching Award
- John Anderson - Stewardship Award from Hastings Parks and Recreation Tree Board

Retirements

Columbus

- Renus Strait - Business Administration Instructor

Grand Island

- Bob Stroup - Physical Plant Director
- Vicki Mackenstadt - English Instructor
- Jeanne Webb - Early Childhood Education Instructor

Hastings

- Mert Feikert - Biology Instructor
- Barb Franzen - Speech Instructor
- Connie Kubicka - Custodian

Administration

- Don Richards - Assistant College Registrar

In Memoriam

Richard E. Anderson, 65, of Columbus, died Dec. 13, 2010, at Columbus Community Hospital. Services were Dec. 16 at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church with burial in All Saints Cemetery in Columbus. He was a member of the Central Community College Board of Governors and CCC Foundation. Survivors include his wife, Robin; son, David; daughter, Debra Seitner; and six grandchildren.

Velma A. Bockerman, 95, of Hastings died Dec. 27, 2010, in Grand Island. Services were Dec. 30 at Grace United Methodist Church in Hastings with burial at Parkview Cemetery in Hastings. She was the first math teacher at Central Community College-Hastings. She taught business math for 20 years. Survivors include four children, Ron Bockerman, Rick Bockerman, Kay Evans, and Linda Kube; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Herman Louis Hibbeler, 90, of Hastings died May 19 at Mary Lanning in Hastings. Services were May 24 at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Hastings with burial in Parkview Cemetery. He was a carpenter in the physical plant department at Central Community College-Hastings when he retired. Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; two sons, Steve and Theodore; daughter, Pat Butzirus; three stepsons, Frank Lindberg, Art Lindberg, and Jason Lindberg; 12 grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Douglas Riedy, 68, of Grand Island died June 7 at the National Institute of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md., with his family by his side. Services were June 13 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church with burial in Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. He enjoyed teaching an automotive class at Central Community College-Grand Island from 2006 to 2010. Survivors include his wife, Jo; sons, Robert and Brett; and three grandchildren.

Locada "Katie" Jean Bruce, 84, of Kenesaw died Jan. 26 at Kenesaw Haven Home. Services were Jan. 29 at the Juniata Methodist Church with burial in the Juniata Cemetery. In 1972, she joined the Central Community College-Hastings staff to set up the human services program. She retired from CCC in 1994. Survivors include husband, Clarke; son, Michael; daughter, Lori Oliveros; nine grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Norman Louis Skrdlant, 89, of Hastings died April 5 at the Grand Island Veterans Home in Grand Island. Services were April 9 at the First Baptist Church with burial in Parkview Cemetery in Hastings. In 1987, he went to work at Central Community College-Hastings and was employed there until his retirement 15 years later. Survivors include two sons, Vernon and Richard; two stepdaughters, Marlene Aspegren and Gail Pittz; two stepsons, Roger Aspegren and Calvin Menhusen; 17 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

Rodney R. "Rod" Roberts, 77, of Hastings died April 22 at Mary Lanning Memorial HealthCare in Hastings. Services were April 26 at Butler Volland Chapel with a private family burial in the Aurora Cemetery in Aurora. He served as director of media services and librarian at Central Community College-Hastings until his retirement. Survivors include his wife, Ruth Ann; two sons, Russ and Craig; a granddaughter; and a great-granddaughter.

SkillsUSA Students Place In National Contest

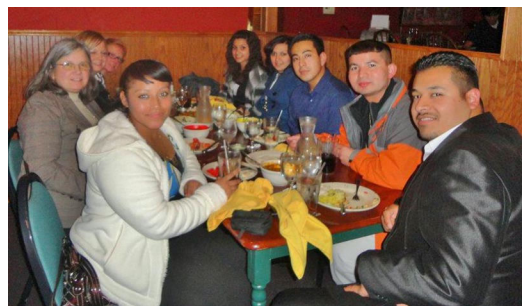
Six students from Central Community College-Hastings placed in the top 25 of their contests at the 47th National Leadership and Skills conference, which was sponsored by SkillsUSA on June 20-24 in Kansas City, Mo. SkillsUSA is a national organization that provides secondary and post-secondary students in trade, industrial, technical, technology and health occupations with leadership, citizenship and character development programs and activities. More than 5,700 high school and college students from 52 states and territories competed in 94 occupational and leadership skill areas. Ninety-two of the Nebraska 122 contestants placed in the top 25 of their contest. CCC winners were:

- Josh Thom of Hastings, fifth place in technical drafting;
- Kyle Brozek of Brunswick, 13th in CNC milling;
- Brandon Fellers of Palmer, 25th in automotive refinishing technology

The team of Beau Toben of Doniphan, Travis Bankson of Juniata and Keith Faimon of Lawrence placed eighth in automated manufacturing technology

Future Leaders

FOCUS members and sponsors from Central Community College-Grand Island get a bite to eat at the Indian restaurant, Tanduri Fusion, after attending the Heartland Latino Leadership Conference in LaVista. Attending were student Maria Martinez (in white jacket and going clockwise), sponsors Nancy Reese and Sonya Keopanya and students Lori Slaymaker, Laura Gutierrez, Janeth Blanco, Edwin Landaverde, Victor Guevara and Juan Carlos Villa.



Raiders Capture Championship

Central Community College captured the Region 9 Division II softball championship on May 7 at Southeast Community College in Beatrice. CCC was seeded first going into the tournament.



Four Raiders were named to both the All-Tournament Team and the All-Region 9 team: Melissa Bulin of Bruning, Kate Erickson of Central City, Ashley Szelag of Columbus and Whitney Robinson of Garrison. Also selected for the All-Region 9 team were Teshia Steubin of Columbus and Tanya Snyder of Genoa. Jack Gutierrez was named Coach of the Year.

Students Named To All-State Academic Team

Six Central Community College students were honored as members of the 2011 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Nebraska All-State Academic Team during ceremonies April 19 at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln. The event was sponsored by PTK, an international honor society for two-year colleges, and the Nebraska Community College Association to honor students for academic achievement, leadership and community service. A medallion and certificate were presented to the 28 All-State Academic Team members, including the following CCC students:

- Taylor Anderson of Columbus is a mechanical engineering major at the Columbus Campus
- Kylee Braithwait of Valentine is a graphic arts major at the Columbus Campus
- Matthew Eastwood of Grand Island is a business administration major at the Grand Island Campus
- Jonathan Gonifas of Grand Island is an accounting major at the Grand Island Campus
- Sue Kennedy of Sutton is a pre-law major at the Hastings Campus
- Travis Sidders of Kenesaw is an elementary education major at the Hastings Campus

2011 CCC Commencement

Dr. Mary Hawkins, president of Bellevue University, will be the keynote speaker for Central Community College's commencement ceremonies at its Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings campuses. Hawkins joined the Bellevue University staff in 1995 as vice president of enrollment and outreach. She became provost in 2000 and was appointed president in 2009. Her educational experience also includes eight years at a Nebraska community college and five years at a state college in Michigan.

In addition to the conferring of diplomas and degrees, each campus will present its Outstanding Alumni Award, and the Columbus Campus will announce the recipient of the Faculty Member of the Year Award.

The details for each campus are as follows:

Columbus Campus: The 41st annual commencement ceremonies will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 6, in the Physical Education Center. A reception will follow in the auxiliary gymnasium.

Grand Island Campus: The 25th annual commencement ceremonies will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, in the Grand Island Senior High School Gymnasium.

Hastings Campus: The 44th annual commencement ceremonies will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, in the Dawson Building. A reception will follow in Hall Cafeteria.

Skill, Patience Pay Off For CCC Graduate

Luke Kathol often tromps through the wetland and sets up a blind before dawn, then waits patiently to get just the right shot. His skill and patience paid off when his photo of a belted kingfisher graced the May cover of NEBRASKAland magazine. Kathol grew up hunting and developed an interest in photography during his freshman year at Kearney High School. Combining his love of the outdoors and love of photography seemed natural.



He learned photography through reading and experience, but decided to take his interest to a new level after graduating from high school in 2005. He enrolled in the media arts program at Central Community College-Hastings and focused on honing his camera skills by specializing in photography. “The media arts program was very good. I learned quite a bit and got experience with specific areas of photography such as product photography and culinary arts photography,” Kathol said. Still, it is wildlife, particularly waterfowl, that continues to hold his interest. Wildlife photography projects begin with a lot of research, Kathol said. He uses the internet to learn when a species of waterfowl is in his area and what their mating and nesting habits are so he knows when and where to set up for a photo shoot. He usually begins around 4 a.m., with setting up a blind and getting into position before dawn. Kathol begins with a portable turkey blind but if a species doesn’t react well to it, he builds a blind out of natural material.

Working from a goose blind on the Platte River near Overton in April 2010, Kathol said he took about 1,000 photos the first day. After that he slowed down until he got the shot he wanted. The NEBRASKAland cover shot was one of 30-40 photos of belted kingfishers with fish in their mouths. It’s not unusual to shoot thousands of photos for one project, Kathol said. “You shoot probably over 3,000 photos and keep maybe five,” he said. The thrill comes from getting just the right shot, Kathol said.

Although he has done well selling prints at art shows and has had photos published locally, having one of his photos in NEBRASKAland magazine was a long-term goal.

“I had been sending them photos for five years. I finally drove there and showed them my portfolio,” Kathol said. “I thought the kingfisher photo probably would get in the magazine but I didn’t expect the front cover.”

While pursuing his interest in wildlife photography, Kathol has been employed by a power company since graduating from CCC. “I wouldn’t mind making a career out of photography but I want to enjoy it. I don’t want to get turned away by the business side of it. It’s my escape and it does feel good to get published,” Kathol said.

Now he is back at the Hastings Campus, preparing for a new career capturing different kinds of images. He is taking prerequisite classes through the academic transfer program in preparation for applying to the Mary Lanning Memorial Health Care School of Radiologic Technology. “I’ve always been interested in science and biology and that led to my interest in a career in radiology,” Kathol said.

Hastings Entrepreneur On National Honor Roll

Angela Graham, owner of Graham Gallery in Hastings, has been named to the 2010 National Honor Roll of Outstanding American Entrepreneurs. Graham was nominated for the honor roll by Central Community College-Hastings, where she is a Small Business Institute client. Her achievement was recognized at a Business After Hours event on Feb. 22 as part of CCC's celebration of National Entrepreneurship Week.



Graham Gallery began as a small framing business. Because Graham's passion is supporting local artists and introducing artistic expression to the community, the business also included a small gallery for exhibitions. Over time, her business has grown from representing eight local artists to more than 80 local artists. When she relocated her business to downtown Hastings, she not only increased her gallery, retail and work space, but in partnership with the Community Redevelopment Authority, she also renovated the upper level of the building into living space. Graham supports entrepreneurial education efforts by hosting shows by student artists in kindergarten through college. She also speaks to student groups in secondary and postsecondary schools and participates in panel discussions about statewide small business training efforts.

"She is a leader and mentor," said Lisa Tschauner, entrepreneurship coordinator at CCC-Hastings. "She was a driving force with other local entrepreneurs to create a local coalition of business owners who came together on a regular basis to discuss the needs of small businesses. She also led the efforts in the creation of the downtown Central Park."

Central Community College offers a variety of associate degree programs with a certificate in entrepreneurship. Many students graduate from this institution and start businesses in the rural areas of Nebraska.

CCC Alumni Recognized By NCCA

Dr. Bart Eastwood received the Nebraska Community College Association Distinguished Alumni Award. Eastwood is a 1996 graduate of CCC-Hastings where he received an associate of applied science degree in biotechnology before earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Des Moines University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. He was accepted into the orthopedic surgical residency program at Ohio University and Affinity Medical Center. He completed his board certification in orthopedic surgery in 2007. Eastwood currently is employed by regional health at Regional Orthopedics in Spearfish, S.D., where his duties include serving as sports medicine director. He also is the team physician at Black Hills State University.

"When I look back on my time at Central Community College, what stands out is the quality opportunity I was presented. I was given a high-level education right in my own backyard without ever taking a loan out. After I transferred, I was able to test that education out and build on it in during my undergraduate career and post-graduate career."

Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Receives Accreditation

The Central Community College-Grand Island occupational therapy assistant program was approved for accreditation for five years. The accreditation was granted by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, following review of a self-study submitted by the college and a site visit in November.

CCC-Grand Island opened the occupational therapy assistant program in August 2009 to provide new opportunities for people interested in health care careers. The inaugural class is scheduled to graduate in May. Program Director Maureen Duncan said occupational therapy assistants work in collaboration with occupational therapists and other health care and social services professionals to provide health, wellness, rehabilitative and preventive services to address quality of life issues. They help develop and implement individual therapy plans for people who are unable to fully participate in meaningful tasks and activities of daily life because of a physical, psychological or social conditions or environmental or attitudinal barriers.

As a result of accreditation, graduates of CCC's associate of applied science degree program are eligible to take the national certification examination for occupational therapy assistants administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

Auto Program Earns ASE Accreditation

The automotive technology program at Central Community College-Hastings has been reaccredited by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The purpose of the accreditation process is to improve the quality of training offered at secondary and post-secondary public and proprietary schools.

All aspects of CCC's automotive program – from the facilities to the number of instructional hours – were evaluated by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). NATEF examines the structure and resources of training programs and evaluates them against nationally accepted standards of quality. NATEF's precise national standards reflect the skills that students must master. The NATEF evaluation process ensures that accredited training programs meet or exceed industry-recognized, uniform standards of excellence.

New Grant Promotes Entrepreneurship

Central Community College has been awarded a \$60,000 grant to partner with Bahrain Polytechnic in the Kingdom of Bahrain to create a proposal for a three-year partnership to strengthen the capacity of Bahrain Polytechnic through the promotion of entrepreneurship. CCC is one of just six lead institutions chosen as part of the BMENA-U.S. Community College competition awarded through Higher Education for Development (HED) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. Department of Education as part of the Broader Middle East and North Africa (BMENA)-U.S.

Early Childhood Program Receives Grant

The early childhood education program on all three Central Community college campuses have benefited from an ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009) grant titled "Curriculum Enhancements for Inclusive Practices." The grant was facilitated by Metropolitan Community College in Omaha. Funds were available to all Nebraska community colleges.

The goal of the grant was to ensure that the content and resources used in early childhood education core courses would be enhanced to further address inclusive practices with infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Inclusive practices promote recognizing, accommodating and meeting the learning and developmental needs of all children, including those with disabilities. The Statewide Early Childhood Community College Partnership examined specific content in four courses: infant and toddler development, infant and toddler practicum, children with exceptionalities, and family and community relations. Each CCC campus received \$4,000. Early childhood education instructors bought a number of DVDs, assistive communication devices and software, and iPads.

New Transfer Agreements Allow Expanded Education Options

Central Community College and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln were working together on a transfer agreement for forensic science, a popular program that provides a well-rounded education of biology, chemistry and physics. UNL's bachelor's degree is endorsed by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and prepares students for careers such as crime lab scientist; crime scene, fire or insurance investigator; and research technician. The program also includes activities outside the classroom in forensic pathology and crime scene investigation.

"All of our focus was on forensic science," said Dr. Dianna Parmley, dean of educational services at CCC-Columbus, but then Dr. Steven Waller, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, stepped into the process. Because of his interest and initiative, CCC and UNL have signed eight new transfer agreements instead of one. "Generally, transfer agreements are initiated by the community colleges," Parmley said, "but in this case, UNL took the lead."

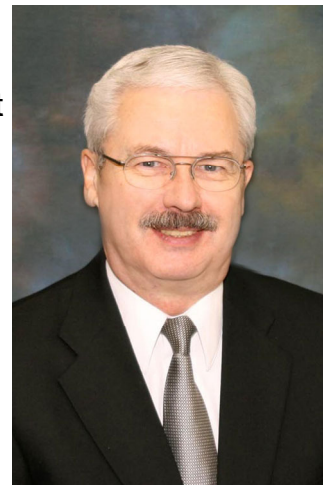
The transfer agreements will allow individuals to take the first two years of a four-year degree at CCC. They will earn an associate of science degree from CCC and then transfer to UNL to complete their bachelor of science (BS) degree. In addition to forensic science, students can earn a BS degree in agronomy with a business option, agricultural education with a teaching option, applied science, fisheries and wildlife, forensic science, and mechanized systems management. The remaining two agreements are for a BS degree with the major to be declared and a BS degree with a general option in agriculture. CCC offers agriculture classes through its Columbus and Hastings campuses, with many courses available online.

2012

Dr. Lynn Black To Retire After 31 Years

Dr. Lynn Black will retire Aug. 20, bringing to a close a 31-year career at the college. "It has been exciting and rewarding," he said. His relationship with CCC began in the 1960s when he was a student on the Hastings Campus. "I'm proud to be a CCC graduate," said Black, who earned an associate of applied science degree in business administration in 1968.

He returned to the college on Jan. 17, 1981, as chairman of the business administration department at the Hastings Campus. He went on to become associate dean of students at the Grand Island Campus in 1984. He also served as dean of students and twice as interim president before accepting the position of campus president in 2005.



"Community colleges are known for reacting quickly to change," he said of his time at the college, "but the biggest change has to be technology. It has helped us greatly in our mission to meet the educational needs of our 25-county service area." Black has appreciated the college's efforts to build and deepen its relationships with business and industry, high schools and four-year educational institutions. He takes pride in being a part of the building of the Health-Science Education Center and the development of the occupational therapy assistant program.

"We have dedicated faculty and staff," he said, "and that's truly the reason for the success of Central Community College."

Prior to joining the CCC staff, Black was employed as a business teacher and school business manager at Barr Junior High School in Grand Island. He is a graduate of Grand Island Central Catholic High School. In addition to his degree from CCC, he has a bachelor's degree in business education, a master's degree in vocational education and an educational specialist degree from Kearney State College; and a doctorate in adult and continuing education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Black is a member of the Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, Phi Delta Kappa educational fraternity, Grand Island Economic Development Board, Saddle Club, Liederkrantz and St. Mary's Cathedral. He is past member of the Goodwill Board and past president of both the Central Nebraska Phi Delta Kappa and the Nebraska Community College Personnel Administrators.

