August 17, 2015

**NCTA welcomes new faculty and staff**

By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

Fall classes will be starting at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture the week of August 24 and in addition to new students arriving on campus, we welcome three new faculty and several staff to our NCTA Aggie Team.

Associate Dean Scott Mickelsen and his staff in student services (admissions, registration, recruiting, residential life, financial aid, international programs and more) have been very busy preparing for the 2015-2016 school year. They coordinate training this week for Resident Assistants in our dormitories, and then welcome incoming freshmen and transfer students for orientation week August 22-28. This group is a dedicated and busy team!

Late last spring Jennifer McConville moved into a new campus position as assistant dean of finance and operations, leaving the classrooms of the Agribusiness Management Systems (AMS) division. She oversees NCTA’s business, facilities, grounds and maintenance operations, as well as our operating budget.

Paul Clark retired after six years as AMS division chairman. Thank you, Paul, and congratulations on your retirement! Mary Rittenhouse joins us from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and now heads AMS. Mary brings a strong background in finance and business. At UNK, she was a senior lecturer and director of the Center for Economic Education. Previously, Mary worked with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Dan Stehlik, who is an UNSTA alumnus of 1975, has been hired as lecturer of agricultural mechanics. Dan’s strong background in agriculture education and FFA programs in Kansas will benefit our students and campus. Thank you to former instructor Dusty Zitek for getting the ag mechanics and welding shops up and running these past two years. Please greet Mary Rittenhouse and Dan Stehlik as new residents of Curtis.

We applaud faculty members Brad Ramsdale and Eric Reed for promotion to the rank of associate professor. The two are the first NCTA faculty to be promoted by the University of Nebraska in 10 years. Dr. Ramsdale is chairman of the Agricultural Production Systems Agronomy and Agricultural Mechanics programs which includes horticulture and irrigation technology. Eric Reed heads our General Studies division.

Horticulture program instructor Tee Bush will continue to teach some horticulture classes but has transitioned to General Studies as assistant professor in math. (Also, Tee and Jennifer McConville are working toward their doctorate degrees simultaneously with fulltime workloads at NCTA – setting a great example for our students).

Dr. Connie Fisk joined the agronomy staff last spring, working through a split appointment with Nebraska Extension in serving as coordinator of the Cooper Farm Urban Agriculture Education Center located at the Omaha Home for Boys. Connie is certified as a dual credit instructor for high school and college courses.

Much of the daily, evening and weekend work at NCTA is done behind the scenes. We could not operate without these dedicated supervisors and support staff, some of whom are new employees or taking on new assignments within the past six months. They include:

- Josi Arnold, Vet Tech office associate / lab assistant
- Linda Cole, Welcome Center administrative associate
- Sara Cole, Food Service supervisor
- Connie Elson, moving from Security to Food Service
- Tyler Faber, Custodial Services
- Cindy Fritsche, Bookstore & Food Service manager
- Judi Graser, Residence Life senior RA
- Catherine Hauptman, Dean's Office executive administrative associate
- Aislinn Nelson, Food Service
- Laura Romeo, Business Office accountant
- Wilson Dukes, Custodial Services
- Megan Zawacki, Assistant Admissions and Recruiting Coordinator

I appreciate our dedicated team of individuals, 55 in all, who are employed here at NCTA. Here’s to another great year at the Aggie campus!

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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Media inquiries to:
Source: Ron Rosati, PhD, NCTA dean, 308-367-5200
Editor: Mary Crawford, NCTA News, 308-367-5231, Mcrawford@unl.edu
Dean's.Column.08.17.15