



February 28, 2020

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Greetings from Colby Community College. I hope everyone is enjoying a relatively mild winter (although there have been some pretty cold days). We are extremely excited to provide the community additional updates about campus happenings and some recent recognitions the College received.

The Art on the Oasis event is March 6-8. Our art instructor, Rebel Mahieu, does an incredible job organizing this event and bringing art to Western Kansas. The event is broken into three sessions, with the gala from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, and the exhibition from 12 to 7 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

In sports-related news, the Colby Community College women's basketball won a playoff game in the Jayhawk Conference for the first time in more than a decade. Also, the men's basketball team won the Jayhawk Conference western division title for the first time in school history. Both teams have enjoyed a tremendous amount of success on and off the court.

At Colby Community College, our ongoing goal is to focus on improving the holistic student experience while developing and refining practices to serve our communities better. This summer, we will focus on updating more classrooms, many of which have not received a refresh for nearly two decades. We have made a concentrated effort to improve campus amenities (evidenced by over 120 areas on campus being updated over the last five calendar years). Even though we have greatly improved several areas, there is still a tremendous amount to do on campus.

Academically, Colby Community College has the highest full-time institutional retention rate among the Kansas community college sector for the second consecutive year. In addition, CCC was recognized as having the highest 100% (2-year), 150% (3-year), and 200% (4-year) graduation rate for Cohort 2014, as well as the second-highest 150% graduation rate for Cohort 2015.

The College has a tremendous history of academic success and student achievement. While this has remained at the forefront of every institutional decision, the focus continues on growth and expansion to help the respective communities we serve. This is further evidenced by a 27% student headcount increase from 2014 to 2019, the highest in the state. CCC saw a boost from 1,931 students in 2014 to 2,459 students in 2019 (a headcount increase of 528 over the last five years). During the same time, the average community college in Kansas experienced a student headcount decrease of 11.3%.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to see the vast amount of interest in the College. Our community is supportive of so many initiatives throughout the area. Thank you for everything you do to make Colby, Kansas, such a special place to live and raise a family. As always, if you have not been on campus lately, please stop by. We would love to see you.

Respectfully,

Seth Macon Carter