He and his wife, Joan, have two sons.

Calvert To Take Helm As Black Retires

Dr. Michael Calvert of Wichita, Kan., will become the new campus president of Central Community College-Grand Island on Aug. 6. Calvert is dean for humanities and social science at Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kan., with branch campuses at Andover, Council Grove, Marion, Rose Hill and McConnell Air Force Base.

He has more than 29 years of experience in higher education, including 16 years as an administrator at Butler Community College with positions as associate dean at the Andover campus, interim dean for advanced technology, interim vice president for academics and dean for Butler learning community centers. A strong proponent of community college partnerships, Calvert wrote his doctoral dissertation on higher education collaboration with K-12 school districts and private business and industry. He is the author of the book, "Collaboration: A Case of an Educational and Business Partnership."

CCC Campuses Observe Veterans Day

Veterans Day is always special, but it had extra significance this year when Central Community College-Hastings rededicated memorials recognizing two students who died during the Vietnam War and the people who died at the U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) during World War II.

The rededication ceremony began with the singing of the national anthem by human services instructor Janice Hill and an oral historical tour of NAD by retired CCC-Hastings instructor Walt Miller.

The Nov. 12 event also marked the kickoff of a fundraising campaign to buy a new granite base for the Student Fallen Heroes Memorial. Members of the Student Veterans of America CCC-Hastings chapter are at the forefront of raising the approximately \$3,000 it will take to replace the crumbling concrete base.

Veterans Day celebrations also were held Nov. 8 at the Grand Island Campus and Nov. 14 at the Columbus Campus.

The Grand Island activities included the Wall of Honor, which featured photos of veterans and service members. People also had the opportunity to make a "thank you" video for Google Veterans and sign a banner that was awarded to the Veterans Home.

The Columbus activities included a mini museum featuring the personal equipment, photos, uniforms, memorabilia and awards of service members and veterans from CCC and the community. Military vehicles also were on display. A workshop on resume writing was offered to service members, veterans and their families.



U.S. Navy veteran Travis Engel of Doniphan presents a U.S. flag to his grandfather at a Nov. 12 rededication of the Student Fallen Heroes Memorial at Central Community College-Hastings. Louis Engel, a World War II Navy veteran, is the father of Rod Engel, who died during the Vietnam War and whose name is inscribed on the memorial.

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Dorothy Condrey - Graduate of Leadership Columbus
- Dan Davidchik - Presented at National Science Foundation's High Impact Technology Exchange Conference in Denver
- Mel Janousek - Selected to serve as a regional ambassador for the National Association of Community College Teachers of Education Program
- Mel Krutz (retired) - Inducted into Nebraska Language Arts Educators Hall of Fame
- Erica Leffler - Graduate of Leadership Columbus
- Bob Lutz - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Michele Lutz - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Peg Slusarski - Awarded Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Member of the Year Award from Chi Sigma chapter
- Duane Waddle - Honored at District II and VII Agriculture Education Contests for 24 years as event organizer and outstanding service and dedication to FFA
- Ryan Woehl - Serving on the 2011-12 Columbus Regional Dream Team

Grand Island

- Jason Davis - Graduated from Hall County Leadership Tomorrow program
- Travis Karr - Received a Spirit of Nebraska Award from the Brain Injury Association of Nebraska
- Meghan May - Selected as one of Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Top 35 Under 35
- Rachel Zeiger - Earned a Master's degree in nursing from Clarkson College

Hastings

- Robin Buckallew - Notified her play "There is No Woman" was selected for the Great Plains Theatre Conference
- Sherrie Dux-Ideus - Earned a master of science degree in education with a concentration in instructional technology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney
- Gene Friesen - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award
- Don Hulme - Received Nebraska Entrepreneurship Task Force's first Outstanding Nebraska Entrepreneurship Educator Award

Holdrege

- Diana Watson - Selected as branch board member of YMCA of the Prairie

Administration

- Angela Reynolds - Nebraska State Association of Parliamentarians Parliamentarian of the Year Award
- Greg Smith - Invited to serve a three-year term on the American Association of Community Colleges' Commission on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

Retirements

Columbus

- Rick Christensen - Math Instructor
- Jim Hansen - Custodian
- Duane Waddle - Agriculture Instructor
- Jack Young - Anatomy and Physiology Instructor

Grand Island

- Lynn Black - Campus President
- Larry Carmann - Mathematics Instructor
- Phil LaRoe - Physics and Chemistry Instructor
- Kathy Meyer - Administrative Assistant in Physical Plant
- Linda Petroff - Psychology Instructor
- Sandra Wimer - Administrative Assistant in Industry and Technology
- Randy Zalman - Shipping and Receiving

Hastings

- Jane Stratman - Dental Hygiene Instructor

Administration

- Doug Adler - Human Resources Manager
- Alicia Haussler - Purchasing Manager
- Linda Mayberry - Advertising Director
- Peggy Pape - Human Resources Assistant Manager

Lexington

- Barb Hinrichs - Administrative Assistant

Foundation

- Barb Drudik - Administrative Assistant

New Foundation Board Members

- Roland Rueschhoff of Columbus - Retired Executive Vice President of Vishay's total Worldwide Operations
- Leslie Marsh of Kearney - Chief Operating Officer of Lexington Regional Health Center
- Rhonda Pauley of Hastings - Co-owner of Pauley Group

In Memoriam

Robert E. "Bob" Schnuelle, 81, of Grand Island died July 7, 2012, at the Nebraska Veterans Home in Grand Island. Memorial services were July 12 at All Faiths Funeral Home Chapel in Grand Island with burial at Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell. He was a founding member of the Central Community College Board of Governors, serving from 1975 until 1990. He was elected vice chairman in 1979 and chairman in 1981. Survivors include daughter, Shari Schnuelle; son, Robert K. Schnuelle; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Gordon E. Till, 80, died Jan. 20, 2012, at Good Samaritan Village in Hastings. Services were Jan. 24 at the First Baptist Church in Hastings with burial at Sunset Memorial Gardens. He practiced general dentistry in Aurora for 11 years and orthodontics in Hastings for 17 years. After his retirement, he worked for Central Community College, assisting inmates with educational services. Survivors include three daughters, Pamela Scherer, Michelle Dungan, and Sherilynn Lewis; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Dale Ivan Peterson, 81, died May 16 at the Rose Brook Care Center in Edgar. Services were May 21 at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Deweese with burial in the Edgar Cemetery. He taught industrial arts and woodworking at the Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha and construction at Central Community College-Hastings before moving to Omaha in 1985 to teach at Metro Community College. Survivors include his children, Susy Doyen, Rodger Peterson, Pam Hemje, Cheryl Schulz, John Peterson and Angie Beck; 16 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Edwin "Ed" J. Loutzenheiser Jr., 94, of Hastings died April 18 at Haven Home in Kenesaw. Services were April 22 at the First United Methodist Church in Hastings with burial to be held at a later date in the Gothenburg Cemetery. He was a member of the Central Community College Board of Governors. Survivors include two sons, William and Richard.

James Bryan "Jim" Dutcher, 81, of Greeley died Sept. 17, 2012, at the Greeley Care Home from non-smoker's lung cancer. Services were Sept. 19 at the Greeley United Methodist Church with burial in Greeley. In 1966, he began his career with Central Community College in Hastings as an electronics instructor. After 10 years at the Hastings Campus, he transferred to the Grand Island Campus, where he served for 18 years as an instructor and division chairman. He retired as the dean of instruction in 1994. Survivors include his wife, Doris; a son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Colleen Dutcher; a daughter and son-in-law, Laurie and Bruce Phillips; eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

New Veteran Scholarship

The CCC Foundation has a new Veterans Appreciation Scholarship which will provide multiple scholarships of up to \$500 to help offset the costs of higher education and make college accessible for hardworking, talented students who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Applicants must be honorably discharged veterans of one of the U.S. military branches, with or without VA educational assistance. Selection is based on academic achievement, employment and school activities, quality of the personal statement, application completeness and recommendations.

Campuses Honor Outstanding Graduates

Three Central Community College graduates were honored as outstanding alumni during this year's commencement ceremonies at each campus. The honorees were:

Columbus Campus - Paul Schumacher

Paul Schumacher of Columbus graduated from Platte College – the forerunner of CCC-Columbus – in 1971 with an associate of arts degree. He also was a member of the campus' award-winning debate team. He went on to major in psychology, general science and speech at Fort Hays State University in Kansas where he earned a bachelor of science degree and graduated summa cum laude. He earned a Juris doctor degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Schumacher is a practicing attorney in Columbus and has served as city attorney for several rural communities. He is founder and president of Community Lottery Systems Inc.- Lotto Nebraska and cofounder of the Columbus-based Community Internet Systems Inc., which was one of Nebraska's first internet companies. He was elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2010 and serves on its revenue; banking, insurance and commerce; and planning committees.

Grand Island Campus - Brenda Bixenmann

Brenda Bixenmann of Grand Island graduated from CCC-Grand Island in 2006 with an associate of applied science degree in early childhood education. She has been child care director at the YWCA since 2008.

While a student at CCC, Bixenmann completed internships at the Presbyterian Preschool and at Mid Plains Center for Behavioral Health Care Services. On campus, she was a TEACH scholarship recipient, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and was named to the Dean's List. She is a member of the Early Learning Connection, Childcare Solutions and Central Community College advisory boards. She was named Child Care Provider of the Year in 2011, was recognized as a Provider Exceeding Licensing Standards, and was nominated for Day Care of the Year in 2003.

Hastings Campus - Ryan Nickerson

Ryan S. Nickerson of Doniphan graduated from Cambridge High School in 2001 and immediately began Army National Guard basic training in Fort Benning, Ga. Upon completion of basic training, he was called into service at the McCook airport immediately after 9/11. In 2002, he began his college career at CCC-Hastings, but was called into service again in 2003. After serving as a truck driver in Iraq from April 2003 to May 2004, he resumed his CCC education in August 2004. He graduated in 2005 with an associate of science degree in agribusiness. Nickerson then transferred to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy in 2007.

Following his graduation, he was hired as a full-time agronomist for Servi-Tech for Hall, Hamilton, Merrick, Clay and Adams counties and currently is Servi-Tech's senior agronomist. He traveled to Sengal, Africa, on a volunteer soil fertility improvement mission.

Medical Simulations Lab Partnership Benefits Students

Students will be able to complete their lab clinicals right here in Columbus, thanks to the new Simulation Laboratory at Columbus Community Hospital. Students will be treating high-tech patient simulation mannequins. In 2012 the college and CCC Foundation funded the purchase of “Noelle and child Hal,” a birthing mother and infant mannequin and housed them at the hospital.

CCC Launches Agribusiness Career Academy

Central Community College is adding agribusiness to its roster of career academies this fall. David Barnes, Central Nebraska Career Academy project director, said a survey of high school administrators and counselors showed that agribusiness was the overwhelming favorite for a new career academy.

The college launched the Health Science Academy in 2009 and added the Business Academy in 2010. The academies were developed by CCC in cooperation with educational services units in the college service area: ESU 7 in Columbus, ESU 9 in Hastings, ESU 10 in Kearney and ESU 11 in Holdrege.

Career academies give high school students a firsthand look at career areas and help them decide if they want to continue in that direction before committing to a major course of study in college, Barnes said. Students who complete academies get a head start in preparing for high-skill, high-wage and high-demand careers. Academy students complete four college credit courses related to their career area during their junior and senior years in high school. Students in the Agribusiness Academy will take courses in basic horticulture and corn and soybean production during their junior year, or they can take classes from their high school that are related to their career area and have been approved by CCC for college credit. The college provides classes through a combination of telecommunication and online learning.

LERN Honors Grand Island ELS Program

The Learning Resources Network (LERN) has recognized a Facebook fan page created by the extended learning services department at Central Community College-Grand Island. The page allows students involved in the department’s ghost-hunting activities to connect with each other. LERN called it one of the Top 10 Promotional Ideas of the Year in lifelong learning at its recent international conference in New Orleans, citing the ability of participants to post to the page and keep engaged. It also shows potential students what kind of experience they’ll have.

LERN is an international association of lifelong learning and continuing education providers. It’s the largest continuing education association in the world with 5,000 members in 20 countries.

Hastings Campus Pilots Online GED Testing

In striving to provide more adult learners throughout the state with a high school credential, Central Community College-Hastings is partnering with GED Testing Service to offer the GED test on computer. The computer-based test also is initially being offered at Northeast and Southeast community colleges before it is eventually expanded across the state.

Registering, scheduling and testing on computer will provide a new experience for GED test-takers and continue to improve the GED testing system, which is a gateway for adults to find jobs or better paying jobs, enter workforce or college training programs, and better support themselves and their families. The GED test on computer has the same content as the one currently offered on paper. Its accompanying systems will provide an array of new benefits for both CCC-Hastings and GED test-takers, including 24/7 online registration and scheduling, flexible testing appointments, instant test scores on four of five content areas, an introduction of basic keyboarding and computer skills, and enhanced test security. Offering GED testing on computer also has an important role in increasing accessibility and flexibility for test-takers, since a double-digit increase in the number of GED test-takers is expected by 2013. A new GED assessment is scheduled to be released in January 2014, and a significant number of adults who haven't taken or passed all five content areas will want to test before their scores expire at the end of 2013.

Paramedic Program Earns Accreditation

The paramedic program at Central Community College has been accredited for five years by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHAP) as recommended by the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions.

Phil Allen, program director, said accreditation means program graduates can take the skills and written test required to become a nationally registered paramedic and assures that their education at CCC meets national standards for the profession. The paramedic certification exams are developed and administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. The national certification is part of the requirements to get a license to practice as a paramedic in Nebraska. CCC paramedic graduates have been eligible to take the national registry exams since the program began but, starting Jan. 1, 2013, graduation from a CAAHAP accredited program will be required to take the exams, said Charlie Gregory, associate dean for Extended Learning Services (ELS) at the Grand Island Campus.

The ELS department for decades has been the primary source of training for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in central Nebraska. In 2006, CCC began offering classes for EMTs to become paramedics, who have advanced life-saving skills and a broader scope of practice than EMTs. Currently CCC offers 19 paramedic courses totaling 38 semester-hours of credit to prepare graduates to take the national registry exam. The program accreditation is a milestone in CCC's plan to implement a paramedic associate of applied science degree, said Dr. Deb Brennan, CCC executive vice president. The tentative starting date is this fall, pending approval by the CCC Board of Governors and the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. One-year diplomas and short-term certificates also will be offered.

Columbus Presents ‘Bright Ideas’

The lengths parents take to get their child into a prestigious preschool will be on full view when Central Community College-Columbus presents Eric Coble’s dark comedy, “Bright Ideas.”

In an effort to keep pace with their more affluent neighbors, Joshua and Geneva Bradley are determined to get their three-year-old son, Mac, into Bright Ideas, the finest preschool in town. Unfortunately, Mac is on the waiting list so the Bradleys decide to kill Gen’s divorced co-worker, Denise, so her son will have to go live with his father. Everything works according to plan. Poisoned pesto does in Denise, and Mac takes her son’s coveted place at Bright Ideas. But it isn’t enough for the Bradleys. They become even more desperate as their marriage crumbles and Gen takes action to make Mac the school’s star pupil.



Poster designed by Shannon Hager, a visual communications major at Central Community College-Columbus.

Retired theater and art instructor Ruth Schlobohm of Columbus will direct this black comedy for mature audiences.

CCC Students Receive Regent Scholarships

Seven students from Central Community College-Columbus were among 13 individuals to receive Transfer Regent Scholarships from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. UNL has actually awarded 18 Transfer Regent Scholarships, with the first five being given in January. Transfer Regent Scholarships provide in-state tuition for up to four semesters. Recipients must graduate from a Nebraska high school and a Nebraska community college, have at least a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average, and have been involved in extracurricular activities.

The Columbus Campus has a few students who receive a Regent Scholarship every year, Campus President Dr. Matt Gotschall told the Columbus Telegram, but he doesn't think there has ever been this many. CCC-Columbus recipients and their majors are:

- Melanie Bruha of Burwell, elementary education
- Jacob Drozda of Bellwood, biology
- Jessica Gutierrez of Ord, psychology
- Monica Knabe of Lincoln, biology
- Amy Reisdorff of Columbus, business administration
- Tanya Snyder of Genoa, exercise science
- Eric Tubbs of Columbus, pre-engineering



Pi Day Calls For ... Pie!

Central Community College-Hastings medical laboratory technician students (from left) Tracy Shafer, Lindsey Graham, Alma Hayman and Nate Herrman take a break on March 15 to enjoy some pie on Pi Day. For those who need a reminder, pi is 3.14159265... It is an irrational number that will continue infinitely without repeating. Computers have calculated pi to over one trillion digits past the decimal.



Pink Out

Stephanie Morris of Hildreth (wearing a black jacket in the second row) is a Greeley Hall resident assistant at Central Community College-Hastings who initiated a campus-wide Pink Out event on Oct. 25 for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Many Hastings Campus students and employees wore pink in support of family and friends who are or have been affected by breast cancer. A reception featuring pink punch, cookies with pink frosting and a pink table display was put together by Deb Hemberger and her Chartwells staff. Many of the resident assistants talked up the event and wore pink themselves, including Don Hanousek of Cairo, the guy in front who got really decked out.

Columbus and Grand Island campuses also had Pink Out events.

PTK Hosts Completion Signings

Statistics show the surest way for anyone to land a job in their chosen field is to finish college and earn a degree or certificate. And that's exactly what Central Community College students will promise as they sign a mass pledge on October 11 to complete their degrees and certifications before leaving CCC for transfer or to enter the job market.

The Phi Theta Kappa honor society chapters – Chi Sigma at Columbus, Alpha Tau Tau at Grand Island and Beta Alpha Delta at Hastings – are serving as hosts for this national event. Students who sign the pledge will receive information and tools that will help them succeed in their education.



Painting ‘The Good Life’

Artist Todd Williams enjoys a national reputation in fine arts circles but the Central Community College graduate continues to have deep roots in Nebraska and the vision of bringing its beauty to life on canvas through his project, “Painting the Legacy of Nebraska – The Good Life,” with the goal of producing one or more paintings for each county in Nebraska. Williams grew up in Central City and became interested in art in the third grade.



Williams took art classes from Central City High School teacher David Jorgensen and became his student assistant. After graduating from high school in 1985, he enrolled at CCC-Columbus, studying with art instructor Dick Abraham (now retired) and earning an associate of arts degree in art and an associate of applied science degree in commercial art. Williams described Abraham as a good instructor who encouraged him to develop his artistic talent. “I was still green and trying to find out who I was as an artist and what my abilities were and what I wanted to do as an artist. The broad range of media and the opportunity to experiment were valuable,” he said.

He graduated from the Columbus Campus in 1987 and transferred to the Kansas City Art Institute. The transfer process went well, Williams said, in large part because he was able to put together a strong portfolio of his best work at the Columbus Campus. He said he felt very prepared to continue his education in art. As a senior at the Kansas City Art Institute, Williams was awarded an internship with Hallmark Cards. He graduated from the art institute in 1992 with a bachelor of fine arts degree and then worked for Hallmark and a subsidiary company, Dayspring Cards, until 2002.

In 1995 he studied with an Armenian Russian-impressionist artist, who encouraged him to go outside and paint “en plein air,” French for “in the open air.” Williams began to paint more on his own, which led him into the fine art market. He left the greeting card business and devoted his time to painting in 2002. He considers himself to be an American impressionist. His work is available through seven galleries in five states and his work has been exhibited across the United States in gallery, museum and invitational exhibitions such as the Gilcrease Museum, the Great Plains Art Museum, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, The American Miniatures Show, Settlers West Gallery, and the Maynard Dixon Museum. In 2005, he went to Vienna and Prague to paint and lead a “plein air” workshop. In 2007, he went to Italy and completed about 50 paintings at different locations. His European experiences eventually led him back to Nebraska.

“On one of my trips through Nebraska, I thought it would be really neat to do something like I did in Europe, in Nebraska,” Williams said. Williams launched the Nebraska project in 2011 and has done paintings for Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Nance and Merrick counties and has done research on other counties. He expects the project to take five years. The paintings will be delivered to each county for permanent display, except for times when they will be on exhibit at Nebraska art museums and other public places, including an exhibition that will travel throughout the state at the completion of the project.

Mary Young Named American Volleyball Coaches Association West Region Coach Of The Year

The American Volleyball Coaches Association has announced that Mary Young is the AVCA Two-Year College West Region Coach of the Year. This is the third time Young has won the award, taking home the honor in 2002 and 2008.

Young is in her 17th season as head coach of the Raiders volleyball team at Central Community College-Columbus. Entering the 2011 season with a 468-265 record, the Raiders won District G and earned a No. 8 seed in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division II National Tournament. Young also chalked up her 500th career win, ranking her sixth among active coaches in Division II.

Young received an associate of arts degree from CCC-Columbus and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and a master's degree in counseling and student affairs from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Returning to the Columbus Campus in 1995 as volleyball coach, Young continued the Raider tradition of focusing on Nebraska student athletes. Over the past 17 years, she has coached 63 All-Conference players, 52 All-Region players, 13 All-American players and 31 Academic All-Americans. Her teams have won 10 NCCAC championships and four Region IX championships and have competed in the NJCAA National Tournament four times. In 2011, the Raiders finished sixth in the tournament.

Athletic Hall Of Fame Inducts New Members

Six individuals and the members of one team will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. The annual event honors outstanding athletes, teams, coaches and other individuals who have distinguished themselves by making substantial contributions to CCC athletics.

- Jim Bartak - As an All-Region IX golfer, he led his team to a 1973 National Tournament and a sixth-place finish.
- Barb (Wragge) Daniels - A two-time All-Region IX basketball standout at the Columbus Campus in 1981 and 1982. She led her 1983 team to a sixth-place finish at the National Little College Tournament.
- Jim Fisher - An advocate of sports during his 34 years at CCC. He served as assistant basketball coach, athletic director, associate dean of students and campus president.
- Libby (Crockett) Kuehn - She was an All-Conference and All-Region IX basketball standout at the Hastings Campus from 1993-1995.
- Gene Torczon - Men's basketball and golf coach in the early 1970s and first athletic director at the Columbus Campus.
- Mike Trader - An All-Region IX basketball standout in 1971 and 1972.
- The 1975 Women's Volleyball Team - Marge Burkett; Diane (Telecky) Cech; Carol (Bock) Davidson; Julie (Reichmuth) Degner; Susan Francis; Kathy (Schmidt) Gardner; Barb Haseloh; Kathy (Gerber) Hash; Carol Kobza; Melva (Gertsch) Lundy; Cindy (Bakenhus) Melliger; Cris (Houdersheldt) Miller; Patty Mohrman; Regina (Mlinar) Paesl; Lisa (Jones) Pankonin; Mary (Whetstone) Santin; Sondra Sedlacek; Mary Jo (Kluever) Totten; and Kathy (Rich) Wibbels.

2013

CCC Adds First Hybrid Vehicles To Its Fleet

The arrival of four hybrid vehicles has set Central Community College on the next leg of its journey toward a sustainable environment. CCC's journey began when it signed on to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment and became a member of the SEED (Sustainability Education and Economic Development) Center, which works to advance sustainability and green workforce development and practices at community colleges.

The 2013 Ford Fusion Hybrid SEs were bought as part of the college's normal fleet rotation, using its regular purchasing process, said College Business Officer Larry Glazier. "We'd been looking at buying hybrids for a while," Glazier said, "but when we looked at the cost versus gas savings, the trade-off wasn't there." This time around, though, Glazier thought the trade-off was there. The price difference between the hybrids and traditional vehicles was small enough for the college to move forward on this investment. Assuming a gas price of \$3.25 per gallon and a car lifespan of 100,000 miles, the college will save about \$3,500 in fuel costs. "The hybrid cost a little more, but carbon also has a cost," Glazier said. "The higher cost we paid for the hybrids allow for a reduction in carbon emissions."

The four cars will be assigned to the college fleet with one car going to the Hastings Campus and two to the Grand Island Campus. The fourth one has yet to be assigned. But the purchase of the hybrid cars wasn't the first step CCC has taken toward addressing energy issues where its transportation needs are concerned. The college had already bought bicycles and electric maintenance vehicles for use on its campuses. These are heavy-duty bicycles are made in the U.S. and used by our maintenance staff," Glazier said. "As for the maintenance vehicles, we have small campuses so we don't always need full-sized vehicles to take care of them." Because the maintenance vehicles run on electricity, they don't have tailpipe emissions and have the added advantage of being quiet. These qualities make them a healthier option for the people who operate them.

Addressing the college's transportation needs in a sustainable way surfaced after an Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education conference. "We're a commuter college, and transportation is a complex issue," Sustainability Director Minetta Khan said. "The hybrid vehicles are a first step in what will be a long-term effort."



Willis Horton, an HVAC maintenance technician at Hastings, sits inside a GEM, one of the college's electric vehicles

Best For Vets

Central Community College has been ranked first in the nation as the “Best for Vets” for two-year colleges by Military Times, the main news source for the military community.

Military Times – comprising the Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times – placed a new emphasis on academic rigor this year when conducting and scoring the fourth annual Best for Vets: Colleges survey, a 150-question analysis of a school’s complete offerings for veterans.



The 600 schools that responded to this year’s survey were evaluated in five categories: university culture, student support, academic quality, academic policies and financial aid. While the value of each section was comparable, university culture and student support were worth the most, and financial aid was worth the least.

“We’re honored to receive national recognition for our efforts,” said Travis Karr, director of veteran and military services at CCC. “It’s the result of the hard work of all CCC employees and the support they give to our veteran students.”

CCC received marks for having a veterans office that provides resources and programs for veterans and service members, accepting the American Council on Education’s recommendations for granting academic credits for military training, charging a per-credit-hour rate at or below the \$250-per-credit-hour cap on military tuition assistance, and offering programs and tuition rates that are fully covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Karr said that other factors contributing to the college’s top ranking were its work with other colleges striving to enhance their veteran services, its requirement that all employees take training so they can better understand the issues and challenges facing veteran students, and the academic success of its veteran students.

The 2014 Best of Vets’ full rankings include 86 four-year schools, 20 online and nontraditional schools and 14 two-year schools. They are included in the November issue of Military Times EDGE magazine, the premier publication for military transition. The lists also are online at MilitaryTimes.com, ArmyTimes.com, NavyTimes.com, AirForceTimes.com and MarineCorpsTimes.com.

In addition, the top 30 four-year schools, top 10 online and nontraditional schools and top 10 two-year schools are compared in the issues of Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times on newsstands the week of Veterans Day.

Supporting Community Organizations

During National Library Week in April, the Central Community College-Hastings library took donations for three local community organizations: Start Over Rover, Crossroads Mission and Cell Phones for Soldiers. “We were overwhelmed with donations,” said Dixie Codner, administrative assistant in the library. “The organizations were so appreciative.”

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Jerry Becker - Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Member of the Year
- Mike Kroupa - Nebraska Community College Athletic Conference Coach of the Year
- Mary Pat Kuehler - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Marty Levinson - Finalist for the Midlands College Men's Coach of the Year Award
- Duane Matson - Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce Rich Anderson Chamber Volunteer of the Year Award
- Karen Mroczek - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year

Grand Island

- Mike Calvert - One of five contestants in Habitat for Humanity's Mr. Habitat competition
- Ron Christensen - Member of team that competed in the Literacy Council of Grand Island Corporate Spelling Bee
- Mike Garretson - Winner of Wood River Vision 20/20 Logo Contest
- Maria Lopez - Graduated from Hastings Leadership Tomorrow
- Michelle Lubken - Graduated from Hall County Leadership Tomorrow
- Bob Niemann - Elected to Grand Island City Council President
- Jeff Schulz - "A Qualitative Analysis of Why Community College Students are Taking Social Science Courses Online at a Rural Community College in the Midwest," has been accepted for the National Social Science Association's online journal

Hastings

- Nate Allen - Named Adams County Ag Society Committeeman of the Year
- Stan Essink - Earned doctor of education degree from the University of Nebraska
- Kellie Jacobs - Earned master's degree in education with an emphasis in instructional technology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney
- Sharan Ostdiek - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award

Kearney

- Kory Cetak - Appointed to the City of Lexington's Community Development Agency

Administration

- Marni Nelson-Snyder - Graduated from Hall County Leadership Tomorrow
- Michelle Setlik - Graduated from Hall County Leadership Tomorrow

Retirements

Columbus

- Holly Johnson - Information Technology Instructor
- Bob Lutz - Psychology Instructor
- Dianna Parmley - Dean of Educational Services

Grand Island

- Sekiko Doolittle - Custodian
- Maureen Eggert - English Instructor
- Marsha Jaeger - Administrative Assistant in Academic Education
- Steve Millnitz - Financial Aid Director
- Bob Niemann - Associate Dean of Skilled and Technical Sciences

Hastings

- Linda Brown - Administrative Assistant to Dean of Educational Services
- Vince Mendez - Parts and Sales Management Instructor
- Carole Meyer - Media Arts Instructor
- Sharan Ostdiek - Math Instructor
- Ken Rezac - Dean of Students
- Ray Szlanda - Placement and Cooperative Education Director
- Ken Wood - Custodian

Kearney

- Marianne Kindsfater - Nursing Instructor

Lexington

- Cassie Smith - Associate Dean of Extended Learning Services

Administration

- Linda Kruse - College Accounting Manager

It's Fair Time!

Central Community College's participation at the 2013 Nebraska State Fair is evident to anyone stopping by its booth on the fairgrounds or driving by the Grand Island Campus. As in previous years, the college has entered the annual hay bale decorating contest, which has a theme this year of "The Thrill of It All!" The CCC entry features a pig that is about to take a flying leap into a water tank. Committee chairwoman Margaret Williams thanks the Grand Island facilities management staff for their creativity and hard work and for everyone who donated money for supplies.



In Memoriam

David M. Bosle, 60, of Hastings died Feb. 23, 2013, at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla. Services were March 2 at Zion Lutheran Church in Hastings with burial in Parkview Cemetery. He worked as a part-time web course developer at Central Community College-Hastings. Survivors include his wife, Deb.

Michelle Rae Stephens, 43, of Elm Creek died July 8 at Phelps Memorial Health Center in Holdrege. Services were July 12 in the Elm Creek High School gymnasium with burial at Elm Creek Cemetery. She taught for several years at Central Community College-Grand Island. Survivors include her husband, Sam and four daughters, Jessica, Stephanie, Elizabeth and Katherine.

William (Bill) A. Gannon, 65, of Columbus died on Jan. 14, 2013, at his home. Services were held Jan. 18 at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church with burial in the All Saints Cemetery. He served on the Central Community College Board of Governors. Survivors include his wife, Ann; two sons, Chris and Drew; daughter Elllie Haag; and one granddaughter.

Lawrence P. Gronenthal, 100, of Platte Center, died Jan. 2, 2013, at Columbus Community Hospital. Services were held Jan. 7 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Platte Center with burial in the Sts. Patrick/Joseph Cemetery, also in Platte Center. He was a part of the effort that eventually resulted in Platte Junior College, which later became Central Community College-Columbus. He first served on a 1958 Columbus Chamber Education Committee's College Steering Committee that recommended building a junior college in Platte County. In 1962, he was president of the Platte County Junior College Committee, whose recommendations led to the creation of a Platte County Advanced Education Foundation in 1964 that could accept and solicit gifts, grants and bequests to support a college. The successful county election to pass the taxes to support building a college was held on June 20, 1967. Survivors include three daughters, Doris Kaup, Donna Brunnert and Janie Arnold; a son, Larry Gronenthal Jr.; 18 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Milrae Marie Johnson, 92, of Hastings died Dec. 22, 2012, at Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings. Services were Jan. 5 at the First United Methodist Church in Hastings with burial in Parkview Cemetery, also located in Hastings. She retired from her secretarial position at Central Community College-Hastings in 1983. Survivors include two sons, Robert Johnson and Gary Johnson; daughter, Linda Brown; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Gerald P. "Jerry" Jacupke, 87, of Hastings died May 8, 2013, at Perkins Pavilion Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village. Services were May 13 at Butler Volland Chapel with burial in Parkview Cemetery in Hastings. He served on the Central Community College Board of Governors. Survivors include his wife, Donna; three children; three stepchildren; a sister; and 11 grandchildren.

Ray Plankinton, 72, of Columbus, died May 3 at his home. Services were May 8 at Gass Haney Funeral Home with burial in the Columbus Cemetery. In 1971, he and his family moved to Columbus where he taught mathematics at Central Community College-Columbus until his retirement in 1996. Survivors include his wife, Betty; his daughter, Zoann Braasch; and two grandsons.

Shirley Czuba, 85, of Columbus died Feb. 26, 2013, at the Osceola Good Samaritan Center. Services were March 2 at McKown Funeral Home in Columbus with interment at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Duncan. She was a clinical instructor for the practical nursing program at Central Community College-Columbus from 1977 until her retirement in 1992. Survivors include her husband, Ray.

Sandra A. "Sandy" Schneller, 79, of Grand Island died March 23, 2013, at her home. Services were April 5 at North Shore Assembly of God in Hastings with burial of ashes at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Hastings. She worked for Central Community College-Hastings before transferring to the Grand Island Campus in 1978 where she worked as a registrar until her retirement in 1989. Survivors include her husband Ben; two daughters, Melissa and Cynthia Schroeder; three stepchildren, Daniel Schneller, Benjamin Schneller, and Lynette Schneller; five grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Penny Jean Wagner, 60, of Grand Island, died April 8, 2013, at St. Francis Hospital. Services were April 13 at Third City Christian Church. A private family interment will be held at a later date. She worked at CCC's Grand Island Campus as a full-time child care center aide from 1993 through 2002. She had also worked in the early childhood education department part-time prior to and following her full-time employment. Survivors include her husband, Mikel; son, Adam Wagner; two daughters, Amie Brown and Allynda Callies; and eight grandchildren.

Larry W. Grummert, 74, of Kenesaw died Aug. 7 at Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings. Services were Aug. 9 at Peace Lutheran Church with his ashes interred at the Superior Cemetery. He worked at Central Community College-Hastings as a custodian. Survivors include his children, Roger Grummert, Sharon Struss, Pamela Graves, and Kenneth Bissell; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Marge Smith, 90, of Hastings died July 31 at her home. Services were Aug. 6 at First Congregational United Church of Christ. Dewitt Funeral Home in Hastings is in charge of arrangements. She began teaching business, math, physiology and anatomy at Central Community College-Hastings in 1966. Survivors include her children, Hal Smith Jr. and Lori Wilson; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

"Nebraska's Astronaut" At Commencement

Astronaut Clayton C. Anderson will be the keynote speaker for Central Community College's commencements this year. Although he recently retired from NASA after a 30-year career, he remains "Nebraska's Astronaut." Born in Omaha and raised in Ashland, he now resides at Houston. He spent 167 days in space living onboard the International Space Station and serving as a mission specialist with the Space Shuttle 131 crew.

Current And Retired CCC Employees Honored

College Business Officer Larry Glazier received the 2013 Nebraska Community College Association NCCA Administrator's Award. He also received the 2013 Outstanding Chief Business Officer Award for Region III from the Community College Business Officers (CCBO) at its international conference in Palm Springs, Calif. Both organizations recognized Glazier for his 28 years of exemplary work as chief business officer and for his leadership in the departments he supervises, which includes not only the various business functions but also the information technology and human resources departments.

