

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
July 16, 2025**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 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, July 8, 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.....	Absent
Allan D. Kreman.....	Present
Joshua R. Hanson	Present
Mark A. Kaufman	Absent
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

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales, Mr. Kaufman, and Mr. Savely 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) – Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Savely
 - c. Minutes
 - i. June 18, 2025 Informal Meeting
 - ii. June 18, 2025 Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** May 2025
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$3,406,155.92
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$5430.10
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$10,480.00
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$6,700.73
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$1,410,737.54
 - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$36,578.78
3. City Planning Commission Reports
4. **Approval** of Consent Calendar
5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

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

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (April, May, June)

Ms. Liggett MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. Josh Hanson for \$106.40 and Mr. Allan Kreman for \$54.60. SECONDED by Ms. Lehl. The vote was, Yes: Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: Hanson, Kreman. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Savely. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (April, May, June)

Mr. Kreman MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Ms. Starr Lehl for \$73.36 and Ms. Lori Liggett for \$389.20. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Hanson, Kreman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: Lehl, Liggett. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Savely. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (April, May, June)

Ms. Lehl MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. R. J. Savely for \$152.04 and Ms. Marjorie Schmidt for \$179.20. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Packard, Richards, Hanson, Lehl, Kreman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: Schmidt. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Savely. Motion carried.

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee

First Read: BP-330 Construction, Renovation, Alteration, and Maintenance Projects

Info Only: AP-330.01 Construction, Renovation, Alteration, and Maintenance Projects

This policy outlines the procedures for constructing, renovating, altering, or performing maintenance on any college building or campus site. It applies to all Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) facilities and properties, regardless of location. New construction and major renovation or alteration projects are typically identified through the development or periodic updating of the College's Master Site and Facilities Plan. First Read does not require Board approval.

First Read: BP-428 Institutional Holidays and Administrative Closings

The purpose of this policy is to establish an official calendar of institutional holidays and administrative closings for Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC). This policy supports the development of WNCC's academic calendar, which is approved annually by the Board of Governors, and it applies to all full-time staff. WNCC designates specific days throughout the fiscal year as institutional holidays or administrative closings. On these days, the College's administrative offices will be closed, and no classes will be held. The recognized dates are as follows:

Observed Institutional Holidays and Administrative Closings

New Year's Day	January 1
Administrative Closing	Thursday and Friday of Spring Break
Administrative Closing	Spring Holiday previously Good Friday
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Administrative Closing	Wednesday before Thanksgiving starting at noon
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Administrative Closing	Friday following Thanksgiving
Christmas Day	December 25
Administrative Closing	Winter Break encompassing the days between Christmas Day and New Year's Day

First Read does not require Board approval.

First Read: BP-716 College Closure

Info Only: AP-716.01 Campus Closure

This policy establishes the principles that govern decisions regarding the closure of the College. It applies to the entire WNCC community, including students, employees, affiliates, tenants, other occupants, and visitors to the main campus or any designated College location. First Read does not require Board approval.

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

Second 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 requires institutions to implement a formal anti-hazing policy. In response, this policy was developed and approved through the shared governance process.

There were no changes made to the policy since the first reading. Chair Stinner entertained a motion for the approval of BP-563 Anti Hazing.

Dr. Packard MOVED to approve BP-563 Anti Hazing. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Hanson, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Savely. Motion carried.

Second Read: BP-705 Emergency Management Plan

This policy has been amended, beginning with a change to the 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.

There were no changes made to the policy since the first reading. Chair Stinner entertained a motion for the approval of BP-705 Emergency Management Plan.

Ms. Schmidt MOVED to approve BP-705 Emergency Management Plan. SECONDED by Dr. Packard. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Schmidt, Hanson, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Savely. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Finance and Operations Committee

Consider 1% Authority Override for 2025-26 Budget and Carry Forward all Unused Authority

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services referenced a document provided by the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, which states that the biggest misconception about the lid on restricted funds is that the lid is on disbursements. There is no lid on disbursements.

Restricted Funds are specific sources of revenue (property taxes and state aid) that have a legal or policy-based cap on how much can be generated in a given budget year.

The "Lid" on Restricted Funds refers to the legal limit placed on how much restricted funding a political subdivision can generate. It is intended to control how much tax burden is placed on property owners. The College Governing Board can vote to approve an additional 1% increase in restricted funds authority. Approving this increase does not automatically raise property taxes by 1%, it simply increases the Board's authority or capacity to collect more restricted funds in the future, if needed or if more state aid becomes available.

