Mid-Plains Community College

Shaping Our Future

March 2004

Mid-Plains Community College Board of Governors
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### Mid-Plains Community College Campuses

- **McCook Community College**
  1205 East Third Street
  McCook, NE 69001

- **North Platte Community College**
  North Campus
  1101 Halligan Drive
  North Platte, NE 69101

- **North Platte Community College**
  South Campus
  601 West State Farm Road
  North Platte, NE 69101

- **Broken Bow Extended Campus**
  Broken Bow Public Library
  626 South D Street
  Broken Bow, NE 68822

- **Imperial Extended Campus**
  1320 Broadway Street
  Imperial, NE 69033

- **Ogallala Extended Campus**
  213 North Spruce Street
  Ogallala, NE 69153

- **Valentine Extended Campus**
  113 North Hall
  Valentine, NE 69201
Mid-Plains Community College
Service Area

1. Cherry County
2. Hooker County
3. Thomas County
4. Blaine County
5. Loup County
6. Arthur County
7. McPherson County
8. Logan County
9. Custer County
10. Keith County
11. Lincoln County
12. Perkins County
13. Chase County
14. Hayes County
15. Frontier County
16. Dundy County
17. Hitchcock County
18. Red Willow County

Mid-Plains Community College
Board of Governors 2004
and Service Districts

Harold Bennett  
Roger Wilson  
George Ed Moore  
Glenn Colson  
Louis Stithem  
Jane Hornung  
Glenda Hasenauer  
Royce Norman  
Kent Miller  
Dale Wahlgren  
Rick Kolkman  

McCook (District 1)  
McCook (District 1)  
Ogallala (District 2)  
Elsie (District 2)  
Broken Bow (District 3)  
Arnold (District 3)  
Wallace (District 4)  
North Platte (District 4)  
North Platte (District 5)  
North Platte (District 5)  
North Platte (At Large)
College Mission
To provide educational opportunities for lifelong student learning.

College Role
Mid-Plains Community College (MPCC), a legislatively designated eighteen county district in West-Central Nebraska, is a comprehensive, open access, public, two-year community college system that offers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. Mid-Plains Community College consists of McCook Community College, North Platte Community College, and Extended Campuses in Broken Bow, Imperial, Ogallala, and Valentine, Nebraska.

College Scope
Mid-Plains Community College offers career and technical education, general academic/transfer education, developmental education, continuing education, student development, public service programs, and institutional support services.

College Values
The College believes that certain values should guide each decision made in the operation of the College. Mid-Plains Community College adheres to the following values:

• We value accessible and affordable education for all citizens.
• We value people.
• We value education and the improvement in life that it can bring to people and communities.
• We value excellence in education.
• We value a quality environment for learning.
• We value teamwork and open, honest communication.
• We value a positive and safe work and educational environment.
• We value respect for our college, its students, employees, and administration.

Institutional Goals
1. To offer career and technical degree programs and non-degree occupational education.
2. To offer a general academic transfer degree program.
3. To offer college preparatory courses to help students develop and/or strengthen skills necessary to function in college level classes.
4. To offer public service, including economic and community development focused on customized occupational assessment, job training, adult continuing education, and avocational-recreational courses.
5. To provide various student support services and activities to assist students and enhance their college experience.
6. To maintain cooperative relationships with educational institutions, service agencies, and businesses/industries for the benefit of students.
7. To provide for the management of MPCC’s resources through assessment and applied research.

Approved by Mid-Plains Community College Board of Governors on January 28, 2004
The Board of Governors of Mid-Plains Community College recognizes the vital role the College plays in empowering individuals in our collective communities to live with confidence and competence in a rapidly evolving world society. We understand that vision and planning are critical ingredients that must be nourished if the College is to be successful in implementing our Mission Statement.

We are aware that comprehensive planning must involve community needs assessments, population patterns, financial and budgetary limitations, instructional methodology and staffing, facility requirements, student recruitment and retention, program accessibility and other aspects of a responsive community college system.

The Board of Governors realizes that it has competent, capable and conscientious members of the staff, faculty and administration that are key to successful comprehensive planning. The Board accepts its role and responsibility in providing strong leadership for the College. We believe we have in place the leadership and comprehensive planning so necessary in today’s rapidly evolving world society. The College is moving forward with purpose and determination.