He was cited for developing the budgeting system used by the college. Under his leadership, CCC has had clean annual financial audits for close to 30 years. Over the past five years, Glazier oversaw the planning and completion of new construction and major remodels of facilities at CCC's campuses in Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings and at centers in Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington and Ord. Other projects he initiated include a college-wide master facilities plan, a college-wide room scheduling setup, a college-wide copier/printing counting process to help reduce paper and costs, a P-Card purchasing, imaging of financial and purchasing records, and smoke-free college policy. He has been a leader on sustainability issues, hiring a sustainability coordinator, initiating a major waste management project and implementing many other green practices. He ensured that the governing board policy was amended to mandate that CCC build to LEED silver standards, at a minimum. He was instrumental in providing leadership in signing the American College and University Presidents/Climate Commitment and the community college Sustainability Education for Economic Development consortium. He is a past chairman of the Nebraska CCBO, past president of the Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust, and past state representative for the national Community College Business

Dr. LaVern Franzen received the 2013 NCCA Friends of Community Colleges Award in honor of dedication to advancing the cause of CCC and Nebraska's community colleges during his 41-year career. He also has been inducted into the Central Community College Foundation Hall of Fame. Inductees are selected on the basis of their philanthropy, service to CCC and/or the CCC Foundation, and community service.

Franzen, who retired as Central Community College's president in 2008, began his career at the Hastings Campus in 1967 as an accounting instructor. He went on to serve as chairman of business-related programs at the Hastings Campus, as associate dean of extended learning services at the Lexington Center, as dean of instruction at the Grand Island Campus and as president of the Hastings Campus. He was appointed college president in 2002. Since his retirement, Franzen has continued his support of the college. He is the current chairman of CCC's Facilities Bond Corporation and has continued as an ex officio member of the CCC Foundation.

No Tuition Increase For 2013-2014 Year

CCC students won't be seeing an increase in tuition for 2013-14. The CCC Board of Governors at its February meeting at the Hastings Campus unanimously approved a proposal to keep tuition for the next academic year at the current rate of \$80 a semester-hour of credit for Nebraska residents and \$120 a credit for nonresidents.

Open House Showcases Remodeled Buildings

Central Community College-Hastings put out the welcome mat in a big way on Sept. 19 with a campus-wide open house.

The highlight was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new addition to the Harlan Building. The 15,000-square-foot addition was needed to address growing enrollment in the diesel technology program and to accommodate larger equipment such as combines and heavier construction equipment. The new space includes a large training area with an overhead crane; a dynamometer and control room for engine diagnostics and testing engines up to 1,000 horsepower; a tool room; a wash bay; new labs for electrical, hydraulics and welding; a battery test and storage area; and a library, computer and student room.



Bill Hitesman, president of Central Community College-Hastings, clips the ribbon during a ceremony celebrating the opening of the new addition to the campus' Harlan Building. Included in the audience are CCC President Dr. Greg Smith; members of the CCC Board of Governors; and Hastings Campus administrators, faculty members and students.

People attending the open house also had the chance to see major renovations and improvements in the other buildings on the Hastings Campus. These buildings – and the areas within them that underwent updating, improvements or overhauls – included:

- Adams: a new welcome center for students.
- Gausman: the dental hygiene program.
- Hamilton: the advanced manufacturing design technology program.
- Merrick: the new home for the heating, venting and air conditioning (HVAC) and alternative energy programs.
- Platte: the hospitality management and culinary arts and media arts/broadcasting programs.
- Sherman: the new home of the Follett Campus Bookstore.
- Residence halls.

Campus Honored As Bellwether Finalist

Central Community College-Columbus has been named a 2013 Community College Futures Assembly (CCFA) Bellwether Finalist for workforce development. CCC-Columbus was recognized for Project SHINE, a professional development program that engages secondary and college faculty with business and industry in year-long mentoring relationships with a goal of increasing student interest in entering high-demand technical careers. The CCFA received nearly 250 nominations for the Bellwether Award.

Tweens Camps In Grand Island

Twenty-one students took advantage of the first-ever Tween Camps offered in June by Central Community College-Grand Island. The camps – Medical Apprentice, Central Survival Games, Nebraska Aggies and Trauma – were designed to introduce middle schoolers to various career fields.

The Trauma Camp, for example, focused on emergency careers. The firefighting day was typical of the camps, giving the students a chance to learn a variety of things about the field from people who actually work in it. Another special aspect of that day was the Columbus Burn Simulator, which gave campers a chance to learn about the dynamics of a fire. The campers learned the importance of trust, teamwork and the importance of quick problem-solving.



CCC Team Earns Gold

A team from Central Community College-Hastings earned gold medals in the SkillsUSA national competition, which was held June 14-28 in Kansas City, Mo. First-place honors went to the CCC-Hastings welding fabrication team: Austin Craig and Landon Hunt, both of North Platte, and Kelly Faimon of Lawrence. The team competed in the national competition because of their first-place win in Nebraska's state competition in April at the Hastings Campus. SkillsUSA is a national organization that provides secondary and post-secondary students with leadership, citizenship and character development activities.

Raiders Named Top Academic Team In Nation

The Raiders volleyball team earned top academic honors in the nation for 2012-13. When the National Junior College Athletic Association announced its 2012-13 Academic Teams of the Year, the Raiders were the top volleyball team, with a team grade-point average of 3.61 on a 4.0 scale. Coach Mary Young said the national honor is a testament to the kind of student athletes in the program. "They are very committed to academics. We always talk about athletics being an extension of the classroom," Young said. "As athletes, they learn discipline, hard work and perseverance. Those things are carrying over into the classroom. As a coach, I'm most pleased with their academic success."

Team members are: Kendel Knapp, McKenzie Leu and Chelsea Saalfed of Columbus; Jackie Bosak of Genoa; Darian Erickson of Greeley; Kaitlyn Ernst of Hastings; Shannon Elkins of Norfolk; Becky Wessel of Stanton; and Shuraya Frauendorfer and Morgan Heise of Wood River.

Students Transform Steel Into Sculpture

People driving past the intersection of 26th Avenue and 23rd Street in Columbus will see a new and unusual sight: stainless steel palm trees. The trees were made by Central Community College welding students in the layout and assembly course at the Columbus Campus. CCC's involvement began when welding instructor Gary Senff was contacted in January by Karla Schaecher from the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce. She wanted to know if the college was interested in building a sculpture for the city, as other schools had done in the state.



The process included Senff and fellow welding instructor Ryan Woehl discussing their ideas with the chamber; meeting with Vanessa Ocegüera from Keep Columbus Beautiful, who was in charge of the grant that the city had received; and getting approval from the Nebraska Department of Roads. At CCC, the process involved discussions on how to fabricate the pipe to make the trunk and branches, a field trip to see steel palm trees in the area, and even a night shift to speed up the production process.

The students who worked on the project were Cody Gill, Dakota Locke and Justin Locke, all of Columbus; Bobbi Jo Cockrell of Norfolk; and Dann Matchett of St. Edward. "The students learned to work together and did a fantastic job," Senff said. "Of course, none of this would have been possible without the area industries that supplied the materials and other support needed to finish the project." Those industries were ADM Corn Processors, Cargill Value Added Meats Solutions of Columbus, Columbus Metal Industries, 3D Designs Inc., Dewine Mechanical Inc., B-D Construction Inc. and the City of Columbus.

Student Veterans Attend National Conference

Six student veterans and Student Veteran Coordinator Travis Karr attended the fifth annual Student Veterans of America National Conference in Orlando. They were among more than 600 student veterans, education officials and military supporters at the conference sharing experiences and best practices for improving their student veteran organizations on their campuses as well as the academic climate for student veterans everywhere. The CCC attendees, who all serve as officers in their campus student veteran chapters, were:

- Army veteran Kevin Nacol of Bradshaw, president, Grand Island
- Army Reserves Staff Sgt. Amber Cramer of Genoa, chief of staff, Columbus
- Marine Corps veteran Josh Whited of Grand Island, chief of staff, Grand Island
- Army veteran Anthony Allen of Hastings, chief of staff, Hastings
- Army veteran Greg Gentert of Hastings, president, Hastings
- Army veteran Ashley Allen of Juniata, vice president of records and finance, Hastings

Academy Helps Student Refine Future Plans

Ruben Meza Jr. is one of those high school seniors who knows exactly what he wants to do after he graduates. In fact, he not only knows but has also planned on how to achieve his goal of becoming a pediatrician. He's already taken the first step by maintaining good grades at Shelton High School, where he has a 3.8 grade-point average (GPA) and is ranked third in his 22-member class.

The next step was getting accepted into Central Community College's Health Science Career Academy as a junior. Although he'd known for a long time he wanted to go into the health field, it wasn't until he participated in the career academy that he discovered he wanted to be a doctor.

And that's exactly what CCC's career academies are designed to do: provide an avenue for high school students to explore a career by taking a related college-level course each semester and participating in five job-shadowing experiences. For his college-level classes, Meza has taken introduction to health sciences, community health needs, and medical terminology. He currently is enrolled in the human biology course – his favorite because it focuses on how the body works. "The other classes covered the basics but didn't get into details like this class does," he said.



Were the college classes difficult to get used to? "At the beginning it was hard because I was not used to working independently," Meza said, "but now I have taken other college-level classes and have learned how to be self-motivated. The classes gave me a feel for the health field and for college." The college classes may have given Meza a feel for college, but it was the career academy's job-shadowing requirements that helped him pinpoint the kind of doctor he wanted to be. He spent time with a surgeon and a pediatrician at the Kearney Clinic and learned about physical therapy and occupational therapy at the New West Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery Center, also in Kearney.

The path Meza has chosen will demand a lot of dedication, but then he already has shown devotion not only to his schoolwork but also to a variety of activities at Shelton High School. And when he graduates this spring, he'll become the first Shelton High School student to graduate from CCC's Health Science Career Academy.

The University of Nebraska-Kearney has offered him the UNK Multicultural Community Scholarship, which pays full tuition for four years, as well as the UNK Cooperating Schools Scholarship. College will be followed by medical school with its two years of classes and two years of rotations and then three years of residency or internship. More immediately, Meza has a new job. He's been hired by the Wood River Good Samaritan Society as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) and housekeeping assistant. "It gets my foot in the door," said Meza, who sees it as another opportunity to learn and gain experience for his ultimate goal of becoming a pediatrician. It may be years of hard work before he achieves that goal, but Meza already knows this: "I hope to have a practice in Nebraska. No big cities for me."

CCC Awarded \$5.6 Million Consortium Grant

Central Community College has received a \$5,629,194 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for Innovations Moving People to Achieved Certified Training (IMPACT), a consortium to design and deliver blended manufacturing generalist degrees, diplomas and certificates that integrate with skill certifications used in industry. Consortium members are Metro, Northeast, Southeast and Western Nebraska community colleges and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Project manager Dan Davidchik said the manufacturing generalist program will integrate existing skilled and technical science courses from the five community college partners and a new set of four core courses to be developed jointly.

Curriculum will be developed to integrate skill certifications currently used in industry. Manufacturing generalist students will be able to choose from seven areas of focus: advanced manufacturing, drafting, energy operations, mechatronics, quality, instrumentation and welding. The four manufacturing generalist core courses will be developed over the next 12 to 18 months by a 15-member group comprising two faculty members and one supervisor from each of the five participating community colleges. UNL staff will assess the new courses and work with consortium curricula developers to make modifications necessary to meet university requirements for students who receive a manufacturing generalist associate of applied science degree to transfer into two bachelor's degree programs – an interdisciplinary studies program with emphasis on technology to be offered by the College of Engineering, and an individualized program of study in the College of Arts and Sciences with emphasis on human factors in manufacturing.

Center Aims To Ease Students' Writing Woes

English is a richly complicated language of idioms, words adopted and sometimes adapted from other languages and rules that always seem to have exceptions. In other words, English is an obstacle course of contradictions and inconsistencies when it comes to grammar. At Central Community College-Grand Island, students have a guide to help them navigate that obstacle course. The Writing Center opened its doors during the 2013 spring semester with Spanish instructor Nancy Reese devoting two hours a week to helping students with their English questions.

Now, thanks to a three-year Perkins Grant, the Writing Center has gained a writing coach and expanded hours. The writing coach is Rachel Hruza. "Our mission is to help all writers of the English language perfect the writing process and better their writing abilities, whether it is their second or third language or if they've been writing in English their entire lives," she said. "Any CCC student can come to the Writing Center for help, whether it's for a technology class, science class or other class. It's not only for students in English classes. If they're enrolled at CCC, they can take advantage of the Writing Center."

So far during the fall semester, 28 individual students have made 63 visits to the center with Tuesdays and Thursdays being the busiest and Wednesdays picking up. Hruza also is available to do presentations to classes about the Writing Center, which is located in the library at College Park. The process is underway to open similar writing centers on the Columbus and Hastings campuses.

2014

New Group Aims To Help Students Succeed

A new organization at Central Community College is helping students set the stage for success. The National Society of Leadership and Success has participating students on the Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings campuses.

“We’re working together although some of the events are offered at different times on each campus,” said Meghan May, a sponsor for the Grand Island chapter. Other sponsors are Joan McCarthy and Rhett Psota at the Grand Island Campus; Krynne Larsen and Charlie Sanders at the Columbus Campus; and Jason Davis, Jose Jimenez and Jessica Sorge at the Hastings Campus.

Students were invited to join the organization if they had at least a 2.5 GPA, were newly enrolled for at least six credits, or were nominated by someone at CCC. Of the 3,000 students invited, about 415 have paid the fee to join. “They now have steps to go through to be inducted,” May said. “They have to attend an orientation, a leadership training day, three success networking team meetings, and three out of six speaker presentations.”

The success network teams consist of seven or eight people who meet every other week. They set goals for themselves and then help each other to meet those goals. The live broadcasts are open to both students and the public. Upcoming speakers include Dan Harris of “Nightline” on Feb. 10, Debbi Fields of Mrs. Field’s Cookies on Feb. 24 and Arianna Huffington of the Huffington Post on March 17. The students who successfully complete the requirements will be inducted and receive a Leadership Training Certificate. May said plans are in the works to hold some meetings in Kearney for members from the Holdrege, Kearney and Lexington centers so they don’t always have to drive to Grand Island.

“The organization gives students an opportunity to work on their leadership skills and to work with other people,” May said. “It’s a good puzzle piece for them to fit into their education.”

Case IH Donates New Combine To College

The Grand Island Case IH manufacturing facility has donated a new Case IH 7230 combine to the Central Community College Foundation. The in-kind donation will be used in the diesel technology program at CCC-Hastings as well as by the precision ag program once it is implemented. The unit will perform as a prime tool for teaching students the latest concepts the industry has to offer. Its Tier IV emissions engine uses Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology and Power Plus hydro-mechanical drives, making it a benchmark in industry. Donation of the combine was initiated by Jordan Wescoatt, a diesel technology student at CCC-Hastings, and his father, Galen Wescoatt, a Case IH manufacturing employee. Donation efforts were supported by Titan Machinery, a Case IH dealership in Hastings.

Open House For Welding Addition At Columbus

The public was invited to see the new welding addition to the North Education Building at Central Community College-Columbus on Feb. 19. The event included a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by an open house and tours, giving individuals an opportunity to see the new facility and learn about scholarships for new and returning students.



The addition added 9,550 square-feet to the existing building and includes 27 welding booths, prefabricated grinding rooms, cutting room, jib crane, classroom, A/V and a robotics room. Both Campus President Dr. Matt Gotschall and welding instructor Gary Senff credited area industry for its support of the program. This has included, among other things, technical support for robots and materials and equipment for students.

Walker To Take Reins At CCC-Grand Island

Central Community College announced today that Dr. Thomas A. Walker Jr. will become campus president at CCC-Grand Island and college vice president of student and enrollment services on July 7. He will replace Alan Hartley, who has served as interim campus president since Aug. 2, 2013. College President Dr. Greg Smith said, "We are pleased that Dr. Walker has chosen Central Community College. He is a student- and community-focused educator who brings a wealth and breadth of experience to the job."

Walker currently is vice president for student affairs at St. Louis Community College in Forest Park, Mo., and has extensive experience with community colleges. Previous positions include dean of administrative services at Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City, dean of student services and enrollment management at Davidson County Community College in North Carolina and a similar position at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, as well as having served as a full-time faculty member and an academic dean. In addition, he was founding executive director of KIPP (Knowledge is Power Program), a regional office supporting KIPP Public Charter Schools in St. Louis. He also was an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

CCC Named Finalist For Legacy Award

CCC was one of 10 colleges named as Legacy Award finalists by the Community College Futures Assembly (CCFA). The Legacy Award is sponsored by the Association of Community College Trustees. Application criteria included only former Bellwether finalist programs that could illustrate five years of program effectiveness. A call for nominations extended to more than 500 community college programs and 60 postsecondary institutions.

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Bob Becker - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year Award
- Willy Kilgore - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Krynn Larsen - Article on Academic Success Center serviced published in the National College Learning Center Association quarterly publication

Grand Island

- Ann Chambers - Earned Certified Manager in Program Improvement certification from the Leadership Excellence Academy
- Emily Gildersleeve - Earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bellevue University
- Travis Karr - Selected as one of Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Top 35 Under 35; Earned a master's degree in management with an emphasis on executive coaching from Bellevue University
- Jeff Schulz - "Rural Community College Students' Perceptions of Difficulty Towards Taking Social Science Classes Online Versus Lecture: A Case Study," published in the National Social Science Journal

Hastings

- Robin Buckallew - One-act play "Entropy" selected for a festival in New York City
- Jason Davis - Graduated from Hastings Leadership Tomorrow
- Stan Essink - Completed training as a Certified Life Coach through the Spencer Institute
- Vicki Kucera - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award
- Rachael Keilig - Secondary Traumatic Stress and Disruptions to Interpersonal Functioning Among Mental Health Therapists," was published in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence; "Feminist Pedagogy in Action: Photovoice as an Experiential Class Project" was published in the Psychology of Women Quarterly

Kearney

- Kelly Christensen - Recognized by the Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska for his service on the ATEN Board of Directors; Earned a doctorate in educational leadership and higher education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Ord

- Crystal Ramm - Earned a doctorate in entomology from the University of Nebraska

Administration

- Andrew Fausett - Selected as one of Grand Island Area Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Top 35 Under 35
- Cindy Lothrop - Earned a bachelor's degree in human resources from Bellevue University

- Michelle Setlik - Elected to a six-year term on the Hall County Airport Authority Board
- Greg Smith - Invited by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to serve on its Advisory Committee for Presidents
- Chris Waddle - Honored as an Exemplary Leader at the CHAIR Academy

Retirements

Columbus

- Jeff Curry - Music Instructor
- Marjorie Johnson - Financial Aid Technician
- Kay Mimick - Registration Technician
- Dan Rumsey - Electronics Instructor

Grand Island

- Linda Bowden - Resource Center Director
- Alan Hartley - Campus President
- Pat Muth - Administrative Assistant in Nursing
- Jan Sorahan - Business Technology Instructor
- Dana Wert - Industrial Technology Instructor

Hastings

- John Anderson - Commercial Horticulture Instructor
- Chuck Breunig - Counselor and Wellness Coordinator
- Linda Cobb - Housing Coordinator
- Roger DeVries - Business Administration Instructor
- Wanda Faimon - Custodian
- Harry Hamel - English Instructor
- Shari Maul - Horticulture Instructor
- Ron Meyer - Electrical Instructor
- Coleen Murray - Academic Transfer Adviser
- Vicki Papineau - Instructor

Kearney

- Collen Quadhamer - Nursing Program Coordinator and Instructor

Administration

- Larry Glazier - College Business Officer

In Memoriam

Warren Rood, 91, of Columbus died Feb. 28 at his home. Services were March 7 at the First United Methodist Church in Columbus with burial in the Columbus Cemetery. He was active in community and professional organizations, including the Columbus Chamber of Commerce. He served on its board of directors and as chairman of the legislative and education committees. As the education chairman, he appointed and served on the subcommittee for establishing Platte College (now Central Community College-Columbus). He served on the college's original board and was president of the charter board. Survivors include a daughter, Mary Schuchman; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Donna J. Kershner, 81, of David City, died July 19 at David Place in David City. Services were held July 26 at Kracl Funeral Chapel in David City. In accordance with her wishes, her body was donated to the Nebraska State Anatomical Board. She had worked in maintenance and security at Central Community College-Hastings. Survivors include two sons, Douglas Kershner and Dudley Lonsdale; a daughter, Denise Hames; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Harold F. "Mac" McClure, 88, of Kearney died July 12 at Good Samaritan Society-St. Luke's in Kearney. Services were July 21 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kearney with inurnment of ashes in the church's columbarium. He served on the Central Community College Board of Governors from 1989 through 2008 and was board chairman in 1993. Survivors include his daughter, Jane McClure, and his son, Patrick McClure.

William "Bill" Schneider, 89, of Columbus died Nov. 15 at Brookestone Acres in Columbus. Services were Nov. 19 at the First United Methodist Church in Columbus with burial in the Columbus Cemetery. In 1993, he joined the Central Community College Board of Governors and went on to serve as its treasurer, vice chairman and chairman. Survivors include four daughters, Jackie Skalak, Sandy Schneider, Laurie Garretson and Billie Jo Machmueller; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jean L. Aiken, 90, of Hastings died May 3 at Mary Lanning Healthcare. Services were May 6 at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church with a private family burial to be held at a later date. She was an agricultural communications instructor at UNL and also taught at Central Community College-Hastings. Survivors include a daughter, Anne Kush; three sons, David Aiken, Andy Aiken and Rob Aiken; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Paul J. Stobbe, 81, of Grand Island died May 24 at his home. Services were May 29 at St. Mary's Cathedral with burial in Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery. He was employed at Central Community College and retired in 1999 as the director of recruiting. Survivors include his wife, Karen; two daughters, Stephanie Graves and Tami Taylor; a son, Tom Stobbe; and nine grandchildren.

Patricia Karsk, 64, of Columbus died Feb. 18 at the Hospice House in Omaha. Services were Feb. 21 at St. Isidore Catholic Church in Columbus with burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in Wood River. She worked at Central Community College from 1984 until 2009, serving as a nursing instructor and coordinator of the Columbus Campus nursing program. She later served as CCC's dean of nursing. Survivors include a son, Justin; and two daughters, Natasha and Jocelyn.

Burdette Oliver "Tommy" Thomsen, 91, of Hastings died Feb. 6 at Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village. Services were Feb. 15 at First Presbyterian Church in Hastings. A private family burial will be held at a later date. He was an automotive instructor at Central Community College-Hastings from 1966 until his retirement in 1985. Survivors include his wife, Darlene; four sons, Steven, Gary, Scott and John; 13 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

Richard "Dick" Averett, 78, of Columbus, died Sept. 23, 2014, at his home. Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Oct. 4, in the Central Community College Fine Arts Theater in Columbus. Averett joined the Central Community College-Columbus staff in 1970 and would serve as a communications and drama instructor until his retirement in 2000. During his 30-year theatrical career, he acted, directed and/or produced more than 250 plays for the college as well as the Platte Valley Playhouse. Survivors include his wife, Barbara; five children, Col. Tami Averett-Brauer, Miki Naylor, Suzi Zwick, Gigi Berol, and Capt. Cris Averett; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Willard Thomas "Chip" Essex, 69, of Hastings died June 20, 2014, at Mary Lanning Healthcare. Services were June 24 at First Presbyterian Church in Hastings with burial in Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery. He worked for Wells Fargo for 30 years until his retirement in 2003 and was responsible for starting the bank's trust department in Hastings when he moved there in 1978. He left retirement to work for the CCC Foundation as its planned giving coordinator for four years. Survivors include his wife Vonda; two sons, Chad and Troy; and four grandchildren.

Edward E. "Ed" Cassel, 64, of Hastings died Aug. 7 at Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings. Services were Aug. 11 at Faith Lutheran Church in Hastings with burial in Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Hastings. He had worked at CCC-Hastings since 1981, first as a custodian and then as building control operator. Survivors include two stepsons, Aaron Brannigan and Ryan Brannigan; and two grandchildren.

Pierces Inducted Into Hall Of Fame

Homer and Margaret Pierce were inducted into the Central Community College Foundation Hall of Fame Oct. 28 at the foundation's annual appreciation luncheon. Inductees are selected for their philanthropy, service to CCC and/or the CCC Foundation, and community service.

The Pierces have been generous donors and supporters of the CCC Foundation with Homer serving on the foundation board from 2003 to June 2014 and the CCC Board of Governors for more than 18 years. He received the Nebraska Community College Governor's Award in 2000. He also has served on the CCC Facilities Corporation for a number of years.

Homer's career has included working as a hired hand for an Axtell farmer, serving in the U.S. Air Force as a nuclear weapons specialist, working in the purchasing department at Hastings Industries and being employed by banks in Grand Island, Minden, Callaway and Lexington. Margaret's career has led her from employment as a business education teacher and coach to banking and trust department management. The couple has been active in a variety of community organizations and boards.

Give Kids A Smile Day

Central Community College dental hygiene students work with UNMC dental and dental hygiene students on Feb. 7 to provide preventive and restorative care to low-income children. More than 220 children were seen this year.



Raider Basketball Player Named NJCAA Division II Player Of The Year

Tyron Criswell of Omaha has been named Division II Player of the Year by the National Junior College Athletic Association. Criswell is a sophomore forward with the Raiders men’s basketball team at Central Community College-Columbus. He led the Raiders in scoring, averaging 20.2 points per game this season behind 225 made field goals – the 18th most in the Division II ranks. He also recorded 7.2 rebounds, 2.6 assists and 1.3 steals per game on the year. The NJCAA said in its announcement: “This year (in the 2014 NJCAA District II Men’s Basketball National Championship), the Raiders matched their historical win total with three victories and took third place – their highest finish in program history. Criswell’s best performance over the past two years came in the Raiders’ opening round 89 -82 win over John Wood. He notched a double-double behind a career-high 36 points and 13 rebounds.”



It’s The New York Times!

This illustration, drawn by Jenny Kruger, an art instructor at Central Community College-Columbus, was commissioned by The New York Times for the article, “Red Wine is the Drink of Choice for Powerful Women on TV.” The article and illustration were published together in The New York Times newspaper’s dining section and on TheNYTimes.com on Oct. 29, 2014.

SkillsUSA Members Place At Nationals

A student and a team from Central Community College-Hastings placed in the SkillsUSA national competition, which was held June 23-26 in Kansas City.

- Ashley Beall of Benkleman placed sixth for job interview in the college and technical division.
- The welding team of Jason Buoy of Burwell, Dylan Hinrichs of Glenvil and John Pritchard of Spalding placed 12th for welding fabrication in the college and technical division.

TRiO Students Attend Leadership Conference

Six Central Community College students attended the Adult Student Leadership Conference Oct. 17-18 in St. Charles, Ill. The conference was held by the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunities Program Personnel (MAEOPP). Participants were able to attend sessions on topics such as preparing for college, financial literacy, leadership, social media, college life and youth violence; hear motivational speakers; and interact with their peers. The CCC students attended the conference as a result of their participation in the college's TRiO/SSS program. The program is designed to help first-generation and low-income students with a demonstrated academic need or with documented physical or learning disabilities to overcome barriers to their dreams.

Attending from CCC were Columbus Campus students Dalila Medrano of Columbus and Vanelly Mendoza of Schuyler; Grand Island Campus students Judit Ortega and Sarah Quezada Rodriguez, both of Grand Island; and Hastings Campus students Megan Grabhorn of Edgar and Riley Putnam of Gothenburg.



'LZ' To Debut at Nebraska State Fair



A new and innovative event will debut on Sept. 1 at the Nebraska State Fair's Veterans Day. The "LZ" (Landing Zone) was created by the Central Community College Veterans and Military Services Department and the Veterans Community Task Force. Both groups "worked diligently to create a veteran and family-friendly event that focuses on service, survival and success and will connect veterans of all ages throughout the state," said Travis Karr, CCC's veterans and military services director.

Veterans, service members, their families and other interested individuals are invited to the "LZ" where the main attraction will be several military S.E.R.E (survival, evasion, resistance and escape) instructors. "These highly trained individuals have faced significant conflict during their service, but they survived the transition out of the military and achieved great success by drawing on their military experience and skill sets," Karr said. "They'll share stories about their experiences, the challenges they've faced and what it took to obtain success beyond the uniform."

The S.E.R.E. instructors also will demonstrate survival techniques at different survival stations, including how to build a fire without matches, set traps to gather food, signal for rescue, and improvise in emergency situations. The "LZ" will also feature the Warrior Paper Project, which shows how to transform old camouflage uniforms into art.

Students Get 19 Percent Return On Investment

Central Community College students receive a 19 percent annual return on their investment in education, according to a report released by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc. (EMSI), a research company located in Moscow, Idaho. The report said that costs for 12,614 CCC credit students and 10,850 non-credit students in 2012-13 totaled \$15.2 million for tuition, fees, books and supplies, plus \$58.1 million in earnings that they would have generated had they been working instead of learning. In return, they will receive \$308.5 million in increased lifetime earnings, a return of \$4.20 in increased income for every dollar that they invested in their education. The report also finds that:

- During 2012-13, CCC and its students added \$321 million in income to the economy of its 25-county service area, approximately 2.6 percent of the region's Gross Regional Product. The economic impact of CCC breaks down as follows:
- \$47 million – the effect of college expenditures, including a \$38.5 million payroll and \$60.6 million spent for operations, the multiplier effects generated by the spending of CCC and its employees, and a downward adjustment to account for funding that CCC received from local sources.
- \$798,000 – the effect of spending by students who moved into the college service area to attend CCC.
- \$273.1 million – the effect of student productivity, representing the accumulated contribution of former students currently employed in the regional workforce.
- The overall effect on employment in the college service area was 8,733 job equivalents, including 7,432 resulting from the effect of student productivity, 1,280 from the effect of college operations and 22 from the effect of student spending. Job equivalents are a measure of the average-wage jobs that a given amount of income can potentially support.
- Taxpayers also received a return in investment in the college. In 2012-13, state and local taxpayers in Nebraska paid \$48.1 million to support the operations of CCC. The net value of the added tax revenue stemming from the students' higher lifetime incomes and the increased output of businesses amounted to \$67.6 million in benefits to taxpayers. Savings to the public sector add another \$5.1 million in benefits due to a reduced demand for government-funded services in Nebraska.
- Dividing benefits to taxpayers by the associated costs yields a 1.5 benefit-cost ratio, i.e., every \$1 in costs returns \$1.50 in benefits.
- Society as a whole in Nebraska will receive \$877.3 million in added state income over the course of the students' working lives. Society will also benefit from \$18.3 million in social savings related to reduced crime, lower welfare and unemployment and increased health and well-being across the state.

Retired Instructor Writes Depot History

Walt Miller's newly published book, "U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot, Hastings, Nebraska, U.S.A." is the culmination of a labor of love spanning more than 40 years for the retired Central Community College-Hastings drafting instructor. When he began teaching architectural drafting at the campus in 1970, Miller was intrigued by the architecture of the buildings, which originally were the headquarters for the Naval Ammunition Depot that was built during World War II, a natural interest, perhaps, for a licensed architect and former Marine who spent time on navy warships and Pacific island bases.

Following his Marine Corps service, Miller earned a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and began a 40-year career as an architect, including a practice he ran out of his home while teaching architectural drafting at the Hastings Campus. Miller said the buildings for the former Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot (NAD) are fascinating. "They are beautiful buildings, done in the Jeffersonian style of architecture," Miller said. In 1976, he started riding a bicycle on Sunday afternoons and often would explore parts of the former NAD beyond the headquarters area used by Central Community College. "I would ride some of the old paved roads on the Naval Ammunition Depot. Here were all of these abandoned buildings and no one around but deer and rabbits," Miller said. In addition to the area now used by Central Community College, the base had about 2,200 buildings, including storage bunkers and 65 factory buildings; more than 300 miles of paved road; and some 200 miles of railroad track, Miller said. Total area for the Naval Ammunition Depot was 48,000 acres or 76 square miles. During World War II, it produced about 40 percent of the ammunition used by the U.S. Navy – everything from 20 mm antiaircraft ammunition to massive 16-inch shells for the main batteries of battleships. It also loaded bombs, mines, depth-charges, torpedo warheads and rockets.

Miller became more involved in chronicling the history of the NAD in 1981, when construction instructor Gene Cookus brought him a 4-by-7-foot map of the base (from the Harvard fire station) and asked if he could restore it. "After biking out there and restoring the map, I was absolutely fascinated by the place," Miller said. He began doing restoration drawings and watercolor renderings of buildings and taking lots of photographs. In 2000, Miller did a presentation about the Naval Ammunition Depot during the Central Community College in-service day at the Hastings Campus. "I did a 35 mm slide presentation and narrated it. Once I'd done that, there seemed to be requests all of the time for the slide show," Miller said. He converted the presentation to PowerPoint and then to a DVD in 2009.

The 2009 DVD became the basis for Miller's book, which was published in December. It includes some 300 graphics and photographs and dozens of interviews and quotes from some of the people who worked there. "It was a priceless archive of NAD information, Miller said. "Without them, I couldn't have done this book." Another valuable resource was 32 vintage 8-by-10, black-and-white photographs showing NAD buildings under construction, discovered in the basement of the CCC-Hastings administration building by Ken Rezac, who was CCC dean of students at the time.

The cover of Miller's book is a watercolor rendering he did of the main gate to the NAD. The gate is long gone but when Miller started with the college in 1970, he worked in the east main-gate building.

2015

Campaign Gets Underway For New Center

A major gifts campaign is getting underway for Central Community College's new Kearney Center. The new facility will provide 63,000 square-feet of space, compared to 14,234 square-feet in the current Kearney Center.

The 32 acres of land was purchased in December 2014. It is located at the northeast corner of 11th Street and 30th Avenue, directly north and across the street from the site of the new Kearney High School. When announcing CCC's agreement with the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County to buy the land in April 2014, College President Dr. Greg Smith said that the current center couldn't provide the space needed to meet a growing demand for career and technical education and training in the Kearney area. The close proximity of the new center and high school will create opportunities for collaboration, Smith said. He also believes that a larger CCC presence in Kearney may create more opportunities for articulating educational programs with the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The cost of the new center will be about \$23 million with the college injecting close to \$13 million into the project from reserves and short-term facility bonds. CCC intends to have no long-term debt after the project's completion. The goal of the major gifts campaign is to raise \$10 million dollars with donations from other foundations, businesses and individuals, said Dean Moors, executive director of the CCC Foundation.

CCC spent the past 60 days determining specific training and education needs by meeting with community leaders, educators and manufacturers; touring local industry; and visiting all three CCC campuses. "We know skilled and technical trades will be included along with health science, information technology and distance learning at the new center," Moors said.

The next step will be the case for support. "We've been focusing on foundation solicitations and have submitted three with more forthcoming," he said. "We have two gifts in place that total \$750,000 so we're off to a great start."

The anticipated completion date is planned for the fall of 2018, but a successful 2015 campaign could result in earlier completion.

Peter Kiewit Foundation Challenge Grant

The Peter Kiewit Foundation has approved a \$1,000,000 Challenge Grant toward Central Community College's Kearney Center project. "This is exciting news for the project, our students and the community," said Dean Moors, executive director of the Central Community College Foundation. "Work has already begun to match the generous gift. We've raised \$213,699 toward the challenge grant and hope to complete it by Thanksgiving."

New Precision Agriculture Program

As befitting its location in rural Nebraska, Central Community College is developing a new precision agriculture program. The program will teach students how to use new technology to achieve precise results, according to Dr Nate Allen, dean of business, and skilled and technical sciences. It is designed to help long-term displaced workers who need to update their skills, but it also will benefit other students interested in the field.

Funding for the program came in the form of a \$2.5 million Trade Assistance Adjustment Community College Career Training (TAACCCT) grant that was awarded to the college by the U.S. Department of Labor in September 2014. “This was the fourth round of TAACCCT funding,” Allen said. “CCC applied for consortium projects with the other Nebraska community colleges in rounds one, two and three. This is our first individually funded project.”

The grant is being used to develop the Nebraska Precision Agriculture Center of Excellence (N-PACE). An associate of applied science degree, diploma and certificates will be offered, and laddering to four-year degree programs will be available. The curriculum will align with industry standards, Allen said. After students have completed required classes, they can then branch out into specialty fields such as crop science, livestock production and agribusiness. Components of precision technology also will be integrated into current curriculum and in the development of new curriculum. “This will allow curriculum to cross programs,” Allen said. “We’ll also be offering courses for business and industry.”