Approving the 1% increase gives flexibility but does not affect the current tax levy (i.e., how much is being taxed right now). It is like raising a credit card limit, you are not borrowing more money immediately, just increasing your borrowing potential, if necessary, later. If the additional authority is not used, it has no impact on current property taxes. However, it could enable the College to accept more funds later without having to ask for new approval.

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

Consider 1% Authority Override for 2025-26 Budget and Carry Forward all Unused Authority

Ms. Liggett MOVED the Board vote to approve the 1% authority override for the 2025-2026 Budget and carry forward all unused authority. SECONDED by Mr. Kreman. The vote was Yes: Schmidt, Hanson, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Savely. Motion carried.

Dana F. Cole and Company Audit Engagement

The letter of engagement from Dana F. Cole and Company included in the Board meeting packet was presented for review. The Board was being asked to approve a one-year contract in the amount of \$50,500, representing a 23% increase over the previous year's audit fee.

Unlike the prior three-year agreement, the firm is requesting a single-year engagement. In response to an inquiry, Ms. Koski explained that increased complexity in governmental accounting standards has contributed to the cost increase. Specifically, a new requirement mandates the College to estimate and record the liability for anticipated sick leave usage, adding to the audit's scope. These evolving standards continue to require more work and staffing to ensure compliance.

Ms. Schmidt MOVED the Board vote to approve the audit engagement of Dana F. Cole and Company. SECONDED by Ms. Lehl. The vote was Yes: Hanson, Kreman, Lehl, Liggett, Packard, Richards, Schmidt, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Savely. Motion carried.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Spring 2025 End of Semester Report - Arich Knaub, Enrollment Research Analytics Director

Total Enrollment and Campus Usage

Total Enrollment: 1,502 Students, a 2.3% increase from Spring 2024 (1,468 students)

Full-Time Enrollment: 550 students, compared to 554 in Spring 2024

Part-Time Enrollment: 952 students, up 4.2% from 914 in Spring 2024

Duplicated Headcount: 1,990 students, down slightly from 2,014 in Spring 2024

Scottsbluff remains the largest campus with 672 students, though down significantly from 787

Online saw significant growth, serving 714 students, which is up from 651

Alliance and Sidney campuses also experienced growth in both headcount and credit load

Approximately 486 students utilized multiple campuses

****An unduplicated** count of students based on their primary campus. A primary campus is identified as the campus that the student takes most of their courses at.

****A duplicated** count of students based on all campus locations they utilize. This visualizes how many students each campus serves. About 486 students utilize multiple campuses for education.

Credit Load and Full-Time Equivalency (FTE)

Total Credits: 13,229.5, down 1.2% compared to Spring 2024 (13,396)

FTE: 441.4, down marginally from 446.6 (1.2%) in Spring 2024 online FTE increased notably to 133.9 from 115.1

Scottsbluff decreased to 189.6 from 217.4

Awards and Completions

Total Awards: 224 awards earned by 220 students (134 associate's degrees, 71 certificates, 19 diplomas)

Nursing awarded the most credentials (42), followed by Health Sciences (24), Business Administration (21) and Powerline Construction and Maintenance (21)

Average time to completion for associates degrees was 5 semesters

Student Demographics (Awards Data)

Hispanic/Latino students earned 46 awards (20.5%)

International students earned 18 awards (8%)

62% female to 38% male, mirroring our enrollment demographics

Summer 2025 Census Report - Arich Knaub, Enrollment Research Analytics Director

On the Census Date for the Summer 2025 Semester

Total Enrollment: 400 Students, reflecting a 1.5% increase over Summer 2024 (394 students)

Returning Students: 26.4% of students enrolled in Spring 2025 re-enrolled for Summer 2025, consistent with seasonal trends.

Credit Load and Full-Time Equivalency (FTE)

Total FTE: 67.8, down 3.8% from 70.5 in Summer 2024

Total REU: 89.3, also down from 92.7 last year. The decline represents a continuing trend this academic year; more students have enrolled but with fewer credit hours.

Delivery Methods

Online Instruction: largest instructional modality, comprising 68.3% of all students

Although all WNCC campuses experienced an increase in in-person enrollment, only online instruction saw an increase in the number of credits taken.

