

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 18, 2025**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 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, June 10, 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	Absent
Mark A. Kaufman	Present
Starr Lehl, Vice Chairperson	Present
Lori J. Liggett	Absent
William M. Packard.....	Present
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.....	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt	Present
John P. Stinner, Chairperson.....	Present

Mr. Hanson and Ms. Liggett informed the Board Secretary that they would be unable to attend the meeting due to personal business commitments.

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. Hanson and Ms. Liggett
 - c. Minutes
 - i. June 18, 2025 Informal Meeting
 - ii. June 18, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** May 2025
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$3,041,230.95
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$97,583.65
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$7,752.19
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$5,282.88
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$3,138,206.29
 - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$178,598.21
4. City Planning Commission Reports
5. **Approval** of Consent Calendar
6. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

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

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (April)

Dr. Packard MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. Allan Kreman for \$85.68 and Ms. Starr Lehl for \$100.24. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Liggett. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar

Resignation(s)

Dr. Holly Boomer, English Instructor, Effective August 31, 2025

Ms. Stacy Ring, Administrative Assistance, Effective June 23, 2025

Appointment(s)

Ms. Stacy Ring, Foundation Specialist III, Effective June 23, 2025

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

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WNCC President's Contract

Attorney Jason Ossian reported that a new employment contract for President Dart has been prepared in accordance with the Board's discussion during its last meeting. The new contract maintains the general structure of the previous agreement, with the following key updates. The contract will span a three-year period, commencing on July 1, 2025, and concluding on June 30, 2028. The President's annual salary has been increased to \$255,500, aligning with compensation levels for presidents at other community colleges across the state. This salary will remain fixed throughout the term unless otherwise renegotiated. Amendments have been made to the benefits package to reflect the Board's prior discussion.

Additionally, the contract stipulates that prior to July 1st of each year, the Board will inform the President whether the contract will be extended for an additional twelve-month period. The Board will also conduct an annual evaluation to assess the President's performance.

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

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee

First Read: BP-563 Anti Hazing

This policy incorporates language based on a new law enacted in December 2024. While hazing has never been tolerated at WNCC, the new law mandates that institutions have a formal anti-hazing policy in place. This policy has been developed and approved through the shared governance process.

First Read: BP-705 Emergency Management Plan

This policy has been amended, beginning with a change to its title, which was previously *All Hazards Emergency Management*. A dedicated group has been meeting regularly to draft the new Emergency Management Plan. The plan outlines how the College coordinates with various agencies during emergencies and is designed to be adaptable for future updates as needed.

Info Only: WNCC Emergency Management Plan

(approved by College Council, May 2025)

In response to an inquiry, President Dart confirmed that recommendations from a consultant group that visited WNCC were incorporated into the plan. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) information was also a resource.

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

500.2200.79 Student Orientation

500.2300.86 Counseling

500.2400.79 Testing

500.2500.79 Academic Advising

500.2600.79 Career Development and Referral

500.2700.79 Financial Aid Programs

500.3200.79 Role of Student Activities

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee (cont.)

This is a series of simple, one-line policies that have been replaced by a new policy, which requires the repeal of the old ones.

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

Reports and Recommendations from the Finance and Operations Committee Bids/Contracts

Use of Cash on Hand to Continue the Operations of the College Pending Approval of 2025-26 Budgets in September 2025

Mr. Kaufman MOVED to approve the use of cash on hand to continue the operations of the College pending approval of 2025-26 Budgets in September. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Packard, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Liggett. Motion carried.

Bid #25-SER-17 Financial Aid Award Management Software

Tabulation:

Company	City/State	Total Amount
Awarded Software	New York, NY	\$74,000.00
Blackbaud	Charleston, SC	\$63,000.00
NextGen Web	Lincoln, NE	\$63,000.00

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services reported the software the Financial Aid Department is currently using for scholarship management is no longer meeting the needs of the institution and has created significant barriers for students. The current contract ends June 30, 2026 so a selection committee was formed, and an RFP was issued for the replacement of the current software. Six vendors responded to the RFP, and selection was narrowed to three vendors for final demonstrations and selection.

Of the three remaining vendors, the selection committee is recommending Awarded Software. Awarded Software's solution is focused on the donors and the students to maximize the benefits to both.

The user interface is a modern style with easy to navigate functionality and progress bars to help both donors and students easily understand their funding levels given or used, respectively.

Even though this is not the low bid, Awarded Software outperformed the other vendors with their ability to connect to the College's Colleague ERP system. This is a critical function to ensure student information and billing status are updated in real-time between the two systems.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve Bid #SER-17 Financial Aid Management Software to Awarded Software in the amount of \$74,000. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Packard, Richards, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Liggett. Motion carried.

Bid #25-EQ-14 Health Science Equipment

TABULATION:

Company	City/State	Total Amount
Johnson Scientific	Williamstown, NJ	\$252,739.00
Technical Education Solutions	Chesterfield, VA	\$401,000.00 ("all-or-nothing" bid)
The Rhino Group	Grand Rapids, MI	\$69,815.11 (surgical tables only)
DiaMedical	Farmington Hills, MI	No Response
Seattle Technology: Surgical Division	Marysville, WA	No Response
Evergreen Medical	Kansas City, MO	No Response

The selection committee worked with Wilkins ADP to develop the Health Science Equipment specifications and 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.

After review of the bid submissions and equipment specifications it is the recommendation of the selection committee to accept the bid from Johnson Scientific with a total award amount of \$252,739.00.

Ms. Koski noted that this bid was previously rejected at the May Board meeting. A significant cost savings was achieved through the rebidding process.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve awarding Bid #25-EQ-14 to Johnson Scientific in the amount of \$252,739.00. SECONDED by Mr. Kaufman. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Packard, Richards, Savely, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson, Liggett. Motion carried.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Student Report

There was no report.

Faculty Report

Mr. Croft noted that while most faculty are currently off contract for the summer, a number of individuals are still engaged in important work but otherwise, campus activity has been quiet.

Nebraska Community College Association

Responsibilities on the NCCA board have been informally divided: Mr. Stinner will be overseeing the budget and Ms. Lehl will be focusing on policy.

This Legislative session was productive overall. Nearly all items needing attention from the community college perspective were addressed, contributing to a successful outcome. The next NCCA quarterly meeting is scheduled for August. At that time, the budget will be finalized and passed for the upcoming term. That discussion will be particularly interesting, as there are several key points worth exploring.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

Ms. Alena Haun, Foundation Development Director, introduced Ms. Mia Arnold as the Foundation's Monument Marathon summer intern. Ms. Arnold recently graduated from Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC), where she studied for two years, and she plans to continue her education at Bellevue University, pursuing a bachelor's degree. Ms. Arnold has already made valuable contributions to the Foundation's new marketing program and has performed exceptionally well. Her responsibilities include supporting marketing efforts, coordinating community contacts for runner swag, and assisting with various event planning tasks.

In addition to Ms. Arnold's role, the Foundation will welcome a part-time summer student ambassador to support ongoing initiatives. The Foundation is also pleased to announce the addition of a new staff member, Ms. Stacy Ring, who will serve as Foundation Specialist III.

President Comments

President Dart began with a reflection on student success stories to underscore the impact of faculty and institutional support. Two former students shared heartfelt messages expressing their gratitude for WNCC's role in their academic and professional achievements.

The first story featured *Ernest Magdaleno*, a WNCC alum who began his academic journey with basic math and recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in construction management from the University of Nebraska.

In an email to Amy Winters, his former math instructor, Ernest shared how her patience and encouragement helped him overcome the intimidation of starting at a remedial level. He now begins a position as a field engineer with Kiewit and attributes much of his success to the foundation laid in her class.

