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Welcome to NCTA!
By Ron Rosati, NCTA Dean

The campus at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is thriving with students and activities for the new semester. Welcome to NCTA!

I want to express my appreciation to everyone in the Curtis community for the great hospitality shared last weekend with the new NCTA students. Thank you for extending such a warm welcome! We had an outstanding move-in and orientation weekend because of the wonderful support we received from the Curtis community and the great energy and help from the faculty and staff at NCTA.

The annual BBQ hosted by the Curtis Rotary and the Curtis Chamber of Commerce gave us all a great kickoff. Students learned about many community and college opportunities at a well-attended student fair. A few students commented that they are looking forward to the many Sunday dinners that are scheduled for them by our local churches during the upcoming year. Thank you!

Our NCTA student services team, residence hall assistants and other volunteers helped move approximately 200 students into the dormitories on Saturday. That group of hard-working men and women spent all day carrying boxes up and down the stairs and did it with a welcoming smile. Many of the parents and students commented on how much they appreciated this help unloading vehicles. I was surprised to see the big loads of “essentials” required for a year of living in an NCTA residence hall! Somehow we managed to fit it all into the rooms.

After getting the student rooms arranged, buying a few books at the bookstore and eating lunch on campus, moms and dads bid their students goodbye and prepared to hit the road. Understandably, a few of the farewells were accompanied by some tears and bittersweet emotions for families as children were ushered into this next phase of their lives.

One of the benefits of NCTA being in a small, friendly community like Curtis is that friendships are quickly made, and students are surrounded by caring, hospitable people. The transition is made easier by supportive faculty, RAs and community friends, and engaging activities during orientation week.

Aggie recreation started Monday with a giant water slide available to students all week. Other fun includes “messy Twister” Tuesday night, a roping contest and steak feed Wednesday evening, and ‘smores on the grill Thursday night.

Classes started Monday, and with a bit of help all students found their classrooms, purchased their parking permits, secured a meal plan, met their professors and started settling in to the rigorous but rewarding life of a college student.

I noticed a number of college employees who were on the lookout these first few days for students needing help finding classrooms, negotiating the maze of college bureaucracy, or solving an orientation problem. It was very rewarding to see the care shown by our employees as they dropped everything to work with freshmen until the student challenges were addressed. Everyone pitched in to do what was needed to help make our students successful.
Before students arrived, I witnessed office personnel normally at desk chores volunteering to mow lawns to improve campus appearance. And, on the first day of classes, food service staff baked large batches of delicious cookies and delivered them to strategic locations around campus for our students (and employees).

At times like this I am filled with gratitude to be able to work at an outstanding agriculture college, with a group of dedicated, caring and effective individuals, in the friendly and supportive town of Curtis. Thank you to everyone for making NCTA such a warm and supporting environment for our students!

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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