Harold E. Bennett, Chair
Board of Governors

Even though it is challenging to anticipate the future, it is imperative to plan for it. Setting a course of direction has substantial and long-lasting impact on people, programs, facilities, technology, services, budgets, and processes. Serious planning takes a considerable amount of time and energy, but is a good investment as it pays substantial dividends.

The wisdom of a great plan is usually not heralded as it quietly makes its way into the fabric of the institution. It becomes much like the sculptor who molds the clay into an art form. It is hard to imagine that it was once a mound of clay on the potter’s wheel. At Mid-Plains Community College many caring hands have worked together with this mound of clay to carefully shape it into a premier institution.

Dr. Michael R. Chipps, President
Mid-Plains Community College
**Planning/Decision Making Model**

**Mission:** To provide educational opportunities for lifelong student learning.

**Learning Service Priorities:**
- Applied technology and occupational education;
- Transfer education;
- Adult and continuing education for occupations and professions including economic and community development, and customized training;
- Foundations education as needed; and
- Applied research.

**Governance:** Public higher education institution governed through a regionally elected governing board.

**Geographic Focus:** Eighteen counties in West Central Nebraska.

**Purposes:**
- To Assess and Document Learner Attainment
- To Assess and Document Student Support Services
- To Assess and Document Institutional Support Services

**Key Performance Milestones**

**Key Milestone Markers**

**Environmental Scanning and Analysis Measured Against Key Performance Milestones and Standards**

**Internal Strengths and Weaknesses**
- Organizational Performance
  - Key Performance Milestones
  - Assessment of Student Learning
  - Program Reviews
  - Annual Personnel Evaluations

**External Threats and Opportunities**
- Trends and Events
  - Political
  - Economic
  - Sociological
  - Technological

**Organizational Design**

**Organizational Strategies**

- Collaborations
- Competitors

**Add/Adjust/No Change/Eliminate**

- Mission
- Policies
- Procedures
- Strategies
- Priorities
- Objectives - Continuation, Problem-Solving, Developmental, Innovative
- Key Performance Milestones
- Tactics

**Strategic Issues**

**Study-File Report**

**Resources**

- Required
- Needed Resources are Available

**Implement by Appropriate Institutional Function**

- Develop Implementation Tactics/Plan of Work
- Develop budget
- Budget Funds Required
- No

Yes

**Need Exists**

- No

**Terminate Study-File Report**

- Yes

**Resources Required**

**Yes**

**No**
Planning Stages

MPCC engaged in strategic planning in 1996-1997 in conjunction with its preparation for the 1999 North Central Association accreditation visit. That process resulted in MPCC’s first strategic plan that was affirmed by the accreditation team. Between 1997 and 2002, the MPCC Strategic Plan was regularly updated and maintained. In January 2003, MPCC began a process of updating and upgrading the Strategic Plan to what is now the current MPCC Comprehensive Plan. The process used for the update was similar to those used previously; however, the MPCC Board and President took a much more active role in the current document, a fact that reinforces the intent and will of the Plan.

Planning Process

The current planning process (see Planning/Decision-Making Model) originated in January 2003 and involved the following steps:

• Analysis and review of the MPCC mission statement
• Analysis and review of the most recent MPCC Strategic Plan
• A review of the environment including external threats and opportunities and internal strengths and weaknesses
• Analysis and synthesis of all planning information gathered
• Identification of strategic priorities
• Prioritization of strategic priorities
• Development of the priorities by way of (1) persons or positions responsible, (2) time parameters, (3) significant milestones so that it is known when a priority is being achieved and (4) funding implications.

We believe the establishment of institutional priorities is vital to the continued success of Mid-Plains Community College. The College Board of Governors’ priorities for FY 2003-2006 are as follows:

### PRIORITY 1 - TEACHING AND LEARNING

**P1A: Assess student academic performance and modify instruction to improve lifelong student learning. (2003-2006)**

**Responsibility:** Area VP for Educational Services and Student Development, Faculty

**Progress Milestones:**
- Faculty use of available programmatic assessment data results in systematically documented instructional/curricular meaningful change. (2004-2005)
- Instructional/curricular change is documented in a written institutional summary. (2004-2006)

**Funding:** Regular Operational Budget

**P1B: Research, propose, and as feasible, establish new instructional programs to increase lifelong student learning opportunities. (2004-2006)**

**Responsibility:** College Cabinet, Vice President for Educational Services and Student Development, Division Chairpersons, appropriate Faculty

