

# *The Trojan Times*

A publication of the Colby Community College Endowment Foundation



## **A Message from CCC President Seth Carter**



We at Colby Community College hope you are doing well and had an enjoyable summer. Recently, the College successfully had our regional accreditation reaffirmed. To receive regional accreditation CCC must go through a three-step process. The first step is a Site Steering Committee, followed by an Institutional Action Committee hearing, and concluding with a Higher Learning Commission Board hearing. In October 2016 the Site Steering Committee recommended “reaffirmation of accreditation with interim monitoring” and removal of “probationary” status, which was the same recommendation from the Institutional Action Committee in March 2017. The final step occurred on June 29, when the Board of the Higher Learning Commission removed the probationary status to have the institution’s accreditation reaffirmed.

This was a labor-intensive process, but we are very proud of the results. We want to express our extreme gratitude to the community, employees, alumni, and Trustees of the College. Without this help and support, we would not have been able to move forward.

Colby Community College recently completed several projects over the summer. We successfully remodeled the north section of Living Center East, an area that had not received major improvements for more than 40 years. This project marked the third residential hall that we have remodeled over the last three years. Additionally, the H.F. Davis Library received new flooring and we updated several classrooms. Many of the areas we are working on have not been renovated for 25 to 40 years. CCC is very excited about the changes.

In addition to the above, we recently completed the following projects: new flooring in the Cultural Arts Center and Student Union, Fit Lab remodel, Health Sciences remodel, and construction of a training room for student-athletes. It is a great time to be a Trojan. If you are ever in the area, please stop to say hello and see the many changes.

## **Renovated Student Housing Opens**

In August CCC opened a renovated 40-bed section of Living Center East with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The completed project is the first of three phases of improvements to the residence hall.

Remodeling of the area began in May when students moved out after spring semester finals. The remaining updates are scheduled to be finished in the summer of 2019 and will mark an entire renovation of the college’s original student housing built nearly 50 years ago. Living Center North got a makeover from 2014 to 2016. The projects have been financed largely by grants and private donations.

A mix of students, staff, community members and special guest Jerry Moran were on hand for the ribbon cutting. The Republican senator was in town and had just completed a town hall meeting at the Cultural Arts Center.





## Vet Tech Builds on Tradition

CCC is a pioneer in veterinary technology education, launching a program in 1969 as one of the first in the nation and achieving accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1974. It remains the only program in Kansas fully accredited by the AVMA.

As a result of student interest and the 27-freshman limit, CCC began a distance learning program in 2012. Today, students from California to Florida have become Trojans, and online vet tech

enrollment has increased tenfold since its inception. In addition, the program was listed among the Most Affordable Online Colleges for Veterinary Technicians (SR Education Group, 2017).

Dr. Jennifer Martin is the director of the on-campus and distance learning programs. Dr. Beth Fenton and Melissa Stomberg are instructors for the on-campus and distance learning programs, and Dr. Shad Clymer is the coordinator for the distance learning program.

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## Carter Wins No. 500



In 2016 head baseball coach Ryan Carter

notched his 500th career victory at CCC. The season was historic for many reasons, as he was also Jayhawk Conference Coach of the Year after the Trojans captured their first ever conference title.

Carter became head coach in 1999. He is CCC's longest-tenured coach and has the most wins (547) in the program's history. Under his direction 188 players have transferred to four-year institutions and 11 players have been drafted or signed to independent contracts.

## Students Help Puerto Rico

The Colby Community College athletic department, in conjunction with student organizations, raised nearly \$2,000 during "Support Puerto Rico Night" at the home Oct. 4 volleyball game with Barton Community College.

Though a great distance from the destruction, the CCC volleyball and baseball teams have been deeply impacted by hurricanes Irma and Maria. Freshman student-athletes Enok Perez and Karleeann Ramos are from Puerto Rico and had limited communication with loved ones.

Collected funds were donated to Unidos Por Puerto Rico, a nonprofit initiative created by the office of First Lady Beatriz Rosselló and a private sector group to help victims who lost their belongings during the storms.



## Softball Raises MS Awareness

The CCC softball team is raising awareness of multiple sclerosis to support alumna Brittany Sekavec after her recent MS diagnosis. Sekavec is the wife of Dr. Jeff Sekavec, a CCC biology instructor and also a CCC alum. Players are selling orange silicon bracelets, with all proceeds benefiting the Sekavecs. The suggested donation is \$3 per bracelet or \$5 for two bracelets. Donations can also be made to the CCC Endowment Foundation with a note directing the contribution to the softball MS appeal.

## CCC Technical Grad Incomes Near the Top

For the second straight year, Colby Community College technical program graduates ranked second in earnings among their peers from Kansas two-year public institutions.

The Kansas Training Information Program (K-TIP) report, published annually by the Kansas Board of Regents, reveals that graduates of CCC technical programs earned an average income of \$36,710 in 2016. Colby grads also ranked second in 2015 with an average of \$35,750, and had the highest average at \$36,159 in 2014.

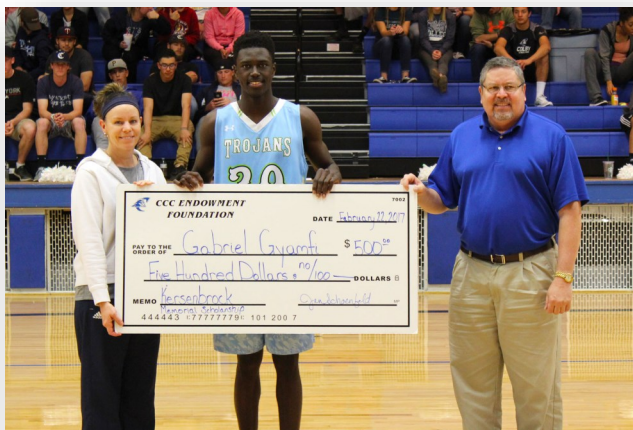
"We are extremely proud of our students' continued success," said CCC president Seth Carter. "The Kansas Training Information Program is a metric we pay a lot of attention to, as it is a direct indication of our graduates' performance. This recognition also speaks volumes to the dedication of our faculty and staff."

CCC has several one and two-year programs that place students in high-demand industries upon completion. The curriculums include agriculture, allied health, business, criminal justice, dental hygienist, massage therapy, nursing, physical therapist assistant, sustainable/renewable energy and veterinary technology.

## Instrumental Music Organizes Community Band

July 5 the Colby Community Band presented its second annual Concert in the Park. The event, held in Fike Park, is organized by instrumental music director Michelle Meyer. In addition to musicians from Colby, the band had members from Oakley, Osborne, Quinter, St. Francis and Burlington, Colo. Ages within the group ranged from age 10 to 69 and combined for 851 years of playing experience.

The band reassembles in May. Alumni or others interested in playing can contact Meyer at [michelle.meyer@colbycc.edu](mailto:michelle.meyer@colbycc.edu).



Trojan basketball player Gabriel Gyamfi received the 2017 **Kersenbrock Memorial Scholarship**, named after lifetime CCC supporters Bill and Lou Kersenbrock. In February a \$500 check was presented by the Kersenbrocks' daughter Lesley Wagoner and son Brad Kersenbrock.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Clay Patton (2015)

A native of Limon, Colo., Patton says he benefited in many ways from his time in the Farm and Ranch



Management program, but the first topic he points to is helping to host CCC's annual bull test sale.

"I gained a lot of experience, both learning how to properly develop bulls and how to put on a production sale. It was also a great way to meet area producers and network."

In addition, Patton was a member of an active Collegiate Farm Bureau organization.

"I had several experiences with both students and faculty where I was able to engage in a positive ag literacy moment, teaching them about production agriculture and how their food is produced. This was a highlight for me because folks learned about agriculture and I made life-long connections and friends."

Today Patton, a former member of the livestock judging team, is the farm director for Kansas Farm and Ranch Radio, the largest ag radio network in the state. He also has a daily ag feature that airs on 21 radio stations in Maryland and Delaware.

"My two years at CCC were a great time where I grew as an individual. The training I received in the ag program helped me achieve my current successes."



Colby Community College  
Endowment Foundation

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Colby, KS 67701

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We like to know about changes in your life, including  
contact information. Please let us know:

[www.colbycc.edu/updates](http://www.colbycc.edu/updates)

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Colby, KS 67701

[endowment@colbycc.edu](mailto:endowment@colbycc.edu)

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Scholarship Benefit Auction**  
**April 14, 2018**

For current news, upcoming events and opportunities to give, please visit us at  
[www.colbycc.edu](http://www.colbycc.edu)

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State of Kansas on September 25,  
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and administer gifts and bequests  
for the benefit of Colby Community  
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