Partnerships with other institutions with similar programs, such as Southeast Community College in Beatrice and Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, N. D., are expected to draw students to N-PACE from beyond CCC’s 25-county service area.

When A Horse Is (Not) Just A Horse

Central Community College-Columbus students Brenda Noller of Kearney and Chelsea Ferris of Columbus help theater instructor Keith Hale with the mechanical horse for the campus’ production of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” The horse was the result of much teamwork. Welding instructor Ryan Woehl and student Casey Gasper of Columbus welded the harness for the horse. Former drafting and design student, Phil Miller of Columbus created the horse’s head from sketches and a template while advanced manufacturing design technology and drafting and design students helped many days during class time on the horse construction. These students were Cole Church of Clarks; Cody Anderson, Parker Ridgeway, Ryan Stegman and Jim Swartz of Columbus; Nathan Eckhart of Fremont; and Hoss Hammond of Norfolk. Helping with the finish work were the puppeteers, assistant stage manager and the stage makeup class.



Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Brenda Eller - Earned a master's degree in nursing with an emphasis in nursing education from Clarkson College
- Matt Gotschall - Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce 2015 Archway Award; Phi Theta Kappa's 2015 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction
- Doug Hann - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Wade Hilker - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Karin Rieger - Columbus Area United Way Campaign Volunteer of the Year
- Mary Young - Appointed to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Board of Directors as its two-year college representative

Grand Island

- Chad Blome - Received a diploma in drafting and design technology from CCC-Grand Island
- Erin Lesiak - Named Big Sister of the Year by Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Grand Island
- Sonya Keopanya - Earned an Independent Mental Health Practitioner license (LIMHP) from the State of Nebraska
- Maria Lopez - Serving as an adviser to the Grand Island City Youth Council
- Meghan May - Earned a master's degree in management from Doane College
- Susan McDowall - Awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program grant to work with future English teachers and technical professionals in Russia during the 2015-2016 academic year
- Jamey Peterson - Earned a master's degree in management from Doane College
- Regina Rathman - Elected vice president of the Third City Community Clinic Board of Directors; Earned a master's degree in management from Doane College
- Terry Schifferns - Received a Nebraska Art Council's 2015 Individual Artist Fellowship (IAF) award in Literature
- Thomas Walker - Elected to the board of directors for the Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska

Hastings

- Katie Almquist - Earned master's degree in management from Doane College
- Robin Buckallew - One-act play "Man on the Moon," was aired on KZUM radio in Lincoln; Earned a master of fine arts degree in playwriting from the University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Vicki Kucera - Elected president of the Rocky Mountain Association of Financial Aid Administrators
- Susan Kuta - Earned an associate of applied science degree in business administration from CCC-Hastings
- Brad Lang - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award

Holdrege

- Diana Watson - Selected to participate in the 2015 Diversity Impact Program by NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Administration

- Amanda Groff - Received the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) Rising Star Award
- Misti Margritz - Inducted into Sigma Alpha Pi
- Shelly Mendez - Earned an associate of applied science degree in business technology from CCC-Grand Island
- Michelle Setlik - Earned a master's degree in management from Doane College

Retirements

Columbus

- Bob George - Custodian
- Charlie Sanders - Quality Technology Instructor

Grand Island

- Gary Horne - Custodian
- Tricia Stephens - Financial Aid Technician

Hastings

- Jim Kresbach - Student Accounts Director
- Marilyn Reynolds - Printing Technician
- Gregg Smith - Information Technology Instructor
- Debbra Troudt - Administrative Assistant to Associate Dean of Business
- Pat Cecil - LSS Instructional Support Director and Trainer

Kearney

- Michael Cox - Regional Director of Extended Learning Services
- Ron Schuller - Science Instructor

Administration

- Sandy Burris - Executive Assistant to College President

Five CCC employees earned their master's degrees from Doane College on the same day. Pictured left to right: Jamey Peterson, Regina Rathman, Michelle Setlik, Meghan May, and Katie Almquist



In Memoriam

Richard “Dick” Abraham, 78, of Columbus, died March 27 at Brookestone Acres in Columbus. A memorial service will be held at a later date. In 1971, he moved to Columbus and went to work at Central Community College. He continued teaching art at the college until his retirement in 2001.

Lola Irene Martindale, 90, of Central City died Nov. 6, 2014, at Litzenberg Long Term Care in Central City. Services were Nov. 10 at United Presbyterian Church in Central City with burial in the Central City Cemetery. In 1968, her husband was transferred to Columbus where she went to work in the registrar’s office at Platte College (now Central Community College-Columbus, she continued to work at CCC until her retirement in 1986. Survivors include two daughters, Jan Marshall and Jacqueline Nore; nine grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Traci Marie Romans, 44, of Grand Island died Dec. 1, 2014. Services were held Dec. 5 at St. Pauls Lutheran Church. She had worked at Central Community College as a payroll accountant since 2010. Survivors include her husband Erin; her children Kadin and Kinzie.

Oriel Viola Kinley, 99, of Hastings died Feb. 17 in Hastings. Services were Feb. 28 at the First Presbyterian Church with burial at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery. In 1964, she became executive secretary to the president of the Central Community College, serving in that capacity and as secretary of the CCC Board of Governors from 1966 to 1983. Survivors include her daughter, Dr. Christy Hargesheimer; stepdaughters, Deb Novak and Gina McDaniel; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

College Upgrades Virtual Campus

CCC is completing a year-long \$2.4 million upgrade and expansion to its Virtual Campus. The Virtual Campus is CCC’s video and online distance education program. Dr. Eric Jones, associate vice president for the Virtual Campus, said the new system:

- Includes the capacity for high-definition video links between CCC’s locations in Columbus, Grand Island, Hastings, Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington and Ord.
- Provides students with on-demand access to recorded classroom videos, allowing them to see missed lectures. Faculty members can repurpose the videos to support their lecture and web courses.
- Improves CCC’s capacity for linking to area high schools and providing them with video-based lecture courses.

“We also see this as a way to support our student services, recruiting, admissions, tutoring and communication with faculty,” Jones said. Enrollment in the Virtual Campus during the 2014-15 academic year was about 25 percent of total college enrollment, Jones said. A national survey of graduating high school students shows this number is likely to increase. The upgrade will help those who attend CCC to reduce the cost of attending college. “Providing local access means students don’t have to drive to campuses and centers and that saves them both time and money,” Jones said. “It also enhances the college’s commitment to reducing its environmental and operational costs.”

Individuals Receive College Credit Through Reverse Transfer Program

At Central Community College, students are gaining ground on their educational and career paths through a program called “reverse transfer.” Reverse transfer is a degree completion initiative that allows a student who transferred to a four-year institution without completing an associate’s degree at CCC to fulfill the degree requirements with coursework from the four-year institution. The courses also still apply toward the bachelor’s degree.

The program has been both popular and successful, according to Kim Ottman, CCC’s reverse transfer specialist. “Since January 2014, Central Community College has awarded over 100 associate of arts and associate of science degrees through this program,” she said. “This is a substantial number of degrees, and it means that CCC is leading the state in reverse transfer.” The need for such a program became evident when the National Student Clearinghouse found that 78 percent of students nationwide transfer from a community college to a four-year institution without first completing their associate’s degree.

“An associate’s degree is a valuable and recognizable award that signals a potential employee is ready to go,” Ottman said. “For students who have been unsuccessful in landing an interview or job in the past, their associate’s degree is opening new doors in the job market. Employers are taking note of their degree completion.”

To be eligible for reverse transfer, students must complete at least 25 percent of their coursework at CCC. The college doesn’t charge a fee for the reverse transfer program, and Ottman works one-on-one with students over the phone or by email so they don’t have to return to a CCC campus to complete the reverse transfer process.

CCC To Offer Accelerated Business Night Degree

Beginning this fall, Central Community College will offer an accelerated business administration degree at night at its Grand Island and Hastings campuses. Classes will be offered in eight-week sessions during the fall and spring semesters and in a 10-week session during the summer. Because two classes are scheduled during each session, individuals can complete an associate of applied science degree in business administration in two years. The eight-week sessions also will make it possible for students to start at multiple times throughout the year.

“We’re excited to offer this evening delivery format for our business administration program,” said Dr. Nate Allen, dean of business, skilled and technical sciences. “This format offers students flexibility to pursue an associate’s degree and move right into a bachelor’s degree with our four-year institution partners.”

First-year courses are introduction to business, personal financial planning, principles of accounting I and principles of marketing during the fall semester; applied statistics or college algebra, ethical leadership, microcomputer application and principles of accounting II during the spring semester; and English composition and principles of microeconomics during the summer session.

Athletes Receive Academic Honors

Seven students in the Raiders athletic program at Central Community College-Columbus have been recognized as NJCAA Athletes of Distinction and received Academic Student-Athlete Awards.

National Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence, 4.0 GPA

- Shayla Trotter of Arcadia, volleyball

National Superior Academic Achievement Award, 3.80-3.99 GPA

- Shelbi Dittmer of Clarks, softball
- Molly Gotschall of Columbus, volleyball
- Connor Long of Lincoln, basketball
- Cassidy Young of Omaha, volleyball

National Exemplary Academic Achievement Award, 3.60-3.79 GPA

- Skyler Erickson of Greeley, volleyball
- McKenna Rossmeier of Lynch, basketball and softball

Grand Island Event Attracts Volunteers

Students from Central Community College-Grand Island recently volunteered for Project Homeless Connect in Grand Island. Project Homeless Connect is a one-stop, one-day event that provides people experiencing homelessness with access to health and dental care, mental health treatment, employment services, housing resources, legal services and social services. The students greeted families and acted as navigators to help them find the appropriate resources. About 250 people received services during the event.

CCC-Grand Island volunteers included early childhood education majors Darbi Ketchum of Aurora; Kayberly Nelson of Albion; Carrie Beck of Central City; Shawna Behring of Chapman; Bridget Meyer of Doniphan; Dalia Acosta, Elizabeth Cortez, Katie Durand, Shelby Luft and Nohely Santoyo of Grand Island; and Rebecca Nance of Ord. Also volunteering were human services majors Daisy Arriola, Mayra Barrios, Wendy Fernandez, Kara Green, Alie Haverluck and Janeth Jiminez of Grand Island; Maria Harris of Hastings; and Valerie Pialet of McCool Junction.

Art Award

Savannah Savick of Cozad placed second overall in the Norfolk Arts Center Eighth Annual Juried Show. As her prize, she received \$100 and had her piece, "Stone Throne," exhibited from April 2 through May 1 at the Norfolk Art Center. Savick will receive her associate of arts degree on May 8 from Central Community College-Columbus.

International Visitors



Central Community College is currently serving as host to nine South Korean women. Four of them are observing the nursing program at the Columbus Campus and the other five are observing the dental hygiene program at the Hastings Campus. They are shown at the Grand Island Campus with their sponsor.

CCC's Spectrum Performs In Greece

Spectrum, the premiere vocal ensemble at Central Community College-Columbus, traveled to Greece July 7-22 to perform at the Festival of the Aegean. The annual event attracts performers and audience members from across the globe.

In addition to performing with Spectrum, 2015 CCC graduate Eryn Hemmer was selected to sing in the chorus for the festival opera, "Medea." Spectrum also performed works of Mozart, Beethoven and Fauré at the Apollo Theater and a solo concert of varied repertoire at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Syros.

"The performances were musically excellent," said Jeff Kitsen, CCC music instructor and Spectrum director. "The Apollo Theater and St. Nicholas Cathedral were both incredible spaces. The students worked hard the entire year preparing for the trip, so they felt great seeing their work pay off."



TRiO/SSS Support Award

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2014-15 TRiO/SSS Support Award. They received the award for going the extra mile to help TRiO/SSS students succeed at CCC.

Columbus Campus: Jordan Eisenmenger, financial aid technician, and Steve Heinisch, biological sciences instructor.

Grand Island Campus: Barb Beck, early childhood education instructor, and Michelle Lubken, associate dean of students.

Hastings Campus: Gene Friesen, drafting and design technology instructor, and Debbie Schmitz, student services administrative assistant.

Going Out For A (Virtual) Spin



Cheri Beda, Central Community College alumni director, tries her hand at driving in the simulator at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island under the watchful eyes of Clyde Childers, truck driving program supervisor. The truck driving program uses the simulator to give participants a wide array of driving experiences on nearly any type of vehicle, ranging from a family SUV to a large semi-truck. Additionally, drivers can experience weather changes, malfunctions and even the effects of driving while under the influence.

How Sweet It Is ...

The 18th annual Kool-Aid Days found a new home this year at Central Community College-Hastings. A parade on Aug. 8 kicked off a weekend filled to the brim with indoor and outdoor activities for kids of all ages, including games, live music and photo ops with Kool-Aid Man.

Activities off-campus included a car show, a fun run, an exhibit at Hastings Museum and “Kool-Aid Kardboard Boat” races on Lake Hastings. And, of course, there was abundant Kool-Aid to fend off the summer heat.



Grant Helps Four Community Colleges Expand Health Care Education In State

Central Community College has received an \$11,892,355 Health Profession Opportunity Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. "We are excited to partner with Mid-Plains, Northeast and Southeast community colleges to extend and expand educational services to low-income Nebraskans," said CCC President Dr. Greg Smith.

The grant is the largest that CCC has received, said CCC Grants Manager Marni Danhauer. The second largest was the \$9.5 million Health Profession Opportunity Grant awarded to the college in 2010 to begin Project HELP (Health Education Laddering Program). "This grant expands on the previous grant," Danhauer said. "The crux of both programs is to educate TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) recipients and other low-income individuals for health care careers that are in demand and pay well." She said that the new grant is shifting Project HELP's focus from short-term to long-term training. "We're focusing on getting individuals into associate of applied science degrees because these will lead to those better-paying jobs."

The new five-year goal is to enroll 1,445 participants with 94.5 percent completing basic skills training and 64 percent obtaining employment in a health care occupation. Another goal is for participants to attain at least 1,043 degrees, diplomas or industry-recognized credentials. In order to help them succeed, students will not only receive tuition assistance, but also supportive services such as tutoring, transportation assistance and career placement.

The grant also will serve more Nebraskans thanks to the addition of Mid-Plains, Northeast and Southeast community colleges as Project HELP partners. That means access to health care education expands from CCC's 14,000-square-mile, 25-county service area to four colleges with a 60,382-square-mile, 77-county service area, thus reaching 43 percent of the state's TANF recipients as compared to 13.1 percent in the 2010 project. "Rather than duplicating our health care programs, we're (the four community colleges) collaborating to share our existing programs," said Dr. Marcie Kemnitz, dean of health sciences at CCC. Danhauer said an exciting and innovative example is Southeast Community College's surgical technology program. A partnership has allowed CCC students to complete much of the degree requirements through online classes and at clinicals held in local communities. Labs, however, had to be completed at SCC. This situation was challenging for SCC staff trying to travel to all the clinicals in the state and for students who had to drive to Lincoln.

"The farther out a student lived, the harder it was," Danhauer said. "The new grant will establish satellite locations in the other three college areas." Providing a place for the labs will be Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk and Great Plains Health in North Platte. "Now students will have to travel to Southeast only to graduate," Danhauer said. Through the grant, CCC plans to establish a medical assisting satellite lab in Norfolk and to develop a new pharmacy technology program.

"We're really working with other community colleges to provide these health education programs to the people who want and need them," Kemnitz said. "We want to provide strong support throughout the process so those students get employed in the end."

2016

Kemnitz Takes Reins At CCC-Grand Island

Dr. Marcie Kemnitz has begun her new role at Central Community College as president of the Grand Island Campus. She succeeds Dr. Thomas Walker, who accepted a position as president of Wayne Community College in North Carolina. Kemnitz had served as CCC's dean of health sciences since 2009. She oversaw the division's nine college-wide academic programs, its \$4 million operating budget and an \$11.5 million federal grant. She also cultivated partnerships with area health care facilities and other community agencies, while ensuring that CCC's health programs continually meet accreditation standards.



"I am excited to serve the Grand Island Campus and community," said Kemnitz. "I am deeply committed to the central Nebraska area and look forward to strengthening CCC's relationship with businesses and organizations in and around Grand Island. My family and I have been greatly involved in the Hastings community and we look forward to continuing that in the Grand Island community."

Prior to her arrival at CCC, Kemnitz was an assistant professor in the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota, and served as the program director for the Center for Disabilities Dietetic Internship Program in Sioux Falls, S.D. A registered dietitian, Kemnitz taught nutrition courses at National American University's Sioux Falls campus from 2003 to 2009, and respectively served as a dietitian and corporate trainer at Hy-Vee and CBM Foodservice, both in Sioux Falls.

"It is an honor for me to appoint Dr. Kemnitz as president of CCC-Grand Island," said Central Community College President Dr. Greg Smith. "During the previous search for a Grand Island Campus president, the search committee recommended Dr. Kemnitz as one of the final candidates, and we are fortunate that her solid leadership experience will continue with CCC. I am very pleased that Dr. Kemnitz has accepted this challenge and I have every confidence that she will do a great job in her new role."

Originally from Sioux Falls, S.D., Kemnitz earned both a doctorate in educational administration-higher education, and a master's degree in administrative studies from the University of South Dakota. She also holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition and food science from South Dakota State University.

As president of CCC-Grand Island, Kemnitz will be responsible for the overall administration of the campus as well as college-wide student services.



College Kicks Off 50th Anniversary Celebration

Central Community College began its 50th anniversary celebration with a kickoff event Feb. 15 at the Grand Island Campus. The ceremony also was broadcast live to the Columbus and Hastings campuses and Holdrege, Kearney and Lexington centers.

Gov. Pete Ricketts was the college's special guest and served as the keynote speaker. He also read and signed a proclamation recognizing CCC's anniversary.

Amanda Groff and Michelle Setlik, co-chairs of the 50th anniversary celebration, announced the activities and special projects planned throughout 2016. The college's 50th anniversary video also was shown. Events planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary include:

- Banners placed around the campuses and centers the with 50th anniversary logo
- The 50th logo will replace the CCC logo on all marketing and promotional materials
- All CCC employees will receive a 50th anniversary shirt
- 50 trees will be planted, two in each of the 25 counties in CCC's service area
- Employees will track volunteer hours in their community with a goal of 50,000 hours
- Give Big campaigns will be designated for student scholarships with a fundraising goal of 50 student scholarships
- 50th anniversary celebration parties will be held at each campus and center
- A history book beginning at 2006 and virtual history project planned with past CCC history books being digitized
- Graduation 2017 will mark the end of the celebration year
- Graduates of Class of 2017 will receive special 50th medallions

CCC dates its beginning to Sept. 12, 1966, when Area Vocational School #1 opened in Hastings. Later legislation created the community college service areas, one of which was Central Community College and its 25-county service area in central Nebraska.



Gov. Pete Ricketts speaks at the kickoff of Central Community College's 50th anniversary celebration

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Bernie Keber - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Wendy Ramaekers - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year
- Karin Rieger - Named the Charles Farnham Volunteer of the Year by the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce

Grand Island

- Becky Fausett - Recognized by Hall County Emergency Response Team for outstanding volunteerism and commitment to public service
- Mike Garretson - Received Silver Medallion Award at National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 conference
- Karen Niedfelt - Named Legal Professional of the Year by the Central Nebraska Legal Professionals
- Thomas Walker - Selected as a member of The Aspen Presidential Fellowship's inaugural class

Hastings

- Beth Bohrer - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award
- Robin Buckallew - Play "Until they Forget," won second prize in a one-act competition in St. Croix, Wisconsin
- Wanda Cloet - Appointed to the National Dental Hygiene Examination Practice Analysis Review Committee
- Liz McAteer - Received Gold Medallion Award at National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 conference; third place finish in RAM Run 5K race, 20-29 year-old female division
- Ellen Pennell - Columbus Campus Spirit Award
- Kyle Sterner - Recognized by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for 10 years of service as a Phi Theta Kappa adviser

Kearney

- Kelly Christensen - Named to the board of directors of Kearney Works
- Ruth Kirkland - Leadership Kearney participant

Administration

- Amanda Groff - Received Silver and Bronze Medallion Awards at National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 conference
- Tiffany Seybold - Received Silver Medallion Award at National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 conference

Retirements

Columbus

Todd Bosak - Industrial Technology Instructor

Glenda Liebig - Accounting Clerk

Grand Island

Dale Bernth - Groundskeeper and Fleet Maintenance

Kathy Brownell - Administrative Assistant in Admissions

Vicki Harvey - Associate Dean of Academic Education

Eric Jones - Associate Vice President of Virtual Campus

Nancy Reese - Spanish Instructor

Dee Reiger - Registration Technician

Fred Roeser - Electronics Instructor

Sharon Samuelson - Administrative Assistant for Associate Dean of Business

Dianne Vorderstrasse - Mathematics Instructor

Linda Wenn - Business Technology Instructor

Hastings

Cindy Foxhoven - Residence Life Director

Everett Hinton - Physics and Mathematics Instructor

Dale Janitscheck - Construction Technology Instructor

Betty Kooy - Administrative Assistant in Extended Learning Services

Administration

Jim Strayer - Marketing and Public Relations Director



Susan McDowall, English instructor at Central Community College-Grand Island took her family along when she went to Russia on a Fulbright scholarship. From left: Jack, Matt, Tillie, Huck, Ella and Susan.

In Memoriam

Audrey Christine Long, 103, of Hastings died June 25 at Perkins Pavilion Good Samaritan Society-Hastings Village. Services were July 2 at Butler Volland Chapel in Hastings with burial in Parkview Cemetery. She worked in both hospital and office nursing positions and was the school nurse at Central Community College-Hastings before her retirement. Survivors include a son, George Baker; a daughter, Mary Buss; four grandchildren; and eight grandchildren.

Vergale Leslie Jensen, 95, of Hastings died Nov. 1 at Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings. Services were Nov. 7 at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church with burial in Parkview Cemetery in Hastings. He worked in the heating and air conditioning field for 42 years and was a heating, air condition and refrigeration instructor at Central Community College-Hastings before retiring. He also was in charge of the KN Energy service training program through CCC. Survivors include his wife, Marguerite; three daughters, Gail Jensen, Margie Ormsby, and Patti Jensen; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Michael Paradise, 89, of Aberdeen, S.D., died Oct. 28 after a year-long battle with cancer. Services were held Nov. 1 at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home in Aberdeen. He also had served as president of Central Technical Community College in Hastings. Survivors include his wife, Ann; three children; and 10 grandchildren.

Gaylord "Pete" Peterson, 79, of Grand Island died Dec. 23 at St. Francis Hospital. Services were held Dec. 29 at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Island. He taught at Central Community College-Grand Island for 20 years. Survivors include his wife, Beverly; four children, Gregg, Jeff, LuAnn Moss, and Amy Lynn Miller; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

John R. Haizlip, 85, of Mesa, Ariz., died May 18. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. He was a dental hygiene instructor at Central Community College-Hastings from 1978 until his retirement in 1997.

Roger L. Augspurger, 77, of Columbus died May 4 at his home in Columbus. Services were held May 9 at the Federated Church in Columbus with burial in Columbus Cemetery. He was employed at Central Community College-Columbus, where he served in numerous positions, including department chair, dean of educational services and twice as interim president. He retired in 2000. Survivors include his wife, Donna; three daughters, Denise Beckler, Dana Brandt, and Doreen Altman; a son, Roland Augspurger; six grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; one great-grandson; and four step-great-grandchildren.

Robert J. Duering, 57, of Kearney died April 28 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital. Services were held May 4 at First Baptist Church in Kearney with burial in St. Peters Cemetery in Hildreth. For several years, he taught AutoCAD at CCC in Grand Island and Columbus. Survivors include his son, Dee Edward; and his grandchildren, KayDee and Tyler Duering.

Keith Lunde, 78, of David City died April 28 at Select Specialties Hospital in Omaha. He taught at Central Community College-Columbus. Over his career, his choral groups performed for two Nebraska governors and a vice president. He remained at CCC as a music instructor until he retired in 1998. He directed the Community College Band and the Central Community College Jazz Band. Survivors include his son, Matthew, and his daughter, Bernita.

Kathryn A. Neil, 71, of Lexington died Sept. 10 at Lexington Regional Health Center. Services were Sept. 14 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lexington with burial in Greenwood Cemetery in Lexington. She served as distance learning coordinator for Central Community College. Survivors include her husband, Steve; three sons, Chris, Matt and Dan; and eight grandchildren.

Blain I. Condreay, 62, of Platte Center died July 31 at home. Services were Aug. 6 at St. Edward Catholic Church with burial in Evergreen Cemetery in St. Edward. He was a biology instructor at Central Community College-Columbus and was an assistant women's basketball coach at the college. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy; four children, Marcus Condreay, Joel Condreay, Sheri Tremain and Christina Condreay; and three grandchildren.

College Plays Role In Columbus Works Initiative

Central Community College is playing a major role in retraining former Cargill employees in Columbus. Seventy-one Cargill employees found themselves out of a job late last year when Cargill began a \$111 million conversion from a ground beef patty plant to a cooked meats plant. Rather than abandon them to an uncertain future, however, Cargill decided to help them prepare for it instead.

The result was the Columbus Works program, a collaborative initiative that includes CCC; the Platte Valley Literacy Association; the state departments of Education, Labor and Economic Development; ESU 7; Columbus Family Resource Center; and Cargill. Worker training grants have provided about \$465,000 in funding. "This is the most exciting and rewarding training program I've been involved with," said Doug Pauley, CCC director of training and development. "This was a way to keep those workers in the community and help them grow personally and professionally." He added that Cargill also wanted to provide training for the retained 116 employees while the plant was being rebuilt. These workers signed up for training in computer technology, industrial technology/mechatronics, leadership development, process improvement, quality control, safety and welding technology; English speaking, reading and writing; and traditional college courses in a variety of programs.

A 36-week Nebraska Department of Labor Columbus Works Training Program attracted 49 dislocated workers and 57 retained workers. The program consists of classes five hours per day, five days per week and included English as a second language, writing, math and computers.

"This initiative has been a very good thing for the workers, Columbus, Cargill and the college," Pauley said.

DO Bug Me!

Central Community College’s Ord Learning Center hosted its first session of entomology classes in June. The classes were taught by entomologist Crystal Ramm and attended by seven students eight years and older. They had the chance to learn about different aspects of entomology including identification, collection, preservation and pinning.



The students also had the chance to learn about aquatic collecting, witness giant silkworm moths morph from eggs into different stages of larvae and see an observation bee hive brought in by Shelby Kittle, a young beekeeper in Ord. Students participated in a Cockroach Tractor Pull in which they selected a Madagascar hissing cockroach and guessed how many washers it could pull behind it.

“Many insects are incredibly strong and are capable of lifting many times their body weight,” Ramm said. “The Madagascar hissing cockroach is no exception with the winning cockroach pulling 36 times more than its body weight.”

The class was made possible through donated equipment from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Insect Science Club and will be offered again next summer.

Buddhist Temple Field Trip

Central Community College human services students in the multicultural counseling class visit Wat Lao Buddhometta Phaaphayaram, a Buddhist temple in Grand Island. Human services instructor Joyce Meinecke says that Ven. Khyo Phaaphay welcomes visitors to the temple. CCC students have attended meditation and prayers led by Ajahn Khyo and taken half-day meditation training sessions from Ajahn Jackson, a visiting monk from Sioux City, Iowa. CCC students have described these interactions as amazing opportunities to learn more about diversity in central Nebraska.





Students Take Their Smiles, Skills To Haiti

Four dental hygiene students from Central Community College-Hastings recently took what they're learning in the clinic and put it into action in Haiti. The May 23-June 1 trip began with Kim Danehey-Nibbe, clinic assistant for the dental hygiene program, who was familiar with ongoing efforts to rebuild Haiti after an earthquake devastated it in 2010. "My dad serves on the board of Mission II Haiti," she said. "Access to

clean water is a huge issue so this group focuses on placing and repairing pumps over open wells."

The dental hygiene students – Chelsi Anderson of Brush, Colo.; Michaella Beck of Gregory, S.D.; Hannah Fleecs of Sutherland and Kayla Keep of Hastings – did work on five wells, but their main focus was on providing basic dental services.

But first came preparation for the trip. The students had committed to go to Haiti last fall, which gave them time to get passports and required immunizations. Sometimes good things happen at the last moment, though. A mini-grant through the college became available, but the due date meant a short turnaround. Dental Hygiene Program Director Wanda Cloet stepped in to help Danehey-Nibbe write what turned out to be a successful grant proposal. "The grant really helped," Danehey-Nibbe said. "I found it heartwarming that the college sees value in giving financial support to efforts by employees. The money we received allowed our students to use their skills to provide unique services in a country where they were needed."

During their two weeks in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, the students worked at two orphanages, a church and a home. They saw 135 patients and applied 1,372 sealants. "Sealants are meant to prevent decay," Danehey-Nibbe said, "but we didn't see a lot of decay. The Haitian diet has a lot less sugar in it." The students also distributed toothbrushes and toothpaste as well as donated clothing.

"The Haitians are very friendly, but going to their country isn't for the faint of heart," Danehey-Nibbe said. "Our students were fearless. I think this trip will be very life-changing for them."

Students To Perform In Intercollegiate Band

Cayla Cuba of Columbus and Megan Fiala of David City have been invited to be members of the Nebraska Intercollegiate Band, which will perform on March 4 at the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association Annual Convention in Lincoln. They are students at Central Community College-Columbus where Cuba plays clarinet and Fiala plays trumpet in the CCC Concert Band and the Hilltop Winds ensemble.

UNMC Personnel Visit Hastings

The dental hygiene program at Central Community College-Hastings has something that no other dental facility in the state has. Not a private one. Not a public one. Not an educational one. That “something” is an endoscope/ perioscope, which is a minute camera that goes down into the gum tissue and provides an actual view of the tissue and tooth on a monitor.

“Dental hygienists have had to determine if there’s gum disease all by feel. They can’t see what’s down there,” said Wanda Cloet, director of the dental hygiene program. “Now the endoscope/perioscope makes it so they can.”



CCC purchased the equipment two years ago with a Perkins grant. The \$25,000 price tag is for schools; the equipment costs considerably more for private clinics, which explains its scarcity.

But CCC being the sole owner of this equipment in Nebraska may be about to change. In November, four visitors from the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s School of Dentistry journeyed to Hastings to see a demonstration of the endoscope/perioscope because the school is considering buying one.

Until then, CCC dental hygiene students will enjoy the unique experience of assisting their instructors in using the equipment.

New Scholarship Gives Head Start

High school students who take college classes while still in high school can now not only get a head start on their education, but also on paying for that education. Central Community College has established the CCC Transition Advantage Scholarship for high school students with 12 graded credit hours from CCC on their transcripts and who enroll full time at CCC within a year after their high school graduation.

The credits can be earned in any Early College class offered by the high school, whether it’s in an academic area such as English or psychology or in a career and technical area such as automotive technology or welding. Students must earn at least a C in the classes and meet state financial aid eligibility requirements to qualify for the CCC scholarship.

Students who then enroll for at least 12 credits at CCC will have six of those credits paid for both the first and second semester they attend the college. They must maintain at least a C average to remain eligible for the scholarship. Because the scholarship only covers tuition, the student will still be billed for fees and other costs such as books or tools.

“By the end of their freshmen year, they’ll have 36 credits completed but will only have had to pay for 24 of them,” said Dr. Deb Brennan, CCC executive vice president. “They’ll also be halfway through an associate of applied science degree, associate of arts degree or associate of science degree.”

Campus To Kick Off New Program

Central Community College-Hastings will have a kickoff and open house for its new heavy equipment operator technician program from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 7 in the Harlan Building. The public is invited to attend the event to learn about the program, which is the first of its kind in Nebraska and will begin with the 2016 fall semester. It will train students to operate large industrial moving equipment for such purposes as constructing roads and dams, building foundations, handling material, leveling land, and maintaining and repairing roads.

“Industry leaders came to us with a need for this type of skilled technician in central Nebraska, and we responded to that need,” said Dr. Nate Allen, CCC dean of business and skilled and technical sciences. With an eye toward aligning the program with industry standards, CCC designed the curriculum based on that used by the National Center for Construction Education and Research. “We’re building a sound foundation on an established set of standards,” Allen said.

The result is a one-year, 37-credit-hour diploma program that will start with a new class of up to 16 students each year in the fall. Students will take 18 credits during the fall semester and 17 credits during spring semester. They also must complete the two-credit Class B CDL (commercial driver’s license) training.

Providing guidance and assistance are the program sponsors: the Nebraska chapters of the Association of General Contractors, National Utility Contractors Association and the Land Improvement Contractors of America. These organizations represent construction companies that will take on the jobs created by the Nebraska government’s decision to make transportation infrastructure a high priority, said Alan Hartley, a retired Hastings Campus dean of educational services who returned to CCC to oversee the development of this new program.

Foundation Awards \$25,000 To Hastings Campus

The Gene Haas Foundation has awarded \$25,000 to Central Community College-Hastings. The money will be used for scholarships for new and returning students in the advanced manufacturing and design technology program. The Gene Haas Foundation awards grants annually to high schools and postsecondary schools to assist with their programs, including scholarships for students pursuing manufacturing careers.

Kearney Campaign Passes \$20 Million Mark

Central Community College has announced that it has surpassed the \$20 million mark in funding for a new center in Kearney. The new 63,000-square-foot facility will be built on land the college bought in 2014 at the corner of 30th Avenue and West 11th Street, where it will sit between the new Kearney High School to the south and the Buckle Distribution Center to the north. The total project cost is \$23.3 million, of which \$13.3 million will come from college reserves and short-term facility bonds with the intention of no long-term debt after the project’s completion. The remaining \$10 million is being raised by the Central Community College Foundation in its first-ever major gifts campaign.

2017

Smith Announces His Intention To Retire

Dr. Greg Smith has announced his intention to retire as president of Central Community College on Dec. 31. “I am honored to have served for nine years as CCC president,” Smith said. “CCC is one of the top community colleges in the country. With our talented and dedicated faculty and staff, a strong committed board of governors, and a singular focus on student learning and student success, I am confident that CCC will continue to be a leading innovator in the community college world.”



Named as CCC’s fourth president in 2008, Smith served as executive vice president for two years. His prior work includes 15 years with the Colorado community colleges, both as vice president for institutional effectiveness, planning and technology at the Community College of Denver and as director of research and planning for the Colorado Community College System. He began his professional career as a psychologist advising on educational and mental health policy issues for the Denver Research Institute at the University of Denver.

Smith has led and served in many capacities at the state, national and international levels, including as a past chair of the Nebraska Community College Association CEO Council. He also served on four American Association of Community Colleges Commissions: Academic, Student and Community Development; Diversity, Inclusion and Equity; Research, Technology and Emerging Trends; and Global Education. He recently served a two-year term as president of the Postsecondary International Network.

Following service in the U.S. Army, Smith earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Western Illinois University. He received master’s and doctoral degrees in social psychology from the University of Denver. He has authored and presented nearly 100 papers – mostly related to applied research in higher education.

Inducted Into Foundation Hall Of Fame

College President Dr. Greg Smith and his wife Dr. Marilee Smith were inducted into the Central Community College Foundation Hall of Fame in November. Since June 2008, Dr. Greg Smith has been president and chief executive officer of Central Community College. Dr. Marilee Smith was involved in the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program as a volunteer teaching English. Both Smiths have been active in education, research, and community service throughout their 45 years of marriage and have been generous donors to the Central Community College Foundation.

Gotschall Named CCC's Fifth President



Dr. Matt Gotschall has been named the fifth president of the school, succeeding Dr. Greg Smith who will retire in January.

“The CCC Board of Governors considered a number of exceptional candidates and we feel we have made the right choice in selecting Dr. Gotschall to be the next president of Central Community College,” said Linda Aerni, CCC Board chair. “So much is expected of a college president, not only internally but externally, and given Dr. Gotschall’s academic credentials, leadership skills and community involvement, he will hit the ground running, making for a smooth transition.”

Gotschall currently serves as the campus president of Columbus, a position he has held since 2005. In this capacity, he oversees more than 100 full-time faculty and staff and serves as vice president of CCC’s academic education, extended learning services and workforce training and development divisions. During Gotschall’s tenure, CCC has taken significant strides in expanding offerings for credit and non-credit students, revised procedures for early college and increased the Hispanic/Latino enrollment. The campus has also seen growth with the construction of an additional residence hall, a nearly 10,000-square-foot addition for the welding and mechatronics programs, and an expansion of the Raider Fieldhouse and athletic programs.

“I am very excited to be asked to lead and serve Central Community College and continue the great mission set forth by the CCC Board of Governors of maximizing student and community success,” said Gotschall. “Dr. Smith has been a positive mentor to me and others at CCC and I look forward to working with him on a smooth transition during the fall semester as we implement some major initiatives across our 25-county service area, including the opening of our new Kearney Center.”

Prior to serving as campus president, Gotschall served as dean of educational services from 2003 to 2005. During that time, he oversaw the creation and updating of transfer articulation agreements with numerous institutions, including the University of Nebraska. He also assisted with the expansion of online delivery of CCC coursework. From 2001 to 2003, he served as associate dean of instruction/trades and industry.

A Nebraska native raised on a ranch near Atkinson, Gotschall earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. From 1991 to 2000, Gotschall served in a number of capacities at Barton County Community College in Kansas, including executive director of EduKan; director of BARTONline; market development specialist; and tenured faculty member in agriculture and management. He has been active in professional and community organizations including the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC); serves as a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission; Nebraska Economic Development Association; past chairman of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce; and a past chairman and current board member of the Columbus Area Community Foundation Fund.

Gotschall will begin his tenure as CCC president on January 3, 2018.

New Kearney Center Opens Its Doors

On April 21, 2016, Central Community College President Dr. Greg Smith and other dignitaries broke ground on the 63,000-square-foot facility and less than 18 months later, construction is complete just in time for fall classes. CCC facilities and construction manager Craig Boroff, said the original completion date was July 17; however, temporary occupancy was granted exactly two weeks later.



One of the aspects of the new Kearney Center that makes it truly amazing is that it is one of the most efficient buildings in the region. There are four inches of rigid insulation in the pre-cast walls for a total thickness of 12 inches. Select windows along the east side are sensor controlled and will automatically darken or lighten as the sun moves. Natural light plays a prominent role throughout the building as most rooms have overhead windows that provide adequate lighting and even then, the output of the electrical lights is minimal. The facility's efficiency also gets a big boost because of behind-the-scenes monitoring systems. Outside, there are 95 trees on the property and the garden areas in the front and back will eventually have an assortment of native grasses and wildflower plugs. It's part of a two- to three-year process.

The expansion of the Kearney Center also provides an expansion of educational opportunities, which is huge for students and employers of Kearney, Buffalo County and beyond. "A big addition to the Kearney center will be our skilled and technical science programming – advanced manufacturing, mechatronics and information technology," said Kelly Christensen, Kearney Center administrator.

Automotive technology and welding technology are the two other new skilled and technical programs. Additional academic programs are forthcoming.

Productivity-Haas Donation

Thanks to FaceTime, Central Community College Board of Governors members and other individuals at the January board meeting in Grand Island were able to watch a check presentation in Hastings. The oversized check given from Tom Marick of Productivity, a Haas Automation distributor, to Billy Dunbar from the CCC Foundation and Hastings Campus administrators, instructors and students represents a \$20,000 donation that will be used for student scholarships in the advanced manufacturing design technology program.



Fuchser Named CCC-Columbus President

Central Community College has announced the appointment of Dr. Kathy Fuchser as Columbus Campus president and division vice president, effective in January. Fuchser succeeds Dr. Matt Gotschall, who will begin the role of college president at that time.

Fuchser currently serves as dean of instruction for academic education, a position she has held since July 2014. In this capacity, she oversees college-wide academic programming and instruction, serves as the liaison between CCC and other institutions in developing transfer opportunities and agreements, oversees and supports the coordination of the library resource center across the college and serves on numerous college and external committees.



Originally from Lebanon, Mo., Fuchser graduated with a doctorate in educational studies from UNL, a master's degree in education from Wayne State College and a bachelor's degree in education from William Jewell College. Fuchser served as an education professor and secondary program coordinator at Midland University from 2005-2014, which included time as an undergraduate program coordinator. She also has teaching experience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Central Community College and high schools in Nebraska and Missouri.

As campus president, Fuchser will be responsible for the overall administration of the Columbus Campus as well as overseeing the divisions of academic education, extended learning services, and training and development.

"It will be a privilege to continue serving the students, staff and faculty as president of the Columbus Campus," said Fuchser. "Since our founding, leaders at CCC have cultivated strong partnerships with schools, businesses and organizations in Columbus and the surrounding communities. I look forward to continuing our strong tradition of collaboration."

Young Joins Volleyball's 700 Club

Central Community College head volleyball coach Mary Young picked up her 700th career win at the recent NJCAA Division II national tournament in Charleston, West Virginia. The 3-2 win came against a familiar foe, Northeast Community College, and propelled the Raiders to the ninth-place match, which they won over Iowa Central Community College.

"It was quite a milestone and I feel extremely fortunate to do what I do each day with coaching student-athletes at Central," Young said. "I'm pleased to have all 700 wins at CCC," she added. "I've been blessed with some tremendous young people in our program that have given me some awesome life moments and maybe a few gray hairs!"

The Raiders finished the 2017 campaign with a mark of 36-11. Young is now third in wins nationally among active coaches and seventh all time.

Awards And Recognitions

Columbus

- Doris Lux - Received the Extra Mile Award from the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project
- Matt Gotschall - Appointed to a three-year term representing higher education on the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board
- Marti Honke - Columbus Campus Employee of the Year
- Gary Senff - Columbus Campus Faculty Member of the Year

Grand Island

- Mike Garretson - Received silver medallion at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 conference
- Charlie Gregory - Earned doctor of education degree from the University of Nebraska
- Travis Karr - Received the Friends of Education Award from local chapters of Nebraska Alpha Delta Kappa for contributions toward women veterans in higher education

Hastings

- John Brooks - Hastings Campus Outstanding Service Award
- Wanda Cloet - "Beyond the Boundaries of Clinical Evaluation" presented at 2017 American Dental Education Association Annual Session and Exhibition; Earned doctor of health science degree from A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona
- Marie Desmarais - Celebrated 45 years of service at Central Community College
- Sherrie Dux-Ideus - Elected vice chair/chair elect of the College and University Section of the Nebraska Library Association

Administration

- Sherry Desel - Celebrated 40 years of service at Central Community College
- Amanda Groff - Earned a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing from Bellevue University; Received bronze medallion at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 conference
- Scott Miller - Received silver medallion at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 conference
- Joni Ransom - Received two first place; a second place; and a third place awards in the Nebraska Press Women Communication Contest
- Tiffany Seybold - Received silver medallion at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 5 conference

Retirements

Columbus

- Denett Drum - Resource Center Assistant
- Chris Wagner - Administrative Assistant for Extended Learning Services
- Peg Speicher - Administrative Assistant for Academic Education
- Marcene Wurdeman - Accounting Instructor

Grand Island

- Joanne Seberg - Business Administration Instructor
- Guy Suganuma - Associate Dean of Skilled and Technical Sciences and Business

Hastings

- Jennifer Hoagland - Associate Dean of Business
- Willis Horton - HVAC Technician
- Jamie Plambeck - Building Maintenance Technician
- Deb Schmitz - Assessment Technician
- Ed Ziemba - Information Technology and Systems Instructor

Administration

- Deb Thompson - Executive Assistant for Administrative Services

In Memoriam

Rebecca “Becky” S. Johnston, 52, of Juniata died April 2 at Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings. Services were April 7 at Lakeside Community Church of the Nazarene in Hastings with burial in Parkview Cemetery. She was an administrative assistant in the facilities management department at CCC-Hastings. She joined the staff in 1984 as a part-time grounds worker, was promoted to a full-time grounds/shipping and receiving position in 1989 and accepted the administrative assistant position in 1995. Survivors include her husband, Jon; and their sons, Samuel and Nicholas.

Evelyn K. Bruegger, 91, of Columbus died Aug. 24 at Brookestone Acres in Columbus. Services were held Aug. 28 at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Columbus with burial to take place at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Burlington, Iowa. She was recruited to develop the communication arts division at Platte College, the forerunner of Central Community College-Columbus. She retired in 1990. Survivors include her children, Barb Friesth, Steve Bruegger, Cindy Kubisch, Jeff Bruegger, Norma Kauffmann and Mary Jo Loseke; 18 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

James L. Fisher, 78, of Omaha died Sept. 12 at his home after an 18-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Memorial services were held Sept. 16 at CCC-Columbus. In 1971, Fisher began his career at CCC-Columbus. He served as student activities director, assistant men’s basketball coach, athletic director and dean of students before becoming Columbus Campus president in 2002. He retired in 2005. Survivors include his wife, Cheryl; two sons, Brad and Craig; daughter, Jaime Frola; and six grandchildren.

Darlene Synek, 72, of Edgar died Oct. 28 at Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva. Services were Nov. 2 at First St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Hastings. A private family burial is planned at a later date. She was an English instructor at the Hastings Campus from 1988 until her retirement in 2005. Survivors include her husband, Richard; children, Michael Synek, Laurie Sherman, and Brian Synek; and nine grandchildren.

Students Earn Place On Academic Team

Six Central Community College students were named to the 2017 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Nebraska All-State Academic Team April 11 in a ceremony at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln. The all-state academic team is an effort sponsored by PTK, an international honor society for two-year colleges, and the Nebraska Community College Association to honor students for academic achievement, leadership and community service. The team included the following CCC students:

- Megan Ahlers of Emerson is enrolled in the academic transfer program at the Columbus Campus
- Cadee Brown of Hastings is a business administration member at the Hastings Campus
- Brittanie Bunger of Kearney is a business administration and accounting major at the Grand Island Campus
- Jordan Dassinger of Heartwell is a student at the Hastings Campus
- Allan Osburn of Cairo is enrolled in the academic transfer program at the Grand Island Campus
- Grant Wyatt of Tilden is an environmental biology major at the Columbus Campus



Total Eclipse Of The Sun

School groups, Central Community College employees and other individuals spent part of August 21 watching the moon journey in front of the sun. They looked through telescopes, glasses and homemade pin boxes, but gladly put those items aside to watch totality with their own eyes for more than two minutes.

Space For Veterans

Among the people at the Oct. 27 dedication of the new Veterans and Military Resource Center (VMRC) at Central Community College-Kearney were these veterans cutting the ribbon: (from left) Travis Karr, CCC veterans and military resources director; Sandra Borden, CCC Board of Governors member; Dr. Greg Smith, college president; David Stubbs, CCC Board of Governors member; Ashley Allen, Hastings Campus veterans outreach coordinator; Ashley Fugazi, Kearney Center nursing student; and Tony Chaulk, CCC business administration graduate.



Family Night Unites



Eighty people attended the first-ever family night on Sept. 18 at Central Community College-Hastings. The event was hosted by Project HELP as a way to bring students and staff and faculty together outside the classroom. “We wanted to help foster stronger relationships and increase student success,” said Lauren Slaughter, Project HELP success coach.

The attendees included 23 Project HELP students and their guests along with CCC employees. Everyone was able to enjoy a potluck dinner and then participate in activities or just get to know

each other. “I had numerous students reach out to me on Tuesday and Wednesday thanking us for hosting the event and saying they hope there is another one in the future,” Slaughter said.

Project HELP supports men and women as they train for careers in the health care field.

Students Volunteer And Learn

Twenty-five students from the business administration, accounting and early childhood education programs at Central Community College-Hastings participated in a service learning project Nov. 16 at the Hastings Museum. The event was sponsored by the Native American Festival.

Students were exposed to event planning, which gave them an understanding of one method nonprofits use to market their services. They got practical experience by managing a learning station for the elementary students attending the event. This opportunity exposed students to the Lakota, Pawnee and Kiowa cultures through dance performances, storytelling, a puppet show and the much anticipated Navajo Code Talkers.

Laura Bulas, business administration instructor, said the college’s involvement in this event began in 2013 after she completed a two-week return-to-industry experience at Hastings Museum with Marketing Director Becky Tideman. It also ties into Bulas’ goal of arranging multicultural service learning opportunities that will broaden students’ understanding of civility, tolerance, acceptance and respect.



Central Closet Addresses Food Insecurity

Central Community College-Hastings students may be traditional or nontraditional. Some live on campus and others commute. And some of them are facing food insecurity, a term used to describe people who have unreliable access to adequate, nutritious and affordable food. In an effort to address this issue, CCC-Hastings opened the Central Closet in January. It is a pantry open to all CCC students who are having trouble meeting basic needs such as food or hygienic items.

Right now, the closet includes – and accepts donations of – nonperishable food as well as hygienic items such as toilet paper, deodorant, razors and laundry detergent. There are no set hours, but three Dawson Building employees have volunteered to open the closet when needed. Students can call or email them to set up a time.

Dr. Susan Oliver, nutrition instructor, came up with the idea and researched it as part of a back-to-industry experience. In the future, Oliver would like to find the funds for a freezer to put in the closet. She'd also like to provide vouchers so people can buy eggs, milk and bread at the grocery store. "And I'd like to provide recipes to the participants in hopes that they will make healthy meals with the foods from the closet," Oliver said.

The Grand Island Campus also has a food and hygiene pantry that provides similar items as the Hastings Campus and welcomes donations.

Bench Honors Augspurger



A bench created by Behlen Mfg. was dedicated April 24 in the courtyard of the Central Community College-Columbus Administration Building in memory of Dr. Roger Augspurger. Augspurger served in multiple capacities at CCC, including department chair, dean of educational services and twice as interim campus president. He came to CCC in 1974 and retired in 2000, but his involvement with the CCC concert band continued for years after his retirement.

Roger's wife, Donna, was in attendance at the dedication along with other family members and his many CCC friends. "The bench will be a lasting reminder of his work supporting students, faculty and peers throughout his lifetime," said Campus President Dr. Matt Gotschall.

In addition to the bench, the Augspurger family is sponsoring scholarships for students who want to take college classes while they're still enrolled in high school. These scholarships are for high school juniors and seniors and will be awarded this spring.

CCC Receives \$20,000 Grant For Hard Hats And Heels Summer Camp

The Extended Learning Services division at Central Community College-Grand Island has received a \$20,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration to fund “Hard Hats and Heels,” a National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) camp. This is the third consecutive year the college has received the grant for the camp, which focuses on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts and introduces high school students to engineering careers related to the transportation industry. Participants visit local businesses, explore university facilities, and experience life on a college campus.

Scholarships Now Available Year-Round

Central Community College and the Central Community College Foundation is taking a bold step when it comes to awarding scholarships. Instead of only awarding scholarships in the spring, the foundation and the college will begin awarding scholarships on a year-round basis.

“I want every single student that comes to Central Community College to have an opportunity to be able to apply for a scholarship,” said Dean Moors, the executive director of the CCC Foundation and vice-president of institutional advancement. “I see too many students coming in the summer or any other time that we are not offering scholarships and they need that \$250 or \$500 scholarship to make a difference in their life. We know through testimonials that these scholarships are critical for a lot of students.”

The application process will go from Oct. 1 to March 1, March 15 to June 1 and from June 15 to Sept. 30. The awards range from \$250 up to \$1,250 and will be funded by the CCC Foundation and the financial aid office. “Having a year-round scholarship program is competitive with other institutions and it addresses enrollment and retention issues for the college,” said Moors. “Every student, regardless of when they enroll in school, will have an opportunity for a scholarship.”

It’s ‘Almost, Maine’

Central Community College-Columbus will present John Cariani’s “Almost, Maine” at 7 p.m. Nov. 16-18 in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Almost, Maine, is a town that’s so far north, it’s almost in Canada. And it almost doesn’t exist because its residents never got around to getting organized. One cold, clear night in the middle of winter, while the northern lights hover in the sky, the people of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in the strangest ways, and life will never be the same.

Cast members are Sierra Foged of Aurora; Paige Reimers of Boelus; Hunter Derochie, Bethany Ernst and Taylor Nelson of Columbus; Jacob Kucera and Matthew Lunde of David City; Sydney Craig of Giltner; Chris Hemmer of Grand Island; Jaden Miller of Loup City; Katie Skinner of Milligan; Matthew Becker and Justyce Galvan of Minden; and Sterling Reynolds.

50th Anniversary Committee

Dean Moors
Amanda Groff (co-chair)
Michelle Setlik (co-chair)

Committee Members

- Cheri Beda
- Jim Strayer
- Joni Ransom
- Tiffany Hartwell
- Jessica Soucie
- Bernie Keber
- Cindy Lothrop
- Jason Davis
- Jennifer Wurdeman
- Karen Cox
- Kathy Woitaszewski
- Nick Freelend
- Sarah Evans
- Teresa West
- Ronnie O'Brien
- Amy Hill
- Jessica Rohan
- Kathy Wert



Commencement Marks End Of 50th Celebration

Central Community College will cap its 50th anniversary celebration at the 2017 commencement ceremonies on May 5 at the Columbus Campus and May 6 at the Grand Island and Hastings campuses.

The anniversary celebration kicked off on Feb. 15, 2016, at the Grand Island Campus. Gov. Pete Ricketts was the keynote speaker for the event, which was broadcast live to Columbus, Hastings, Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington and Ord.

Since then, there have been open houses at CCC locations, trees donated to counties in CCC's service area and employees' volunteer hours logged. The online history book is in the works.

It seems fitting, then, to end the celebration by recognizing this year's graduates with the anniversary medallion pictured here. After all, they represent the mission CCC has been on for 50 years.

