



Greetings from the President

Welcome to the September edition of the Leadership Report. As we begin a new academic year and welcome our students back to campus, it is an exciting time of new beginnings, renewed energy, and opportunities for growth at Chadron State College. Thank you, as always, for your role in creating an environment where our students have the support, resources, and opportunities they need to be successful. Your work is essential to our continued success, and I am grateful for all that you do on behalf of our students and CSC.

Updates from each member of the President's Cabinet are provided below to help keep you informed about the many activities, accomplishments, and initiatives underway as we begin the fall semester.

Strategic Plan Update

The implementation of the 2030 Strategic Plan continues to evolve. The updated **Strategic Plan website** reflects the four priorities, identified strategies, and performance metrics of the plan to assist us in evaluating our success in operationalizing the plan. This website will be the primary vehicle through which updates will be shared with all stakeholders.

During the summer, Cabinet proposed, evaluated, and established a set of strategic initiatives that align to one or more of the established priorities and move our collective efforts forward. Each Cabinet member is also leading the development of strategic initiatives within their functional units across campus.

In addition to these efforts, updated Mission, Vision, and Value statements can be found across the College, and a Vision 2030 Fund will soon be introduced that will allow individuals to donate directly to the work of the College in implementing our Strategic Plan.

Enrollment Management

Enrollment Management is excited to announce CSC's total incoming class for this fall is higher than it was last year. This year, CSC's first-time freshmen class is 272 students, which is 34 students ahead of last year. CSC welcomed 154 transfer students, which is five fewer than last year. Graduate students also saw a 10% increase in enrollment of new students this fall, as well.

The total enrollment for the fall 2026 semester currently sits at 1,862 total headcount, which is 59 students below the total headcount last year. However, there is a significant increase in first-time freshmen retention of 71.67%, compared to 67.67% last year.



Our enrollment office is expanding our community engagement and awareness plan we started last year by attending a number of high school football games this fall. We are making plans to attend games in Chadron, Crawford, Gordon-Rushville, Alliance, Sidney, Gering, Scottsbluff, and others. We would love to have you join us as a volunteer to attend a football game and pass out CSC swag, give away popcorn, and talk to our alumni. If you would like to volunteer, [register online](#).

The Admissions office is also excited to announce the launch of a **new virtual tour**. This summer we partnered with Concept3D to develop a virtual tour where students can explore a 360-degree view at 20 stops across campus. The tour is also broken into five smaller tours that include the main entrance, academic buildings, athletic facilities, student life, and residence halls.

As part of CSC's commitment to financial clarity and price transparency, the Financial Aid office is announcing the launch of a new and improved **net price calculator** with the goal to ensure that every student understands what it will cost to attend CSC and that all students see it as an affordable option.

Finally, Enrollment Management is looking to fill a few positions. Currently, we have openings for an Admissions Counselor, Admissions Data Coordinator, Assistant Director of Admissions, and an Upward Bound Academic Advisor. If you know anyone who loves CSC and would like to be a part of the Enrollment Management team, please share the job postings with them.

Academic Affairs

Writing continues on the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) 2027 Self-Study for Reauthorization of Accreditation ahead of CSC's April 2027 site visit.

We are continuing to work with Hanover Research to develop the key data points and information that will frame conversations with the Deans, Chairs, Faculty, and President Kupper on continued evidence-informed program efficiencies.

Based on input received from faculty, staff, and students, Academic Affairs is continuing to improve how the division communicates and engages with each group. This is being done through goals, feedback opportunities, emails, in-person meetings, etc.

Continue reading to learn more about the current work happening across Academic Affairs. Thank you for the energy you have brought to the first weeks of the semester; the updates that follow reflect it.

School of Liberal Arts

Katelyn Lambert, Assistant Professor of Communication, had two academic works published recently. One is a chapter on stereotypes and the development of the character of Natasha Romanoff/Black Widow in the Marvel Cinematic Universe that will appear in an academic book on the



intersection of media and superheroes. She is also the first-author of a scoping review evaluating mental health messaging from social media influencers.

During the summer, Dr. Mary Clai Waters, Professor of English, published a chapter, *Queer Entanglement in Vernon Lee's Enchanted Woods*, in *Vernon Lee and the Future of Intelligence*, an edited collection part of Palgrave Studies in Nineteenth-Century Writing and Culture. At the University of Liverpool in early September, Waters presented her work, *Vernon Lee's Preservation Practices and Community Networks*, at a conference she helped organize as part of the Vernon Lee Alliance.

In June, Rachel McKinley, Assistant Professor of English, participated in a writing workshop and short-term Irish literature study at Trinity College in Dublin through the Sancho Panza Literary Society.

In August, Dr. Allison Fritz, Associate Professor of Philosophy, published her paper *Hermeneutical Injustice and the many Meanings of Menopause* in *Southwest Philosophical Studies*.

In April, Dr. Sam Herley, Assistant Professor of History, published a chapter: *Of Scoundrels West and East: Middleton, James, and the Outlaw Memory of Devils Nest on the Missouri*, in *The Missouri, America's Longest River: A Cultural and Environmental History*.

Herley was invited to be the keynote speaker for the dedication of the John D. Neligh statue in July by the historical Neligh Mills in Neligh, Nebraska. Also, in July he was invited to be part of a panel for the Oral History Association's Lunch and Learn program regarding the usage of artificial intelligence for oral history transcription. Herley is currently working with Mahpiya Luta Chatku Art Center at the Pine Ridge Reservation and its executive director, Tawa Ducheneaux, about ways the art center can partner with CSC and the Sandoz Society to bring speakers and events on Native American history, art, and culture to campus and organize field trip opportunities for CSC students.

School of Professional Studies and Applied Science

The Social Work program is researching the possibility of moving its current bachelor's degree to a reduced credit hour program. This is currently being researched, and no decisions have been made.

Also in Social Work, Assistant Professor Rebecca Fernau worked with Regional West's Human Resources department to develop an incentive-based partnership supporting employees who want to pursue a Social Work degree through Chadron State College. The collaboration builds on CSC's existing articulation agreement with WNCC and creates a clearer pathway for students transferring into the Social Work program. CSC did not change anything about its program besides promoting its 89 course sections to all place-bound students within the last year, but Regional West will provide participating employees with the flexibility needed to travel to campus and complete required in-person coursework.

The Child Development Center is working on a proposal to expand services to better serve our community in the area of early childhood education for toddlers to preschool-aged children. Keri Norman is currently serving as the Interim Director and is working closely with Dean Helmbrecht on this potential expansion plan.



School of Business, Math, and Science

The School of Business, Math, and Science continues to work on many exciting projects. The goal is to have several hospital partnerships, along with potential new programs and curriculum, to be reviewed at the Nebraska State College System's Board Meeting in November.

The Business Department is researching a potential reduced credit hour program in Applied Business Leadership. This is currently in a research and collaboration phase and has not moved to a proposal at this time.

Three faculty members continue to make great progress toward their terminal degrees. Several students attended the American Chemical Society Conference at the end of August, and plans are well underway for Family Math Night next month and the annual University of Nebraska Medical Center trip.

Registrar

The Registrar's Office is in the final stages of CourseDog catalog and curriculum implementation. Due to already being in the 26-27 curriculum cycle, these products will be rolled out during the summer of 2027.

Stellic implementation continues. Next up will be Stellic registration where students will be able to enroll in courses from their plan; faculty and staff will continue to register students in PeopleSoft. Also on the horizon is Explore Transfer Lite where transfer students will have an opportunity to upload their unofficial transcripts to learn what transfers to CSC.

The newly revamped FERPA training is now available and it is required for all staff and faculty who work with students and student data. Please take the time to complete this training in a timely manner. The protection of our student data is very important.

King Library

The library continues reviewing its physical collection while assessing electronic resources. LibGuides will be added to our offerings soon, giving faculty a valuable new tool for curriculum support. We are also pleased to welcome two new Nook Pods this week, a solo pod and a group study pod, funded by a donation received by the Chadron State Foundation.

Academic Advising

Advisors have been meeting with students to build four-year plans in Stellic, assist with schedule changes, and connect students to support services. The team will continue to reach out to students in order to connect them with academic and other resources.

Career Services

Upcoming events this fall include:

- Oct. 14: Fall Career Fair
- Nov. 12: Why Should I Do an Internship?



Career Services offers one-on-one meetings about these topics and can help students set up a Handshake account to search for jobs. Please encourage students to attend.

Learning Lab

The Learning Lab is supporting students with tutoring and academic success coaching this semester. Please continue to refer students; our student workers are happy to help them schedule an appointment.

Fall workshops, which are open to students and employees, include:

- Sept. 29: Avoiding Plagiarism and Using AI Honestly
- Oct. 6: Fighting Procrastination
- Oct. 27: Burnout and Stress Management
- Nov. 3: What Makes a Great Leader?

Project Strive / TRiO

Project Strive is still accepting new students this year. If a student has a Strive/TRiO checklist on their To-Do list, please encourage them to visit staff in the library to apply and see if they qualify.

First Generation Day will be celebrated Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., with a guest speaker presentation at 7 p.m. Please join us in celebrating our First-Gen students!

EdSights and Graduate Student Outreach

Chantel Merchen and Austen Stephens are working with EdSights to begin implementing text outreach to graduate students. This is an important step in supporting a student population we don't often hear from, helping us better connect with them and support their path to graduation.

Institutional Research

The Institutional Research office is now fully staffed. Angelique Forsha, IR Specialist, began at CSC Aug. 24. Please welcome her to campus.

Assessment and Accreditation

Dr. Julie Downing began this summer as the Director of Assessment and Accreditation. Downing is focusing on building systems, balancing perspectives between the classroom and the institution, and growing assessment best practices to support CSC's strategic plan. Her immediate focus is on assessment of academic, co-curricular, and service effectiveness.

Teaching and Learning Professional Education Center

The Teaching and Learning Professional Education Center (TLPEC) has been working with the Records Office to update CSC's FERPA training for employees. The updated training is in Canvas and will provide employees with current information and practical guidance for protecting student education records and maintaining student privacy.



The TLPEC has worked to streamline and digitize internship processes for academic departments. This work includes integrating the portfolio feature that pairs with Canvas to give students a way to document and showcase their internship experiences and learning. The internship time sheet process has been moved into a digital workflow, including recording internship hours, supervisor approval, and student reflections. These changes reduce paper-based processes while creating a more consistent and manageable experience for students, faculty, departments, and internship supervisors.

The TLPEC will be working with Student Affairs to update CSC's student anti-hazing training videos. The updated videos will include student-performed scenes designed to make the training more engaging and relevant for students. Recording is expected to begin later this month. Employees who know students who may be interested in performing can contact **Heather Crofutt**.

The 2026–27 New Faculty Orientation program is underway. New faculty will continue meeting throughout the academic year for sessions focused on teaching, student support, campus resources, and building connections across CSC.

The TLPEC continues to provide professional development and individualized instructional support to faculty across academic departments. A hands-on Padlet working session was recently offered to help faculty explore ways to use the platform for collaboration and student engagement, with additional opportunities available based on faculty interest. TLPEC is also developing professional development focused on integrating content literacy strategies into the classroom and on course review, with both planned for later this fall. Individual faculty support continues in areas including Canvas course organization, assignment and rubric development, online course design, instructional technology integration, and accessibility. As CSC prepares for upcoming digital accessibility requirements, accessibility in Canvas courses and instructional materials will continue to be an important focus of TLPEC's faculty development and course support.

Eagle Success Summit

This year's Eagle Success Summit was a great success, with 121 participants at the summit and 72 attendees at the Sept. 3 presentation. Dr. PBJ extended her sincere thanks for the invitation, sharing that she fell in love with Chadron and CSC thanks to the warm welcome she received. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Athletics

Fall sports are in full swing as five athletic programs have started their respective seasons.

Volleyball is 7-7 through 14 matches, exceeding the program's 2025 season win total. The Eagles earned a win over Sioux Falls before coming back from two sets down to defeat Western Colorado last Saturday. They recently defeated Black Hills State and lost a five-set thriller to South Dakota Mines Thursday evening.



Football kicked off its home schedule on a strong note, defeating rival Nebraska-Kearney, 24-21. The victory gave Chadron State possession of “The Good Life Trophy,” which goes to the winner of the annual game, for the first time. After the game, linebacker Jarred Marquez was named RMAC Defensive Player of the Week, while punter Triston Hite won RMAC and National Special Teams Player of the Week honors. CSC is 1-3 for the season and hosts Colorado School of Mines Saturday at 1 p.m.

Chadron State hosted its annual rodeo Sept. 11-13, and welcomed more than 470 entries. Last weekend, the Eagles won two events at the Central Wyoming College rodeo in Riverton. Barrel racer Mejrusa Rustemovic bested a field of 110 barrel-racers and Jess Harper won in team roping.

Men’s and women’s cross country have each competed twice and women’s golf has competed once. Senior cross-country runner Wyatt Bly has placed third individually at both of his meets so far this season.

Administration and Finance

Student Accounts/Business Office

Operations continue as usual in the Student Accounts/Business Office. Staff have been actively working with students to address outstanding account balances and complete any required financial aid documentation. The next major payment deadline for students enrolled in Eight-Week Session 2 is Nov. 11.

FY 2026 Budget (prior year)

As of June 30, tuition revenues were 106.18% of budget and expenses were 96.53% of the budget, while at 100% of the fiscal year had elapsed. Tuition remissions represented 21.54% of tuition revenue.

Enrollment declines of approximately 8.5% in Fall 2025 and 7.4% for spring significantly impacted tuition and fee revenue, making FY26 a challenging fiscal year. Despite these enrollment declines, Spring 2026 credit hour production finished 7.4% below the prior spring semester but exceeded budget projections by 3.1%. Summer 2026 credit hour production finished 6.8% below the prior summer semester but exceeded budget projections by 14.2%.

The combination of enrollment performing better than projected and less spending resulted in approximately \$1,005,000 in revenue above expenses. As a result, the college did not need to utilize \$900,000 in carryforward cash funds that had been used to balance the budget for operations.

FY 2027 Budget (current year)

CSC recently finalized the FY27 budget after incorporating the 5% spending reduction outlined in Gov. Pillen’s July memorandum. After accounting for salary and benefit savings associated with vacant



budgeted positions, we estimated the need to utilize approximately \$1,639,390 in carryforward cash funds to balance the budget.

The finalized budget has been entered into SAP, and budget reports are expected to be distributed prior to the end of September.

Budget assumptions include:

- A 2% decrease in Fall 2026 credit hour production compared to Fall 2025
- A 1.96% decrease in Spring 2027 credit hour production compared to Spring 2026
- A 1.83% decrease in Summer 2027 credit hour production compared to Summer 2026

This fiscal year presents even greater financial challenges than the previous fiscal year. Accordingly, all departments are asked to focus spending on essential activities until there is greater clarity regarding whether the Governor's spending reduction memorandum will ultimately result in a permanent budget reduction.

Every spending decision should be made with fiscal responsibility and long-term sustainability in mind. We recognize the months ahead may involve additional difficult conversations and decisions, and we appreciate your continued commitment, flexibility, and collaboration as we navigate these challenges together.

Conferencing

The Conferencing office welcomed a new Coordinator of Conferencing, Kristavia (Tavia) Strotheide, on Sept. 9. Since joining Conferencing, Tavia has been working with campus and community groups, committees, and organizations to support their meeting and event reservation needs.

We appreciate your patience and support as Tavia continues to learn her new role and becomes familiar with campus processes and facilities. Please join us in welcoming Tavia to the team and wishing her success in her new position.

Human Resources

Supervisor Evaluation Training: Supervisors are reminded to accept one of the calendar invitations for the Supervisor Evaluation Training sessions scheduled for Oct. 26. The training will be provided by Gail Sutter with Continuum.

Drug and Alcohol Training for Supervisors: Human Resources is planning on kicking off the Drug and Alcohol training for supervisors Sept. 28. This is required training for supervisors and Human Resources will communicate via email for this training.

In addition to these trainings, many departments have annual compliance and professional development training requirements. Please connect with your direct reports and encourage them to stay current on all required trainings and complete requirements in a timely manner.



Thank you for your support in ensuring our employees remain up to date with required training and compliance obligations.

Facility Work Order Process

For non-emergency facility issues, trained individuals with Facility One access (requestors) should submit work orders as needed. Each building has two to three designated requestors.

For emergency facility issues during regular business hours, please call 308-432-6225 first, then submit a work order.

For after-hours or weekend emergencies, call the Sheaman Heating Plant at 308-432-6226. A physical facilities employee will contact the appropriate personnel to address the issue. A follow-up work order may be submitted if needed.

The following list of emergency issues is not all-inclusive:

- Electrical: power outages, exposed or damaged wiring, elevator entrapment
- Plumbing: leaking or burst pipes, sewage backup
- HVAC: loss of heating or cooling, gas leaks
- Grounds: flooding, fallen trees blocking access

Work Order Data

Work order data completed on campus from May 1 to Sept. 22.

Category	Work orders submitted	Work orders open	Work orders closed	Work orders on hold	Avg. days to complete
Carpentry	380	12	363	5	4.76
Electrical	335	4	328	3	2.1
HVAC	270	26	244	0	19.57
Painting	51	5	46	0	19.83
Custodial	157	7	143	7	6.29
Grounds	223	9	203	11	6.4
Plumbing	163	1	162	0	2.49
TOTAL	1,579	64 (4%)	1,489 (94.3%)	26 (1.6%)	

Carpentry: There are 3.5 full-time equivalent Repair/Maintenance personnel who are carpenters. They work on a variety of items like door and window repairs, lock repairs, keys, flooring repairs, furniture repairs, etc.

Electrical: There is currently 1.0 FTE Master Electrician who works with the campus electrical needs. This individual works on a variety of items like installing light fixtures, identifying electrical needs for equipment, and reviewing construction electrical plans to ensure compliance with campus electrical standards.



HVAC: There are 2.0 FTE Repair/Maintenance personnel who work on the campus HVAC systems. These individuals work on a variety of items like boilers, chillers, HVAC control system, fan coils for heating and cooling, and pump repairs.

Painting: There is 1.0 FTE Repair/Maintenance personnel who paints offices, residence hall rooms, meeting rooms, as well as hangs window blinds on campus.

Plumbing: There is 1.0 FTE Repair/Maintenance personnel who works with campus plumbing needs. This individual works on a variety of items like replacing toilets, faucets, water fountains, and fixing water pipe leaks.

Custodial: There are 25.0 FTE Custodian personnel. Each Custodian is assigned to a particular building or buildings. The category in the table above is for things like changing a light bulb or repairing a carpet cleaner or vacuum. These items are in addition to the Custodians' cleaning duties.

Grounds: There are 5.0 FTE Repair/Maintenance personnel who work on the campus grounds. This category is for things like moving office furniture and installing parking signs.

Facilities and Construction Projects

Internal projects: This summer, Facilities completed a variety of maintenance and campus improvement projects, including infrastructure upgrades, roof and interior repairs, landscape enhancements, concrete replacement, painting projects, equipment upgrades, and other improvements to enhance campus safety, appearance, and functionality.

A partial list of completed and ongoing projects is provided below:

- Installed steam pressure-reducing valves in Work Hall, Sandoz Center, Old Admin and Hildreth Hall.
- Enhanced the landscape around the Student Center with decorative boulders that provide additional seating for students, employees, and guests.
- Completed emergency roof repairs at the Nelson Physical Activity Center.
- Completed emergency roof repairs at Old Admin and repaired associated interior damage, including drywall replacement and finishing.
- Replaced selected sections of deteriorated concrete throughout campus.
- Continued the Hub Door Replacement Project; replacement doors have been ordered and installation is pending.
- Painted hallways and stairwells in Work Hall. Replaced floor tile in the Edna Hall lobby to improve safety and appearance.
- Removed a deteriorated billboard east of Chadron.
- Stripped and repainted the "C" on C-Hill to improve its appearance.
- Replaced the heat pump in the Marshall Press Box to improve system reliability and performance.



West Court and Brooks Hall asbestos abatement: Asbestos abatement is complete at West Court. The Nebraska State Patrol SWAT team and City of Chadron Police Department will utilize this facility for trainings at times during the Fall 2026 semester. We will secure bids on the demolition once the training dates are set and will attempt to demolish this facility once the trainings are complete. This demolition is funded through facility fees.

For Brooks Hall, the asbestos abatement contractor completed most of the abatement process this summer. They will have to abate the roof immediately before the demolition begins. The Architect/Engineer firm, TSP, is close to completing the demolition plans. We will bid out this project soon. This project is funded through contingency maintenance funds.

Deaeration tank replacement in the Sheaman Heating Plant: During discussions on the boiler replacement project, it was determined the deaeration tank can be moved to another location so the Heating Plant roof will not require removal and the old deaeration tank can be abandoned in place. TSP will work through the updated design for the tank replacement once the boiler design is complete. The construction portion of this project will take place next May during the central heat plant shut down. The project is funded by the 309 Task Force for Building Renewal.

Boiler #3 replacement and Boiler #4 repair in the Sheman Heating Plant: This project continues to progress. The two natural gas replacement boilers have been delivered to the Heating Plant and are currently staged north of the facility pending installation. Before installation can begin, several additional equipment components must be delivered and preparatory work within the Heating Plant must be completed. A crane is tentatively scheduled to be onsite in late September to install rooftop make-up air units and move the new boilers into the Heating Plant.

The remaining equipment is expected to arrive within the next three weeks. Once all equipment has been received and site preparation activities are complete, boiler installation will begin. The project is scheduled for completion by mid-December. The project is funded by the 309 Task Force for Building Renewal.

Backyard project: The Backyard project, formerly known as the Fire Pit project, was bid out this spring with a bid received May 1. We are continuing to work with the architect and contractor to evaluate potential value engineering options that may help optimize the project's scope and cost.

In the coming weeks, we will meet with student representatives to discuss the project's status and proposed next steps. The project was initiated at the request of Student Senate and is being funded through student activity fees.

Utility tunnel repair along Main Street: Repairs were required to the utility tunnel that runs north-south along the west side of Main Street. A deteriorated section of this tunnel located in front of the Sandoz Center necessitated the closure of the adjacent sidewalk. Fuller has completed this portion of the project; however, we are in the process of adding a structural repair of the Sandoz Center front steps through a change order.



Once the change order is fully executed, work on the front steps is expected to begin approximately one month later. The front steps to the Sandoz Center will remain closed until the repairs are completed. We anticipate this project will be finished by winter break. This project is funded by the 309 Task Force for Building Renewal.

King Library and Nelson Physical Activity Center: A 2022 windstorm caused significant damage to the roofs of both the King Library and the Nelson Physical Activity Center. While temporary repairs were completed to address immediate concerns, permanent roof replacements are still necessary.

During the summer, we worked with an architectural and engineering firm to develop designs for both projects. The design phase is expected to be completed by mid-November, allowing the projects to be advertised for bids in December, with bid openings anticipated in mid-January. The goal is to complete construction during the spring or summer of the upcoming year, depending on contractor scheduling, funding availability, and weather conditions. These projects are funded by the 309 Task Force for Building Renewal.

Sandoz/Work Hall and Wing parking lot: During the summer, we worked with an architectural and engineering firm to develop a design for the Sandoz/Work Hall parking lot project. The design phase is expected to be completed this fall, allowing the project to be advertised for bids this winter, with bid openings anticipated in early spring semester. The timing of construction will depend on the completion of the Work Hall window replacement project, contractor availability and overall project scheduling. Construction is anticipated to occur during either the spring or summer of the upcoming year, or the following year if coordination with the window replacement project requires additional time. This project will be funded through contingency maintenance and CSC parking lot funds.

Work Hall window replacement: During the summer, we worked with an architectural and engineering firm to develop the design for the Work Hall window replacement project. The design phase is expected to be completed this fall. We anticipate advertising the project for bids this winter or early spring, with construction scheduled to occur during the summer. This timeline will allow the project to be completed during a period of lower building occupancy and minimize disruptions to campus operations. This project will be funded through contingency maintenance funds.

Softball Complex updates: During the summer, we worked with an architectural and engineering firm to develop a design for the Softball Complex project. The first phase of the project focuses on replacing the existing softball field with synthetic turf. The design phase is expected to be completed this fall, allowing construction to begin in late spring or early summer. The installation of synthetic turf will enhance the playability of the field, reduce maintenance requirements, and improve the facility's long-term durability. This project will be funded through the Sports Facility Cash Funds allocated to CSC by the NSCS Board of Trustees for this project.

Old Admin tuckpointing: During the summer, we worked with an architectural and engineering firm to develop a design for the Old Admin tuckpointing/masonry project. The design phase is expected to be completed by mid-November, allowing the project to be advertised for bids in December, with bid



openings anticipated in mid-January. The goal is to complete construction during the spring or summer of the upcoming year, depending on contractor scheduling, funding availability, and weather conditions. These projects are funded by the 309 Task Force for Building Renewal.

Student Affairs

Student Affairs continues to advance student wellness, engagement, safety, and support services through expanded programming, enhanced resources, strategic training opportunities, and ongoing student-centered initiatives. Continue reading for updates from Student Affairs.

Health and Counseling Services

Licensed Student Counselors experienced a 22% increase in appointments from 2024-25 to the 2025-26 academic year. Following the discontinuation of CSC's contract with TimelyCare, resources were reallocated to expand telepsychiatry services for students through Nebraska Medicine, increasing access to student mental health support and medication management.

Other updates include:

- Counseling Services launched new Read My Bio features on its webpage to help students identify and connect with the counselor best suited to their needs.
- Licensed Student Counselor Chelsea Turner represented the Nebraska State College System at the WICHE and JED Foundation conference focused on systems-level student well-being and emotional wellness.
- Fall outreach initiatives are underway, including the Eagle Color Dash, which welcomed approximately 50 campus and community participants while raising awareness for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month and supporting donations for the DOVES program.
- The Ribbons of Hope display is currently featured on campus throughout September.
- Mental Health First Aid training will be offered Oct. 2, with Chelsea Turner serving as instructor.
- The contracted nurse, Jessaca Denke, assessed 51 students during the first six days of classes and coordinated 13 provider appointments.

Nelson Physical Activity Center and Intramurals

The Nelson Physical Activity Center (NPAC) upgraded fitness equipment during the summer, including the purchase of three new treadmills and four spin bikes. Existing treadmills were relocated to the High Rise weight room to expand student fitness opportunities.

Intramural programming launched during Week of Welcome with sand volleyball and strong student participation. Seven leagues and tournament events are planned throughout the fall semester.



Housing and Residence Life

Move-In was successful and Housing and Residence Life received several positive comments from parents and students.

As of September, Housing awarded \$36,000 to 36 unique students. All were eligible to live off campus, but the impact of the scholarships kept them on campus and provided a net revenue of approximately \$331,885 for room and board cost. This significant return on investment helps sustain the on-campus living environment and furthers student success. Additionally, compared to last year, Housing had a 2% (10 student) increase in housing occupancy and 2.2% (14 food plans) increase in food plans. While those figures may seem insignificant, they indicate positive momentum for the Auxiliary Program.

Finally, new furniture for Work Hall/Wing lobbies is scheduled to arrive during Fall Break.

Security

As a reminder, the Safety Escort cell phone number is 308-207-5435.

Campus Security continues transitioning responsibilities following recent staffing changes and has hired Dalynn Parks as a full-time Security Officer II, working primarily overnight shifts.

In August, Mark Hunt and Parks attended a Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) training in Scottsbluff focused on threat assessment practices and prevention strategies.

Student Activities

Karl McFarlane began as the Student Activities Coordinator on Aug. 10. Karl brings experience in business operations, leadership, human resources, marketing, and customer service. A Chadron State College alumnus and former GA for the Pit, he has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Business Administration.

Title IX

The Title IX Office received 46 reports during the 2025-26 academic year, reflecting continued awareness of resources and willingness to seek support and report concerns. The Title IX Office 24/7 helpline phone number is 308-207-5072, and it accepts both calls and text messages for reporting concerns and accessing support resources.

Jody Motz and Rebecca Fernau attended the Nebraska State College System Title IX Retreat, where discussions included the impact of artificial intelligence on Title IX processes and the growing concern of sextortion and online exploitation.

The Revolution acting troupe returned to campus as part of new student orientation, providing an interactive prevention program that engaged students in critical thinking, healthy decision-making, bystander intervention, and resource awareness.



College Relations

Brand and Visual Identity

College Relations updated the college's visual identity, including refinements to the Eagle logo to improve visibility across backgrounds and the typography used alongside the logo. The CSC **Brand Book** and **Brand Kit** were also refreshed with current logo guidance, color values, recommended fonts, and updated creative assets.

As a reminder, existing materials using the previous logo do not need to be replaced, but the updated logo should be used for new projects and as existing materials are refreshed. Employees are encouraged to begin the transition by updating commonly used materials such as email signatures, presentations, and digital assets.

Awards and Recognition

College Relations also encourages employees to nominate worthy individuals for alumni awards, including Distinguished Alumni, Distinguished Young Alumni, Distinguished Service, and the Family Tree award. Individuals can also be nominated for an Honorary Doctorate. The Awards and Recognition Committee will meet this fall and early spring to determine additional recognition opportunities for faculty and staff, as well. To nominate or learn more, visit the **Awards and Recognition** webpage.

College Relations is working on a campaign, *Tell Your Story*, which highlights CSC alumni. All faculty and staff are encouraged to submit names of alumni who would be strong candidates for this project through a simple **online form**.

Digital Accessibility

With the April 2028 deadline for compliance with new ADA digital accessibility requirements approaching, the System Office is working to identify ways to reduce the volume of documents that will require accessibility remediation.

Departments are encouraged to review all PDFs on their websites and determine whether each document is still needed in the PDF format, whether it can be removed or archived, or whether the information would be better presented as an accessible webpage in place of a PDF. This review will help reduce the number of documents requiring remediation while improving the accessibility and usability of information for all website visitors. Thank you for your assistance.

Graves Lecture Series

The Graves Lecture Series this fall will focus on artificial intelligence and higher education. All speakers will be at the Sandoz Center, Chicoine Atrium beginning at 6 p.m. If faculty want to provide extra credit to students, we can help coordinate. All are encouraged to attend and learn more about the ways artificial intelligence is being used on campus and elsewhere, as well as potential ethical implications of its usage.



- Oct. 1: Dr. Eric Rapp, Associate Professor of Education at CSC, will present *Human in the Loop: How I Teach Future Teachers to Use A.I.*
- Oct. 22: Mr. Jake Murphy, Business Operations and Strategy Manager at Zapier and CSC alumnus, will present *Artificial Intelligence for Everyone: Unlocking the Personal Assistant You Didn't Know You Had.*
- Nov. 5: Dr. Allison Fritz, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair at CSC, will present *Exploring the Ethical Implications of the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence.*

Resources

Finally, here are some helpful links and information:

- To stay up-to-date with CSC events, download the “CSC Hub” at the app store.
- To have items included in the CSC Digest, **request an announcement.**
- For news tips and leads, email **collegerelations@csc.edu.**

Information Technology

Information Technology continues to advance several initiatives across campus. IT's recent work has focused on strengthening system resilience, modernizing network and cloud services, improving cybersecurity and physical security, and preparing campus technology for future needs. Continue reading for further updates.

- *Data center recovery and resilience:* Following a disruption to the campus network in January, the replacement virtual server hardware is operational. Virtual servers have also been migrated to wrap up this significant effort. The college is still planning to address physical upgrades to the server room.
- *Network modernization:* Building switches and indoor wireless access points were upgraded in all residence halls, the Student Center, and Miller Hall during the summer. Replacement of outdoor access points is scheduled for this fall and replacement planning of devices in state-owned buildings is in progress. IT will continue the migration to cloud hosted wireless management service, further reducing the data center footprint. A new 24/7 network monitoring service is live.
- *Cloud services:* Shared files have been migrated to SharePoint, and the legacy CSCFiles and Z: Drive services have been retired.
- *Cybersecurity:* IT completed an incident-response tabletop exercise and continues vulnerability testing, security gap analysis, and backup reviews. October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and that will kick off the annual cybersecurity awareness training for employees. Additionally, ID.me has been acquired to improve the process of validating



the identity of applicants. ID.me is used across industries including government, healthcare and retail.

- *Campus technology*: The Computer Replacement Program is now in its 13th year and planning is underway with notification to be sent to affected departments in October. IT is also working with departments to standardize and replace digital signage across campus.
- *Physical security*: The security camera/door access platform was migrated to a new server and is moving toward cloud-based management.
- *Application improvements*: A long list of software initiatives are either complete or progressing nicely. An accessibility review of the CSC website is complete with most content in compliance. Review of new/revised content for the website is conducted prior to publishing. A large inventory of PDFs is being considered to ensure these documents comply ahead of the April 2028 compliance deadline. Website cookie consent functionality has been added to the website.
- **The updated employee training schedule** is posted in SharePoint: Navigate to www.csc.edu / Resources dropdown / Employee Resources / Administrative Training Schedule 26-27 / You will be directed to the Microsoft 365 login page, if you are not already logged in.

Conclusion

As a reminder, we are closing in on meeting the required minimum number of drivers who need to sign up to have the DMV approve the CSC specialty license plate, so if you haven't yet signed up for one, please do so. The registration fee is complimentary, thanks to the Foundation and President Kupper. To reserve your plate, complete the **online application form**.

Thank you again for your continued dedication, collaboration, and care for our students and one another. As we begin a new academic year, I am grateful for all that you do to support our students and advance the mission of Chadron State College. I look forward to the opportunities, accomplishments, and shared work ahead as we embark on another successful year together.