The second message came from *Jake Nichols*, an online student from Montana who praised the cybersecurity program and instructor Bill Loring for providing practical, career-ready skills that helped him advance professionally. Jake noted the affordability, support systems, and industry-aligned certifications at WNCC as being pivotal to his success. These stories were shared to emphasize the institution's transformative impact on students and reinforce the importance of the work being done by faculty and staff.

President Dart provided an update on federal legislative matters with potential significant implications for WNCC. Proposed changes to the Pell Grant program would raise the full-time enrollment threshold from 12 to 15 credit hours, and part-time eligibility to 7.5 credits. While intended to promote faster degree completion, these changes could negatively impact many students who juggle work, family, and other commitments. Many part-time students already take the maximum number of credits they can manage, and the proposed thresholds may result in loss of eligibility for financial aid.

Further concerns were raised regarding proposed federal budget cuts to the TRIO programs, which include Student Support Services and Veterans Upward Bound. These programs are vital for first-generation, low-income students and veterans, offering tutoring, supplemental instruction, and other resources. WNCC currently supports over two hundred students annually through Student Support Services, well beyond the one hundred students the grant was originally designed to serve.

President Comments (cont.)

Without funding, the College would lose staff funded entirely through these grants and would be unable to offer equivalent services through institutional funds. The Veterans Upward Bound program also extends services into South Dakota and serves a broader regional population. While national efforts are underway to advocate for TRIO, local outreach and support from the Board and community are encouraged.

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) and GED programs—funded through federal pass-through dollars—are facing an uncertain future. Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) is the sole provider of these essential services within its service area. Although a temporary extension has secured funding for one more year, the potential discontinuation of federal support beyond that timeframe poses a serious risk. The loss of this funding would significantly impair WNCC's capacity to serve adult learners and could necessitate difficult institutional decisions regarding program sustainability.

The President noted continued uncertainty surrounding Perkins funding, which supports career and technical education programs. While federal rhetoric emphasizes the importance of community college training, there is no clarity on future funding streams or grant structures to replace current programs.

Advocacy efforts are ongoing at the institutional and state level. President Dart has been in contact with Senator Ricketts' and Representative Smith's offices and has been working with other state college presidents to advocate for these essential programs. Board members were invited to join in this advocacy, and supporting materials, including letters, and talking points, will be distributed for those who wish to contact federal representatives.

President Dart shared construction project updates. Three projects are nearing completion: the Pioneer Hall abatement and renovation, the aviation engine run room, and the powerline classroom addition. Each of these projects is located on one of WNCC's three campuses. The Health Science renovation project at the Harms Center remains on schedule and on budget, with completion expected by December. Summer is the busiest season for facilities work, and additional roofing and renovation projects are actively underway.

Regarding meeting materials, the Board is transitioning to a more paperless system. A comprehensive and user-friendly PDF document will be used to consolidate board packets and other meeting materials. Prior to the July meeting, a tutorial is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Paper copies will still be provided for any member who requests them.

A question was raised regarding enrollment capacity in health sciences programs. The President explained that while nursing program enrollment is increasing, it has not yet reached full capacity at any of the campuses. Other programs, such as medical laboratory technology, still have significant room for growth. The health science renovation is expected to increase overall program capacity by 15 to 20 percent. Clinical placements are typically found throughout the region, including Nebraska, Colorado, and South Dakota.

Board Member Comments

There were no Board member comments.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

NCCA Third Quarter Board Meeting and Strategic Planning Session

Monday, August 11, 2025

Lincoln, NE

2025 ACCT Leadership Congress

October 22-25, 2025

New Orleans, LA

2025 Fourth Quarter Meeting and Annual Conference

Southeast Community College Area

Sunday, November 2 and Monday, November 3, 2025

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 1:00 p.m., WNCC Scottsbluff Campus,
1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:42 p.m.

John P. Stinner, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary