

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

April 17, 2024

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 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, April 9, 2024.

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, Chairperson	Present
Misty L. Curtis.....	Present
Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales.....	Present
F. Lynne Klemke.....	Absent
Allan D. Kreman.....	Present
William M. Packard.....	Present
Coral E. Richards	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.....	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt.....	Present
John P. Stinner, Vice Chairperson.....	Absent

QUORUM

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chair Anderson asked for comments from the community. Pursuant to Board Policy BP-106, Chair Anderson reminded community members who wish to make comments will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no public comments.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

Chair Anderson 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 Anderson announced 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) (Klemke, Stinner)
 - c. Minutes
 - i. March 20, 2024 Informal Meeting
 - ii. March 20, 2024 Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** March 2024
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,543,672.26
 - b. WCCA Restricted Fund - \$10,390.24
 - c. WCCA Federal Fund - \$2,316.48
 - d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$3,462.24
 - e. WCCA Loan Fund - 0 -
 - f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$188,849.75
 - g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$120,101.17
3. City Planning Commission Reports
4. Approval of Consent Calendar
5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

Chair Anderson inquired if there were any items on the Consent Calendar that need to be extracted for separate consideration. There were no items extracted from the Consent Calendar.

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

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Ms. Misty Curtis for \$93.40 and Mr. Allan Kreman for \$26.13. SECONDED by Dr. Packard. The vote was, Yes: Guzman-Gonzales, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Curtis, Kreman. Absent: Klemke, Stinner. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER MILEAGE AND/OR EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales MOVED to approve the following travel expenses: Mr. R. J. Savely for \$120.60 and Ms. Marjorie Schmidt for \$171.52. SECONDED by Mr. Kreman. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Packard, Richards, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Savely, Schmidt. Absent: Klemke, Stinner. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

Resignation(s)

Ms. Jolene Martin, Admissions Assistant Director, Effective April 1, 2024

Ms. Lori Stromberg, Lifelong Learning Director, Effective May 3, 2024

Ms. Madison Luke, Assistant Dean of Students, Effective May 11, 2024

Appointment(s)

Ms. Jolene Martin, Admissions Director, Effective April 1, 2024

The salary for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, is \$61,655.81.

Mr. Nathaniel Andresen, Admissions Counselor, Effective April 8, 2024

The wage for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 is \$17.68 per hour.

Ms. Sophia Anaya, Admissions Counselor, Effective April 8, 2024

The wage for this full-time position for the twelve-month fiscal year, i.e., July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 is \$17.68 per hour.

Dr. William Hanson, Honorary Status of Professor Emeritus

Ms. Sheila Johns, Honorary Status of Administrator Emeritus

Mr. David Koehler, Honorary Status of Administrator Emeritus

Chair Anderson entertained a motion for approval of the President's Personnel Report.

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

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2024 ACCT Leadership Congress, October 23-26, 2024, Seattle, Washington

Approval of Board Member Attendance - Mr. R. J. Savely, Jr.

Ms. Schmidt MOVED to approve conference registration and travel expenses for Mr. R. J. Savely, Jr. to attend the 2024 ACCT Leadership Congress, October 23-26, 2024, Seattle, Washington. **SECONDED** by Ms. Guzman-Gonzales. The vote was, Yes: Richards, Schmidt, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: Savely. None. Absent: Klemke, Stinner. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee

First Read: BP-430 Reduction-in-Force

This policy defines the purpose for employee reduction-in-force and charges the College President with establishing a reduction-in-force procedure in compliance with federal and state laws. The policy applies to all full-time employees of Western Nebraska Community College. No action was required.

Info Only: AP-430.01 Reduction-in-Force – Faculty

This procedure establishes a process for the reduction-in-force of faculty positions and applies to all full-time, continuing contract faculty at all locations. No action was required.

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

First Read: BP-431 Involuntary Separation of Employees

This policy establishes the authority of the College to terminate the employment of employees. This policy applies to all employees of Western Nebraska Community College, except for the President, where the process for termination is established in Board Policy 845.0200.01 (Annual Review of the College President's Performance). No action was required.

Info Only: AP-431.01 Continuation and Amendment of Employment or Involuntary Separation of Faculty

This procedure establishes the principles for the continuation, amendment, and termination of employment for full-time faculty and applies to all Western Nebraska Community College full-time faculty. No action was required.

Info Only: AP-431.02 Involuntary Separation of Staff

This procedure establishes the process for the termination of employment for all employees with the exception of full-time faculty, where the conditions and process for termination are established in AP-461.01 (Continuation/Amendment/Termination of Employment – Faculty) and the President, where the process for termination is established in Board Policy 845.0200.01 (Annual Review of College President's Performance). No action was required.

Info Only: AP-426.01 Discipline Procedure

This procedure sets forth the process for addressing and providing an opportunity to correct single and repeat instances of failure to comply with applicable policies and procedures and/or failure to meet specific workplace expectations for work performance, behavior, and conduct. This procedure applies to all employees of Western Nebraska Community College. No action was required.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee

Bids/Contracts: Bid #24-EQ-12 Powerline HVAC Equipment

Big Mack HVAC	Scottsbluff, NE	\$117,900.00

Bids were accepted for HVAC equipment at the Powerline Facility in Alliance, to be funded by HERRF funds. Only one submission was received by the selection committee. They recommended the contract be awarded to Big Mack HVAC of Scottsbluff, NE in the amount of \$117,900.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve awarding Bid #24-EQ-12 Powerline HVAC equipment to Big Mack HVAC in the amount of \$117,900. SECONDED by Dr. Packard. The vote was, Yes: Savely, Schmidt, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Klemke, Stinner. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee (cont.)

Bids/Contracts: Bid #24-EQ-13 Network Switches Wireless Access Points

Heartland Business Systems	Omaha, NE	\$101,018.20
All in It	Centennial, CO	\$66,578.72

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Facilities Committee (cont.)
Bids/Contracts: Bid #24-EQ-13 Network Switches Wireless Access Points

Bids were accepted for upgrade of network switches and wireless access points. This upgrade is completed annually to maintain network health. The selection committee recommended the contract be awarded to All In It in the amount of \$66,578.72. In response to an inquiry, Mr. Moench, IT Director, explained the difference in the bid amounts was due to the software licensing on the equipment. One vendor added licensing to the bid and what they added was not needed. In response to an inquiry regarding use of local vendors, Mr. Moench reported that vendors are required to be an authorized reseller of CISCO and he was not aware of any local vendors who have that authorization.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve awarding Bid #24-EQ-13 Network Switches and Wireless Access Points to All In It in the amount of \$66,578.72. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Schmidt, Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Klemke, Stinner. Motion carried.

Health Science Renovation Plan (Jacob Sertich, Wilkins Architects)

Ms. Lynne Koski, Vice President of Administrative Services reported that over the last several months work has continued on the design for the Health Sciences renovation plan, which would be on the south end of the Harms building. This project will be utilizing a combination of funds. The primary funding source is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which is through the state of Nebraska. The cost of the project is a little over \$12 million, \$9 million of which is ARPA funds. \$1.9 million would be tax funded and approximately \$1.2 million in funds contributed by the College either through donations or other sources.

The portion of the building being renovated is adjacent to the ESU 13 space. At the time that area was constructed, federal grant funds and other funding sources were accessed and included specific requirements. With the assistance of the College attorney, contact with the Bond Council and the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Denver office, ensured the College is in compliance with those requirements. In response to an inquiry, Ms. Koski confirmed the percentage of allocation between WNCC and ESU will be maintained.

Ms. Koski explained that disbursement of ARPA funds has been scheduled through the Coordinating Commission. \$1 million of the \$9 million was received in October. The next disbursement of \$4 million is scheduled in July and the remaining \$4 million will be disbursed in January of 2025. ARPA funds are required to be committed by December 2024 and fully expended by June 2026.

Ms. Koski introduced Mr. Jacob Sertich, Managing Principal for Wilkins Architecture Design Planning. Mr. Sertich shared a PowerPoint presentation that provided information about the Harms Center renovation.

Mr. Sertich explained this renovation started off as a study of a facilities master plan update for the campus and in particular, the Health Science programs and their needs. Currently, those programs are spread throughout different parts of the main level of the Harms building with some instruction taking place in the lower level of the building. The renovation is an opportunity to bring all Health Science programming together in one area and add a new entrance into the building. The new entrance would provide an opportunity to display the College logo to help identify the entry point for the building.

Health Science Renovation Plan (Jacob Sertich, Wilkins Architects) (cont.)

A connecting corridor along the outside of the ESU area will provide access to the Health Sciences space. The existing elevator will provide access to the lower level and will remain in its current location. Accessible parking will be available on both levels along with entrances to both levels of the building. At the entrance, there will be a two-story atrium space and both levels will feature faculty offices along the south end of the building. The bulk of the programming will be located on the lower level.

A student study space and wellness room will also be incorporated. In response to an inquiry regarding gender neutral restrooms, Mr. Sertich explained it would need to be looked at as a whole because there are multiple restrooms in the Harms facility, some of which are already identified as family restrooms.

In response to an inquiry regarding airflow, Mr. Sertich explained airflow for labs will meet or exceed code requirements in all instructional spaces.

Ms. Schmidt MOVED to approve the Health Science Renovation Plan. SECONDED by Mr. Kreman. The vote was, Yes: Curtis, Guzman-Gonzales, Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Klemke, Stinner. Motion carried.

Ms. Guzman-Gonzales departed at 1:53 p.m.

Powerline Classroom Addition Plan (Jacob Sertich, Wilkins Architects)

Ms. Koski reported the Powerline program project is also funded through ARPA. The process for the addition has been submitted for approval by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) and has the same expenditure of funds timeline as the Harms' Center project. Most of the Powerline facility is a lease agreement with the City of Alliance that goes through November of 2066. The facility is located on the east side of Alliance and the addition will be on the north end of the building.

Upon entrance into the building, the classroom space is in the lab, which is not an ideal setting for the lecture portion of the program. Additionally, a sheltered space for the program's vehicles is needed. Currently, the vehicles are stored outside and continually exposed to the elements. Additional restroom space will also be incorporated.

Adding a classroom to the north side of the building provides dedicated classroom and lecture space for the program, but also frees up floor space for vehicle storage. A mezzanine above the classroom space would provide additional storage, or program space depending on where the bids come in relative to the budget.

Once the construction manager has sent out bid information to general contractors, the College should start receiving bids in May. Potentially, construction for both projects should begin this summer, with the Powerline project likely to finish in March or April. The Health Science project will continue through most of 2025 and if all goes well, should be ready for faculty and student use by spring 2026 semester.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the Powerline Classroom Addition Plan. SECONDED by Ms. Schmidt. The vote was, Yes: Kreman, Packard, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Curtis, Anderson. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Guzman-Gonzales, Klemke, Stinner. Motion carried.

2023-2024 Program Reviews for Submission to Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE)

Dr. Grant Wilson, Executive Vice President of Educational and Student Services spoke to the four programs that are ready for submission to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education: Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology; Med Tech/Phlebotomy; Emergency Medical Services; and Nursing-ADN/PN.

Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology

The Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment Technology program is designed to prepare students to enter the field of diesel, truck and heavy equipment service. The curriculum includes diagnostic, maintenance, and repair courses in the areas of diesel engine, powertrain, electrical, and heating ventilation-air conditioning (HVAC). The suggested curriculum meets the requirements to receive the Associate of Applied Science degree. Specialized certificates are available in the areas of engine/powertrain, and electrical/electronics. H3 data for the panhandle region shows that jobs in the diesel technology field are high demand, high skill, and high wage positions. The H3 ranks for the careers listed below all range within the top 20% of all H3 jobs in the panhandle.

Long-term Occupational Projections, 2020-2030 H3 Indicators -Panhandle Economic Region:
Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists

Demand Rank 74, H3 rank 20, Projected employment increase 5.3%, Average annual wage \$48,042

Farm equipment mechanics and service technicians

Demand Rank 48, H3 rank 9, Projected employment increase 10.1 %, Average annual wage \$50,722

Mobile heavy equipment mechanics - except engines

Demand Rank 156, H3 rank 55, Projected employment increase 17.2%, Average annual wage \$53,378

Railcar repairers

Demand Rank 88, H3 rank 26, Projected employment increase 2.4%, Average annual wage \$55,879.

Med Tech/Phlebotomy

According to networks.nebraska.gov, the MLT and Phlebotomy professions are listed as a High Wage, High Skill, and High Demand (H3) occupation in the state of Nebraska. With our tri-state location, these numbers are almost doubled if including the NE/WY/CO area.

Medical Laboratory Technician

The Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program prepares students to function as medical laboratory technicians who perform a wide range of routine and complex clinical laboratory procedures associated with blood and body-fluid analysis. The medical laboratory technician curriculum encompasses a combination of general education courses, online lectures, in-person laboratory sessions, and clinical experiences in a hospital or clinic. The courses must be completed within the timeframe shown in the recommended plan of study, and students in this program are required to be enrolled full-time.

Med Tech/Phlebotomy (cont.)

Upon successful completion of the prescribed program, the student is eligible to take the examination for national professional certification and will be prepared to work in a variety of clinical settings including hospital laboratories, physicians' offices, clinics and blood donor centers. The program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Phlebotomy

Upon successful completion of the prescribed curriculum, the student will be eligible to take the examination for the national board of certification and will be prepared to work in a variety of clinical settings, including hospital laboratories, physicians' offices, clinics, and blood donor centers. The Phlebotomy program is approved by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE)

Emergency Medical Services

Courses in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) prepare students with the skills necessary for a career as an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), or Paramedic (PM). Emergency medical services coursework provides graduates with progressive levels of knowledge and skills to deliver care for medical and trauma emergencies prior to arrival at a hospital. While EMS is listed in the H3 data, it is not in fact an H3 job. It is high skill, high demand, however not high pay. This leads often to high turnover for better paying careers and high burnout due to overtime. This cycle creates the need for more certified/licensed providers.

Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE)

Nursing – ADN/PN

Nursing is a high demand, high skill, and high wage profession. Per the Nebraska H3 website, employment opportunities are expected to increase 7.7% between 2020 and 2030. Additionally, there are 1,704 job openings annually for nurses in Nebraska.

ADN

WNCC's associate degree-Nursing program (ADN) provides the skills, knowledge, and hands-on experience needed to enter the dynamic discipline of nursing. Upon graduating from the program, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN). Upon successful completion of the exam, the student will be qualified to practice as a registered nurse.

LPN

WNCC's Practical Nursing program is designed to prepare the student to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), capable of providing nursing care under the supervision of a licensed professional. Upon successful completion of the program, the student will be eligible to take a national licensing exam to become an LPN.

A unique aspect of the WNCC program is that Nursing faculty accompany students during clinical and lab hours. This allows WNCC to provide preceptors for the students and reduce the burden on facility staff. Other positives of the provision of preceptors includes greater use of facilities and improved community relations.

2024 Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference Overview

April 13–16, 2024, Chicago, IL

Ms. Linda Guzman-Gonzales and Ms. Marjorie Schmidt

Ms. Schmidt reported the first day of the conference was for trustees and presidents and was very good. The career coaching discussion was interesting. The presenter stated that Career coaching should be started the first year of college. President Dart mentioned that WNCC's student advising department provides career coaching for students.

Ms. Schmidt shared that the navigating higher education's top business issues session was enlightening. As previously mentioned, the top priority for students is flexibility, remote learning was one of the most sought-after options. Student needs should be a priority and retention is as important as recruitment.

Ms. Schmidt asked President Dart to share information about the Carnegie classification. President Dart explained there are multiple ways colleges are classified and the Carnegie classification is the gold standard. Community colleges are not included in the Carnegie classification because they are associate degree granting colleges and less than 10% of credentials are at the baccalaureate degree level or higher. Classification changes are expected and within the next eighteen months those changes will include more focus on the community colleges. Those changes will be monitored because there is a potential for impact on how our state classifies the community colleges.

President Dart reiterated that WNCC's accreditation is obtained through the Higher Learning Commission and discussion at the conference included future criteria changes. Currently, specific information is included in accreditation reports and those criteria are changing. Conference sessions included discussion of each criterion and the expected changes.

President Dart reported that due to the federal government's efforts to simplify the application process for students seeking federal aid, the rollout of FASFA has been distressing at every level. It has begun to impact WNCC because based on the way students apply, community colleges do not immediately receive student files. A negative impact is anticipated because student timelines for applications are different. This issue will have the most impact on students who need that aid and at this point, there is no solution. If we do not receive student data or the data is bad, we do not know who is trying to apply for financial aid.

President Dart reported there was a convening of the accrediting bodies throughout the country to discuss accelerated degrees. A number of years ago, a group led by BYU proposed a three-year bachelor's degree. A week before this HLC conference, the vice president of accreditation attended a meeting that included discussion of a three-year bachelor's degree. He reported that by September, HLC will have a form to apply for acceptance of a 90-credit bachelor's degree to anything less than 120 credits. A Carnegie classification means we could offer up to ten percent of our degrees as bachelor degrees.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Student Report

Ms. Adelita Alvarez provided the student report. Mr. Charles Obuoma was absent due to a class schedule conflict.

Ms. Alvarez shared student concerns regarding the laundry facilities in the residence halls and the issue of finding change for the machines. The concerns were discussed and will be addressed.

Ms. Alvarez shared a recap of the April 10th WNCC Career Fair. A total of 265 people participated, which included businesses and organizations, and about 60 students. Several staff and volunteers and about 58 community members also attended.

Fall 2024 Cougar Council elections are currently underway. Flyers have been placed around the building so that students can start selecting representatives.

TRIO SSS program will be scheduling a recognition event to honor students who participate in the TRIO program. Final's week is quickly approaching and several "beat the stress" activities have been planned.

Faculty Report

Ms. Howton reported recently, instructor Patsy Yeager hosted the Week of the Young Child kick off event. Eighteen community organizations were present along with local food vendors and student and faculty volunteers. Instructor, Lorin King presented a session on rocks and dinosaurs.

March 1st, Auto Tech instructors Mr. Corey Batt and Mr. Aaron Gayman met with the head of Vaults and counselors from the Scottsbluff and Gering High schools to share information about their programs and inquire what is needed to boost enrollment. They were invited to bring students to campus so information can be shared about the programs and opportunities after graduation. March 22nd, they hosted fourteen students from Scottsbluff High School, April 12th ten students from Vaults, and April 18th, fourteen to sixteen students from Gering High School are expected. These visits have generated interest in the collision repair program as well as other applied tech areas.

Mr. Russ Pontarolo, Welding Technology instructor recently hosted drop in visitors interested in opportunities in the welding skill trades or to check out the welding technology shop. Participants from Ferguson Signs, Aulick Industries, Dinklage Feed Yard, Prime Metals and Rock Springs, Wyoming high school instructors toured the welding shop.

Math instructors, Erandi Gunapala and Nancy Resseguie accompanied six students to Southeast Community College in Lincoln to attend the Nebraska Mathematical Association for two-year colleges. The students learned about GIS and also listened to a physics student share information about her research on x-ray diffraction.

Nebraska Community College Association

Ms. Anderson reported the next NCCA meeting is scheduled May 6th. Dr. Crouse was the NCCA Board president, so a new president will likely be appointed at the May meeting. Mr. Stinner will be serving on the NCCA Board and Ms. Anderson will continue until a replacement is appointed.

Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

Ms. Jennifer Reisig, Foundation Executive Director, reported she recently traveled to Toronto to attend the Association of Fundraising Professionals. A highlight of the conference was a full day training on capital fundraising campaigns. Discussion included campaign phases, timelines, campaign leadership, and potential changes.

April 13-16, Ms. Haun and Ms. Sheffield traveled to Chicago to attend the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Conference. Ms. Haun attended a session regarding AI and its impact. The presenter gave examples of using AI to help - not do - tasks that saved hours of time killing, repetitive tasks. Ms. Sheffield took away the importance of looking internally for ways to regularly ask faculty and staff to help connect her to alumni who have interesting and impactful stories to tell. She learned strategies on how to engage with younger alumni and the importance of a seamless narrative between the alumni office, foundation, college, departments, etc. Audiences view us as one entity and communicating in a unified way is vital to our success.

Ms. Reisig reported preparations are underway for the 13th annual WNCC signature fundraiser, the Platte Valley Companies Monument Marathon. The race is scheduled Saturday, September 28, with the expo on Friday, September 27. The official kick-off press conference is May 9, at 10 a.m., at the Platte Valley Companies community center. This year, the press conference will focus on the local impact of the proceeds of the race, which average about \$46,000 annually. Press conference panelists will be students who have received scholarships from the WNCC Foundation. Some students also volunteered at the marathon last year. Annually, marathon expenses total around \$85,000-\$90,000 per year, runner registrations bring in approximately \$30,000, and sponsorships around \$100,000 - \$110,000. In addition to what is raised for WNCC students, this event creates significant exposure for the College and the WNCC Foundation and brings hundreds of tourists to the community for a day and sometimes even up to a week.

Ms. Reisig shared that so far, \$73,250 of the \$110,000 or more in sponsorships has been raised. This year, the Foundation is asking those who care about WNCC, the Foundation, and students, to help find Friend of the Monument Marathon sponsors. These sponsors are usually individuals or small businesses that can commit \$500. Information flyers about this sponsorship are available.

President Comments

President Dart reported tomorrow is the last day of the Legislative Session. It was a good session for us budgetarily. Last session there was a change to the funding formula so funds had to be allocated this year. Funding should be at the level expected when the Community College Future Fund was passed.

There were a few bills that did pass the we had a level of opposition to because they were Christmas treed into bills that we did support. We supported the Nebraska Career Scholarship that passed along with twenty-one other bills.

President Comments (cont.)

A bill dealing with elected members of a board will be revisited once we are aware of its impact. The bill states if there are two or more elected members on any other board, even a privately held company could become a public board. There may be legal issues involved so this will involve future discussion.

President Dart mentioned that May 11 the commencement ceremony is scheduled along with ABE/GED graduation and nursing pinning. Board member attendance was encouraged.

A group of students from Potter/Dix recently traveled to the Sidney campus. Staff from the Scottsbluff and Sidney campuses were present and assisted with registering a significant number of students, which were mostly dual enrollment students. Positive feedback was received regarding the changes in placement scores and the fact that placement scores for some courses are no longer required, which in turn removed barriers for some of the students. Sometimes the barrier was not the attainment of that score, it was the process to get there. President Dart shared that next week he will be traveling to Lincoln to join a celebration of our PTK All Nebraska students.

Board Member Comments

Board members were reminded that the NCCA fourth quarter meeting and annual conference is scheduled November 3 and 4, 2024 in Norfolk, NE. Board members were asked to hold that date so that WNCC has good Board member representation at the meeting.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

1. Instrumental Music Spring Band Concert
April 21, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater
3:00 p.m. Performance
\$10 General Admission | \$8 Seniors | Free – WNCC Students and Staff
2. Theatre Arts | Student Directed One Acts
April 26–28, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater
7:30 p.m. Friday & Saturday | 2:00 p.m. Sunday
\$10 General Admission | \$5 Seniors, Students & Military | \$3 Groups of 10+
3. Instrumental Music | Honors Recital
May 4, 2024
3:00 p.m. Performance
Judy Chaloupka Theater
Tickets: Free
4. Instrumental Music | Jump, Jive & Swing
Date and Location to be determined
5:15 p.m. Cocktails & Live Music | 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Dancing
Tickets: \$25 | Ticket sales close at noon on April 29
5. NCCA Second Quarter Meeting
Monday, May 6, 2024
Lincoln, NE or via Zoom

Upcoming Meetings and Events (cont.)

6. WNCC Commencement
10:00 a.m., Saturday, May 11, 2024
Cougar Palace
7. Nurses' Pinning
1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 11, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater
8. ABE/GED Graduation
4:00 p.m., Saturday, May 11, 2024
Judy Chaloupka Theater

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 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 2:55 p.m.

Karen S. Anderson, Chairperson

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary