

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
November 15, 2023**

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 in the Coral E. Richards Boardroom at Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, located at 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, November 7, 2023.

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

AREA BOARD

Karen S. Anderson, Vice Chairperson.....	Present
Margaret R. Crouse	Present
Misty L. Curtis.....	Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales.....	Present
F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson	Present
Allan D. Kreman.....	Present
William M. Packard.....	Present
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.....	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt.....	Present

QUORUM

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

REPORT FROM THE BOARD VACANCY AD HOC COMMITTEE

Approval of Consideration of Appointment to Fill At Large Vacancy

Ms. Anderson reported that the Board Vacancy ad hoc committee met in November to interview applicants for the At Large Board vacancy. Applicants had impressive resumes and the committee was grateful for their interest in serving on the Board. Ms. Anderson thanked President Dart for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the interviews.

Dr. Crouse MOVED to approve the appointment of Mr. John Stinner to fill the Board of Governors At Large vacancy. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was administered at 1:57 p.m. Attorney, Mr. Jerry Ostdiek, administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Board member, Mr. John Stinner, At Large Board representative. Chair Klemke welcomed Mr. Stinner and thanked him for his interest in serving on the Board of Governors.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chair Klemke asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-101, Chair Klemke reminded community members who wish to make comments that each speaker will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no public comments.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

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

Chair Klemke announced that the Board reserves the right to enter into 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) - all Board members were present
- c. Minutes
 1. September 20, 2023 Budget Hearing
 2. October 4, 2023 Informal Meeting
 3. October 4, 2023 Regular Meeting

2. Claims: October 2023

- a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,398,230.61
- b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$25,696.85
- c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$4,506.58
- d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$341.26
- e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
- f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$499,668.73
- g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$85,594.32

3. City Planning Commission Reports

- a. No Reports

4. Approval of Consent Calendar

5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

Approval of Consent Calendar

Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

Chair Klemke inquired if there were any items on the Consent Calendar which needed to be extracted for separate consideration. There were no items extracted from the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson, Crouse, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (August, September, October)

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Dr. Margaret Crouse for \$129.69 and Ms. Misty Curtis for \$239.73. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Crouse, Curtis. Absent: None. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (August, September, October)

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Ms. Lynne Klemke for \$206.98 and Mr. Allan Kreman for \$52.40. SECONDED by Ms. Curtis. The vote was, Yes: Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales. No: None. Abstain: Klemke, Kreman. Absent: None. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT (August, September, October)

Ms. Anderson MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. R. J. Savely for \$264.62 and Ms. Marjorie Schmidt for \$503.04. SECONDED by Ms. Curtis. The vote was, Yes: Packard, Richards, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Savely, Schmidt. Absent: None. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL CONSENT CALENDAR

Review Contents of Personnel Consent Calendar

Resignation(s):

1. Ms. Robyn Whittier, English Instructor, Effective December 19, 2023
2. Ms. Sallie Lucke, Nursing Instructor, Effective December 29, 2023
3. Ms. Jessica Brumbaugh, Interim Nursing Program Director, Effective December 20, 2023
4. Mr. Sean Clymer, Facilities Operation Director, Effective November 30, 2023

Appointment(s)

1. Mr. Rene Nava, Admissions Director, Effective November 6, 2023
The salary for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, is \$65,000 (prorated).
2. Ms. Sallie Lucke, Health Occupations Training Director, Effective January 2, 2024
The salary for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., January 2, 2024, through June 30, 2024, is \$83,000 (prorated).
3. Mr. Joseph Julius, Aviation Maintenance Instructor, Effective January 8, 2024
The salary for this full-time appointment is \$54,453 per annum, based upon placement in the salary schedule of Track B.
4. Ms. Jessica Brumbaugh, Nursing Program Director, Effective December 20, 2023
The salary for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., December 20, 2023, through June 30, 2024, is \$102,245.52 (prorated).
5. Ms. Melynda Doremus, Academic Advisor, Effective October 30, 2023
The salary for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., October 30, 2023, through June 30, 2024, is \$43,116 (prorated).

Approval of Personnel Consent Calendar

Consideration of Items Extracted from Personnel Consent Calendar

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the Personnel Consent Calendar. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman, Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Nebraska Community College Association Membership Dues

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the Nebraska Community College Association 2024 Membership Dues for \$74,865.02. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Amended 2023-2024 WCCA Budgets

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services, presented the amended 2023-2024 WCCA Budgets and explained that today, the request before the Board is to approve amendment of the budget adopted at the September Board meeting.

