Prospective students and their parents are invited to join us for an open house on campus next Monday. We will discuss details about campus life and our academic programs at “NCTA Discovery Day” at 9 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 13. Students from across the Midwest and their families will be joining us.

This is a prime opportunity for high school students to visit campus, talk with our faculty and staff, learn about academics and student programs, and see our teaching facilities. Please join us for “Discovery Day” if you would like to learn more about NCTA. We are growing, thanks to your support!

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An accreditation team with the American Veterinary Medical Association will visit the NCTA campus this week to evaluate NCTA’s Veterinary Technology Systems program. Accreditation provides us with an opportunity to bring in experts from across the country to take a look at how we teach students in veterinary technology sciences.

While on campus these experts study NCTA’s curriculum and practices and provide us with observations and evaluations concerning the effectiveness of our program. Implementing the advice and recommendations we hear during these site visits is one of the reasons our veterinary technology program is ranked as one of the top 10 large animal veterinary technology programs in the United States.

The NCTA veterinary technology program has been accredited for more than 40 years and was one of the first two programs in the nation to receive AVMA accreditation. Alumni from the program are located throughout the U.S. contributing to their professions in animal health, production agriculture, education and agribusiness. Thanks to Barbara Berg, VTS division chair, for spearheading this week’s AVMA review.

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NCTA works closely with many industry partners including Nebraska Cattlemen. It was my pleasure to meet last week with one of the affiliates of the Nebraska Cattlemen, Dawson County Cattlemen, to discuss the latest initiatives at NCTA, to hear recommendations for improving our programs, and to answer questions about happenings at the college.

NCTA appreciates the close working relationship we have with Dawson County Cattlemen. The group is helpful to the college in many ways. Cattlemen and women provide students with internship opportunities, several operations provide the facilities and cattle herds for our judging teams, and they employ many of our graduates. Thank you Dawson County Cattlemen for helping NCTA students achieve their dreams.

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Water and natural resources discussions are high on NCTA’s academic offerings, as well. Last week I also had an opportunity to meet with advisory board members for the Nebraska Water Balance Alliance. We discussed many important water-related issues and how NCTA and the NWBA may be able to collaborate to improve the ability of Nebraska farmers to secure long-term access to water resources. This discovery session included how NCTA’s irrigation technician program could be a model of an effective public private partnership for workforce development.

Until next week, thanks for reading and thank you for helping students to “Discover Their Way at NCTA.”

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.