

I have a pre-teen at home that I try to communicate with on a daily basis. Try is the key word there, as I often get very limited information from my questioning. I'll ask, "What happened at school today?" at the dinner table and get back, "Nothing." Now, some minutes later and quite unsolicited, I'll get a 30 minute story from her about exactly what happened at school that day. My wife, who is a middle school counselor, must deal with this "feast and famine" pre-teen communication style on a daily basis – one of the many reasons I am amazed at her patience.

One of my many jobs as President of NCCC is answering questions about NCCC. If you have talked to me directly before you know, all you have to do is ask, "How are things going at the college?" and you'll get probably more than you were after! My pride in what is happening at the college overflows!

So I thought I would share with you some of the most frequently asked questions I get about NCCC.

### **How many students are there at NCCC?**

For 2011-2012 we had just under 4,000 students! That is up about 10% over the previous year. It's more than just Chanute and Ottawa students. We have students all over the state, from concurrent students in Baldwin City, to nursing students in Independence, to developmental math students in Pittsburg. We even had one student finish her nursing degree from Afghanistan!

### **What do you guys do in the summer? You're closed, right?**

Classes go on! We generate about 10% of our yearly enrollment through the summer months. There are only two weekend days between the end of the spring semester and the beginning of summer interterm classes. In fact, we have classes in session 52 weeks a year, even over Christmas Break. But beyond classes this is the time when maintenance really steps it up. I can tell you that Ben Smith, VP of Operations, winces every time he hears this question! Literally hundreds of projects are underway in the summer including painting, doing electrical work, demolition and construction, heating and cooling maintenance, and on and on. This summer is extreme thanks to the effort to revitalize the gym and softball/youth soccer project.

### **How's the softball/youth soccer complex coming along?**

It's going great. If there is a silver lining to the no rain clouds for most of the summer it's the fact that we have had no weather delays with getting the facility built. We are still looking at mid-August for substantial completion. Then, in the fall, the NCCC/USD 413 construction class will be completing some of the inside work including building benches, tables, and lockers. We won't play softball on it until spring, due to the need to grow the grass in the outfield, and that will give the construction students ample time to complete their part of the project. But, for all you soccer moms and dads out there, the concession stand, and more importantly, the restrooms, should be ready for youth soccer! No more porta-potties! Most of this project was paid for with student fees and donations from groups like Lloyd Builders, Chanute Manufacturing, and the Chanute Recreation Commission.

**Will there be water standing in those new drainage areas on the Chanute campus?**

No, there should not be. The engineers have designed the drainage areas to empty within 2-4 hours after the rain stops (taking for granted that we ever get significant rain again!). They should be wet, but empty soon after the rain ends. That is why these are called “detention ponds” instead of “retention ponds” as the water is detained, not retained. There are restrictors in the drains that allow us to adjust the flow of the water out of the ponds to make sure it empties correctly, even as we add additional development to the campus in years to come. For the folks that live around the campus, the new drainage areas should significantly reduce the current storm water that flows off the campus especially on the 10<sup>th</sup> street side of campus.

**How’s the gym project going?**

Wonderfully! The student union bathroom renovation is nearly complete and should reopen soon. The new gym floor is being sanded this week, then the finishing and painting will start. It is a beautiful maple, let me tell you. The new visitor bleachers are complete! No more sitting next to the opposing team fans. Now we can look at them from across the court and see the envy and sadness in their eyes as they watch the Panthers decimate their team. You’ll almost feel sorry for them. Almost. The gym locker rooms are making great progress. All-in-all the gym project should be completed by mid-August, in time for the first volleyball game. Like the softball/youth soccer complex, most of this project was paid for with student fees and donations.

**You mainly do transfer education, right? And your students are 18-20?**

About 60% of our students are transfer students either working on a full associates of arts or science degree or are just taking a few classes before they go on to a university. However, 40% of our students are in a workforce technology program like Nursing, Welding, Surgical Technology (our newest!), Occupational Therapy Assistant, Construction, Energy Management, and on and on. So we offer a lot more than just general education classes. And yes, we have quite a few 18-20 year old students, also known as “traditional” students, but we have lots of students in their thirties and forties. In fact, our students’ average age is 27.

**How many students live in the residence halls? They’re all from out of state, right?**

Our residence halls can hold over 260 students. Occupancy varies from day to day, but on the average there are about 240 students in residence. It is a misnomer that all of our residence students are from out-of-state. Most residence hall students are from Kansas, drawn to the college for a chance to participate in athletics. In fact, we have had Chanute and Humboldt students live in the halls before, who wanted that traditional college experience of residence hall life, while still living (VERY) close to home. Last year, 92 students of the 260 were from out of state and 12 were international students. Those internationals amaze me! They picked NCCC from thousands of college choices. They could have gone anywhere in the United States, and chose to come to Chanute. That’s a great honor for us. Often, they know a past NCCC student from their country that had a great experience as a Panther who recommended they study with us.

I love talking about the College, so please keep the questions coming! If you have more questions, please email me at [binbody@neosho.edu](mailto:binbody@neosho.edu).