



Western Nevada College  
**FOUNDATION**

*~ Choose to make a difference ~*

**WNC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**

**Video Conference via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86264862256?pwd=cE1NWmhWKzFGSDUwUVNUM0RCR0orUT09>

Meeting ID: 862 6486 2256 and Passcode: b0zZE1

**8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Sean Davison	Doug Raftery
Michelle Ketten	Ronele Dotson
Amanda Jacobson	Rochelle Tisdale
Darcy Houghton	Stacy Woodbury
Tina Holland	Sena Loyd
Maria Denzler	Devin Sizemore
Robert Ramsdell	Barbara D'Anne
Kathy Huber-Halbardier	Miranda Hoover
Lane Mills	Rick Kohler

**Board Members Via Phone:** N/A

**WNC Staff Present:**

Niki Gladys	Carol McIntosh
Dr. Solis	Angela Viera
Jeff Downs	Steve Yingling
Heather Rikalo	Lorraine Plympton
Sylvia Verdugo	

**Board Members Absent:**

Chuy Ampudia	Julie Wood
Lisa Granahan	Jeff Brigger
Scott Fields	Larry Goodnight

**Proposed Board Members:** N/A

**Invited Guests:** Regent Carol Del Carlo

**Public Members Present:** N/A

## **1. Introductions and Welcome**

WNC Foundation Board Chair, Sean Davison, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

## **2. Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

## **3. January 2021 Board Minutes Approval**

Chair, Sean Davison presented the January 2021 WNC Foundation Board Meeting Minutes. Barbara D'Anneo motioned to approve, Rob Ramsdell seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

## **4. State of the College**

Dr. Solis gave an update on the State of the College.

- Dr. Solis stated all staff will return to work on campus June 1, 2021. Dr. Solis shared the majority of the staff have continued to work on campus and very few individuals have worked from home.
- Dual enrollment is 25% of our student body population with over 825 students. A dual enrollment ambassador will be in place for every campus within the college family to support the program.
- Enrollment for the fall semester looks uncertain at best. Student segments from minority backgrounds or first-generation students are down 18% nationally. Enrollment of young men is also down 25% nationally. Western Nevada College (WNC) is no different. This Saturday, April 24, 2021, The Men's Leadership Summit will be held to encourage men to enroll and succeed in college. There will be over 40 speakers. Everyone is invited to attend.
- We are in the four-part process of our strategic plan. The President of San Antonio College will be presenting to WNC the reasons they were awarded the Aspen Institute's Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The Aspen Prize is awarded every two years to honor community colleges that achieve excellent levels of customer service.
- WNC will be training employees and select community members how to lobby and present to the State Legislature.
- Dr. Solis would like for the Board to be aware of the bill SJR7 that is currently being considered by the Legislature. SJR7 proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to remove the provisions governing the election and duties of the Board of Regents of the State University and to authorize the Legislature to provide by statute the governance of the State University and for the auditing of public institutions of higher education in this State.
- Dr. Solis would also like for the Board to be aware of AB-450. This is the Governor's proposed bill on the structure of community colleges and their impact on workforce development within the State of Nevada.

- The budget is still uncertain. Dr. Solis is hoping there will be no further cuts.
- Graduation will be “parade style” and Dr. Solis is hoping this will be the last of its kind. Graduation ceremonies will be May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Carson campus and May 27<sup>th</sup> at the Fallon campus. There will be a lunch held for community partners after the ceremonies.
- A new Director will be hired for the Fallon campus. We are in the process of renovating our Science Labs and adding an HVAC training Lab. The nursing program has been moved back to the campus in Fallon from the former county property that was needed for COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Ms. Rochelle Tisdale is assisting to develop a new aviation program. A new Fallon community advisory group is being formed.
- Jeff Downs, Vice President for Student Success, will be leaving his role at the end of the fiscal year and transitioning to the classroom. Mr. Downs will continue to work on special projects on behalf of WNC. While in his role, Mr. Downs and his team have consistently worked to improve enrollment.
- The Advancement Office hired a secret shopper to help WNC understand and improve customer service levels. Dr. Solis is pleased with the levels of service the entire campus has provided to students and is looking forward to further results to determine areas of improvement.
- Dr. Solis thanked the Board for all they contribute to WNC.

## 5. Regent’s Update

Regent Del Carlo, representing District 9, provided the following update.

- Regent Del Carlo presented four candidates have been selected to be interviewed for the role of President of Nevada State College.
- Over 100 bills are being tracked in the state Legislature.
- Sixteen (16) of 17 Nevada counties stated they do not want the Nevada System of Higher Education to be dissolved. Regent Del Carlo is anticipating SJR7, described by President Solis above, to pass the Legislature.
- A special session is scheduled for later this year to decide the funding formula for the additional Federal COVID funds that have been disbursed.
- If AB-450 passes this will be a victory for the Nevada System of Higher Education. Chancellor Rose has worked diligently on this bill. This bill will be heard in the Legislature on April 22, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
- On April 19, 2021, Chancellor Rose created a task force to address the shortage of teachers in the state of Nevada. Annually, 2300 teachers are leaving the system while only 900 newly credentialed teachers are entering the workforce.
- The Board of Regents held a special meeting for the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Medicine. The medical education building will be named for Kirk Kerkorian, businessman and philanthropist, in recognition of his private support of UNLV.
- Regent Del Carlo gave kudos to The Men’s Leadership Summit. In higher education the lack of men currently enrolling in college is concerning.
- Regent Del Carlo is looking forward to returning to working in-person.

## **6. Native First Scholarship**

Ms. Niki Gladys introduced Ms. Lorraine Plympton and Ms. Sylvia Verdugo.

Ms. Plympton works in the Admissions Office, is a member of the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada and started the Native First Scholarship. Ms. Verdugo has worked for WNC for two years in the Professional and Applied Technology (PAT) Department, is a member of the Yaqui Tribe of Arizona and is the Student Advisor of the Indigenous Student Association.

Ms. Verdugo presented the Native First Program and the Indigenous Student Association have recently been created at WNC. The Indigenous Student Association is a club that has been created to support the success of Indigenous Students. The Native First Program is a cohort which will be modeled after the success of the Latino cohort. The Native First Program is intended to support graduating seniors that are often first-generation college students. The cohort will educate both parents and potential students on the importance of attending college. The cohort will help families understand the financial resources available when attaining a degree. One of the most significant obstacles is recruitment.

Ms. Plympton greeted the Board in her native language and shared in her culture this is how one greets important individuals. Ms. Plympton lives on the reservation in Northern Nevada. Poverty is a primary obstacle of students attending college which inspired Ms. Plympton to create the Native First Scholarship. WNC has given Ms. Plympton a lifelong love of learning and she wants to share this with other students. The costs of attending college are daunting and therefore attending WNC, which is very affordable, is a great first step in pursuing a degree. Education enriches the culture these students come from.

Mr. Davison will match up to \$5,000 of all donations in support of this new cohort. During the meeting Ms. Maria Denzler and her husband, Mr. Mark Denzler, committed \$1,000. Ms. Barbara D'Anneo committed \$1,000. Additionally, Sena Lloyd committed \$250 and Darcy Houghton committed \$500.

Ms. D'Anneo proposed we hold a Foundation Board Meeting at the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. Stacey Montooth with the Native Indian Commission will be a community advisor for the Indigenous Student Association

## **7. Food Pantry**

Ms. Heather Rikalo, ASWN Student Advisor and Student Life Coordinator, presented an update on the Food Pantry which has been named the Wildcat Reserve. Ms. Rikalo thanked NV Energy for their grant in support of food insecure students. The Food Pantry is located in the Dini Building and offers both food and hygiene products. Services have been open throughout the pandemic offering hands-free, online with curbside pick-up. There is a link to the Food Pantry on the Student Services Center website. Orders are delivered curbside which has reduced some of the stigma associated with utilizing this

service. In the fall, ASWN will be holding a food and hygiene drive to help stock the pantry. Ms. Rikalo is hoping to hold an open house later this year to thank donors for making this happen. Ms. Gladys thanked WNC Foundation Board members Jeff Brigger with NV Energy, Ms. Tina Holland, owner of Visiting Angels, and Ms. Maria Denzler for their generous contributions.

Ms. Rikalo shared creating a center on the Fallon campus is anticipated by the start of school in August.

## **8. Finance Committee Update**

Mr. Davison presented financials for FY 2021 Q3 and FY 2021 YTD. The investment account has a balance of \$5MM, of which \$1MM is unrestricted, providing an estimated \$70k in annual unrestricted income. The level of YTD restricted income and expense is down on a YOY basis given the timing of science lab investments. There is a strong level of cash that is earmarked for projects such as the Fallon Science Lab remodel. All of the previous development is paying off during this pandemic period as evidenced by the increase in the number of scholarships and donations. The Foundation is positioned for great results.

## **9. Scholarship Update**

Ms. Carol McIntosh presented a scholarship update.

- The application process for the 2021-2022 academic year closed April 16, 2021. Completed applications have increased roughly 30% to 803 total. This number does not include nursing scholarship applications which will be submitted in June. Ms. McIntosh requested scholarship application essay readers and explained each application is read and scored by three different individuals. Ms. McIntosh thanked Ms. Amanda Jacobson for recruiting her Rotary Club as scholarship essay readers. There has been a blend of both WNC personnel and community leaders who have read and scored the scholarship essays.

## **10. Advancement Committee Updates**

Ms. Gladys presented advancement committee updates.

- **Golf Tournament**
  - Ms. Gladys invited the Board to join the Golf Tournament committee.
  - The Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, September 24, 2021.
- **We Are Western Magazine**
  - The magazine has been published and will be mailed to the Board by the end of the week.
  - Nearly \$10,000 in magazine sponsorships was received from 15 sponsors.
  - Ms. Gladys thanked Mr. Davison and Ms. Denzler for their contribution to the magazine.
- **Foundation Store**

- A Foundation store has been created to offer WNC branded clothing and other items.
- **Event Strategy**
  - Ms. Gladys, Ms. McIntosh and Ms. Angela Viera will be meeting to discuss the event strategy in a post-pandemic environment.
  - Regent Del Carlo and Ms. Tina Holland have offered their homes for private events to fundraise and friend raise.
  - Ms. Darcy Houghton offered to hold an event at her home and to join this committee.

## **11. Grant Update**

Ms. Gladys presented an update on grants. As of today, \$14,000,000 has been requested in grant funding. \$3,614,000 is pending and \$3,372,727 has been awarded. This includes the \$941,000 grant from the William N. Pennington Foundation for the renovation of the Fallon Science Lab and the \$350,000 grant for Jump Start College. Ms. Gladys is working on grant requests with the Gabelli Foundation, Wells Fargo Foundation and the NV Energy Foundation. The previous investment of Foundation funds in a grant writer is coming to fruition in this fiscal year.

## **12. Board Recognition**

Ms. McIntosh will send a request to each Board Member to update their contact information.

Ms. Gladys congratulated Mr. Rick Kohler on his promotion, Ms. Holland on her new home and Ms. Denzler on her new vacation home.

Ms. Gladys recognized Dr. Solis' birthday on April 21, 2021.

Mr. Davison recognized the small and mighty team within the Foundation Office.

## **13. New Business**

There was no new business.

## **14. Public Comment**

Ms. Rochelle Tisdale thanked the Foundation Office for the WNC swag in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary that was mailed to the Board a month ago.

## **15. Adjourn Meeting**

Mr. Davison adjourned meeting at 9:34 a.m.

The next WNC Foundation Board meeting is Thursday, July 22, 2021.