

President's Report to the Board of Education – September 2021

Getting to know the community and our campus and college stakeholders

I'm on a listening and learning tour and have had over 30 conversations with community groups, industry partners and college stakeholders since July 1st. We are truly fortunate to have strong community support to prepare the Douglas County population for the 21st century and beyond.

Student-centered highlights from the Department reports

- 157 students are enrolled in the apprenticeship program as mid-August. The largest gain in students is in industrial and electrical trades.
- The Community and Workforce Training Department trained 361 Wildland Fire Fighters for this fire season.
- The Adult Basic Skills program enrolled 105 students this summer, a new record for the program!
- 68 students are utilizing the College Kick Start program. This program offers high school graduates from 2021 and 2022 one free class (up to 4 credits) either summer or fall term 2021.
- The Lockwood Hall remodel is complete. This upgrade presents a more professional front facing presence for these very important career and technical education programs.

COVID: We will be open this academic year and open to all levels of individual risk tolerance. We will continue to balance the risk between the risk of COVID19 and the risk of an uneducated generation.

We are offering multiple ways to learn and helping students to understand their options and how they might best continue their education. In an economic environment where a college credential means better employment continuity, higher lifetime earnings, greater health outcomes and far greater resilience in times of economic disruption, we cannot afford to break the public trust and fail to show up for our community.

As always, this approach may change with any change in our operating environment.

Structural change: The attached organizational chart reflects a structural reorganization in positions and duties of those who report directly to the President.

Students engaging with campus: Students are registering and re-registering in increasing numbers both as a response to the financial support we have to offer but also because as the term gets nearer, they are becoming more confident that we will be open to serve them. Enrollment is currently down 13.16% over last year with an overwhelming number of appointments scheduled in advising we hope to see enrollment increase in the next few weeks.

The campus will refocus this year on retention and more importantly graduation. Although enrollment is important, I intend to gear many of our efforts toward increasing student success as a way to reflect the return on investment that UCC provides to students and the community. When we see our graduation number significantly rise we will know that our efforts are paying off.

Legacy Ball: Due to the current numbers of COVID spread in the community, the UCC Foundation has decided to move the Legacy Ball event into an online format. More information to come on the form that will take.

Latest round of American Rescue Plan funds for students: The table below represents the supports that are in place for students to continue their education this fall.

Student type	Cash payment	Detail
FT Pell Eligible	\$800	
PT Pell Eligible	\$400	
FT non-Pell	\$600	
PT non-Pell	\$300	
All other students who have not completed a FAFSA	\$300	
ABS/GED/ESL	\$300	
Emergency funds available by application	\$250	For a variety of needs both academic related and personal
Student category	Pool	Detail
Debt forgiveness for those who re-enroll in the fall term	\$280,000.00	Postcards, emails and text messages have gone to all eligible students
Incentives to return to college	\$178,000.00	\$250 for every student who completes 3 student support offerings (How to use library, how to sign-up for tutoring)

Upcoming

- Forestry industries tour this Friday. Industry leaders are taking me around Douglas County to better understand the forestry industry.
- Music concert: September 12 at 3:00 p.m. at Swanson Amphitheatre. This is a collaboration between our music faculty and area high school bands and choral directors.
- Open House Sept 9th 3 – 7pm: The Tiger Team will be on site to offer free vaccinations and all those who get vaccinated with earn a \$50 gift certificate to Sherms. These events will be held outside, and masks are required.
- Academic year kick-off events will begin with an all-campus breakfast and opening session at 8:30am on Monday September 21st.



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