1. General Fund - From \$29,305,609 to \$29,305,635
2. Capital Improvement/Bond Fund - From \$9,354,341 to \$9,123,617
3. Designated Fund - \$7,778,148
4. Restricted Fund (includes loan fund & debt retirement) - \$17,894,339
5. Agency Fund - \$433,110
6. Total Operating Budget – From \$64,765,547 to \$64,534,849

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the amended 2023-2024 WCCA Budgets as presented. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee

Proposed 2024-2025 Academic Year Student Charges – Tuition and Fees

Ms. Koski reported that the 2024-2025 Academic Year Student Charges were presented at the October 2023 Board meeting for review by the Board. After visiting with various groups and a review committee, the recommendation is an increase of \$3.00 in tuition, 50 cent increase in the facility fee, and 50 cent increase in the technology fee.

Proposed Tuition and Fees Per Credit Hour - \$3.00 increase

Resident Tuition \$109.50
Border State Tuition (CO, WY, SD) \$119.50
Non-Resident Tuition \$128.50
High School Partnership Tuition \$43.25
Student Activity Fee \$3.00

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee (cont.)
Proposed 2024-2025 Academic Year Student Charges – Tuition and Fees

Facility Fee \$4.50
Scholarship Fee \$5.50
High School Partnership Fee \$2.75

Chair Klemke entertained a motion for approval of the tuition and fee rates for 2024-2025. Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the tuition and fee rates for 2024-2025 as presented. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee
Proposed 2024-2025 Academic Year Student Charges – Room and Board

Ms. Koski reported that this request is equivalent to a 4.3% increase in meal plan rates. This request ties back to the consumer price index and estimated increase in food prices for 2024. Residents in the Scottsbluff halls are required to have a meal plan so the total combined cost percentage increase is less than 3% over the prior year.

A change in the housing deposit was recommended. Currently in place was a \$150 refundable deposit plus a \$30 activity fee. The proposal was that the deposit is no longer refundable and rather than being a deposit, becomes an administrative fee. An additional proposal was to remove the \$30 activity fee, since students already pay a mandatory student activity fee.

Proposed Room and Board per Semester

Pioneer Hall Double as Single \$0.00
Pioneer Hall Double \$0.00
Pioneer Horizon Double as Single \$1,793.00
Pioneer Horizon Double \$1,447.00
Pioneer Horizon Triple \$1,119.00

Conestoga Hall Single \$2,026.00
Conestoga Hall Double as Single \$2,026.00
Conestoga Hall Super Single \$2,275.00
Conestoga Hall Double \$1,700.00

Sidney Hall Double as Single \$1,986.00
Sidney Hall Double \$1,642.00

Board

10 - Meal Plan \$1,689.00
14 - Meal Plan \$2,438.00
19 - Meal Plan \$2,637.00

Chair Klemke entertained a motion for approval of the room and board rates for 2024-2025. Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the room and board rates for 2024-2025 as presented. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee (cont.)
Bid #24-SER-01 Financial Aid Consulting Amended

TABULATION:

Company	City/State	Total Amount
Higher Education Assistance Group	Wesley, MA	\$50,250.00
HEAG – Value-Added Service	Title IV Compliance Assessment	\$15,625
	HEAG TOTAL	\$65,875
Financial Aid Services	Atlanta, GA	\$67,500.00
Campus Works	Sarasota, FL	\$92,500.00

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services, reported that WNCC had a transition in Financial Aid Directors at the beginning of the fiscal year and is awaiting significant federal aid processing changes. While the Director is learning the responsibilities of the position and ensuring a positive student experience, consulting services were sought to assist with 2024-25 financial aid system setup and configuration, testing and implementation of new FAFSA Simplification processes, writing/re-writing reports and queries, and to advise the institution of any regulatory/policy matters within the contracted hours (500). Three bids were received, and the selection committee recommends the contract be awarded to Higher Education Assistance Group in the amount of \$50,520.00. In addition to the base bid, the selection committee requests approval to consider and/or negotiate the Value-Added Service for Title IV Compliance in an amount not to exceed \$15,625.

In response to an inquiry regarding the value-added services listed on the bid tabulation, Ms. Koski explained that the value-added service was something beyond what was requested in the RFP. Once the Board approves the base bid, then, because the dollar value is under \$50,000, administration can ask what those added services are and negotiate any additional service.

