

WNC Foundation Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 30, 2026
Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 South Carson Street, Room 3100, Carson City, NV 89701
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Board Chair:	Michelle Ketten (present)
Board Vice Chair:	Richard Kohler (present)
Board Finance Chair:	Scott Fields (present)
Board Members Present:	Sean Davison, Barbara D’Anne, Ronele Dotson, Anthony Dowling, Michelle Hale, Amber Kellner, Miranda Hoover, Amanda Jacobson, Lupe Ramirez, Nick Rowe, Cliff Sorensen, Brook Sweeting, Rochelle Tisdale, Stacy Woodbury, Melissa Harlow
Board Members Absent:	Christie Asis, Maria Denzler, Sandy Foley, Kevin Maillet, Matt Hock, Tyler Smith
Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members Present:	J. Kyle Dalpe, President; Coral Lopez, Chief Financial Officer; Niki Gladys, Chief Advancement Officer
WNC Staff Present:	Elizabeth Bennett-Doran, Mirjana Gavric, Shareena Kaloti, Cindy Nelson, Beth Patrick
Guests Present:	Bridget Tuttle
Public Members Present:	None

I. Introductions and Welcome

Chair Michelle Ketten called the meeting to order at approximately 9:06 a.m. and welcomed board members and staff. A quorum was present.

II. Public Comment

No public comment was presented.

III. Consent Agenda

Approval of Prior Board Meeting Minutes: Chair Ketten called for a motion to approve the prior Board meeting minutes. Barb D’Anne made a motion to approve, and Stacy Woodbury seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Foundation Financial Overview

Finance Committee Chair Scott Fields provided an update on Foundation financial activity, including a summary of key highlights from the Finance Committee and input from the Foundation’s investment advisors.

Construction Projects:

Updates were provided on active and upcoming projects in Carson City, Fallon, and Douglas. The Foundation has committed approximately \$1.5 million toward select projects, consistent with prior approvals.

Fund Management:

The committee discussed opportunities to improve fund utilization by evaluating inactive or low-activity accounts and aligning balances with active priorities.

Investments and Financial Position:

Investment advisors reported continued growth in the Foundation's portfolio, with positive market performance and increased investment income. The committee discussed maintaining appropriate liquidity while continuing to strategically deploy funds into long-term investments.

Financial Statements:

Quarterly financial statements were reviewed. Activity reflects continued investment in scholarships, student support, and capital projects, along with strong performance in special events.

Operational considerations, including credit card processing fees, were discussed, with staff identifying opportunities to reduce costs through system improvements.

V. State of the College

College President Kyle Dalpe provided an overview of the current state of Western Nevada College. Highlights included:

- College Outlook and Leadership:
President Dalpe reported that, following a challenging period, WNC has moved past its most difficult phase and is now positioned to focus on forward-looking initiatives. He expressed optimism about WNC's trajectory. Board members were invited to attend a campus-wide kickoff event planned for August, which will provide a more in-depth overview of college priorities.
- Enrollment and Sustainability:
Discussion included the College's enrollment mix and funding structure, with an emphasis on increasing adult learner enrollment and reducing reliance on dual enrollment. Strategic planning efforts are underway to expand workforce-aligned degree pathways, including potential bachelor's-level programs.
- Student and Employee Experience:
President Dalpe emphasized the importance of enhancing the student experience through modern facilities, technology, and student life opportunities, while also prioritizing employee well-being, retention, and capacity.

- Facilities and Program Development:
Updates were provided on ongoing capital and renovation projects across Carson, Fallon, and Douglas campuses, including investments to support nursing and allied health program expansion.
- Outcomes and Future Planning:
WNC continues to demonstrate strong outcomes, including graduation rates above national averages. Long-term priorities include rebalancing enrollment, expanding adult learner participation, and exploring opportunities for additional student space and campus development.

VI. ROADS Program Update

Shareena Kaloti, ROADS Program Coordinator, provided an overview of the ROADS program, a Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)-funded initiative supporting students pursuing associate degrees in skilled trades by addressing barriers to completion.

Program highlights included:

- More than 180 students enrolled to date
- 71 participants employed, with 60 reaching six months of employment
- Support services including transportation, childcare, tools, and other essential needs

An upcoming financial literacy workshop, scheduled for February 10 in partnership with United Federal Credit Union, was also noted.

Bridget Tuttle, a ROADS participant, shared her experience in the program, highlighting how ROADS support enabled her to continue her education, navigate financial and housing challenges, and remain academically successful while supporting her family. She emphasized the program's role in providing stability and a pathway toward long-term self-sufficiency.

Ms. Kaloti thanked the Board for its continued support and noted the importance of community and corporate partnerships in sustaining the program.

Chief Advancement Officer Niki Gladys commended Ms. Kaloti for her leadership of the program and emphasized that ROADS functions as a holistic support and mentorship model, made possible through collaboration with community partners and donors.

VII. FY26 Event Dates

Staff reviewed upcoming FY26 event dates and Foundation-related activities, including:

- Tahoe Knight Monsters Fundraiser: March 13, 2026 (WNC "takeover" fundraising event)

- Metcalf Builders Charity Clay Shoot: Foundation selected as the beneficiary for the event scheduled for April 18, 2026.
- Donor Appreciation Opening Night Reception – *Come from Away*: Friday, May 8, 2026
- Commencement: Monday, May 18, 2026 (Carson) and Wednesday, May 20, 2026 (Fallon)
- Reach for the Stars: Moonlight Masquerade, Saturday, August 8, 2026
- Golf for Education Tournament: Friday, September 25, 2026

VIII. Retreat Workshop Summary

Following small-group breakout discussions, the Board reconvened to share key themes. Discussion centered on strengthening board development and succession planning, expanding regional outreach and engagement, enhancing donor cultivation and endowment growth, and increasing board involvement in scholarship strategy and communication.

It was noted that input from prior board retreats has informed updates to the WNC Foundation Strategic Plan, and that themes identified in this session will be considered in future strategic planning efforts.

Chair Michelle Ketten noted strong alignment across group discussions and indicated that staff and Board leadership will continue to refine these priorities and incorporate them into ongoing planning and reporting processes.

IX. New Business

No additional business was introduced.

X. Public Comment

No public comment was presented.

XI. Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Ketten adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 p.m.