Sept. 8, 2014

NCTA Celebrates Students, Irrigation and more
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

We are in our third week of fall classes at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and it promises to be another “wow” week for our college community filled with student events and public activities.

Great news to announce: Fall enrollment is up 28 percent from a year ago, with 384 students enrolled in classes as full time, part time, or dual credit students. Wow! This growth is great news.

The incoming freshman enrollment represents almost a 50 percent increase! Thank you to the students for selecting NCTA as their college, thank you to our recruiting and admissions team for their great work and thank you to the residents of Curtis for being so welcoming to our students.

This is the largest student enrollment of the past four years. I credit this uptick to strong outreach, students recognizing the quality academic programs we offer, increases in scholarships and financial aid, and some new programs such as irrigation technician, equine training management, laboratory animal care and agricultural education concentration.

We have seen significant growth in our major academic divisions. Agriculture production systems grew to 140 students and veterinary technology systems grew to 85 students. Agribusiness management systems, horticulture and general education courses round out the offerings here on campus.

Additionally, NCTA has 130 high school students around the state taking college classes on line over the Internet, or through a combination of instruction at their high school or on campus. We are fortunate to have great partnerships with Medicine Valley High School in Curtis and with Cozad High School in dual credit academics.

Reinke partnership: The new Reinke center pivot irrigation system was installed three months ago at the NCTA farm north of campus and we will officially cut the ribbon for that program with Governor Dave Heineman and other special guests on Friday. Everyone is invited to join this public event at 11 a.m. at the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center auditorium.

If you’ve not been to campus for a while, this week is a great opportunity to come for a visit and see one of our newest buildings and learn how campus has changed since the new construction three years ago. Look for the banners at parking lot north of the Ed Center, and check out the “NCTA Welcome Center” inside.

Upcoming events:
Friday, Sept. 12 – 11 a.m. “NCTA Celebrates Irrigation 2014”, NCTA Education Center auditorium
Saturday, Sept. 13 – 8 a.m. AggieFest livestock judging clinic, 1 p.m. contest, NCTA Livestock Teaching Center
Saturday, Sept. 13 – 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Curtis Farmers Market, Curtis City Park. The NCTA Horticulture Club hosts the Farmers Markets Saturday mornings through October 11th.
Saturday, Sept. 13 – Alumni Reunion for NSA/UNSA/UNSTA/NCTA afternoon campus events; 6 pm social, 7 pm banquet honoring award recipients Dave Smith, and posthumously Mike Stewart and Dr. Walter Long, at the Curtis Community Center. Contact Catherine Hauptman, 367-5200, for information.

As always, if you have any questions or input, I welcome hearing from you. Call me at 367-5200, or stop by my office at 202 Ag Hall. Thank you.

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.