Ms. Anderson MOVED to approve awarding Bid #24-SER-01 Financial Aid Consulting (Amended) to the Higher Education Assistance Group (HEAG) in the amount of \$50,250.00. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson, Crouse, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Dr. Packard departed at 1:56 p.m.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee (cont.)
Bid #24-FAC-08 Pioneer Tower Abatement

TABULATION:

Company	City/State	Total Amount
Horsley Specialties, Inc.	Rapid City, SD	\$118,200
Environmental Services, Inc.	Norfolk, NE	\$127,920
Great Plains Asbestos Control, Inc.	Kearney, NE	\$338,700
New Horizons Environmental, LLC	Lincoln, NE	\$365,550

Ms. Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services reported that the Board Finance and Facilities committee recommends that the contract be awarded to Horsley Specialties, Inc., in the amount of \$118,200.

Ms. Anderson MOVED to approve awarding Bid #24-FAC-01 Pioneer Tower Abatement to Horsley Specialties, Inc. in the amount of \$118,200. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Construction Management at Risk Contract Negotiation

John N. Harms Health Science Renovation CMR/Contractor Selection Timeline

Ms. Koski reported that November 1, 2023, the College received three Requests for Qualifications from construction manager/contractor firms for the John N. Harms Center Health Sciences Renovation project. The committee ranked each firm based on qualification scoring criteria delineated in Board policy/procedure BP-331 and AP-331.01 Fee proposals were opened and considered after qualification scoring was complete. The total score was used to determine the firm having the most responsible proposal. The selection committee recommendation is Beckenhauer Construction, Inc. as the highest ranked firm as a result of the selection process.

TIMELINE	
Public Notice	October 3, 2023
Request for Qualifications and RFP Due	November 1, 2023
WNCC Selection Committee Determine Firms to be Interviewed	November 3, 2023
CM Interviews	November 13-14, 2023
CM Recommendation and Approval	November 15, 2023
Submit Final GMP	March 2024
Board Approval of GMP	April 17, 2024
Construction Starts	August 2024
Substantial Completion	October – November 2025

Mr. Savely MOVED that the Board authorize College administration to negotiate a proposed contract with the firm ranked as having the most reliable qualifications and bid as prescribed in Board policy/procedure BP-331/AP-331.01. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee

First Read: BP-101, Duties, Powers, and Responsibilities of the Board

Ms. Reichert reported that this policy is related to Board operations. Three existing policies within the 800 series were consolidated into this policy. These three policies in BP-101 were related to retained rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and additional powers of the Board. Those policies are no longer relevant and many of the duties have been shifted to the president. Language has been changed to reference anything within the State statute related to powers and authorities. This is a first read, so no action by the Board was required.

First Read: BP-106 Board Meetings (formerly BP-101)

Ms. Reichert reported that approximately fourteen other policies were consolidated into this policy. Excused absences from Board meetings were added, so this policy was reformatted along with addition of some information. This is a first read, so no action by the Board was required.

Policy Repeals - all associated with the approval of – Savely/Reichert

BP-102 Board Membership and Officers (October 2023)

1. 810.0100.79 (Size of Board)
2. 810.0200.79 (Organization)
3. 815.0200.96 (Election Districts and Terms of Office)
4. 815.0300.96 (Vacancies on the Board)
5. 815.0400.79 (Compensation of Board Members)
6. 820.0100.79 (Officers)
7. 820.0200.99 (Election of Officers)
8. 820.0300.79 (Vacancies)
9. 820.0401.99 (Duties and Responsibilities of the Chairperson)
10. 820.0402.79 (Duties and Responsibilities of the Vice-Chairperson)
11. 820.0403.97 (Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary)
12. 820.0404.79 (Duties and Responsibilities of the Treasurer)
13. 835.0100.00 (Employment by the College)
14. BP-112 (Ex-Officio Faculty Board Member)
15. BP-113 (Ex-Officio Student Board Member)

Ms. Reichert explained that the consent agenda is being utilized for this group of policy repeals. The repeals were recommended upon adoption of BP-102 this past October.

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the repeal of the policies associated with BP-102, Board Membership and Officers. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Policy Repeal

805.0202.85 (Review of Instructional Offerings)

Ms. Reichert reported that the Board approves the closure of programs and has approved a policy related to program review, so this policy no longer has any relevance.

Ms. Curtis MOVED to approve repeal of Board policy 805.0202.85, Review of Instructional Offerings. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Richards, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Policy Repeal

805.0300.79 (Accreditation)

Ms. Reichert reported the nature of this Board policy recommends they may seek accreditation for all sites and programs, but now, accreditation is no longer an option. The Board also has a subcommittee that oversees the Higher Learning Commission accreditation and has been expanded to program accreditation. Therefore, this policy is no longer necessary.

Ms. Curtis MOVED to approve repeal of Board Policy 805.0300.79, Accreditation. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Stinner, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Richards, Savely, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

Policy Repeal

BP-102 (External Relationships of the Board and College)

Ms. Reichert reported that since this policy was presented, there has been a conversation that perhaps in the draft of BP 101, there should be a statement included regarding maintaining and fostering relationships with community, state, and other types of organizations. There is nothing in statute that ties this policy to a specific list of entities.

Ms. Curtis MOVED to approve repeal of BP-102, External Relationships of the Board and College. SECONDED by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Stinner, Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

2024 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference

Chair Klemke reported that registration is open for the 2024 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference scheduled April 13-16, 2024 in Chicago, IL. This morning, during the Informal Board meeting, discussion was initiated regarding Board member attendance. Ms. Guzman-Gonzales and Ms. Schmidt expressed interest in attending the conference. Chair Klemke entertained a motion for approval of expenses associated with the registration and travel for attendance at the 2024 HLC Annual Conference.

2024 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference (cont.)

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve conference registration and travel expenses for Ms. Guzman-Gonzales and Ms. Schmidt to attend the Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference scheduled April 13-16, 2024 in Chicago, Illinois. SECONDED by Ms. Anderson. The vote was, Yes: Anderson, Crouse, Curtis, Kreman, Richards, Savely, Stinner, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Guzman-Gonzales, Schmidt. None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

2024 ACCT National Legislative Summit

Chair Klemke reported that Ms. Schmidt expressed interest in attending the 2024 National Legislative Summit scheduled February 4-7, 2024 in Washington D.C. Ms. Klemke mentioned that this is a good conference for new Board members.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve conference registration and travel expenses for Ms. Schmidt to attend the 2024 ACCT National Legislative Summit scheduled February 4-7, 2024 in Washington, D.C. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Crouse, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Richards, Savely, Stinner, Anderson, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: Schmidt. None. Absent: Packard. Motion carried.

2023 ACCT Leadership Congress Overview

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales reported that the conference was good. She attended the session related to the Latino caucus and mentioned that ACCT is advocating for more Latino board members. She also attended a session regarding enrollment management. A college in Arizona was used as an example. The college implemented early college academies where they engage high school students and move them from admissions, enrollment advisor, academic advisor and then onto a retention advisor. This system was just one option that had been successful for retaining students through completion.

Mr. Savely reported that he attended a session focused on the missing students. According to the national average of male to female students with a two to one ratio, male students are missing. Where are those students? The military cannot get enough volunteers to join, so they are either unemployed or working low-wage or minimum wage jobs without a future. The challenge issued was to find these males and get them into your school before somebody else does.

An example was shared about a school that met with their area constituents and asked what they were missing. Once concerns were shared, they tailored a program to meet the needs of a particular company. Now, this company only takes applicants with a certificate from this school. This program was just one of several that were implemented to attract students.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

WNCC Library Annual Report

Ms. Allison Reisig, WNCC Librarian, shared the Library 2022-2023 Annual report. In pursuit of student success and engagement, the library has undertaken several strategic initiatives over the past year. These efforts were guided by student feedback, innovation, and a commitment to providing a dynamic and supportive learning environment.

Academic Search Complete is their most popular database, covering a spectrum of disciplines. It accounted for more than 50% of item requests in 2022-2023. Top searches included: College Students and Mental Health, Antibiotics and Resistance, and Cellular injury.

Other popular databases were Points of View Reference Center, Encyclopedia Britannica, Academic Videos Online, and Ebsco eBook Collections. These databases also cover a variety of disciplines with "bite-size" articles, reports, and videos.

Study room usage continues to increase, with more than 3,700 reservations over the year. Homepage traffic is down, but that may be due to students having multiple ways to access the databases, especially from Blackboard. Electronic borrowing continues to dominate usage, physical borrowing increased. Demand for circulating equipment (laptops and graphing calculators) is still strong.

The Library provided several themed programs through the year with activities and informational or entertainment materials displayed. In addition to the themed programs, take and make projects were provided for students to complete at home, coloring posters for mindfulness, and a de-stress station with multiple activities. Simple projects were very popular with students and staff.

Student Report

There was no student report.

Faculty Report

Lorin King participated in the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) night at Longfellow School on Thursday, October 12, 2023, and presented talks on Vertebrate Paleontology and Geology for 30-minute segments to three different groups.

Lorin King presented research on his Jurassic fossil site at the 83rd Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 16 – October 20, 2023. *A copy of Mr. King's abstract is available in the Board secretary's office.*

On October 18, 2023, Bill Loring and Jackie Jacobsen accompanied seventeen WNCC students to the Cheyenne NCAR Supercomputing Center and the Wyoming State Capital building. The NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center (NWSC) opened its doors in Cheyenne, Wyoming in 2012. Since then, more than 4,000 users from more than 575 universities and other institutions across the nation and overseas have used its advanced computing and data storage resources for research in the Earth System Sciences.

Faculty Report (cont.)

The center is maintained and staffed by the NCAR Computational and Information Systems Lab (CISL) as part of CISL's mission to support and advance the geosciences with world-class computing, data management, and research in computational science. Two of the technicians were working on the newest supercomputer, Dorecho. Dorecho is a HPE Cray supercomputer, one of the top supercomputers in the world. One of the components they were working on were left out for observation, as they knew there was a tour that day. It was interesting to see the insides of their newest supercomputer. The techs were from Hewlett Packard and answered questions from students.

Last week, Nancy Resseguie, Erandi Gunapala, and Andrew Lenzen attended the American Mathematical Association for Two Year Colleges (AMATYC) Conference in Omaha.

Tom Robinson set up two telescopes for students during Homecoming Week for the Star Gazing. Students were able to see the moon, Saturn, and Jupiter. Approximately forty-five students attended.

Nancy Resseguie has helped to get the Mu Alpha Sigma Chi (Math and Science Club) active again. She also organized the AMATYC Student Math League Competition on campus on November 1, 2023.

Andrew Shiers incorporates GeoGebra into his Intermediate and College Algebra classes. It is freeware that he uses mostly for graphing and analyzing graphs.

Kate Schneider has been working closely with adjunct and dual credit instructors to ensure the College is consistent in course delivery and rigor. Dave Nelson also works with dual credit instructors with the Introductory Chemistry courses.

Dave Nelson took a graduate Educational Administration course (Public Relations) from CSC to renew his 7-12 administrative principal certificate and professional teaching certificate that is good for 10 years. Every 6-12 months, he is contacted by his research advisor with questions and advice on topics related to his project. In July, he started a new collaboration and asked Mr. Nelson for his recommendations on serine racemase antibodies for western blotting and quantification methods. Mr. Nelson has been part of numerous zoom meetings and conference calls since he has been at WNCC. Over the last two years, he has worked with Brent Anderson (WNCC's Bushidokan instructor) with his patent pending fighting knife invention. Mr. Nelson made the initial Autocad file and made a working 3D printed prototype. Brent now has a metal prototype and is working with manufacturers to pursue mass production. Every year Mr. Nelson wraps Christmas presents for Toys for Tots and helps distribute the toys and VCNIN meal boxes, which is organized by the Knights of Columbus.

Carl Baird has developed Anatomy and Physiology I and II. All prerequisites for the Pre-professional Nursing degree are now offered online. Scottsbluff High School has 15-18 students who need Anatomy and Physiology I this spring. Usually only one section is offered in the spring. In order to accommodate WNCC students and Scottsbluff High School students, Mr. Baird is offering two labs at the same time, next to each other. The two labs are necessary because lab capacities have a maximum of twenty students.

Faculty Report (cont.)

Kate Schneider and Lorin King created Biology I and Biology II courses for WNCC STEM students. The degrees in these areas were redesigned to ensure that credits would transfer.

Andrew Lenzen is on the Nebraska State Education (NSEA) Board of Directors. Amy Winters is on the Panhandle District Board of Directors as well as the Government Relations Committee for the NSEA.

District DECA was held at the John N. Harms Center on Tuesday, November 7. Amy Winters was one of the judges for the event.

