

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

April 16, 2025

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at Western Nebraska Community College Sidney Campus, 371 College Drive, in the City of Sidney, in the County of Cheyenne, in the State of Nebraska, as per the publicized notice in the Star-Herald on Tuesday, April 9, 2025.

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

ROLL CALL

AREA BOARD

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

Dr. Packard informed the Board Secretary he would be unable to attend the meeting due to personal business.

QUORUM

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chair Stinner asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-106, community members who wish to make comments will be limited to a five-minute presentation.

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

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

Chair Stinner announced 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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Review Contents of Consent Calendar
 - a. Agenda
 - b. Excuse Absent Board Member(s) – Dr. William Packard
 - c. Minutes
 - i. April 16, 2025 Informal Meeting
 - ii. April 16, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** March 2025
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,233,016.93
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$52,097.71
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$6.58
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$9,051.71
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$1,225,131.16
 - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$94,162.72
4. City Planning Commission Reports
 - a. Village of Potter (tax increment financing annual report)
5. **Approval** of Consent Calendar
6. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

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

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. Josh Hanson for \$106.40, Mr. Allan Kreman for \$27.30, and Mr. R. J. Savely for \$126.00. SECONDED by Ms. Liggett. The vote was, Yes: Kaufman, Lehl, Liggett, Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: Hanson, Kreman, Savely. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar

Resignation(s)

Dr. Charlie Gregory, Dean of Instruction – Business & Applied Technology
Effective September 5, 2025

Appointment(s)

Ms. Ashley Harman, Student Success Advisor II, Effective April 23, 2025

Ms. Angelina Pattavina, Student Life Coordinator II, Effective May 15, 2025

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

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Standing Committee Assignments (revised)

Chair Stinner referenced the 2025 Board Standing Committee assignments and noted that concerns had been raised regarding insufficient district representation on a few of the committees. In response, the assignments were revised to ensure equitable representation across all districts. Chair Stinner then entertained a motion to approve the revised 2025 Board Standing Committee assignments.

Ms. Lehl MOVED to approve the revised 2025 Board Standing Committee assignments. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee

Second Read: BP-417 Leave

As there have been no changes to this policy since its initial presentation at the March Board meeting, Chair Stinner called for a motion to approve BP-417: Leave.

Mr. Hanson MOVED to approve policy BP-417 Leave. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Lehl, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Second Read: BP-511 Transfer Credit

As there have been no changes to this policy since its initial presentation at the March Board meeting, Chair Stinner called for a motion to approve BP-511: Transfer Credit.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve policy BP-511 Transfer Credit. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Second Read: BP-514 International Students

As there have been no changes to this policy since its initial presentation at the March Board meeting, Chair Stinner called for a motion to approve BP-514: International Students.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve policy BP-514 International Students. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Operations Committee

Bids/Contracts

25-EQ-16 Multiprocess Welder

Tabulation

Company	City/State	Total Amount
Matheson Gas	Gering, NE	\$70,653.99
Rocky Mountain Air Solutions	Scottsbluff, NE	No Response
AirGas	Scottsbluff, NE	No Response

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Operations Committee (cont.)
Bids/Contracts

25-EQ-16 Multiprocess Welder

The selection committee recommended the Multiprocess Welder contract be awarded to Matheson Gas for \$70,653.99.

Ms. Lehl MOVED to approve awarding Bid #25-EQ-16 Multiprocess Welder to Matheson Gas for \$70,653.99. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Richards, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

WNCC Roof Replacement

Tabulation:

Company	City/State	Total Base Bid	Alternate No. 1 Vapor Barrier
All Seasons Roofing & Restoration	Sidney, NE	\$314,150.00	Not submitted
Twin City Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.	Gering, NE	\$392,250.00	\$24,205.00
Weathercraft Companies of Scottsbluff/Gering	Gering, NE	\$583,167.00	\$35,689.00
White Castle Roofing, LLC	Roca, NE	\$470,100.00	\$39,000.00

The project specifications state that bids will be evaluated based on the total of the base bid price and all the alternates. Without the submittal of an alternate bid item, a bid cannot be evaluated. Furthermore, the product specifications require the roofing company to have a minimum of one million square feet of low-slope membrane roofing work under manufacturer's warranty.

Based on evaluation of the requirements, the selection committee recommends the roof replacement be awarded to Twin City Roofing and Sheet Metal, Inc. as the lowest bid response meeting the requirements of the RFP.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve awarding the bid for the WNCC Roof Replacement to Twin City Roofing and Sheet Metal. SECONDED by Mr. Kreman. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Higher Learning Commission Conference – Board Member Overview

Ms. Lehl stated that she gained valuable insights into the Higher Learning Commission and the requirements for institutional accreditation. She also appreciated the opportunity to engage with College staff in attendance, noting that it was a meaningful experience that allowed her to better understand their perspectives and build stronger professional connections.

Ms. Schmidt reported that there was extensive discussion surrounding artificial intelligence (AI), particularly focusing on strategies for effective management, responsible use, and adapting to its increasing influence across various sectors. The conversation also addressed the shifting perceptions surrounding the value of a college degree, noting that approximately 50% of the population now believes a degree may no longer be necessary.

Colleges and universities across the country are facing significant financial challenges and increasing pressure to meet budgetary demands. As a result, many institutions are considering workforce reductions. Despite these challenges, the role of academic advisors remains critically important to student success. Advisors are essential guides, helping students navigate complex academic and career decisions. Their support is especially vital when students discover that their initial academic or career pathway may not be the right fit. Through early intervention and thoughtful guidance, advisors help students realign their goals and stay on track toward graduation.

Mr. Stinner expressed concern regarding the current uncertainty in the higher education landscape and the future of key institutions such as the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the Department of Labor, and the Department of Education. The situation remains unpredictable and the impact on the institution is still unknown. It was acknowledged that the coming year will bring significant challenges, and institutions must remain prepared and adaptable in response to shifting conditions.

The Higher Learning Commission was recognized and thanked for its continued behind the scenes efforts to provide guidance amid changes at the federal level. In conclusion, it was emphasized that regardless of institutional or governmental transitions, accreditation is about serving students well, and that commitment must continue to be central to the College's mission.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

IE Center Update

Ms. Melissa Norgard expressed her gratitude to the Board and Ms. Abbott for the opportunity to showcase the Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IE) Center located on the Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) Sidney campus. Ms. Norgard serves as the Grant and Technical Writer for the City of Sidney and Cheyenne County.

Cheyenne County E3 is a community-driven initiative focused on revitalizing the local economy through entrepreneurship. Launched as a pilot program under the Nebraska Community Foundation, Sidney was selected as one of six participating communities.

The E3 Team includes Sarah Sinnett, Community Leader and volunteer, Alisha Juelfs, Entrepreneurial Navigator, and Melissa Norgard, Grant, and Technical Writer. E3 Leadership is comprised of five members who meet monthly with Ms. Juelfs and Ms. Norgard. The E3 Community Group, consisting of fifteen to twenty members, also meet monthly.

The E3 mission is to provide comprehensive support at no charge and the goal is to establish Cheyenne County as a hub for entrepreneurial success and innovation in all rural Nebraska. Ms. Sinnett is the community lead and head of the E3 group and volunteers her time. Ms. Juelfs and Ms. Norgard are paid positions funded by a grant and the Nebraska Community Foundation.

People often do not know where to start when writing a business plan, especially when it comes to developing the financials, which can be intimidating without a background in finance. That is where a navigator plays a key role—guiding them through early steps, offering templates or examples, and helping make complex parts like projections and budgets more accessible.

Building relationships and partnerships locally is just as important as technical assistance. When navigators engage with the community and connect clients to local resources, mentors, lenders, or service providers, it strengthens the entrepreneur's support network and chances of success.

Student Report

John Coakley, a student in the WNCC Aviation program reported that thanks to the career fair held on the Scottsbluff campus, many students have received job offers. Those students continue to maintain good relationships with the businesses who participate in the career fair.

The Cougar Council just held elections, and new officers will be coming in for the next academic year. An inauguration ceremony is planned with the date yet to be determined.

Recently, a paratrooper training session was held at the Sidney airport. Aviation program students assisted with the event, which prompted a donation to the flying club in appreciation of their assistance. Additionally, the flying club received a second donation from the Elk's Club for hosting a Sunday morning breakfast for the group.

A fly-in is scheduled for September 27th, and all attendees of the Board meeting are welcome to join.

Three members of the Aviation program have completed their General Ring Test and are now preparing for their General Orals and Practical's. They are expected to receive their American licenses next fall.

Faculty Report

Instructors Patrick Newell, Violette Griggs, and Nathaniel Johnson conducted their annual tour of the Panhandle and Wyoming, March 31 through April 4. The theater presented several short scenes and monologues and performed *All That Jazz*, featuring the original choreography and live music by members of the band. The Varsity Vocalese performed four songs and Cougar Rock energized the crowd getting students on their feet throughout the performance.

Faculty Report (cont.)

Admissions staff were also present and collected several contact cards. Additionally, they held auditions for students who were interested in joining the WNCC Performing Arts program. Schools visited included Banner County K through twelve, Carrington High School, Bridgeport High School, Guernsey Sunrise High School, Douglas High School, Kelly Walsh High School, Casper High School, and both Campbell County and Gillette High Schools. The tour concluded with a homecoming performance at WNCC.

Saturday, April 5th, instructor Patsy Yager hosted a kickoff event for the Week of the Young Child. The event drew 132 adults and 158 children, along with numerous families. There were twenty-eight local organizations who also came to the event and several WNCC faculty and staff volunteered their time to assist. Attendees enjoyed the event and received valuable information about community and college resources.

A group of applied tech instructors accompanied students to Grand Island where they competed in the SkillsUSA Program for Career Technical Education. This program brings together high school and community college students from the applied technology fields to showcase their skills in a competitive setting.

Nebraska Community College Association

Chair Stinner noted that the current focus is on the Legislature and the bills under review by the various committees. He also highlighted the *Rotunda Review*, a weekly publication produced by the director of the NCCA, as an excellent and informative resource.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

Ms. Jennifer Reisig, WNCC Foundation Executive Director reported that the Foundation has its own strategic plan, and their mission is to inspire investment and encourage student success by expanding access to education and creating opportunities.

Everyone knows the WNCC Foundation provides scholarships—but that is just the beginning. The Foundation mission is to expand access to education in diverse ways—not only by reducing financial barriers. The Foundation provides scholarships to deserving students and invests in programs, departments, and innovative initiatives that open doors to learning, personal growth, and long-term success.

The Foundation is proud to play a vital role in building a thriving campus environment—one where students do not just attend college, but truly thrive. From funding equipment and resources for academic departments to supporting student services, career readiness, and strong community partnerships, the Foundation is committed to enhancing the full educational experience. We do more than make college affordable through scholarships. We help shape futures by broadening access to education, strengthening community ties, and supporting initiatives that enrich students' personal and academic journeys.

A new geographical presentation has recently been developed to help our communities better understand the far-reaching impact of the WNCC Foundation. While events like the Monument Marathon serve as a strong example of our community involvement, they represent just one part of a much broader mission. The Foundation's support extends across numerous programs and partnerships that positively impact lives throughout Western Nebraska. Ms. Reisig recently

shared this presentation with a group in Scottsbluff and is enthusiastic about connecting with additional community organizations to highlight how the Foundation fosters education, opportunity, and regional growth.

Ms. Reisig also provided the latest details on the Monument Marathon, the Foundation's premier annual fundraiser, scheduled for September 27, 2025. To date, \$66,475 in sponsorships has been secured, which is approximately halfway to the sponsorship goal. Additionally, runner registrations are trending about 50% higher than usual for this time of year, indicating strong momentum for this year's event.

President Comments

President Dart reported his experience attending the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) annual conference was highly beneficial. The conference helped clarify the direction the College needs to take over the next few years, especially in relation to the four-year assurance argument. While Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) has met the requirements, one area was flagged for concern. As a result, a monitoring report was required. This provides an important opportunity to evaluate how data is being used in retention efforts. Multiple departments play a key role in improving those efforts. It is essential that we use data strategically to guide our student retention efforts. By analyzing key trends and outcomes, we can make smarter, evidence-based decisions that directly support student success.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the College will also be focusing on a quality initiative. As previously mentioned, this initiative provides us with a valuable opportunity to choose a specific area of emphasis—and it has been decided to center it around academic pathways. This initiative will ensure that students have a clear, structured path from their first point of contact—whether through high school, dual credit programs, or early outreach—through their time at our institution, and as they transition beyond it. We want every student to understand their academic journey from start to finish. Advising will play a critical role in this effort. Research shows that students who meet with an advisor at least once per semester experience a 5.5% increase in retention. That is a significant impact and highlights the importance of building strong, consistent support systems for our students.

President Dart noted that May 9th the Nurses' Pinning ceremony is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. May 10th our Commencement exercises start at 10:00 a.m., and Adult Basic Education and GED start at 2:00 p.m. Board members were invited to attend all three events.

President Dart addressed the four construction projects that are currently in progress. The Aviation engine start room is nearing completion and at the conclusion of the meeting, a tour of the facility will follow.

The Powerline classroom project in Alliance is ongoing. The program recently received a generous donation of a bucket truck from the Aulick family. Pioneer Hall, located at the Scottsbluff campus is also moving forward.

In response to concerns about international students being targeted and how that might affect WNCC's enrollment, President Dart stated that the College has not encountered any related issues to date, though he acknowledged that many other institutions have. While there has been a noticeable decline in applications from students applying from abroad, WNCC has observed an overall increase in international student applications this year. This growth is primarily

due to transfer students who are already in the United States and choosing to continue their studies at WNCC. Typically, the college enrolls between sixty and eighty international students. These students are often attracted by specific academic programs. Athletics has been a significant driver of international student enrollment growth in recent years. However, there has also been increased interest among non-athlete international students, particularly in programs such as nursing and aviation maintenance.

Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

April 27, 2025 | Instrumental Music | Spring Band Concert

Judy Chaloupka Theater

3:00 p.m. Performance

\$10 General Admission | \$8 Seniors | Free - WNCC Students & Staff

Box Office: Fri, 4/25: 12:00 - 4 p.m.; Sat & Sun, 4/26 & 4/27: 12:00 -3:00 p.m.

May 1–3, 2025 | Theatre Arts | Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience

Judy Chaloupka Theater

10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Thursday & Friday | 5:00 p.m. Saturday

\$10 General Admission | \$5 Seniors, Students & Military | \$3 Groups of 10+

Box Office: Thurs 5/1 & Fri 5/2: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m., 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sat, 5/3: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

May 3, 2025 | Instrumental Music | Honors Recital

First Presbyterian Church 3:00 p.m. Performance

Tickets: Free

May 4, 2025 | Instrumental Music | Jump, Jive & Swing

Hampton Inn & Suites

5:15 p.m. Cocktails & Live Music | 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Dancing

Tickets: \$30 | Ticket sales closed at noon on April 26

Box Office: Wed & Thurs, 4/23 & 4/24: 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.;

Fri, 4/25: 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.; Sat, 4/26: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

NCCA Second Quarter Board Meeting

Monday, May 12, 2025

Lincoln, NE or via Zoom

2025 ACCT Leadership Congress

October 22-25, 2025,

New Orleans, Louisiana

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 1:00 p.m., WNCC Scottsbluff Campus,
1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:01 p.m.

John P. Stinner, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary