A unique glimpse of campus from February

By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

Last week was one of those weeks that reinforced why I feel so privileged and grateful to be working at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and this beautiful campus.

Even our weather has been outstanding. That Monday, I looked out my office window to see Professor Paul Clark teaching an agribusiness management class in the sunshine on the front lawn of the college.

The students were wearing sunglasses and shorts and seemed to really be enjoying themselves. That’s not something you see often in February in Curtis.

Last weekend I watched the horsemanship clinic in the campus livestock teaching center with renowned trainer Sherman Tegtmeier. We had a great turnout and students and community members seemed to be having lots of fun and learning some great tips for increasing their horsemanship skills.

On Wednesday, the campus was buzzing with activity from the District 11 FFA Career Development Skills Events. We hosted over 230 FFA members from 12 chapters participating in a number of agricultural contests. It was great to see so many students who have fine-tuned career skills under the instruction of dedicated agriculture instructors.

Thursday was one of the special theme days in our college dining hall. In honor of Valentine’s Day, our dining staff grilled and served steaks from our own beef herd. Our students were able to taste the T-bones, rib eyes and other cuts of beef they have produced at NCTA. This is a little different twist to our emphasis on student engagement in the learning process.

Thursday was also one of the days that second-year students in veterinary technology participated in surgeries at the college veterinary clinic. Assisting our faculty veterinarians with real surgeries is one of the capstone experiences for veterinary technology students. It’s an outstanding learning experience for our students and it’s a great example of the hands-on learning that occurs at NCTA.

We wrapped up the day Thursday with a Valentine’s Day dance in the student activities center. Our students work very hard at their studies but we also like to see them have fun. During the dance they demonstrated that they also know how to have fun!

This week brings producers, students, educators and the irrigation industry to campus for the 2015 Soil Moisture Probe workshop. We are expecting about 150 people on Thursday to attend this learning opportunity to improve water-use efficiency in crop production.
These are just a few of the many interesting educational activities that go on day to day at NCTA. You can see why I feel so privileged to be part of this college community.

I look forward to more great activities in the weeks ahead. Mark your calendars now for graduation on May 7th – it will be here before we know it!

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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