NCTA values advisory input
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

I enjoy sharing the great news about our students, programs and opportunities here at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. Our unique campus and technical agriculture mission lends itself well to telling our story to audiences across the board.

Whether in Omaha or Elwood, we have first-hand accounts of academic specialties and can enroll students in our courses.

In turn, I appreciate hearing input from our Number One audience – the students and their families who are NCTA’s customers. What they have to say about NCTA during their college years, into the first three to five years of their students’ professional careers, and as alumni dedicated to their alma mater, it does matter.

Thank you for being candid and giving us advice about your perspective. It makes us a better college.

Many of you have provided support to this institution over its 113-year history. You may recall your forefathers uniting behind the concept of a regional high school when it was proposed in 1911 by Governor Ashton C. Shallenberger.

Or, perhaps you personally were involved in 1986-1988 as there was imminent threat of closing the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture (UNSTA), first by budget-cutting administrators in Lincoln, and by a governor and Nebraska Legislature.

Thanks to this help and input, and that from the agricultural industry, alumni, chambers of commerce and so many groups and individuals, the college not only has survived but has grown in enrollment and academics.

Back in the ‘80s, citizens rallied on all fronts to impress upon eastern interests the vital role of a technical agriculture program here in southwestern Nebraska. The unique role of a statewide mission, located amid the hands-on learning environment of farms, fields, laboratories and livestock, continues today, greater than ever in workforce development and agricultural education.

One aspect that every college campus relies heavily upon is its advisors. NCTA’s administrators and faculty tap into a variety of advisory venues, including elected student and faculty senates here on campus.

Count yourselves among those individuals who give us input in so many important degrees. Formally, we have groups such as the monthly meetings of the local Community Advisory Committee.

We also have a Dean’s Statewide Advisory which convenes once per year, usually in the summer months.
On the academic level, we have formal input sessions for industry and academic advisory groups for veterinary technology systems, agriculture production systems, agribusiness management systems and animal science, agronomy, horticulture, irrigation technology and the new Heifer Link and urban agriculture programs.

Informally and formally, NCTA wants and appreciates your input to our mission. Continue giving me your recommendations, suggestions and celebrations, too.

Our campus is your campus. Come for a visit and stop by my office on Second Floor of Ag Hall. Discover Your Way at NCTA by calling 1-800-3CURTIS or visit the web site at ncta.unl.edu.

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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.

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