

**WNC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Thursday, July 27, 2023**

**Bristlecone 145**

**Board Members Present:** Tina Picetti Scott Fields

Rick Kohler Amanda Jacobson

Christie Asis Maria Denzler Brook Sweeting Stacy Woodbury Nick Rowe Michelle Ketten

Sandy Foley Miranda Hoover

Lupe Ramirez Bryce Clutts

Tyler Smith Barbara D’Anneo

**WNC Staff Present:** Niki Gladys Dr. Dana Ryan

Coral Lopez Carol McIntosh

Kristen Lindner Rachael Schneider

**Board Members Absent:** Rochelle Tisdale Sean Davison

Jeff Brigger Ronelle Dotson

**Proposed Board Members:**

**Guests:**

**Public Members Present**: N/A

1. **Introductions and Welcome**WNC Foundation Chair, Ms. Tina Picetti called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.
2. **Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

1. **April 2023 Board Minutes Approval**

Ms. Picetti presented the April 27, 2023 Western Nevada College (WNC) Foundation Board Meeting Minutes. Amanda Jacobson motioned to approve, Rick Kohler seconded and all were in favor. The minutes were approved as presented.

1. **WNC Foundation Board Memberships**

Ms. Picetti introduced Ms. Lupe Ramirez and Mr. Bryce Clutts as new Board Members of the Western Nevada College Foundation Board. Ms. Ramirez shared she worked for WNC for 30 years and is currently serving as a member of the school board. Mr. Bryce Clutts is the President and CEO Metcalf Builders, Inc. He loves what Western Nevada College is doing and wants to support them every way they can.

Ms. Gladys honored Board Members, Kathy Halbardier and Darcy Houghton, who retired on June 30, 2023. Ms. Halbardier has been on the WNC Foundation Board since the beginning and will continue to serve as a friend of WNC. Ms. Houghton has been a Board Member since 2010 and a significant contributor throughout her service.

1. **College Updates, Initiatives and Goals**

Executive Director, Advancement, Niki Gladys provided an update of the State of the College on behalf of WNC President, Dr. Kyle Dalpe.

* President Dalpe is in Spain learning Spanish in an immersion program!
* Legislative session ended and funding has been restored – thanks to Dr. Dalpe’s persistent work within the legislature.
* State employees were approved for an across the board 12% salary increase. Salaries have been fairly stagnant for the past few years and this was a much-needed move to retain employees and keep up given the cost of living increase brought on by inflation. However, this puts financial pressure on the college as the cost of salaries is the college’s largest expense.
* WNC’s nursing program is growing thanks to the efforts of our nursing director, nursing staff and VP Dana Ryan, we have the largest nursing class we’ve ever had at 60 students. Plans to further increase is underway in both Fallon and Douglas campuses.
* Senator Rosen recently visited the Fallon campus. She was instrumental in securing a $2.3 million appropriation that will fund the nursing expansion in Fallon. While she was there, we also shared our progress on the CDL program following the $700k investment made from another appropriation that was secured through her office. The visit was spotlighted on Channel 8.
* The CDL program continues to grow and expand. Lauren Slemenda, Continuing Education Coordinator, has hired 3 instructors, secured three trucks and trailers and continues to put new processes in place to make sure that students succeed. As a result, student success rates have increased to over 90%. She is currently working with Tesla to train their employees next week.
* Improvements to the Child Development Center are underway! We are still seeking donations to add a toddler playground and a student garden.
* DETR approved a $900k grant to train childcare workers through WNC. The program will be part of the WCTE division.
* Travis Carr has joined WNC as the Workforce Career and Technical Education Director. We will invite him to the next meeting to introduce himself.
* The ROADS program which is part of the Advancement team was approved for an additional $1M over the next four years. The funding is from a different source and does not include housing or childcare – so, we will be seeking donations for items like that, which are not covered by the grant. However, these have not been predominant needs from the students. Tuition, soft skills training and equipment have been of greater need.
* Our website continues to develop thanks to Rachael Schneider. A college catalog will be added and live as of August 1, 2023t.
* Lastly, plans are underway to turn the former bookstore into a “Career Center” where students and employers can connect and students can learn about career opportunities & employers can find potential employees.
* As the gala approaches and we know many of you will be in attendance, the biggest take-aways are that WNC is proactively supporting workforce development. Needs of the college are all around WFD and include – CDC, Career Center and funding for the ROADS program to cover items not included in the DETR grant.
* Lastly, the executive committee from the college would like to thank the Board for all you do for the college and most recently all you are doing to make the Gala a success – not only from a fundraising perspective but also for community relations.

1. **WNC Enrollment and Count Year Update**

Dr. Dana Ryan provided an overview of the WNC’s Enrollment.

* The year is a count year which dictates funding in the next legislative session in two years. Enrollment is up 11% YOY and is returning to 2019 numbers and behavior. Workforce Career and Technical Education is up 14.5% from this time last year.
* WNC is focused on Workforce Career and Technical and Education. These particular areas have a lot of funding areas to support their education.
* WNC is working to provide credit for prior work experience.
* The formula funding is four times a Liberal Arts Credit. This means each student enrolled in the Workforce Career and Technical Education programs count as four students.
* WCTE Director, Travis Carr, has been calling enrolled students to encourage them to apply for funding to support their education at WNC.
* Dual Enrollment needs to grow strategically. Currently it is very dependent upon the Principal of each school and the Superintendent of the School District. Success is dependent upon these individuals being a proponent of Dual Enrollment.
* Integrated Education and Training Programs. Nevada Works has a grant for $14.1 million with a focus on adult education, low literacy rates and language barriers. WNC is hiring for a role to manage training of unskilled laborers working beside skilled workers to learn a trade.
* The 12% wage increases helped to recruit high quality candidates for open teaching positions.
* Handshake is a platform that connects employers and employees. This platform will be added to the Career and Employment Center. WNC hiring for the position, Employer Relations.

1. **Finance Committee Update**

Mr. Scott Fields reported the FY2023 year-end figures. The Balance Sheet demonstrates a 40% growth YOY. This growth is due, in large part to a $1.25 million dollar endowment gift, revenue from the return of the Reach for the Stars Gala and investment income.

Net Income on the Profit and Loss Statement reflects an increase of $221,944 YOY.

The WNC Foundation has been in existence since 1992. Looking at cash and investment numbers since 2003, the WNC Foundation’s resources have increased 266% FY2003 and FY2023.

Investment income grew year over year. The WNC Foundation’s Finance Committee has a mandate to earn $225,000 in dividends and interest income annually for scholarship income and this was exceeded this year. Last year 690 scholarships were awarded to 431 students in the amount of $827,704.

The Finance Committee is updating and modernizing the Investment Policy. The Finance Committee has adopted a prudent and conservative investment strategy.

The FY2023 financials will be reviewed by David Schaper, CPA, Barnard Vogler.

1. **20th Anniversary of the Jack C. Davis Observatory**

Ms. Gladys presented that promoting STEM education is a key marketing strategy for WNC. A PBS video has been created on STEM education at WNC. Senator Jackie Rosen’s Office recognized WNC Professor, Dr. Smriti Bhattarai through a social media campaign.

Ms. Denzler provided a summary of the events held in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Jack C. Davis Observatory. Ms. Denzler shared that the Nevada Appeal will be publishing an article on the history of the Jack C. Davis Observatory. She shared the commemorative coins commissioned to honor the 20th Anniversary are available for purchase. They are $100 each.

1. **2023 Event Update**

Ms. Amanda Jacobson, Chair of the Reach for the Stars Gala, presented an update on the gala. The theme will be Roaring 20s, inspired by the 20th anniversary of the Observatory. There are three remaining tables available for purchase. The profit margin is 30%. Ms. Jacobson acknowledged every Board Member has contributed to the success of this year’s event.

Ms. Gladys announced that the Golf Tournament will be held September 29, 2023. Ms. McIntosh encouraged Board Members to purchase their teams early because this year’s event will be sure to sell out. There has already been a significant commitment for this year’s tournament.

Ms. McIntosh shared that the ROADS program will be holding a Career Fair on September 13, 2023. Board Members and event sponsors will have the first opportunity to sign up for a table. There will be forty tables available. High school students and current WNC students will be invited to participate. The event will be held the same week as the Welcome Back to School Event sponsored by the Associated Students of Western Nevada (ASWN). Lunch will be provided to employers and students. Employers will be invited to tour the Career Hub after the Career Fair.

Ms. Gladys presented Tasteful Thursday will be hosted by Rochelle Tisdale, WNC Foundation Board Member and Principal of Oasis Academy, and Jessica Rowe, Fallon Director, in Fallon. These events will be held quarterly.

1. **Grant Update**

Ms. Gladys presented the WNC Foundation Grant update. The Advancement Team is in the process of hiring a grant writer. There is significant activity despite the vacant role.

* A $100,000 grant from the Lumina Foundation was awarded in FY 2023. The purpose of the grant is to engage students digitally. The grant includes updating all of the television monitors on campus, live streaming equipment for the WNC website for things such as e-sports and graduation, and a digitally led and interactive student tour.
* A $50,000 grant that is funded by Mark IV and the purpose of the grant is to employ and employee in the Career Hub.
* The Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) grant is a federal grant for five years for $3 million dollars. This is a game-changing grant that awards $600k per year for five years. This grant includes $100kto be invested in the WNC Foundation endowment with a matching campaign. A decision should be rendered by September 2023.
* The William N. Pennington Foundation provides $250k in scholarships for courses in the Workforce Career and Technical Education programs. This grant has been reduced by $50,000 this year. The William N. Pennington Foundation provides $285k in scholarships for courses in the Nursing program.This equates to $9,500 over four semesters to 30 first year Nursing Students.
* A $10,000 grant has been awarded for the ROADS program from Bank of America.
* A $2,500 grant has been awarded for the ROADS grant from Nevada State Bank.
* The fundraising priorities for the WNC Foundation for the next year are centered around workforce development and include the ROADS program, the Child Development Center and the new Career Center.

1. **Scholarship Update**

Ms. Kristen Lindner, Development Coordinator, shared 631 scholarships were awarded to 490 students. 672 students completed the WNC Foundation Scholarship application for the 2023-2024 academic year. 50% of WNC Foundation scholarships have been awarded and scholarship awarding will be completed by the start of the fall semester.

1. **FY2024 Proposed Board Meeting Dates**

* October 26, 2023 – Board Retreat
* January 25, 2024
* April 25, 2024
* July 25, 2024

Michelle Ketten motioned to approve, Barbara D’Anneo seconded. The motion was approved as presented.

1. **Foundation Member Reports**

Ms. Gladys discussed the purpose of the Foundation Board Member Reports in providing feedback on the valuable contributions each board member has made to the WNC Foundation for FY 2023. Each Board Member is valued and appreciated for all that they do for WNC and the WNC Foundation and these contributions are recognized within each member’s individual report. The average Board Member contribution is $9,200 for FY 2023.

Ms. McIntosh requested every Board Member complete and turn in the 2024 Nevada System of Higher Education Volunteer Form, the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Board of Regents Disclosure.

1. **New Business**

There was no new business.

1. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

1. **Adjourn Meeting**

Ms. Picetti adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

The next WNC Foundation Board meeting is October 26, 2023 at 8:00 am.