



Western Nevada College

F O U N D A T I O N

WNC Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 31, 2025
The Studio @ Adams Hub
111 W. Proctor St. Carson City, NV 89701
8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Michelle Ketten, Chair	Ronele Dotson
Richard Kohler, Vice Chair	Anthony Dowling
Scott Fields, Secretary/Treasurer	Sandy Foley
Michelle Hale	Bryce Clutts
Kevin Maillett	Stacy Woodbury
Sean Davison	Matt Hock
Barbara D'Anne	Miranda Hoover
Nick Rowe	Tyler Smith
Rochelle Tisdale	

WNC Staff Present:

Niki Gladys	Kyle Dalpe
Dr. Dana Ryan	Melody Duley
Mirjana Gavric	Elizabeth Bennett-Doran
Kara Spracklin	

Board Members Absent:

Tina Pacetti	Brook Sweeting
Christie Asis	Maria Denzler
Amanda Jacobson	
Lupe Ramirez	

Proposed Board Members:

Cliff Sorensen	Amber Kellner
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Guests:

ROADS Student
Geannie McGrath

Public Members Present:

N/A

WNC Foundation Chair, Mrs. Michelle Ketten called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

B. Approval of Board Minutes

Mrs. Ketten presented the October 24, 2025 Western Nevada College Foundation (WNCF) Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bryce Clutts motioned to approve, Mr. Sean Davison seconded and all were in favor. The minutes were approved as presented.

C. Approval of New WNC Foundation Board Members

Mr. Cliff Sorensen and Mrs. Amber Kellner introduced themselves and stated why they were interested in joining the WNCF board. Mr. Ketten called for an approval. Mrs. Stacy Woodbury motioned to approve, Mrs. Barbara D'Anne seconded and all were in favor. The new board members were approved and welcomed.

D. State of the College

Niki Gladys and Dr. Dana Ryan presented the WNC State of the College address in place of President Kyle Dalpe. The following updates on the goals, priorities, and accomplishments of WNC were discussed.

- Average age of students: 23 years old. The largest demographic are students under 18 years old who are in dual enrollment high school students.
- Currently WNC has a job placement rate of 92%; 71% part time students and 29% full time students
- New major topics of discussion included:
 - The new federal administration and what kind of impact it will make for future decisions
 - State Legislative Session
 - Accreditation timeline approaching
- New Programs
 - Culinary
 - BSN
 - Fallon Nursing
 - Douglas Nursing
- New mental health initiative
 - A grant from Carson City was received and the BetterMynd free teletherapy was launched. The schedule filled up immediately, the plan is to have even more availability for fall.
- New Infrastructure and Operations
 - Safety – blue lights were put in the parking lot and locks were updated campus wide
 - AI task force
 - Email change – switching over from Google to Microsoft campus wide
 - Bathroom upgrades – planned construction to begin at the end of the semester
- The Link: Community, Career and Employer Center
 - Soft opening has already happened, full launch coming in the next couple of months.

E. WNC Rural Nursing Expansion

Ms. Niki Gladys discussed the grant opportunities for the Fallon and Douglas campuses.

- Fallon Building Renovation: HRSA Grant of \$2.35M, William N. Pennington Foundation Grant of \$1M and El Cord Grand of \$30K
- Douglas Building Renovation: HRSA Grant of \$4.35M
- These renovations will improve the ability to deliver other Allied Health programs
 - Nursing
 - CNA
 - Phlebotomy
 -

F. WNC Foundation FY24

Ms. Gladys discussed the success and improvement of the WNC Foundation

- Total Foundation assets: \$9,524,909
- Total funding provided to the college from the Foundation: \$1,359,125
- Over 500 Awards worth \$814,643
- Event Revenue increased YOY by 30%
- WNC Foundation total assets increased YOY by 25%

G. Finance Committee Update

Mr. Scott Fields, Board Treasurer, noted that there are some differences in the 2023 end of year reports vs. the 2024 end of year reports. Mrs. Gladys made the Western Nevada College (WNC) Finance Committee aware that there is now \$300,000 to spend for the Pennington Scholarship, as opposed to last years \$250,000. Mr. Fields noted that the balance sheets looked good. Mr. Fields discussed the investment reporting from Mr. Jim Lewis from Washoe Wealth advisors. Mr. Fields shared Mr. Lewis' statement that due to the new administration in the White House the market will be fluctuating until the transition of power has stabilized. The bond market is up since the Fed cut half point in September, and is actually up over about 1.12%. Any increase in spending needs to be met with an offset in revenues or cuts elsewhere. Mr. Scott Fields stated that the IPS was completed and that after many months of review that the document was approved.

H. WNC Foundation Scholarship Update

Ms. Elizabeth Bennett-Doran provided an update on the new WNC Foundation scholarship awards YTD for FY25.

- New Endowments:
 - Minden RV & Boat Storage LLC
 - Geology Scholarship
- New Scholarships:
 - Gabriel Miller Native American Scholarship
 - Single Parent Scholarship
 - Charles Pettycrew Education Scholarship
 - Bus Scharmann Scholarship

I. ROADS Program

Ms. Kara Spracklin provided an overview of the workforce development program, Realizing the Opportunity for the American Dream to Succeed (ROADS).

- Kara stated that the goal for 2025-2026 had been met with 85 participants; in addition, she stated that the overall impact for WNC students has been extremely positive.
- ROADS Student Ms. Geannie McGrath discussed the impact the program has made in her life, she shared her personal journey and hardships, as well as how the ROADS program has changed her life.

J. WNC Foundation Bylaws

Ms. Niki Gladys explained that the current WNCF Bylaws have not been updated for many years and that she is in the process of forming a committee that consists of Board members to review and update the current WNCF Bylaws. She explained that currently Michelle Ketten has volunteered, and that she needed additional members on the committee for the review. Ms. Gladys stated to please contact her if any of the Board members wanted to volunteer.

K. Retreat Workshop: Breakout Sessions

The committee broke up into groups to go over 3 topics of discussion.

- *Discussion Group 1: WNC Foundation Growth*
 - For more than two decades, the WNC Foundation's scholarship program experienced minimal growth, with awards ranging from \$85,000 to \$160,000. However, beginning in 2016, the program saw a surge, expanding to \$815,000 in annual scholarship support this past year—a 409% increase. While this growth has been transformational for students, it has also introduced new challenges in sustaining both fundraising and donor stewardship.
 - Our goal is to increase annual student scholarship support to over \$1,000,000 by 2028
- *Discussion Group 2: 2025 Events/Unrestricted Revenue Growth*
 - Over the past 8 years, our primary source of unrestricted funding has been our events: *Reach for the Stars Gala* and *Golf for Education*. However, many nonprofits report that fundraising events are becoming less sustainable due to declining revenue (this has not been the case with WNCF) and the significant staff time required for planning, management, and execution. Our college president has asked us to consider this as we plan for the coming years. Currently unrestricted revenue sits at \$781,711.
 - Our goal is to build a sustainable fund exceeding \$1,000,000 in unrestricted revenue by 2028 to ensure financial flexibility for college priorities.
- *Discussion Group 3: Endowment Growth*
 - Currently, WNC Foundation holds an investment account totaling \$8.6M, with about \$7M made up of individual endowments.
 - Goal: Grow the Foundation's total investment account from \$8.6M to \$10M by 2028 and increase endowments from \$7M to \$10M by 2030.
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L. New Business

There was no new business.

M. Public Comment

There was no public comment

N. Adjourn Meeting

Mrs. Ketten adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

The next WNC Foundation Board Meeting is
Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.