**Progress Milestones:**
- Research and document the need for new instructional programs at MPCC. Secure MPCC Board approval. (2004-2005)
- Secure Coordinating Commission approval for new programs. (2005-2006)

**Funding:** $100,000

**P1C: Research and reconfigure programs of study to address new technologies, to strengthen program enrollments and to increase lifelong student learning opportunities. (2003-2006)**

**Responsibility:** Campus Vice Presidents, Vice President for Educational Services and Student Development, Division Chairpersons, appropriate Faculty.
Progress Milestones:
- Evaluate technology needs for programs such as HVAC and Electromechanical (and others) to determine necessary new technology upgrades/updates. (2003-2004)
- Provide adequate training for faculty, managers, technicians, support staff, and students who are involved in distance learning.

Funding: $150,000 for 2004-2005, 2005-2006

PRIORITY 2 - STUDENTS AND STUDENT SUPPORT

P2A: Recruiting Students: Create, monitor and evaluate new strategies for increasing student enrollment. (2003-2006)

Responsibility: Vice President for Educational Services and Student Development, Area Director of Enrollment Management, Recruiters, others as appropriate.

Progress Milestones:
- Develop a written data-driven recruitment plan for MPCC which will become part of an Enrollment Management Plan. (2004-2005)

Funding: $75,000

P2B: Retaining Students: Develop a system for increasing student success. (2003-2006)

Responsibility: Area Director of Enrollment Management, Area Advisors, Student Success Center Staff, Directors of Housing and Student Activities, Faculty.

Progress Milestones:
- Develop student learning labs that include technology-assisted learning software, student tutorial services, learning lab services that complement regular classroom study; and student-friendly scheduling of services. (2004-2005)
- Ensure transferability between MPCC and four-year receiving institutions, update course equivalency guides and articulation agreements, and disseminate transfer information to students. (2004-2006)
- Increase student activities at North Platte Community College. (2004-2005)

Funding: $100,000

P2C: Remembering Students: Develop and implement area-wide placement and alumni tracking systems. (2003-2006)

Responsibility: President, Mid-Plains Technical Community College Area Foundation and McCook College Foundation Directors, Area Dean of Institutional Research, Planning and Grants, Area Registrar, Dean of Career Services.

Progress Milestones:
- Conduct an appraisal of what data records have been collected, and then develop a plan on how best to proceed with the process. (2004-2005)

Funding: $50,000
### P2D: ADA and safe environment for students. (2003-2006)

**Responsibility:** College Cabinet, MCC CEO/MPCC VP of Academic Education, NPCC CEO/MPCC VP of Technical Education, Directors of Physical Plants.

**Progress Milestones:**
- Conduct an ADA compliance audit (update) and correct deficiencies as appropriate. (2004-2005)
- Conduct a college-wide safety audit. (2004-2005)
- Update safety training for all MPCC employees. (2005-2006)

**Funding:** $20,000

### PRIORITY 3 - GOVERNANCE

#### P3A: Analyze and continue to modify policy governance structure to improve governing board efficiencies and effectiveness. (2003-2006)

**Responsibility:** Board, President

**Progress Milestones:**
- Conduct professional development of Board members in regard to policy governance. (2004-2006)

**Funding:** $25,000

#### P3B: The Board of Governors initiates the modified policy governance as its operational philosophy. (2005-2006)

**Responsibility:** Board, President

**Progress Milestones:**
- Operate under modified policy governance. (2004-2005)

**Funding:** Regular operational budget

### PRIORITY 4 - COLLABORATION AND UNITY

#### P4A: Continue to assess, refine and function as one area with multiple colleges, extended campuses and learning sites. (2003-2006)

**Responsibility:** Board, President, College Cabinet, Area Staff

**Progress Milestones:**
- Complete institution-wide signage that underscores the one area concept. (2004-2005)
- Continue on-going review of staff positions in order to promote the area concept. (2005-2006)
- Use data from the PACE Climate Survey to effect appropriate, balanced, collaborative administrative responsibilities. (2003-2006)

**Funding:** $200,000
## PRIORITY 5 - ACCREDITATION

### P5A: Retain successful regional accreditation (2003-2004)

**Responsibility:** President, College Cabinet, Faculty, Staff  

**Progress Milestones:**  
- Complete HLC comprehensive self-study and on-site team visit. (2003-2004)

**Funding:** $35,000 for 2003-2004

### P5B: Pursue Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) as the primary form of regional Accreditation. (2004-2006)

**Responsibility:** President, College Cabinet  

**Progress Milestones:**  
- Attend AQIP sessions at HLC annual meeting. (2003-2006)  
- Strengthen MPCC’s marketing efforts based on quality improvement processes.

