Title III Newsletter

Fall Semester Begins

The fall semester at GCCC has begun! New student orientation took place on August 12th with over four-hundred students that participated during the in-person session. Students received a free t-shirt and back-pack filled with goodies. The students then went into the gym and started orientation off right with our own Zach Towle on the mic explaining what was in store for them for the day. Following the welcome opening, students were able to choose from four different sessions to attend that included intro to canvas, intro to self-service, campus tours, intro to financial aid and campus jobs, and a parent session.

During the sessions, there were clubs and local organizations spread throughout the quad giving out freebies and college advice. Once the sessions wrapped up, students were provided with dinner and the parking lot party followed. Students who attended the parking lot party had a chance to win some great prizes including tv’s, air pods, backpacks, and more! Classes started on August 15th and it’s great to see all Busters back on campus, working hard on their degrees. Have a great semester, Busters!

Upcoming Events

GCCC Men & Women’s Soccer @ Trinidad State College
September 14th
1:00 p.m.

GCCC Women’s Volleyball @ Butler CC
September 14th
6:00 p.m.

GCCC Women’s Volleyball vs. McCook CC
September 16th
6:00 p.m.

Questions & Concerns
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Campus Highlights
The Science Thrills program has started once again this fall semester. Science Thrills is a program developed from the math and science faculty to provide students an opportunity to learn from industry leaders in STEM and related fields. These occur once a month with speakers locally and from various states presenting on a topic of their choice. September’s Science Thrill speaker was Dr. Ahmed El-Gendy from the University of Texas at El-Paso presenting on Magnetic Nanoparticles. Be sure to keep a look out on future Science Thrills announcements!

Construction Update
The STEM Central project monitoring team met with Dick Construction on August 19th for their monthly construction meeting to discuss the progress of the STEM Success Center; an addition to the north side of the current FOUSE building. The project is progressing well with sewer, water, electrical, and gas having been installed. Framing should begin in the next month and a half. There are posters and canvas pictures displayed around campus showing what the finished building will look like if anyone is interested in seeing the finished product. We appreciate all faculty, staff, and students who have been extremely flexible, patient, and understanding throughout this process. We will continue to send out updates from the newsletters and BusterMail as we continue through construction.
Faculty Highlights
Now that you’ve met the Title III Staff, we would like to highlight the STEM faculty on campus!

Yuriy Drubinskiy
Robotics Instructor
I grew up in the northern suburbs of Chicago and graduated from Northern Michigan University. My first degree was in economics with a minor in journalism, but teaching led me to pursue a second degree in math education. I taught math, engineering, and robotics at Garden High School for 10 years before transitioning here to GCCC.

Ron Carlson
Computer Science Instructor
I enjoyed growing up on a farm in eastern South Dakota. I received degrees in music from South Dakota State University, computer science from the University of Iowa, and physics from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. I enjoy music and have performed at hundreds of events with professional musicians. I started my career as a programmer for AT&T in Kansas City and later retired from IBM as senior manager in software development.

Nicole Dick
Division Leader for Math & Science
Math Instructor
I have been a faculty member of GCCC since Fall of 2011 and earned my Master of Science in Statistics at K-State in 2008. I’ve always enjoyed mathematics and found that teaching it made it even more enjoyable. I also enjoy spending time with my family, being a part of the Garden City community, crocheting, and playing hockey.
STEM Global News

Risk of Volcano Catastrophe ‘a Roll of the Dice’

The world is “woefully underprepared” for a massive volcanic eruption and the likely repercussions on global supply chains, climate, and food, according to experts from the University of Cambridge’s Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (CSER), and the University of Birmingham. Researchers are arguing that steps can be taken to protect against volcanic devastation – from improved surveillance to increased public education and magma manipulation – and the resources needed to do so are long overdue. Read more about this article here: https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/08/220818164041.htm

Go with the Flow: New Findings About Moving Electricity Could Improve Fusion Devices

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) have found that updating a mathematical model to include a physical property known as resistivity could lead to the improved design of doughnut-shaped fusion facilities know as tokamaks. “Resistivity is the property of any substance that inhibits the flow of electricity,” said PPPL physicist Nathaniel Ferraro. “It’s kind of like the viscosity of a fluid, which inhibits things moving through it. For example, a stone will move more slowly through molasses than water, and more slowly through water than air.” Read more about this article here: https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/07/220719161905.htm

Be watching for our winter edition of the Title III Newsletter!