Female-to-Male Ratio: 72.5% to 27.5% -- widening the typical gender gap by approximately 12% compared to Fall/Spring terms

Average Age: 25.4 years, which is 3.5 years older than the average during Fall/Spring terms

Female: 26.1 years

Male: 23.4 years

Hispanic Enrollment: 108 students (27%), down 2.7% from Summer 2024 (29.7%)

Geographic Reach

Representation from all but two counties (Cherry & Sioux) in the WNCC service area

Students from 16 states outside of Nebraska

23 international students, spanning multiple countries

Athletic Department Report – Ryan Burgner, Athletic Director

Mr. Ryan Burgner, Athletic Director, shared that student-athletes have remained highly engaged both in the classroom and within the community. Coaches have actively supported and encouraged student involvement in community events, including hosting youth camps, assisting with the Monument Marathon, supporting setup and teardown for the St. Agnes Penny Carnival,

Athletic Department Report (cont.)

participating in Westmoor Elementary's National Walk to School Day and delivering meals for the Gering Senior Center. These efforts represent just a portion of the many ways student-athletes contribute to local community events. In addition to volunteer efforts, the athletic department has donated over 1,500 game passes, 150 all-sport passes, and various apparel items to support local community fundraisers.

The department continues to prioritize increasing student participation in service projects and aims to strengthen community connections by encouraging area youth to attend college athletic events. This exposure not only supports local engagement but also promotes the College to future students.

Mr. Burgner reported that student-athletes performed well academically. Forty-nine athletes were recognized as Region IX All-Academic Athletes, having earned a GPA of 3.25 or higher. Additionally, twenty-eight student-athletes received NJCAA All-Academic awards for maintaining a GPA of 3.6 or above. Four athletes—representing volleyball, softball, women's basketball, and men's soccer—were named to the NJCAA All-Academic Team, which requires a minimum GPA of 3.0. The overall GPA for student-athletes was 2.92. During the 2024–2025 academic year, 72% of student-athletes graduated with an associate degree. Since Fall 2022, 78% have earned an associate degree. Students have expressed that while coursework at WNCC was challenging, they felt well-prepared to transfer to four-year institutions.

Student-athletes achieved notable success both in the classroom and in competition. The women's basketball and men's soccer teams hosted Region IX Championship games, while men's soccer and softball earned Region IX tournament berths. Coach Todd Rasnic was honored as the District Coach of the Year, and both Rasnic and Coach Ryan Davis were named Region IX Coaches of the Year. The men's soccer team boasted the Region IX Defensive Player of the Year and the overall Region Player of the Year. Additionally, 28 student-athletes were named All-Region Athletes, and two received NJCAA All-American honors.

In conclusion, Mr. Burgner expressed his gratitude to the administration for their continued support and to the coaching staff for their leadership and dedication to the success of student-athletes.

NACUA Report – Jason Ossian, College Attorney

Mr. Ossian reported that as part of their ongoing commitment to the Board and to President Dart to remain current on emerging issues in higher education, he regularly attends the annual conference of the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA). Each year, the conference rotates locations—this year it was held in Seattle.

NACUA's membership includes:

- 850+ institutions, representing over 1,650 campuses nationwide
- 5,400 attorney members

While NACUA has a large membership, its approach is highly practical. Compared to other organizations—like the annual Stetson conference his firm attended years ago—NACUA's focus is more grounded and directly applicable to the real-world challenges facing institutions like WNCC.

NACUA Report (cont.)

The benefit of NACUA is twofold:

- Breakout sessions tailored to institutional types—such as community colleges—allow for issue-specific problem solving.
- A useful listserv where members actively share policies, forms, board procedures, and advice—not just anecdotes or self-promotion.

The opening session featured the President of the American Bar Association, who discussed the challenges higher education institutions face when federal administrations change. While political views varied among attendees, the focus remained on how shifting priorities impact compliance and enforcement.

One concern raised was the increased use of the False Claims Act to enforce federal compliance—especially where institutions certify compliance with federal law as a condition of receiving grants. If noncompliance is later discovered, the financial penalties can be severe due to the treble damages provision.

Mr. Ossian noted that he attended the community college-focused sessions, which remain the most practical and collaborative. Over the years, he has built connections with several peers across the country. This has created a reliable network he can call upon during the year when issues arise. The community college group is especially generous in sharing policies and real-world solutions.

Contract law sessions continue to be essential. All major contracts for the College are reviewed, and these sessions help them to stay ahead of:

- Vendors burying liability clauses or pushing legal responsibility onto the college.
- Compliance issues related to FERPA, ADA, and other higher education-specific regulations.
- Vendors hiding terms in hyperlinked documents—which we flag and push back on.

The takeaway: when we redline contracts, vendors usually accommodate because they want the business. When 1,600 institutions push back, we begin to see change in industry standards.

After significant fluctuations in recent years, we are officially returning to the 2020 Title IX regulations, following recent court rulings—including a nationwide injunction against the Biden Administration's revised rules. Fortunately, the College had proactively trained its Title IX advisors and decision-makers under the 2020 framework. This continuity saves valuable time and resources while avoiding the need for retraining. Moving forward, we will reinforce our existing processes rather than overhaul them once again.

Other sessions attended included:

- Employment Law
- FMLA & ADA updates
- FERPA & Clery Act
- Negotiations and Reductions in Force

Each session was selected based on its potential applicability to real issues we handle throughout the year.

Mr. Ossian noted that he appreciates the opportunity to attend the NACUA conference each year. It remains an invaluable resource, both for continuing education and practical legal support.

Student Report

There was no student report.

Faculty Report

Mr. Croft noted that WNCC Art instructor Yelena Khanevskaya has been selected as one of the artists to help with a mural in the Sidney creative district. Otherwise, faculty has been preparing for the start of the semester.

Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA)

Dr. Courtney Wittstruck joined the meeting to provide an update on recent legislative activity and the NCCA. She reported that during the current Legislative session, 736 bills were introduced, accompanied by over 1,600 amendments and public hearings. Notably, every bill receives a hearing.

A total of 322 bills passed, with 113 bills being combined into 209 final pieces of legislation. There were 106 priority bills, with each senator allowed to designate one priority bill. Additionally, committees and the Speaker are allotted their own priority bills.

For bills with potential fiscal impact on the state or state entities, cost estimates must be calculated. In cases where legislation may impact community colleges financially, Ms. Wittstruck collaborates with college presidents and other stakeholders to submit fiscal notes on behalf of the five member colleges. Ms. Wittstruck noted that Metropolitan Community College is not a member of the NCCA.

At the NCCA First Quarter meeting, the Board of Directors identifies a priority bill slate. This slate includes the most important bills that the NCCA will focus on for the legislative session.

This year 87 priority bills were being tracked, and 736 total bills were being monitored. This information is logged in a master spreadsheet, which includes status updates that change daily. A condensed version of this spreadsheet is shared with stakeholders, showing only the key information.

The NCCA took a formal position on 17 bills this session. This involved in-person testimony or submitting a formal letter. The staff usually delivers testimony, but college presidents were involved for key bills, especially appropriations requests and dual enrollment funding.

Fiscal notes detail the financial impact of legislation on the colleges. Fifteen fiscal notes were submitted this year. These notes often do not show long-term costs beyond the current or next biennium, even if the bill has delayed effects.

As the result of a brainstorming session scheduled at the NCCA first quarter board meeting, Legislative Bills were discussed to determine which bills were a priority for the colleges.

One priority was ensuring the existing funding model was honored and remained unchanged. If the funding model were to change, it was important to ensure that the colleges have the right to levy if the funding from the state does not fulfill required funding.

Dual credit enrollment had previously been funded using ARPA (federal COVID relief funds). The current request was for state funding to replace expiring ARPA dollars. From the State's viewpoint, this was seen as an increase in appropriation because they were now taking over a financial obligation previously funded by federal dollars.

Nebraska Community College Association (cont.)

Without that replacement funding, free or reduced-cost dual enrollment would no longer be sustainable. The institution emphasized this in its request to maintain affordability and access for students.

The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education Reporting System (NSWERS) is a comprehensive data system that tracks individuals from early education (K–12) through postsecondary education and into the workforce. By enabling longitudinal data analysis and predictive modeling, NSWERS provides valuable insights into the outcomes of educational interventions. For example, if third grade reading proficiency increases from 80% to 85%, the system can model the potential long-term effects, such as higher college enrollment rates. This kind of evidence-based projection is invaluable to the state legislature, helping lawmakers make informed decisions about how to allocate limited public funds. By demonstrating the potential return on investment for various initiatives, NSWERS supports strategies aimed at maximizing impact. Despite its critical role, the system received only about a quarter of the funding it requested.

Each February, a special Legislative Day is held at the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln. This event brings together community college board members, college presidents, and students for an important day of advocacy and connection. During the event, attendees meet with state senators to highlight the vital role community colleges play across Nebraska. While college leaders share institutional priorities and challenges, students provide a personal and powerful perspective. Senators especially value hearing directly from students about why they chose their college and how their experiences are shaping their future. Legislative Day is a unique opportunity to elevate the voice of community colleges and ensure they remain a strong part of Nebraska's higher education system.

Each year, the Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) hosts the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recognition event at the State Capitol. The ceremony takes place in the Warner Chamber and features the Governor as the keynote speaker. This special event honors outstanding community college students from across the state. Students are invited to bring their families, and many take photos as they receive their awards, marking a proud moment of academic achievement and celebration.

During this legislative session, we requested normal state appropriations along with specific funding for dual enrollment. From the State's perspective, this constituted an increase in dual enrollment funding, as the program had previously been supported by federal ARPA funds. While ARPA funding allowed dual enrollment courses to remain discounted or free, it became evident that this support was temporary. Without replacement funding, the cost of dual credit courses would shift to students and families.

