

WNC Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 23, 2026

Western Nevada College, Dini 201, WNC Library
2201 West College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89703
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Board Chair:	Michelle Ketten (present)
Board Vice Chair:	Richard Kohler (present)
Board Finance Chair:	Scott Fields (present)
Board Members Present:	Anthony Dowling, Amber Kellner, Kevin Maillet, Matt Hock (online), Lupe Ramirez, Tyler Smith (online), Cliff Sorensen, Brook Sweeting, Rochelle Tisdale, Stacy Woodbury, Melissa Harlow
Board Members Absent:	Sean Davison, Barbara D'Anne, Maria Denzler, Ronele Dotson, Sandy Foley, Michelle Hale, Miranda Hoover, Amanda Jacobson, Nick Rowe
Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members Present:	Coral Lopez, Vice President of Finance and Administration; Niki Gladys, Chief Advancement Officer and WNCF Executive Director
NSHE Regent Present:	Carol Del Carlo
WNC Staff and Other Present:	Jeff Bonano, Rebecca Gates, Tracy Mendibles, Mirjana Gavric, Elizabeth Bennett-Doran, Beth Patrick
Public Members Present:	None

I. Introductions and Welcome

Chair Michelle Ketten called the meeting to order at approximately 8:12 a.m. and welcomed board members, staff, and guests. A quorum was present.

Chair Ketten extended a special welcome to Dr. Rebecca Gates, who will serve as Interim Liberal Arts and Sciences Director for Western Nevada College. Attendees introduced themselves for Dr. Gates' benefit.

Chair Ketten also circulated sign-up sheets for upcoming community and college events and asked board members to complete the annual NSHE volunteer form waiver.

II. Public Comment

No public comment was presented.

III. Consent Items

Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes: Chair Ketten called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2026, Board meeting. Stacy Woodbury moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Richard Kohler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IV. Finance Committee Update

Finance Committee Chair Scott Fields provided an overview of the Foundation's financial activity for the quarter ending March 31, 2026. He reported that the Foundation's financial position remains strong, with total assets increasing approximately \$1.5 million compared with the prior year. The Foundation's investment portfolio grew

to approximately \$10.4 million, representing a 21% increase over the previous year and continuing to generate income that supports scholarships, endowments, capital projects, and other Foundation priorities. Mr. Fields also reviewed the statement of activities, noting increased restricted activity related to scholarships and capital projects, continued positive fundraising results, and net income of approximately \$315,000 through the third quarter. The Finance Committee also discussed evaluating endowment management software to enhance the tracking and reporting of endowed funds and donor gifts. Ms. Gladys noted that the Foundation contributed \$242,000 toward the Reynolds Building renovation project.

V. State of the College

Vice President of Finance and Administration Ms. Coral Lopez and Chief Advancement Officer and WNC Foundation Executive Director Ms. Niki Gladys provided the State of the College update on behalf of President Kyle Dalpe.

Ms. Lopez reviewed enrollment trends, legislative and capital priorities, strategic planning efforts, and several major campus projects, including the Fallon and Douglas nursing expansions, Reynolds Building renovations, and campus deferred maintenance initiatives. Ms. Lopez also discussed the importance of state funding priorities, including support for the small institution factor and deferred maintenance funding.

Ms. Gladys provided updates on additional initiatives, including the ROADS workforce development program, upcoming commencement ceremonies, and the College's "Never Too Late" marketing campaign promoting workforce education and adult learners.

VI. Nevada System of Higher Education Update

NSHE Regent Carol Del Carlo provided an update on systemwide priorities and initiatives affecting Nevada's institutions of higher education. She discussed recent Board of Regents and leadership updates, legislative priorities, including support for the small institution funding factor and deferred maintenance, and ongoing strategic planning efforts across NSHE. Regent Del Carlo also highlighted the importance of workforce education, community colleges, and expanding access to higher education throughout the state. She concluded by recognizing WNC student Alyssa Ayers as the recipient of the Regents' Outstanding Student Scholarship and shared updates on systemwide initiatives related to co-requisite learning and credit for prior learning.

VII. WNCF Strategic Plan Review

Ms. Gladys reviewed updates to the WNC Foundation Strategic Plan based on feedback received during the Board's January retreat. She outlined the Foundation's strategic priorities of expanding scholarship support, strengthening community engagement, cultivating donor relationships, and enhancing board development. Discussion included the formation of a Scholarship Committee to help advance the Foundation's goal of awarding more than \$1 million in scholarships annually by 2028 through increased outreach and donor engagement. Board members were encouraged to participate in community events, invite prospective donors to Foundation activities, and continue supporting the Foundation through committee service and fundraising efforts. Ms. Gladys also shared plans to strengthen board recruitment by addressing geographic and industry representation.

VIII. WNCF Scholarship Update

Development Coordinator **Ms. Elizabeth Bennett-Doran** provided an update on the Foundation's scholarship program, reporting that FY2026 scholarship awards exceeded the Foundation's goal, with more than \$919,000 awarded to students. She also reviewed the FY2027 scholarship application process and encouraged board members to continue supporting the program by serving as scholarship readers and assisting with donor stewardship. Ms. Gladys commended Ms. Bennett-Doran for her leadership and dedication in advancing one of the Foundation's primary strategic priorities.

IX. FY26 Events & Fundraisers

Chair Michelle Ketten and Ms. Gladys provided updates on recent and upcoming Foundation events and highlighted opportunities for board member engagement. Recent successes included the Tahoe Knight Monsters fundraiser, which generated unrestricted support and increased community visibility for WNC, and the Metcalf Builders Charity Clay Shoot, which raised \$30,000 to benefit the construction management program. Ms. Gladys also shared updates on upcoming events, including the May donor appreciation reception, commencement ceremonies, Reach for the Stars: *Moonlight Masquerade*, Golf for Education, and the Mainstreet Gardnerville Wine Walk. She reported that sponsorships and commitments for the gala are ahead of last year's pace and encouraged board members to continue supporting fundraising efforts by inviting prospective donors, securing sponsorships and auction items, attending Foundation events, and identifying new community and business connections. Sponsorship and donation materials were distributed to assist board members with outreach efforts.

X. New Business

No additional business was introduced.

XI. Public Comment

No public comment was presented.

XII. Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Ketten adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:21 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. in Dini 201, WNC Library.