



WNC Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 24, 2025

WNC Aspen Building, The Link

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Michelle Ketten	Michelle Hale
Richard Kohler	Amber Kellner
Scott Fields	Kevin Maillet
Christie Asis	Matt Hock
Bryce Clutts	Miranda Hoover
Sean Davison	Lupe Ramirez
Maria Denzler	Nick Rowe
Sandy Foley	Cliff Sorensen
Melissa Harlow	Brook Sweeting

WNC Staff Present:

Kyle Dalpe	Niki Gladys
Coral Lopez	Shareena Kaloti
Mirjana Gavric	Elizabeth Bennette-Doran
Jeff Bonano	Melody Duley

Board Members Absent:

Anthony Dowling	Amanda Jacobson
Barbara D'Anneo	Tyler Smith
Ronele Dotson	Stacy Woodbury
Rochelle Tisdale	

Guests/Public Present:

N/A

I. Welcome

Board Chair Michelle Ketten called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. She welcomed trustees, staff, and guests. Chair Ketten expressed appreciation to outgoing board member and former chair Tina Holland Picetti for her years of service and leadership on the Board. She also introduced Shareena Kaloti, recently hired as Workforce Development Liaison, who will be working closely with the Foundation to support employer partnerships and the ROADS program.

II. Public Comment

Chair Ketten asked if there were any public comments. No comments were offered.

III. Consent Items

- a. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the April 17, 2025, quarterly meeting were presented. Vice Chair, Rick Kohler moved to approve; Board Member Sean Davison seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



- b. FY2026 Board Meeting Dates – Board members reviewed the proposed quarterly meeting schedule for FY2026. Mr. Kohler moved to approve the dates; Ms. Sandy Foley seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Finance Committee Update

Finance Chair Scott Fields provided a detailed report on the Foundation's financial position. He noted the following:

- FY2025 ended with total assets of \$10.8 million, reflecting a 13.2% year-over-year increase. Investments managed by Washoe Wealth Advisors totaled \$8.7 million, while unexpended contributions for scholarships and programs stood at \$2.3 million.
- Endowment contributions reached \$7.6 million.
- Net income for FY2025 is a 19.7% increase over FY2024.
- Mr. Fields highlighted strong portfolio performance, diversification of holdings, and the Foundation's ability to generate consistent annual income from investments.

Discussion emphasized the importance of building unrestricted reserves to address potential future funding challenges. This is one of the Foundation's strategic goals and a major reason for holding fundraising events such as the upcoming Reach for the Stars Gala.

V. State of the College

President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe provided the State of the College update.

- He reported a 20% increase in enrollment across all campuses over the past two years, noting strong growth in workforce-related programs.
- Dr. Dalpe discussed outcomes from the recent accreditation review, where WNC was commended for student support and academic quality and received recommendations related to assessment and long-term financial planning.
- Dr. Dalpe spoke on state funding challenges for rural community colleges and ongoing efforts to advocate for a revised funding formula that more accurately reflects WNC's needs.
- Dr. Dalpe emphasized upcoming partnerships with regional employers and expansion of pathways in nursing, construction, and advanced manufacturing.

VI. Reach for the Stars Gala 2025

Event Chair Brook Sweeting and Chief Advancement Officer Niki Gladys updated the board on the August 2nd Gala.

- Ms. Gladys reported that ticket sales had surpassed \$100,000 prior to the event, setting a new record for pre-event fundraising.
- Sponsorships were strong, and auction donations included travel packages, unique local experiences, and arts events.
- Entertainment for the evening will feature the 'Fire and Ice' theme, including fire dancers and an ice sculpture centerpiece.



- Ms. Gladys encouraged board members to continue assisting with auction items and sponsorship outreach, and she stressed the importance of board member attendance to demonstrate commitment to donors and the community.
- Development Coordinator, Ms. Elizabeth Bennett-Doran gave a detailed description of the Live Auction items and discussed the Silent Auction items for the RFTS Gala. She emphasized the importance of bidding and answered general questions regarding certain items.

VII. WNC Foundation Scholarship Update

Ms. Bennett-Doran reported that over 400 scholarship applications were received for the 2025–2026 academic year. Awards are being finalized. Ms. Bennett-Doran emphasized the importance of donor-funded endowed scholarships, which continue to provide long-term stability. She also described targeted outreach efforts, including workshops, direct communication with students, and collaborations with faculty to encourage applications.

VIII. WNC Foundation Event Update

Ms. Gladys provided updates on upcoming Foundation events:

- Golf for Education – Friday, September 26, 2025, at Toiyabe Golf Club. Sponsorships and player registrations are underway, and raffle prize donations are needed. The event remains a significant annual fundraiser for scholarships that support workforce development programs.
- Donor Appreciation Event – Friday, November 7, 2025, in conjunction with the Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company's production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. The event is expected to attract strong attendance and provide a meaningful opportunity for donor engagement.

IX. New Business

No new business items were introduced. Trustees discussed potential opportunities for future board development and strategic planning, but no formal action was taken.

X. Public Comment

No public comment was offered. Chair Ketten thanked all trustees and staff for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. Location to be determined.