This week is an exciting time at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture! Faculty return to Curtis on Wednesday and we have a full day of development activities for all campus staff to prepare them for the return of the students. We will reflect on last year’s accomplishments and prepare for some big projects to occur in 2014-2015 year. There is much to look forward to this fall.

For the first time, students at NCTA can enroll in the UNL Bachelors of Applied Science program while they are in attendance at Curtis. Also this fall, students can enroll in new academic programs such as equine training management, irrigation technology, or agricultural mechanics. We have many new scholarship opportunities available for our students, and these new awards are in addition to the generous programs which we have had previously.

Over the past three years, more than 90% of our students have received financial aid. Total benefits to Nebraska residents receiving aid, grant and scholarship awards have exceeded the cost of tuition and fees by more than $700 per year. Most Nebraska residents attending NCTA have had their tuition covered by financial aid over the past three years!

Students will arrive on campus this Saturday and Sunday. The Aug. 23-24 events are a kickoff for orientation week and feature a number of new activities on campus. The faculty, staff and students at NCTA very much appreciate getting to meet the residents of Curtis during these orientation activities. We are expecting an exceptionally large freshman class this year – perhaps 50% larger than our freshman class last year. Students are being drawn to the Curtis campus because of new, high quality academic programs, new facilities, cost-effective education, and friendly and caring faculty, staff and community members.

I wish to thank the Curtis community and its residents for everything you do to make Curtis such as wonderful place to live for our faculty, staff, students and families. In the coming week, I invite you to join the faculty and staff at NCTA in welcoming college students to Curtis.

Please join us at 3:15 p.m. on Sunday at the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center for an inspiring presentation by Amberley Snyder, a wheelchair-bound rodeo athlete from Utah State University. Her attitude, dedication and perseverance are amazing.

Amberley’s life story is one to inspire us all. When things are challenging and obstacles appear to be insurmountable, never give up.

As part of the University of Nebraska system, NCTA enters its second century of educating students. Thank you for your trust in and support of NCTA, and for your diligence in helping NCTA’s students to never give up but to succeed.

**NCTA Mission:**

*The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is devoted to a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology, food and related industries. The college provides open access to innovative technical education resulting in associate degrees, certificates, diplomas and other credentials.*

* * *

Media inquiries to: Ron Rosati, PhD, Dean of NCTA, (308) 367-5200
Mary Crawford, NCTA News, 308-367-5231, Mcrawford@unl.edu