Thomas Burgess, Training Coordinator for Boilermakers Local 83 out of Kansas City, Missouri made a trip to Scottsbluff to visit with WNCC Welding Technology students about opportunities as a welder for the Boilermaker's Union. The company sends qualified welders to locations within their coverage area in multiple states. These fully benefited welders can make upwards of \$38 per hour starting out, with guaranteed overtime paid at time and a half, or even double. Their welders come in for Western Sugar shut-downs and boiler maintenance and repairs four to five times a year.

WNCC Welding students were engaged with Mr. Burgess and asked good questions and took interest in this opportunity. Mr. Burgess is planning to return mid spring and let the students spend a day "welding with a tradesman", a program they offer to students where he brings in a portable mock-up of a boiler tubing setup for students to weld on. He also offered to let them come down over winter break or summer break and pay them room and board for a two-week free training at the Kansas City training center to sample the trade and hopefully find it of interest.

Ms. Yelena Khanevskaya is a featured artist at Carnegie Arts Center in Alliance, Nebraska with "100 Western Skies" exhibit, which runs from November until December 2, 2023.

Yelena was also invited to exhibit her art at Chadron State College Memorial Hall Main Gallery. The exhibit is titled "Universe Unfolding" and is running until December 15, 2023. Yelena will be visiting a Chadron State College Painting class and will have a presentation about her professional artistic practices.

An email from the president and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa, announced Ms. Amy Winters as the new Heartland Regional Coordinator. Ms. Winters has worked diligently for several years to make WNCC's PTK chapter, Lambda Pi, a five-star chapter and premier student organization, as well as making sure students have every opportunity at the regional and international levels. This award is a high honor for Ms. Winters, who always strives to represent WNCC and the students to the best of her ability.

Nebraska Community College Association

Ms. Anderson shared that November 5-6, 2023, five Board members attended the NCCA Annual Conference in North Platte, Nebraska. A bus tour of the area and campus tour were provided. The awards banquet was scheduled the evening of the November 5th and a distinguished alumni and faculty member from each college was recognized. Monday, the keynote speaker, K. C. Belitz, Director of Nebraska Department of Economic Development was scheduled along with several breakout sessions. Overall, it was a good conference.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

Ms. Reisig, Foundation Executive Director shared that October 14th through November 3, 2023, WNCC had "Out of This World" themed community and student events centered around celebrating WNCC students, staff, faculty and alumni. From the Fly-in hosted by the Aviation Department in Sidney to Bingo with Seniors in Alliance, community spirit was shared. Students enjoyed dress-up days, stargazing, a bonfire, and a dance. WNCC volleyball beat EWC and the Performing Arts department put on the Fall Ball, fall play, and the vocal music showcase. Events in Scottsbluff culminated with the awards banquet where the following six awards were presented:

Cara Perkins Award - Mark Rein
Family Pride - Hal and Lynn Enevoldsen Family
Friend of the College – M. Thomas Perkins
Lifetime Achievement – John Marrin
Outstanding Alumnus – Timothy Alvarez, Ph.D.
Outstanding Young Alumnus – Christopher Niehues D.O.

President Comments

President Dart reported that this past week he traveled to the eastern part of the state to attend several meetings.

President Dart shared that he also attended the NCCA Annual Conference. At the awards banquet, WNCC Outstanding Young Alumnus, Mr. Christopher Niehues was recognized. What Christopher was able to do and the transformation that WNCC brought to his life was amazing.

Ms. Jennifer Pedersen was recognized as the WNCC Outstanding Faculty member. President Dart stated that it was a highlight for him to be able to talk about the two awardees and what they mean to the institution.

Last week, the Executive Planning Team held an offsite retreat to work on implementation of the College Strategic Plan. The plan has sixty-two initiatives, so although some are well on their way, the work with the plan will continue to take some time. The group came up with a list of prioritized items that will be most important to implement over the next year. The main focus of the retreat was the key performance indicators. The goal is to have indicators of performance and integrate them into day-to-day activities on the college campuses.

President Comments (cont.)

This week has been about partnerships, which was the reason for traveling to the eastern part of the state. President Dart attended a conference that provided workshops on registered apprenticeships. Attendance included several colleagues from colleges across the state as well as industry. Discussion included how to set up apprenticeship programs and what it looks like when we have those registered apprentices from the high schools or from adults and how we work with industry to make those work.

President Dart added he will be meeting with the UNMC Chancellor and Deans to discuss increasing partnerships. A meeting with UNL was also scheduled to discuss increased partnerships with the College of Ag.

Friday, Board Member Marjorie Schmidt will be joining President Dart to meet with the Gordon-Rushville High School superintendents, principals and guidance counselors to talk about partner districts to see how we can better serve them.

A big day for accreditation is coming in February and has been four years in the making. A lot of work has been ongoing with preparing the assurance argument. The next five through nine years is when a quality initiative will be launched. There has been discussion about our quality initiatives, along with guided pathways and that process.

President Dart reported that during the accreditation discussions, an update on employee giving was shared. Thirty percent of the College faculty and staff were giving to the College Foundation. An employee giving challenge was launched, trying to increase the giving rate percentage. If staff and faculty giving reached 40%, employees would receive an additional day off around the holidays. Within the first couple of weeks, giving went from 30 to 38 percent, well on the way to the goal of forty percent. It is apparent that we have a very giving faculty and staff, not only in the community and the institution, but with all sorts of groups, as heard from the faculty report. President Dart expressed gratitude for all the things faculty and staff do to help our students every single day.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Savely commented that he would like to thank the College for hosting the District DECA Competition, for which he served as a judge. Thanks also for assisting with the Old West Choir Fest held at Scottsbluff High School on November 4, 2023. Dr. Patrick Newell served as one of the judges for the event and his critiques were the most positive and encouraging. He definitely has a positive student focus.

Chair Klemke shared that this morning at the Informal meeting, the 2024 Board meeting schedule was discussed as well as the number of meetings that will be offered via Zoom. The current plan is to schedule January, February, March, April, November and December via Zoom. This schedule included several factors, such as the weather and the fact that some members drive several hours to attend the meetings, so driving when it is dark can be a concern. A total of twenty-four informal and regular meetings will be scheduled in 2024, so the Board is able to schedule at least twelve meetings via Zoom. Six months have been identified, which will leave six meetings in the event that other factors require scheduling a zoom meeting.

Board Member Comments (cont.)

Ms. Jenny Keener, WNCC Cougar Wellness Committee chair, shared information about initiatives going on in the fall. There was also a reminder that if you choose to donate, the Cougar Cupboard needs to be restocked. The list of items needed for the cupboard was included in the Board meeting information packet.

December 20, 2023, an ugly sweater contest has been scheduled for faculty and staff, and Board members, if they would like to participate. Judging will take place following the Board meeting and Board members have been asked to assist with the judging.

The Wellness Committee also scheduled a wreath decorating contest. Faculty and staff will be decorating wreaths that will be delivered to Senior Care Centers throughout our service area. Board members were asked to pick up the decorated wreaths and deliver them to Senior Care facilities in their area. Once the wreaths are ready for delivery, the Board secretary will provide a delivery schedule and arrangements for pick up.

Executive Session

2023-2024 Collective Bargaining

Ms. Richards 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, Attorney, Mr. Greg Dart, College President, Ms. Susan Verbeck, Board Secretary, Ms. Lynne Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services, and Ms. Kathy Ault, Human Resources Executive Director for the purpose of discussion of the 2023-2024 Collective Bargaining.

She further moved that this closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of individual(s) and that strategy sessions with respect to Collective Bargaining are specifically authorized by the Nebraska Public Meetings Law. Mr. Savely SECONDED the motion.

The vote was, Yes: Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Stinner, Anderson, Crouse, Klemke. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Packard. None. Motion carried.

Chair Klemke stated the reason for the Executive Session is for the purpose of discussing the 2023-2024 Collective Bargaining. The Board of Governors and those so named in the motion adjourned to an Executive Session at 3:15 p.m.

The Executive Session ended at 3:35 p.m.

Ms. Schmidt departed at 3:20 p.m.

Open Meeting

Chair Klemke declared the Open meeting in session at 3:35 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

All Performing Arts Programs
Very Valley Christmas
December 9-10, 2023, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Scottsbluff Campus

Upcoming Meetings and Events (cont.)

All Performing Arts Program – Faculty Recital
January 21, 2024
Scottsbluff Campus

2024 ACCT National Legislative Summit
February 4 – 7, 2024
Washington D.C.

Theatre Arts/Winter Play
February 23, 24, 7:30 p.m. February 25, 2024, 2:00 p.m.
Scottsbluff Campus

2024 Higher Learning Commission Conference
April 13 – 16, 2024
Chicago, IL

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m., Coral E. Richards Boardroom, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 3:39 p.m.

F. Lynne Klemke, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary