

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

May 21, 2025

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at Western Nebraska Community College Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th 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 on Tuesday, May 13, 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
Starr Lehl, Vice Chairperson	Present
Lori J. Liggett	Present
William M. Packard.....	Present
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.....	Absent
Marjorie A. Schmidt	Present
John P. Stinner, Chairperson.....	Present

Mr. Savely 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) – Mr. R. J. Savely, Jr.
 - c. Minutes
 - i. May 21, 2025 Informal Meeting
 - ii. May 21, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** April 2025
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,456,143.68
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$15,377.10
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$6,738.00
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$4,478.49
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$1,170,053.13
 - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$72,373.31
4. City Planning Commission Reports
 - City of Alliance Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Progress Report
 - City of Gering Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Progress Report
 - Village of Hemingford Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Progress Report
 - City of Scottsbluff Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Project Progress 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. Lehl. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Kaufman MOVED to approve the following travel expense: Ms. Marjorie Schmidt for \$179.20. SECONDED by Ms. Liggett. The vote was, Yes: Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

Resignation(s)

There were no resignations.

Appointment(s)

There were no appointments.

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Board Member Conference Registration and Travel

Mr. R. J. Savely, Jr.

2025 ACCT Leadership Congress, October 22-25, 2025

New Orleans, Louisiana

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the ACCT Leadership Congress registration and travel for Mr. R. J. Savely, Jr. SECONDED by Ms. Liggett. The vote was, Yes: Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Review of Existing Instructional Programs

Ms. Lisa Blair, Dean of Academic Affairs, reported that program reviews are submitted to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education according to a scheduled timeline. The College has a Program Review Committee, and Dean Charlie Gregory collaborates with this committee, as well as with the Institutional Research department, to compile the necessary data. He then works closely with faculty, who are responsible for writing the narrative portions of the review. This process ensures that faculty are well-informed about and engaged with the program data and five-year trends.

Ms. Blair noted that she has also discussed the findings with faculty members, who are actively developing strategies to increase the number of students applying for graduation. Additionally, in the Early Childhood Education program, instructor Patsy Yager has prepared a strong proposal outlining initiatives to revitalize and grow the program. Ms. Yager has presented her proposal to President Dart and Grant Wilson, Dean of Student Services, for consideration.

Aviation Maintenance Program

Ms. Schmidt MOVED to approve the submission of the Aviation Maintenance program to the CCPE. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

Early Childhood Education Program

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the submission of the Early Childhood Education program to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee – Policy Repeals

400 Series Repeals (detailed information included in the official minutes book)

With the April 16, 2025 Board approval of BP-417 Leave, these policies can be repealed.

Ms. Liggett MOVED to approve the 400 series repeals as presented. SECONDED by Ms. Lehl. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

500 Series Repeals (detailed information included in the official minutes book)

With the April 16, 2025 Board approval of BP-511 Transfer of Credits, this policy can be repealed.

Mr. Kaufman MOVED to approve the 500 series repeal as presented. SECONDED by Mr. Hanson. The vote was, Yes: Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Finance and Operations Committee

Bids/Contracts

Bid #25-FUR-15 Health Science Furniture

Tabulation:

WNCC Harms Building Renovation – Furniture Bids							
	Total Bid Submission	Awarded Lounge	Awarded Chairs	Awarded Tables	Awarded Storage	Awarded Desks	Total Awarded
VENDOR							
All Makes	\$361,660.27	\$ -	\$7,453.42	\$65,342.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$72,795.82
Duet Resources	\$190,121.98	NO BID	\$95,408.66	\$9,590.36	NO BID	\$ -	\$104,999.02
Eakes	\$441,779.67	\$22,985.83	\$26,334.01	\$8,431.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$178,754.78
Encompas	\$382,387.24	\$ -	\$6,082.89	\$30,096.83	\$2,482.23	\$121,003.62	\$38,661.95
						GRAND TOTAL	\$395,211.57

The selection committee worked with Wilkins ADP to develop the Health Science Furniture specifications. Bids were solicited in the Omaha World Herald. Furniture was categorized by type and each line item was to include pricing with install. After review of the bid submissions and furniture specifications, attention was given to quality, durability, comfort, cohesiveness, and overall value from each vendor. The selection committee recommended accepting the bid amounts as noted in the “total awarded” column in the above table with a grand total award amount of \$395,211.57.

Mr. Kaufman MOVED to approve awarding Bid #25-FUR-15 Health Science Furniture to All Makes in the amount of \$72,795.82, Duet Resources in the amount of \$104,999.02, Eakes in the amount of \$178,754.78, and Encompas in the amount of \$38,661.95 for a grand total of \$395,211.57. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

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

Bid #25-EQ-14 Health Science Equipment

Tabulation:

WNCC Harms Building Renovation – Equipment Bid Results								
	Total Bid Submission	Manikins Award	BNA Equipment Award	EMT Equipment Award	Med Lab Tech Equipment Award	Nursing Equipment Award	Surgical Tech Equipment Award	Total Awarded
VENDOR:								
Technical Ed Solutions	\$553,562.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Gaumard	\$89,279.00	\$89,279.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Pocket Nurse	no response	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Medline	no response	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
						GRAND TOTAL \$89,279.00		

The selection committee worked with Wilkins ADP to develop the Health Science Equipment specifications. Bids were solicited in the Omaha World Herald. Equipment was categorized by program and each line item was to include pricing with install as applicable.

Bids for manikins were received from Gaumard and a partial bid from Technology Education Solutions. It is the recommendation of the selection committee to award the bid for manikins in the amount of \$89,279.00 to Gaumard.

The bid from Technology Education Solutions failed to meet bid specifications. It was the recommendation of the selection committee to not accept this bid and rebid the remaining equipment.

Ms. Liggett MOVED to decline the bid from Technology Education Solutions. SECONDED by Ms. Lehl. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve awarding Bid #25-FUR-15 Health Science Furniture to Gaumard in the amount of \$89,279.00. SECONDED by Mr. Kaufman. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Student Report

There was no report.

Faculty Report

Lorin King, Science Instructor, served as a judge at the Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences research competition held at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln on April 24. Mr. King has also given several engaging presentations on dinosaurs and paleontology. These presentations are always a hit with the students—dinosaurs continue to captivate both kids and adults alike.

Mr. Croft thanked President Dart for his thoughtful consideration of how faculty have been feeling. It is no secret that this has been a difficult year, and morale is understandably down given the ongoing discussions around program closures and recent leadership changes.

As mentioned, uncertainty weighs heavily, and when you add necessary budget considerations—whether urgent or longer-term—it becomes even harder to navigate the semester with a clear sense of direction. We have been fortunate in the past to be somewhat insulated from some of these broader pressures, and most recognize that the situation is changing, and we are not immune. Communication makes a difference even when the news is hard to hear.

The Faculty Assembly continues to meet monthly and serves as a constructive platform for dialogue and decision-making. The semester has presented its fair share of challenges, due to uncertainty about what the future holds. It has been difficult for many to move forward with confidence, especially when timelines and necessary decisions remain unclear. There is, understandably, a level of trepidation among faculty and staff.

As we move forward, leadership is trying to take a thoughtful and sustainable approach, particularly regarding budgetary concerns. Organizational morale is a priority, as it significantly impacts how effectively we function. While the circumstances are not easy, the shared governance framework is giving faculty a voice. Hopefully, decisions made will be prudent and will support both our academic mission and our people.

Nebraska Community College Association

Chair Stinner announced that the second-quarter NCCA Board meeting has been rescheduled to June 9.

From a community college perspective, this legislative session has been notably successful. The Governor has until midnight tonight to sign the budget. The Future Fund has been maintained and a 3.5% funding increase has been committed to community colleges. Name plate tax revenue has been restored as a funding source for colleges, helping to stabilize budgets and WNCC has been removed from the pink postcard requirement, resulting in potential revenue savings.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

Ms. Reisig, WNCC Foundation Executive Director welcomed new Board members and shared information about the Monument Marathon.

The Monument Marathon is the major annual fundraiser for the WNCC Foundation. Initiated in 2012 by the Foundation Board as a signature event, 2025 will mark the 14th annual Monument Marathon, scheduled for Saturday, September 27. As of now, \$97,000 has been secured through top-tier sponsorships and tourism grants. An additional \$40,000 is expected in sponsorships over the coming weeks. This figure does not include numerous in-kind and service donations from community organizations.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation (cont.)

With approximately \$35,000 in runner registrations and additional sponsorship support, net proceeds of around \$70,000 are expected to be available for student support—despite uncertainties such as potential tariff impacts on race medals imported from China. This estimate accounts for typical event expenses of approximately \$90,000. In 2024, the event had a record 602 runners. The 2025 goal is to reach 650 participants, generating significant tourism and economic benefits for Scotts Bluff County. Beyond financials, this event is a powerful tool for community engagement and relationship-building. The kickoff press conference is scheduled 3:30 p.m., Thursday, June 5th at Platte Valley Companies.

This year, on graduation morning, the Foundation and Alumni Office hosted the first-ever fifty-year alumni reception, honoring the Class of 1975. Although intimate, with only seven attendees, the event was full of laughter and stories. Alumni handed out graduation pins, continuing a cherished tradition. One alum traveled seven hundred miles to attend. Another watched his grandson graduate, and one alum (her daughter's great aunt) handed her the pin—a truly special multigenerational moment. This reception was a success and will become an annual tradition moving forward.

President Comments

This time of year continues to be one of the most rewarding across campus as we celebrated the achievements of our students. The culmination of their hard work through graduations and recognition events reminds us of our core mission. This year, graduation events were expanded to include three ceremonies: Nurse's Pinning on Friday night, main Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, and Adult Education GED Graduation later that day. In addition, the College was proud to host Scottsbluff High School's graduation due to inclement weather. Our maintenance and facilities staff responded with incredible speed and teamwork to prepare the venue in just forty-eight hours—an outstanding example of community partnership.

Faculty and staff were celebrated through our annual awards luncheon on one of the final contract days. Awards included faculty and staff of the year, and longevity awards in ten-year increments. This year, instructors Brian Croft and Robin Hayhurst were honored for twenty years of service.

Regarding summer enrollment, the College is currently between 7-10% up. A lot of the summer enrollment is online, but growth is being seen in some of the non-credit BNA classes.

Anytime there are budget appropriations, there are federal concerns as well. The College has federally funded programs as well as our student aid. Federal financial aid plays a big part in what our student's financing package looks like, and there is concern about that. The adult basic education (GED) program funding is passed through the State and July first is the date it will be determined if that funding will continue. Trio is in the midst of a grant competition for our student support services with a deadline of September first.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Allan Kreman shared a heartwarming story of unexpected Nebraska ties discovered abroad. While attending a hospital dedication in Peru, two of Allan's friends had the chance encounter of meeting a couple with strong connections to Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC).

Genevieve, a 2009 graduate of WNCC, earned her Associate of Nursing Degree, while her husband, Ryan, completed the Aviation program in 2010. He later returned to WNCC to receive a General Arts degree. Both were active members of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society during their time at the college. The couple is now serving as missionaries in Peru, continuing to impact lives far beyond Nebraska.

Ms. Lehl expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed to the recent graduation ceremonies. The events were well organized, and the GED graduation, was especially memorable. One touching moment allowed students to present flowers to individuals who had made a meaningful impact in their lives. Many faculty members were honored during this gesture, highlighting the profound difference our instructors make every day. Thank you to all our educators—your dedication, compassion, and commitment do not go unnoticed. You are truly appreciated.

Executive Session

Personnel Matters – Evaluation of College President

Ms. Lehl MOVED pursuant to Section 84-1410 of the Reissue of the Revised Statutes, known as the Nebraska Public Meetings Law, that the Board hold a closed session with, Mr. Jerry Ostdiek, College attorney, Ms. Lisa Gion, Associate Vice President of Human Resources and Ms. Susan Verbeck, Board Secretary, for the purpose of discussion of Personnel Matters regarding the evaluation of the College president.

She further moved this closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of individuals and that strategy sessions with respect to personnel matters are specifically authorized by the Nebraska Public Meetings Law.

Mr. Kaufman SECONDED the motion. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

Chair Stinner stated the reason for the Executive Session was Personnel matters regarding the Evaluation of the College President. The Board of Governors and those so named in the motion adjourned to an Executive Session at 1:33 p.m.

Chair Stinner declared a ten-minute recess at 1:40 p.m.

Chair Stinner stated the Executive Session would resume at 1:48 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 2:43 p.m.

Open Meeting

Chair Mr. Stinner declared the open meeting in session at 2:43 p.m.

Discussion/Consideration of President's Contract

Chair Stinner inquired if there was additional discussion or comments in regard to the President's evaluation and contract. The final draft of the contract will be prepared by Mr. Ostdiek, WNCC attorney and will be presented for approval at the June 18 Board meeting.

In the absence of additional discussion, Chair Stinner entertained a motion for approval of the president's preliminary contract and evaluation results.

Ms. Schmidt MOVED to approve the president's preliminary contract and evaluation results. SECONDED by Mr. Hanson. The vote was, Yes: Hanson, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Savely. Motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

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

2025 Fourth Quarter Meeting and Annual Conference
Southeast Community College Area
Sunday, November 2 and Monday, November 3, 2025

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 1:00 p.m., WNCC Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:46 p.m.

John P. Stinner, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary