NCTA Successes Broaden 2015 Vision

By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

Recently I met agricultural leaders who are advocates for Nebraska agriculture, the University of Nebraska, and specifically the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and NCTA.

These leaders heard 2014 year-end reports from administrators at the two agriculture campuses. I had the opportunity to outline accomplishments of our faculty, students and staff. The list long, so here are a few highlights:

In 2014, NCTA:

- Instituted our 2014-2019 Strategic Plan (http://ncta.unl.edu/strategicplan2013)
- Increased enrollment in Fall, 2014 by 28 percent to 390 students
- Launched UNL Bachelor of Applied Science online degree for students at NCTA
- Added certificate programs for Irrigation Technician, Equine Management and Agricultural Education (2+2)
- Developed proposals for Ag Chemical Applicators and Laboratory Animal Care certificates
- Formalized Urban Agriculture agreement with Omaha Home for Boys and Nebraska Extension
- Joined CollegeBound Nebraska, financial aid program (http://collegeboundnebraska.com/)
- Established a new Dean’s Scholarship Program
- Improved college affordability; Over past three years, 91% of NCTA students received financial aid.
- Added “Heifer Link” to the 100 Beef Cow Ownership Advantage
- Established Irrigation Technology partnership with Reinke
- Established the Curtis Community Garden; received $25,000 Rural Futures Institute grant
- Completed Veterinary Technology program national accreditation site visit and review
- Updated and implemented the new NCTA website (ncta.unl.edu)
- Established a new student Welcome Center
- Revitalized the Bookstore’s business and student service plans
- Initiated work on reaffirmation of accreditation (2016) from Higher Learning Commission
- Expanded our partnership with Nebraska Extension in Curtis and statewide
- Established a Professor of Practice with IANR/Ag Leadership Education & Communication
- Hosted many field days, seminars, contests and industry events with our local partners (FFA, 4-H, Girl Scouts, churches and the community of Curtis)

I am proud of the faculty, staff and students for these and many more accomplishments in 2014. The bar is set high, again, for 2015. In the weeks ahead, you will be reading more about programs such as Earn to Learn (students work at NCTA to pay for all standard expenses), Heifer Link, Urban Agriculture, and global outreach.

In the meantime, please know you are invited to stop by the campus any time and to join us at events. Call 1-800-3-CURTIS or see the web site at ncta.unl.edu.
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.

Upcoming events:

Jan. 29 – Safari Club’s Costa Rica public presentation, 7 p.m., Vet Tech auditorium
Feb. 7-8 – Sherman Tegtmeier Horsemanship Clinic, LTC Arena
Feb. 11 – FFA Career Development Events contest
Feb. 19 – Soil Moisture Probe Workshop, 8:30 a.m., Ed Center

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