

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at Western Nebraska Community College, Coral E. Richards Boardroom, 1601 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Scottsbluff, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, as per the publicized notice in the Star-Herald Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

A current agenda was available in the Board Secretary's office on the Scottsbluff Campus at the time of the publicized notice.

**AREA BOARD**

Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales.....	Present
Joshua R. Hanson .....	Absent
Mark A Kaufman .....	Present
Allan D. Kreman.....	Absent
Starr Lehl, Vice Chair.....	Present
Lori J. Liggett .....	Present (via Zoom)
William M. Packard.....	Absent
Coral E. Richards .....	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.....	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt .....	Present
John P. Stinner, Chair .....	Present (via Zoom)

Mr. Hanson and Mr. Kreman notified the Board secretary they were unable to attend the meeting due to personal business commitments and Dr. Packard due to personal health.

**QUORUM**

Vice Chair Lehl declared a quorum was present for the transaction of business.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Lehl asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-106, Vice Chair Lehl reminded community members who wish to make comments will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no comments.

**BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Lehl announced for public information there was a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act available on the table at the back of the room.

Vice Chair Lehl announced that the Board reserves the right to enter a closed session if deemed necessary for any item on the agenda per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes.

**Re-Organization of Board (2026)**

*Election of Chairperson*

Vice Chair Lehl called for nominations for Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the year 2026. Board members were reminded that nominations do not require a second.

### **Re-Organization of Board (2026) (cont.)**

Mr. Savely nominated Mr. John Stinner to serve as Board Chairperson for the year 2026 and MOVED that nominations cease. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: Stinner. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Lehl entertained a motion for approval of Mr. John Stinner to serve as Board Chairperson for the year 2026.

Mr. Savely MOVED that John Stinner serves as Board Chairperson for the year 2026. SECONDED by Mr. Kaufman. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: Stinner. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

#### *Election of Vice Chairperson*

Vice Chair Lehl called for nominations for Vice Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the year 2026. Board members were reminded that nominations do not require a second.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales nominated Ms. Starr Lehl to fill the role of Vice Chairperson for the year 2026 and moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Ms. Lehl as Vice Chairperson of the Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the year 2026. SECONDED by Mr. Kaufman. The vote was, Yes: Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Guzman-Gonzales. No: None. Abstain: Lehl. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

#### *Appointment of Secretary*

Vice Chair Lehl entertained a motion for the appointment of Susan Verbeck as Secretary of Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the year 2026.

Ms. Richards MOVED for the appointment of Susan Verbeck as Secretary of the Board of Governors for the year 2026. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

#### *Appointment of Treasurer*

Vice Chair Lehl entertained a motion for the appointment of Lynne Koski as Treasurer of Western Community College Area Board of Governors for the year 2026.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED for the appointment of Lynne Koski as Treasurer of the Board of Governors for the year 2026. SECONDED by Mr. Kaufman. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

### **Board Vacancy**

Vice Chair Lehl reported that Dr. William Packard, District Five representative, submitted his resignation from the WCCA Board of Governors, effective January 21, 2026.

Vice Chair Lehl further stated that as a result of Dr. Packard's resignation, the Board of Governors has declared a vacancy in District Five.

Advertisements announcing the vacancy will be placed with local media. An ad hoc committee consisting of Board members Starr Lehl, John Stinner, Tony Kaufman, Linda Guzman-Gonzales, and Coral Richards will review applications and conduct interviews.

### **Board Vacancy (cont.)**

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales regrettably MOVED to approve the resignation of Dr. William Packard, District Five representative. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Review Contents of Consent Calendar
  - a. Agenda
  - b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)
  - c. Minutes
    1. December 17, 2025, Informal Meeting
    2. December 17, 2025, Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** December 2025
  - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,462,931.58
  - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$16,354.36
  - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$85.00
  - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$13,379.34
  - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
  - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$4,775,433.08
  - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$94,701.48
3. City Planning Commission Reports – no reports
4. Approval of Consent Calendar
5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar – there were no extractions

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Stinner, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

### **BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

Mr. Kaufman MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. Allan Kreman for \$27.30 (mileage) and Ms. Starr Lehl for \$708.69 (NCCA meeting). SECONDED by Mr. Savely. Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: Lehl. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Dr. William Packard for \$573.50 (NCCA meeting) and Mr. R. J. Savely for \$126.00 (mileage). SECONDED by Mr. Kaufman. The vote was, Yes: Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: Savely. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

Mr. Kaufman MOVED to approve the following travel expense: Ms. Marjorie Schmidt for \$773.70 (NCCA meeting). SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Richards, Savely, Stinner, Kaufman, Guzman-Gonzales, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: Schmidt. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

## **PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT**

### **Resignation(s)**

1. Mr. Riley Ellis, Marketing Specialist II, Effective December 23, 2025
2. Ms. Maranda Hounshell, Administrative Services Administrative Assistant, Effective December 27, 2025
3. Dr. Lisa Blair, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Effective March 6, 2026

### **Appointment(s)**

1. Ms. Maranda Hounshell, Administrative Services Executive Assistant Effective December 28, 2025
2. Ms. Nayeli Diaz, Interim Head Softball Coach, Effective, January 5, 2026

### Consideration of Items Extracted from President's Personnel Report

In the absence of extractions, Vice Chair Lehl entertained a motion for approval of the President's Personnel Report.

Mr. Kaufman MOVED to approve the President's Personnel Report as presented. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Stinner, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

## **WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

### **2026 Offsite Meeting Location(s) and Date(s)**

Alliance Campus – April 15, 2026  
Sidney Campus – August 19, 2026

Mr. Kaufman MOVED to approve the 2026 offsite meeting locations and dates: Alliance Campus, April 15 and Sidney Campus, August 19. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

### **Reports and Recommendations from Board Finance and Operations Committee**

#### **Settlement Agreement (WNCC and Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust)**

Lynne Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services reported that this is a settlement agreement related to the 2023 hailstorm. Under state statute, when a claim exceeds \$50,000 or 1% of the total budget, whichever is less, public notification is required, and the agreement must be presented to the Board.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the settlement agreement with the Nebraska Community College Insurance Trust. SECONDED by Mr. Kaufman. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Stinner, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Liggett, Richards, Stinner, Lehl. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Kreman, Packard. Motion carried.

## **INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS**

### **Information Technology (IT) Annual Report**

Loren Moench, IT Director, thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the annual IT report, emphasizing that the department's work is both active and visible throughout the College. The presentation covered major accomplishments, compliance requirements, cybersecurity initiatives, and a forward-looking technology roadmap.

The report highlighted key accomplishments from the past year, noting that while many initiatives were completed, the focus was on strategic projects necessary to keep pace with rapid technological change. One major effort was the implementation of Element451, a student admissions and enrollment platform deployed at the transition from 2024 to 2025. This system replaced a discontinued product and now serves as the primary front-end for student applications, integrating directly with the Colleague ERP system to ensure streamlined data flow.

Another significant initiative was the deployment of Windows 11 across the College, prompted by Microsoft's end-of-life for Windows 10. This included modernizing endpoint management by integrating existing tools with Microsoft Intune. The transition allows devices to be configured, secured, and updated remotely, reflecting a more mobile workforce. Intune now also manages Apple iPads, enabling centralized software deployment and device oversight across platforms.

The College also achieved substantial cost savings through a new Microsoft licensing agreement. By leveraging a consortium agreement through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the College upgraded from A3 to A5 licenses at no additional cost. This enabled consolidation of services, including replacing Mimecast for email security and migrating security monitoring previously provided by SecurityHQ into Microsoft's native tools. These changes resulted in approximately \$140,000 in annual savings while expanding cybersecurity capabilities.

Additional accomplishments included Cloudflare web protection, IT support for the Health Sciences remodel, and the long-anticipated migration of the Colleague ERP system from a legacy database to a Windows SQL Server platform. Completed just before the end of the year, the migration delivered improved performance and stability. The project required nearly a year of preparation and coordination with CampusWorks and impacted approximately twelve integrated systems. Legacy applications were decommissioned, reporting capabilities were upgraded to Informer 5, and Power BI was introduced to support dashboards and analytics.

The IT Director emphasized the complexity of managing interconnected systems and acknowledged the contributions of the nine-member IT team, noting their expertise and dedication.

In response to a question about expanded remote access, the Director explained that cybersecurity policies have evolved alongside increased mobility. The college relies heavily on Microsoft's security ecosystem, including multi-factor authentication, role-based access controls, advanced logging, and risk analytics. These tools detect anomalies such as improbable travel and automatically trigger additional security requirements, allowing the institution to manage risk proactively without extensive manual monitoring.

The presentation also included a preview of the IT dashboard developed using Power BI. The dashboard aggregates data from ticketing systems, asset management, and Microsoft usage metrics. With the Colleague migration complete, the college can now support more robust, near real-time reporting for enrollment and operational analytics.

### **Information Technology (IT) Annual Report (cont.)**

Cybersecurity remains a central focus. The College restructured its cybersecurity framework around Microsoft A5 tools, enabling enhanced logging, automated risk response, and global threat monitoring. These capabilities provide greater visibility into account risk, attempted logins, and compliance status, supporting more proactive security management.

The annual GLBA (Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act) assessment was also reviewed. While originally a financial regulation, GLBA now applies to higher education institutions that administer financial aid. The assessment includes approximately 150 controls across three maturity levels.

Each year, the College evaluates compliance, remediates gaps, and plans future improvements. Over the past three years, significant progress has been made in strengthening security practices, though higher-level controls increasingly require changes to day-to-day operational behavior.

Mr. Moench outlined a three-year technology roadmap. Planned initiatives include modernization of the phone system to support soft phones and mobile access, network security enhancements, upgraded Wi-Fi with seamless roaming, and implementation of Eduroam for secure guest and student access. Additional goals include building a data warehouse, standardizing classroom technology, implementing data loss prevention, expanding electronic forms, and unifying workflows across platforms. Looking ahead to 2028, priorities include refreshing the five-year IT strategic plan, renewing the Blackboard LMS, and evaluating long-term options for the Colleague ERP system.

Regarding costs, Mr. Moench noted that most initiatives are expected to be cost-neutral, leveraging existing licenses and tools. The largest anticipated expense is network infrastructure, which the department aims to manage within the existing budget. Overall, the roadmap reflects a strategic approach to modernizing IT while remaining fiscally responsible.

### **Student Report**

There was no student report.

### **Faculty Report**

Mr. Croft reported that the Faculty Assembly continues to meet. In the classroom, enrollment appears to be higher; we will see how that compares with the fall and with last spring. The increased number of students has posed some challenges in terms of room capacity, but it has also supported strong group work.

### **Nebraska Community College Association**

January 30<sup>th</sup>, Board of Governors representatives John Stinner and Starr Lehl will be attending the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) first quarter board meeting. Courtney Wittstruck, NCCA Executive Director, has begun forwarding the Rotunda Review, which is a newsletter that addresses bills being monitored by the Nebraska Community Colleges. Chair Stinner stated that he will be monitoring the governor's proposed budget and stated that we are currently in a heads-up environment, especially with funding.

### **Western Nebraska Community College Foundation**

Ms. Alena Haun, Foundation Development Director, provided an update on grant funding related to the Monument Marathon. For 2025, the goal was to increase Monument Marathon grant revenue from approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000. Six grant applications were submitted, resulting in awards totaling \$43,170, exceeding the annual goal. All required grant reporting was completed in the fall, and the full awarded amount was successfully received.

Looking ahead, the 2026 Nebraska Tourism Grant application has been submitted. This grant supports a significant portion of tourism advertising, including placements in tourism magazines, social media campaigns, website promotion, and other online marketing efforts. The grant revenue goal for the 2026 Monument Marathon is \$42,000, with the intention of meeting or exceeding that target again.

Additional grant funding continues to be pursued to support student online curriculum costs and scholarships for the Nebraska Math Readiness Project, as the current Kiewit Foundation grant concludes this year. A meeting with the Foundation is scheduled this week to assess alignment with its mission and current funding priorities. The Math Readiness Project has experienced substantial growth and now serves 19 of 24 schools and more than 200 students (approximately 220 at last count), increasing the need for sustainable funding to cover curriculum expenses and scholarships for schools unable to absorb the costs.

This fall also included a visit to the Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation offices to thank them for their support of the Nebraska Math Readiness Project, which is also concluding this year. During that visit, discussions resumed regarding the Scott Scholars Program, which the Foundation remains interested in implementing at the college. The Foundation has expressed interest in visiting campus again soon to explore next steps.

Additionally, a meeting was held with the Omaha contact at Blue Cross Blue Shield, a new Monument Marathon sponsor this year. This connection led to an introduction to a newly established foundation for potential future grant partnerships, with follow-up conversations planned to determine mission alignment.

For the 2025–26 Foundation Scholarship Program, 287 individual scholarships have been awarded to date through financial aid, totaling just over \$315,000. Approximately half of this amount was distributed during the first semester, with the remaining funds—and any newly awarded scholarships—scheduled for distribution this semester. As a result, the total awarded amount may increase.

The Foundation is currently managing 105 donor-funded scholarships, a significant increase from approximately 70 scholarships in 2019, reflecting substantial growth in scholarship support over time.

Planned giving continues to be a priority within the Foundation's strategic plan. A key focus is ensuring donors are aware of available estate planning resources. While donors are encouraged to consult legal or financial professionals, the Foundation offers free estate planning toolkits through its planned giving webpage. These resources include sample bequest language, planning checklists, a calculation tool, and step-by-step guidance for those new to estate planning.

A new flyer outlining these resources has been created and is available for pickup. The flyer includes a QR code that directs users to the Foundation's online planned giving resources.

### **President Comments**

The Health Sciences Edition at the John N. Harm Center will host a ribbon cutting on Monday at 4:00 p.m. Those unable to attend are encouraged to visit the space if possible. It represents a tremendous addition to the campus as an impressive, state-of-the-art facility that welcomed students last week. Appreciation was extended to Nancy Hall, Lynne Koski, and their team, and all involved for their exceptional work on the project.

As of today, spring enrollment reflects a 10% increase over last spring. While encouraging, this figure is still fluid. A non-payment drop is scheduled for the end of the week, and staff across offices are working diligently to contact at-risk students and ensure plans are in place. With the census date three days away, the College will soon have a clearer picture of final enrollment. Overall, there are more students on campus than a year ago, an outcome that brings challenges but is positive.

A group of performing arts students is currently attending the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival after being invited based on their performances. Best wishes were extended to the students during their travels.

The ACCT National Legislative Summit will take place before the next board meeting. President Dart and Chair Stinner plan to attend the summit and will report back at the following meeting. The president will also be in Lincoln next week while the state legislature is in session. Although some Education Committee meetings will be missed due to the Health Sciences ribbon cutting, several important legislative developments are underway. Based on the governor's proposed budget, the institution is currently in a stable position, with minimal anticipated impact compared to cuts proposed elsewhere in state government. National developments are also being monitored, particularly those affecting TRIO and adult education programs.

2026 marks the institution's centennial year. Founded in 1926, the College will officially launch its 100-year celebration in the fall. A planning committee has been working for nearly a year to prepare events and initiatives, with announcements forthcoming in the coming months.

### **Board Member Comments**

During board member comments, emphasis was again placed on the significance of the Health Sciences ribbon cutting, with gratitude expressed to all involved. Members also highlighted upcoming athletic events, performing arts opportunities, and the academic calendar, encouraging engagement with students both on the court and on stage.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

1. **Health Sciences Ribbon Cutting**  
Monday, January 26, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
2. **2026 NCCA Board of Directors First Quarter Meeting**  
Friday, January 30, 2026  
Southeast Community College, Lincoln, NE
3. **2026 Community College National Legislative Summit**  
February 8-11, 2026  
Marriott Marquis, Washington DC

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events (cont.)**

4. **2026 NCCA Legislative Day**  
February 25, 2026  
Nebraska State Capitol  
Lincoln, NE
5. **2026 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference**  
March 20-24, 2026  
Chicago, Illinois
6. **2026 AACC Annual Conference**  
April 10-14, 2026  
Seattle, Washington
7. **2026 NCCA Board of Directors Second Quarter Meeting**  
Monday, May 11, 2026  
Southeast Community College, Lincoln, NE
8. **2026 NCCA Board of Directors Third Quarter Meeting**  
Monday, August 17, 2026  
Southeast Community College, Lincoln, NE
9. **2026 NCCA Board of Directors Fourth Quarter Meeting and Annual Conference**  
Sunday and Monday, October 4 & 5, 2026  
Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff, NE
10. **2026 ACCT Leadership Congress**  
October 21-24, 2026  
Hyatt Regency, Chicago, Illinois

**\*\*Follow links to access information.**

[WNCC Athletics](#)

[WNCC Performing Arts](#)

[WNCC Athletic and Academic Calendar](#)

**Next Regular Meeting:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Coral E. Richards Boardroom, WNCC Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Scottsbluff, NE.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:58 p.m.