**Funding:** $25,000

## PRIORITY 6 - FINANCE

### P6A: Modify, build and utilize multiple college foundations. (2003-2006)

**Responsibility:** President, Foundation Directors, Area Business Officer  

**Progress Milestones:**  
- Encourage McCook College Foundation and MPTCCA Foundation to each conduct a capital funds campaign.

**Funding:** $10,000

### P6B: Continue to achieve unqualified opinion on all financial audits. (2003-2006)

**Responsibility:** President, Area Financial Aid Director, Area Business Officer  

**Progress Milestones:**  
- Receive an unqualified opinion on student financial aid, general financial, and full-time equivalent audits. (2003-2006)

**Funding:** Regular Operational Budget

### P6C: Maintain and strengthen financial stability for all college operations. (2003-2006)

**Responsibility:** President, Area Business Officer  

**Progress Milestones:**  
- Prepare and implement a written three-year financial plan. (2004-2006)

**Funding:** Regular Operational Budget
### PRIORITY 7 - TECHNOLOGY

**P7A: Increase and strengthen college technology system infrastructure. (2003-2006)**

**Responsibility:** Area Business Officer, Area Director of Information Technology, Systems Administrator, Area Director of Human Resources

**Progress Milestones:**
- Continue to implement physical plant inventory and classroom scheduling software. (2003-2006)
- Continue to develop and modify electronic college forms. (2003-2006)
- Continue providing reliable technical support for faculty and students engaged in distance teaching and learning. (2003-2006)

**Funding:** Regular Operational Budget


**Responsibility:** Area Business Officer, Area Director of Information Technology

**Progress Milestones:**
- Develop, implement, evaluate and modify a written rotational plan for computers. (2003-2006)

**Funding:** $225,000 each year


**Responsibility:** Area Business Officer, Area Director of Information Technology

**Progress Milestones:**
- Ensure all computers connected to the College network are on a Windows 2000 platform. (2003-2004)

**Funding:** Regular Operational Budget

**P7A3: Create, educate and foster continuous communications systems for senior administration. (2003-2005)**

**Responsibility:** President, College Cabinet

**Progress Milestones:**
- Learn and utilize state of the art workplace technology. (2003-2006)

**Funding:** $12,000

**P7A4: Research, develop and implement Web support services for students and employees. (2003-2005)**

**Responsibility:** Area Director of Information Technology, Area Registrar, Area Report Writer, Systems Administrator, Area Advisors

**Progress Milestones:**
- Train staff web train on web software. (2004-2005)

**Funding:** $150,000 (2003-2006)
P7A5: Update and upgrade technology support system. (2003-2005)

Responsibility: Area Business Officer, Area Director of Information Technology

Progress Milestones:
- Configure classrooms to accommodate wireless technology. (2004-2006)

Funding: $100,000

PRIORITY 8 - OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIPS


Responsibility: President, Area VP for Educational Services and Student Development, College Cabinet

Progress Milestones: Sign articulation agreements and develop program offerings with the following institutions:
- Bellevue University (2003-2005)
- Chadron State College (2003-2005)
- Fort Hays State University (2004-2006)
- University of Nebraska at Omaha (2004-2006)
- University of Nebraska at Kearney (2004-2006)

Funding: Regular Operational Budget

P8B: Increase educational and business/industry partnerships. (2003-2006)

Responsibility: VP of Academic Education, VP of Technical Education, Dean of Community Education, Dean of Outreach and Training, Dean of Business and Community Education

Progress Milestones:
- Expand the use of Program Advisory Committees. (2004-2005)
- Develop new partnerships with business and industry.
- Increase ability to become the primary training source for business and industry.

Funding: Regular Operational Budget

P8C: Increase training opportunities with the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroads. (2003-2006)

Responsibility: VP of Technical Education, VP of Academic Education, VP for Educational Services and Student Development, Dean of Outreach and Training

Progress Milestones:
- Increase training opportunities through MPCC/UPRR Training Council. (2003-2006)
- Articulate/facilitate linkages between associates and bachelor’s degree programming for railroad employees.

Funding: Regular Operational Budget
P8D: Research, plan and establish Imperial Extended Campus. (2003-2005)

**Responsibility:** MCC CEO/MPCC VP of Academic Education, Dean of Outreach and Training, Extended Campus Coordinator

**Progress Milestones:**
- Begin Imperial course offerings. (2003-2004)
- Open and operate Imperial Extended Campus. (2003-2005)

**Funding:** $40,000

P8E: Establish and implement President’s Advisory Councils. (2003-2006)

**Responsibility:** President, College Cabinet

**Progress Milestones:** Schedule President’s Advisory Councils to meet at the following locations:
- Broken Bow, Imperial, and Ogallala (2003-2004)

**Funding:** $5,000 each year

P8F: Strengthen dual enrollment at North Platte and McCook Schools.

**Responsibility:** VP of Academic Education, VP of Technical Education, VP of Educational Services and Student Development, Dean of Career Services

**Progress Milestones:**
- Increase by 25% the number of MPCC course offerings at McCook High School, North Platte St. Patrick’s and North Platte Senior High Schools.

**Funding:** Regular Operational Budget

**PRIORITY 9 - FACILITIES**

P9A: Develop plans and funding for expanding facilities and system infrastructure. (2003-2006)

**Responsibility:** Board, President, College Cabinet, Directors of Physical Plants

**Progress Milestone:**
- Develop, refine and reinforce development of MPCC college facilities

**Funding:** $12,665,000 (See P9A1-P9A3 for funding details.)


**Responsibility:** College Cabinet, Area Business Officer, Directors of Physical Plant

**Progress Milestones:**
- Develop and implement a 3 year Facility Improvement Plan to address minor capital projects.

**Funding:** $650,000
### P9A2: Appraise and, if feasible, market and sell the North Platte Community College Technical Campus. (2003-2005)

**Responsibility:** Board, President, College Cabinet

**Progress Milestones:**

**Funding:** $15,000


**Responsibility:** Board, President, College Cabinet, Director of Physical Plant

**Progress Milestones:**
- Develop and modify North Platte Community College facilities master plan to include replacement structures for Technical (North) Campus. (2004-2006)
- Develop partnerships with community agencies and seek funding for constructing facilities according to NPCC Facilities Master Plan. (2005-2006)

**Funding:** $12,000,000 (Includes estimated costs with a projected completion date of 2008-2009).

### MPCC Comprehensive Plan at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority 1 Teaching and Learning</th>
<th>P1A 2003-2006</th>
<th>Assessment of Student Performance</th>
<th>Regular Operating Budget $100,000</th>
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<td>Priority 2 Students/Student Support</td>
<td>P1B 2005-2006</td>
<td>New Instructional Programs</td>
<td>$150,000 Each Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 3 Governance</td>
<td>P1C 2004-2006</td>
<td>Reconfigure Programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 4 Collaboration and Unity</td>
<td>P2A 2003-2006</td>
<td>Recruiting Students</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 5 Accreditation</td>
<td>P2B 2003-2006</td>
<td>Retaining Students</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 6 Finance</td>
<td>P2C 2004-2006</td>
<td>Remembering Students</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 7 Technology</td>
<td>P2D 2004-2006</td>
<td>ADA and Safety</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 8 Outreach and Partnerships</td>
<td>P3A 2003-2006</td>
<td>Governance Improvements</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority 9 Facilities</td>
<td>P3B 2004-2006</td>
<td>Policy Governance</td>
<td>Regular Operating Budget</td>
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<td>Priority 10 Collaboration and Unity</td>
<td>P4A 2004-2005</td>
<td>Strengthen Area Concept</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
</tr>
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<td>Priority 11 Accreditation</td>
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<td>Priority 12 Finance</td>
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<td>Priority 16 Technology</td>
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<td>Technology System Infrastructure</td>
<td>Regular Operating Budget</td>
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<td>Priority 17 Research</td>
<td>P7A1 2003-2006</td>
<td>PC Upgrade Plan</td>
<td>$225,000 each year</td>
</tr>
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<td>Priority 18 Outreach and Partnerships</td>
<td>P7A2 2003-2004</td>
<td>Move to Windows 2000</td>
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<td>Priority 19 Facilities</td>
<td>P7A3 2003-2005</td>
<td>Continuous Communication System for College Cabinet</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 20 Technology</td>
<td>P7A4 2003-2006</td>
<td>Web Registration and Support System</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 21 Research</td>
<td>P7A5 2003-2005</td>
<td>Update Tech Support System</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
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<td>Priority 22 Outreach and Partnerships</td>
<td>P8A 2003-2006</td>
<td>Develop Centers for Advanced Studies</td>
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<td>Priority 23 Facilities</td>
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<td>Priority 24 Research</td>
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<td>Priority 25 Outreach and Partnerships</td>
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<td>Priority 26 Facilities</td>
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<td>President’s Advisory Councils</td>
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<td>Strengthen Dual Enrollments with High Schools</td>
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<td>Priority 28 Outreach and Partnerships</td>
<td>P9A 2003-2006</td>
<td>Develop Facility and System Infrastructure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority 29 Facilities</td>
<td>P9A1 2003-2005</td>
<td>Facilities Improvement Plans</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 30 Research</td>
<td>P9A2 2003-2005</td>
<td>Appraise and Market NPCC Technical Campus</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priority 31 Outreach and Partnerships</td>
<td>P9A3 2005-2006</td>
<td>Consolidate NPCC Campus Locations</td>
<td>$12,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
McCook Community College, founded in 1926 as McCook Junior College, was the first two-year institution in Nebraska. The college was organized as part of the McCook Public School system. The Superintendent of the McCook Public Schools, J.A. True, served as the college president, and there were eight faculty members. The position of the Dean of the College was created at that time for a liaison office between the College and the Superintendent’s Office. Registration was held on September 6, 1926, with classes meeting on the second floor of the YMCA building. The first graduating class, in 1928, consisted of 25 students.

In September 1935, McCook Junior College moved from the YMCA building to Cecil McMillen Memorial Hall. In September 1939, McCook Junior College opened another new facility, an auditorium-gymnasium-classroom complex, later named True Hall after J.A. True.

In 1967, McCook Public School Board District No. 17 approved independent administration for McCook Junior College and appointed A.W. Kuper as president. In the spring of 1971, McCook Junior College was separated from the McCook Public Schools and became a political subdivision, thus acquiring its own school board and the authority to tax.

North Platte’s college history began in the 1950’s with an attempt to establish a University of Nebraska branch campus. That idea, encouraged by the University at the time, dead-ended when a legal opinion stated the University was not authorized to establish branch campuses. On July 3, 1964, the federal government transferred title to the former Post Office/Federal Building at Fifth and Jeffers to the Junior College District. North Platte Junior College was now more than just a name.

At the same time the Junior College was getting started, North Platte leaders were pushing for a “trade school” also called a vocational-technical school. The North Platte Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce spearheaded a campaign to locate a school in North Platte. The first building on the new Mid-Plains Voc-Tech campus was dedicated May 16, 1971.

In 1972, it was announced that the late Janet McDonald had left a major portion of her estate to the district for the construction of an academic college building and named after her McDonald and Belton families. First use of the partially completed McDonald-Belton building was in December 1974 and was formally dedicated on February 23, 1975.

In 1971, the Legislature began development on a plan to merge the vocational-technical schools and junior colleges. In July 1973, the Legislature approved LB 759—the legislation that connected every county in the state to one of six community college areas.

At that time, McCook Junior College was renamed McCook Community College and also merged North Platte Junior College with the Mid-Plains Vocational Technical College. The legislative action also brought McCook Community College and newly formed Mid-Plains Community College together to become the Mid-Plains Community College Area.

In recent years, Mid-Plains Community College has evolved into defining the McCook Campus and McCook Community College and the former Voc-Tech Campus as the North Campus and McDonald-Belton Campus as the South Campus of North Platte Community College. The College has also begun establishing extended campus facilities in Broken Bow, Ogallala, Valentine, and Imperial.

Collaboration has become the key to the future. Today, the three campuses work together through integrated student services and business systems, an Area-wide academic/vocational division structure and collective marketing and recruitment efforts. By embracing the new distance learning technology, the Area institution is now able to span its educational opportunities over the entire 180-mile north-south service area.

Bellevue University and Chadron State College has also deepened relationships with Mid-Plains Community College campuses by expanding bachelorate, graduate degree offerings and by establishing offices in McCook and North Platte which allows students the opportunity for the completion of bachelor’s degrees earned by off-campus students taking classes via distance learning.

Historically, the institution has been dedicated to meeting the educational needs of its Area residents. Mid-Plains Community College is pledged to continue to follow its mission of providing “educational opportunities for lifelong student learning” to those living in the West-central and Southwest portion of Nebraska.

*This story includes excerpts from several stories written by Keith Blackledge in a North Platte Telegraph supplement, Millennium—A North Platte Album