NCTA targets student access and opportunity
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

The greatest attributes we provide students at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis are access and opportunity to quality education in preparation for careers in agriculture.

Each day, NCTA faculty and staff are committed to nearly 380 students in full-time, part-time, dual credit or online learning capacities. Our classes are affordable and accessible in four primary academic divisions: animal science and agriculture education, veterinary technology, agronomy and horticulture, and agribusiness management.

In addition to classroom and laboratory instruction, our faculty helps students hone academic skills for intercollegiate contests in subjects such as agronomy and crops, horticulture and landscaping, and agribusiness management. Faculty instructors also are the coaches for NCTA Aggie teams in livestock judging, ranch horse and rodeo.

NCTA students excel academically and competitively. Recently, NCTA announced eight students to the Fall, 2014 Dean’s List (4.0 GPA), with 50 to the Dean’s Honor Roll (3.5-3.99 GPA). I am proud of their dedication.

At the same time, many of our students are active in multiple organizations on campus. Similar to the volunteers and residents of many rural communities, our students wear several hats.

They commit to active roles in clubs such as Women in Agriculture, Student Senate, Collegiate FFA and 4-H, Business Club, Collegiate Cattlemen, Student Technicians of Veterinary Medicine Association, Horticulture Club, Farm Bureau, and Phi Theta Kappa (academic honorary society for two-year colleges).

Such success provides great satisfaction for our students when they share with others their college experiences and opportunities to meet academic, agricultural and career goals.

Last week, I accompanied two of our students as they met with University of Nebraska and State Legislative leaders in Lincoln. This week, more of our students will be attending the Governor’s Ag Conference in Kearney and meeting with Governor Pete Ricketts and agricultural leaders.

Just a week ago, NCTA had six agribusiness students and advisor Jeremy Sievers return from Minnesota where they participated in an annual scholarship-funded College Conference on Cooperatives. Also, the recent Women In Ag conference in Kearney included students from our collegiate club at NCTA.

Next week, our NCTA horticulture students and instructor Tee Bush will attend a national competition in landscaping and horticulture. Horticulture students work throughout the year through plant sales, farmers markets and other fundraisers to finance this educational trip.
These are just a few examples of why I am proud to be a part of this college’s mission. Our students have many opportunities to broaden their interests and learn first-hand from those in the industry.

Students and their families, agricultural partners, University administrators, policy makers, alumni and rural communities can expect great things from NCTA.

We will continue a tradition of excellence in training young men and women as the farmers and ranchers of Nebraska’s future.

Discover Your Way at NCTA by registering for the “2015 Discovery Day” at the college on March 9th. Sign up today at: http://ncta.unl.edu/visit-ncta. We look forward to hosting prospective students and their families to campus for break-out sessions, tours, and time to visit with faculty.

For more information on any of NCTA’s programs call 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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