

## WNC Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 23, 2025  
WNC Aspen Building, The Link  
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

<b>Board Chair:</b>	Michelle Ketten
<b>Board Members Present:</b>	Michelle Ketten, Richard Kohler, Ronele Dotson (remote), Anthony Dowling, Sandy Foley, Michelle Hale, Amber Kellner, Kevin Maillet, Matt Hock, Miranda Hoover, Amanda Jacobson, Lupe Ramirez, Brook Sweeting, Rochelle Tisdale (remote), Stacy Woodbury, Melissa Harlow, Cliff Sorensen, Barb D’Anneo, Kevin Maillet, Stacy Woodbury, Scott Fields, Tyler Smith, Richard Kohler
<b>Board Members Absent:</b>	Christie Asis, Sean Davison, Maria Denzler, Nick Rowe, Kyle Dalpe
<b>WNC Staff Present:</b>	Niki Gladys, Coral Lopez, Melody Duley, Mirjana Gavric, Lauren Slemenda-Moore, Elizabeth Bennett-Doran, Beth Patrick
<b>Guests Present:</b>	Jeff Bonano (Silver Quill Bookkeeping), Jamie Lawson (Barnard Vogler & Co.)
<b>Public Members Present:</b>	None

### **I. Welcome and Announcements**

Chair Michelle Ketten called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. Chair Ketten introduced Beth Patrick, Administrative Assistant III for the Advancement team. Chair Ketten announced the resignation of Board Member Bryce Clutts. The Board expressed appreciation for his service and continued support of Western Nevada College and the Foundation.

### **II. Public Comment**

No public comment was presented.

### **III. Approval of Minutes – July 2025 Board Meeting**

Chair Ketten called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2025 Board meeting. Cliff Sorensen moved to approve the minutes, and Stacy Woodbury seconded. The motion carried. Barbara D’Anneo abstained (not present at the July meeting).

#### **IV. Presentation and Approval of FY25 Audit**

WNC Foundation Executive Director, Niki Gladys introduced Jamie Lawson, CPA of Barnard Vogler & Co and thanked her for her work. Lawson reviewed the audit findings, noting no significant issues and commending the Foundation’s management discussion and analysis section for its clarity and completeness. She also discussed two new GASB standards—GASB 103 and 104—pertaining to budget reporting and disclosures for concentrations and contingencies, which will take effect in the coming fiscal year.

Following the presentation, Chair Michelle Ketten called for questions. Hearing none, Barbara D’Anneo moved to approve the FY25 audit as presented, with a second from Amanda Jacobson. The motion passed unanimously. Lawson was thanked for her work, and the Board expressed appreciation to the Advancement team for their strong fiscal management.

#### **V. Finance Report**

Finance Committee Chair Scott Fields reported that the Foundation’s financial position remains strong. He noted Q1 scholarship disbursements of just over \$200,000 and an additional \$124,000 in program support. Net profit for Q1 increased approximately \$40,000 compared to the same period last year, and revenues exceeded expectations by more than \$300,000. Mr. Fields reported the investment portfolio had grown to approximately \$10 million, with a year-to-date return of 17% (9% the previous year).

#### **VI. State of the College Report**

Vice President of Finance & Administration Coral Lopez and Chief Advancement Officer Niki Gladys provided an update on WNC’s priorities and facilities projects.

- Reynolds Building: Building remediation and renovation project is scheduled to begin construction on November 17, 2025, with a total project cost of \$1.2 million. Approximately \$143,000 has been spent to date on design and architectural services. Project funding includes \$1.5 million in state deferred maintenance and \$240,000 in Foundation endowment funds previously designated by the Reynolds Foundation.
- Fallon HRSA Nursing Grant: This \$3.3 million project has completed the design phase and contractor selection. Construction is expected to begin shortly; with \$182,000 spent to date.
- Douglas HRSA Nursing Expansion: Estimated at \$4.3 million, this project is currently in the design phase.
- Café Renovation: Supported by SB498 with a budget of \$1.5 million, this project is in the early planning stages.

- Observatory Renovation: Supported by SB427 with a budget of \$1.1 million, also in the early planning stages.
- Campus-wide Restroom and Office Upgrades: Improvements are underway in multiple buildings.

Ms. Gladys noted that WNC's nursing program remains top-ranked statewide, producing approximately 60 graduates annually, with expansion projected to increase the number of graduates significantly. She also shared key grant milestones:

- A **\$45,000 Microsoft grant** to support artificial intelligence (AI) training, supporting an overall college initiative to leverage AI.
- A **\$50,000 NV Energy Foundation grant** to fund shade structures for the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program.

Finally, Ms. Lopez noted that progress continues on the planned Fernley expansion, with \$3.4 million in workforce development grants secured toward a new facility at the Victory Logistics District.

## **VII. Fundraising Event Outcomes and Updates**

Ms. Gladys and Event Chair Brook Sweeting presented outcomes and updates for the Foundation's two major fundraisers:

- **Reach for the Stars Gala**: Generated \$210,000 in total income, up from \$178,000 the prior year. Expenses totaled \$63,000, resulting in a 70% profit margin (well above national fundraising averages).
- **Golf for Education**: Achieved nearly \$50,000 in gross revenue, up from \$45,000 last year, with a 60% profit margin, an increase over the 50% profit margin from a year ago.

Additional event updates included:

- Fiddler on the Roof opening night donor appreciation event was announced for November 7, 2025.
- 2026 events confirmed:
  - Reach for the Stars Gala on August 8, 2026
  - and Golf for Education Tournament on September 25, 2026
- Metcalf Builders will host a charity clay shoot on April 18, 2026. WNC Foundation was chosen to be the charity that will benefit from the proceeds this year.

The Board expressed condolences for the passing of Red Metcalf and supported establishing a nursing scholarship in his honor.

### **VIII. Continuing Education Report**

Lauren Slemenda-Moore, Continuing Education Manager, presented an update on Continuing Education course offerings and program outcomes, including:

- FY25: 1,100 new enrollments (approximately +1000% since FY21); 700 learners served; 500 certificates awarded.
- CDL program expansion to four trucks and three instructors; 85% first-time pass rate.
- New FY25 offerings included Community Health Worker training, artificial intelligence (AI) courses, and youth summer camps.
- Program revenue exceeded \$170,000, with 10% contributed back to college operations.

The Board commended Ms. Slemenda-Moore and her team for program growth and innovation.

### **IX. Strategic Plan Progress**

Assistant Development Director Mirjana Gavric and Development Coordinator Elizabeth Bennett-Doran presented an update on progress toward the Foundation's FY25–27 Strategic Plan. The Plan includes three goals:

1. Annual Scholarship Support
2. Financial Sustainability (Unrestricted Revenue)
3. Investment Portfolio Growth

The team reported FY25 scholarship results of \$870,000, exceeding the \$865,000 target. The Foundation's scholarship goals include \$900,000 in FY26 and \$1 million by FY28.

Ms. Gavric reported efforts to build unrestricted revenue with a target of \$1 million by FY28 through expanded donor engagement and event-driven fundraising. Ms. Gavric also introduced the concept of pre-event donor engagement through smaller cultivation gatherings and receptions.

The team proposed expanded outreach across all counties served by WNC and encouraged Board participation in identifying potential donors and hosts.

Ms. Bennett-Doran reviewed scholarship development initiatives, including implementation of a Scholarship Committee composed of Board members to support donor development. Several Board members expressed interest in participating.

During discussion of endowment growth, a Board member noted market performance is outside the Foundation's control. Ms. Gladys clarified that the Plan's strategies focus on donor development and creation of new endowed funds to support long-term growth.

#### **X. New Business**

No new business items were introduced.

#### **XI. Public Comment**

Ms. Gladys invited members to the Nevada Day Parade and post-parade celebration at Carson City Toyota, featuring Nevada's U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree ("The Silver Bell").

Board member, Cliff Sorensen shared details about the tree's national recognition and transportation to Washington, D.C.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

Chair Ketten adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

The next WNC Foundation Board Meeting is Friday, January 30, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.