By assuming responsibility for these costs, the State effectively increased its financial commitment to dual enrollment. Although the original request was \$10 million, we were appropriated \$5 million. Given the overall budget environment—where some entities received no funding or experienced cuts—we consider ourselves fortunate to have received this level of support.

The nameplate tax is collected from private companies based on megawatt hours. It is distributed to political subdivisions based on the percentage of property taxes levied. The nameplate tax is not a property tax because our property tax percentage received was changed.

Nebraska Community College Association (cont.)

The nameplate capacity tax is a tax assessed on renewable energy generation facilities—primarily wind and solar farms—based on their megawatt (MW) capacity, rather than their property value.

The revenue collected from the nameplate tax is distributed to political subdivisions (like counties, schools, and colleges) based on the proportion of total property tax each subdivision levies, not strictly based on where the energy facility is located.

Even though the revenue distribution is tied to property tax percentages, the nameplate tax is not classified as a property tax itself. This distinction is key because an institution's share of property tax might have changed, but the share of nameplate tax revenue remains possible—even if we are not directly collecting property taxes from the energy facility.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

Ms. Jennifer Reisig, Foundation Executive Director, provided an update on the upcoming Monument Marathon, noting that planning is going well. Registrations are trending higher than usual, and organizers are hopeful for another record-breaking year. Last year, proceeds doubled, and the goal remains to continue increasing funds to support student scholarships. Volunteer sign-up is currently underway. Those interested in helping can visit monumentmarathon.com and click on "Get Involved." With over 300 volunteers needed to make the event happen, there is a role for everyone. Race day is set for September 27th, and everyone is encouraged to get involved and be part of this impactful community event.

Ms. Reisig recently spoke about the importance of *planned giving*—charitable contributions arranged during a donor's lifetime, often received after their passing. These thoughtful gifts are sometimes unexpected and always deeply meaningful, serving as a legacy for generations to come. Last week, the Foundation received a generous \$50,000 gift from the estate of Florine Pappas. Florine and her husband, Gus, were well known to many of our board members. Often, donors choose not to share their estate plans with us in advance. Still, we are deeply grateful for their vision and generosity.

This week, the Foundation received a letter of intent from a potential planned giving donor. While we hope it will be many years before that gift is realized, it is inspiring to be part of building a legacy for the College's future. If you would like to learn more about leaving a legacy through planned giving, please visit: wnccfoundation.planmygift.org.

The Foundation and Alumni Annual Report is currently at the press and should be arriving in mailboxes within the next couple of weeks.

President Comments

President Dart noted that August 1st, the first athletes will be reporting and August 18th, classes will be starting. We are about a month away from the start of the fall semester.

Work continues with finalization of the budget that will be presented for Board approval at the September meeting.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Lehl shared that she had the opportunity to attend the Box Butte Development Corporation's Perfect Blend event, hosted by the WNCC Alliance Campus. She expressed appreciation for the participation and support of WNCC staff, including Alliance Campus Director Ms. Curtis

Board Member Comments (cont.)

and staff members from the Scottsbluff Campus, who were present to answer questions and engage with attendees. The event was well attended and strongly supported by the Alliance community.

Ms. Curtis extended her thanks to everyone who attended the Perfect Blend event on July 8 in Alliance. She noted that the Box Butte Development Corporation invites community businesses and members from across the Panhandle region, with events rotating among various host sites. WNCC was selected to host this session, which focused on how the College can support employers beyond traditional classroom education. Staff spoke with employers about upskilling opportunities and available college resources to assist with workforce development. The event led to several positive connections, including contact with a CDL instructor and a community member who expressed interest in volunteering at the College.

Additionally, Ms. Curtis reported on her role as a member of the Heritage Days planning committee. As part of the event kickoff, the WNCC team constructed a Plinko game from plastic cups and cardboard, which proved popular among attendees. Approximately 500 people participated in the activities held at the city park. WNCC distributed informational materials, and staff were on hand to answer questions, making it a valuable opportunity to promote the College and its offerings.

Chair Stinner noted that WNCC will be hosting University of Nebraska President Dr. Jeffrey Gold, next Thursday, July 24, at 2:00 p.m. Board members will be receiving a meeting invite.

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

[WNCC Athletics](#)

[WNCC Performing Arts](#)

[WNCC Athletic and Academic Calendar](#)

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 1:00 p.m., WNCC Alliance Campus, 1750 Sweetwater Avenue, Alliance, NE.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:37 p.m.

John P. Stinner, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary