

**WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

The Western Community College Area Board of Governors held a Regular Board meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at Western Nebraska Community College, Coral E. Richards Boardroom, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, in the County of Scotts Bluff, in the State of Nebraska, as per the publicized notice in the Star-Herald Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

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

AREA BOARD

Linda A. Guzman-Gonzales	Present
Joshua R. Hanson	Absent
Mark A Kaufman.....	Present
Allan D. Kreman.....	Present
Starr Lehl, Vice Chair	Present
Lori J. Liggett	Present
Coral E. Richards.....	Present
R. J. Savely, Jr.	Present
Marjorie A. Schmidt	Present
Monica R. Shambaugh	Present
John P. Stinner, Chair.....	Present

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, Chair Stinner reminded community members who wish to make comments will be limited to a five-minute presentation. There were no comments.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON 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 that 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)
 - c. Minutes
 1. May 20, 2026, Informal Meeting
 2. May 20, 2026, Regular Meeting
2. **Claims:** May1 2026
 - a. WCCA Unrestricted Fund - \$2,406,035.87

- b. WCCA Restricted Fund – \$66,760.02
- c. WCCA Federal Fund - N/A
- d. WCCA Agency Fund - \$3,812.57
- e. WCCA Loan Fund – N/A
- f. WCCA Plant Fund - \$199,426.25
- g. WCCA Auxiliary Fund - \$121,307.54
- 3. City Planning Commission Reports
 - a. City of Gering Redevelopment Plan (Tax Increment Financing)
- 4. Approval of Consent Calendar
- 5. Consideration of Items Extracted from Consent Calendar

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

PRESIDENT'S PERSONNEL REPORT

Review Contents of President's Personnel Report

Resignation(s)

Ms. Alena Haun, Foundation Development Director, Effective June 30, 2026

Mr. Devin Moosai, Technical Support Specialist, Effective June 15, 2026

Appointment(s)

Mr. Mitchel Stritt, Powerline Program Coordinator, Effective June 5, 2026

Ms. Nayeli Diaz, Women's Head Softball Coach, Effective June 1, 2026

Ms. Shayane Poirot Allard, Women's Head Basketball Coach, Effective June 1, 2026

Ms. Callie Hanson, Marketing Specialist III, Effective June 17, 2026

Approval of President's Personnel Report

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

WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE AREA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Addendum to the President's Contract

Mr. Ostdiek, College Attorney, reported that the Board approved amendments to the President's contract for the June 18, 2025, through July 1, 2028, term at its May meeting. The addendum presented is consistent with the Board's approved motion and reflects revisions to compensation and benefits, including a \$1,500 monthly stipend in lieu of a College-provided vehicle.

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

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Finance and Operations Committee

Use of Cash on Hand to Continue the Operations of the College
Pending Approval of 2026-27 Budgets in September 2026

Ms. Koski explained that, because the fiscal year ends on June 30 and the following year's budget will not be approved until September, Board approval is needed to authorize payment of routine expenses until the new budget is officially adopted.

Mr. Savely MOVED to approve the use of cash on hand to continue the operations of the College pending approval of 2026-27 budgets in September 2026. SECONDED by Ms. Richards. The vote was, Yes: Lehl, Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Kreman, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson. Motion carried.

Reports and Recommendations from the Board Policy Committee

Policy Repeals

215.0100.79 Board-President Relationship (incorporated into BP-116)

215.0200.79 Board as Adjudicating Body (incorporated into BP-116)

215.0300.79 President Staff Relations (incorporated into BP-116)

845.0200.01 Annual Review of College President's Performance (incorporated into BP-120)

These four policies have been incorporated into other Board policies as part of the ongoing policy review and consolidation process. Through the continued efforts of the Board Policy Committee and Ms. Kimberly Reichert to streamline and update the Board's policies, several policies have been consolidated to improve clarity, eliminate redundancy, and maintain a more efficient policy framework.

Ms. Richards MOVED to approve the repeal of 215.0100.79 Board-President Relationship, 215.0200.79, Board as Adjudicating Body, 215.0300.79 President Staff Relations, and 845.0200.01 Annual Review of College President's Performance. SECONDED by Mr. Savely. The vote was, Yes: Liggett, Richards, Savely, Schmidt, Shambaugh, Guzman-Gonzales, Kaufman, Kreman, Lehl, Stinner. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Hanson. Motion carried.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

Student Report

There was no student report.

Faculty Report

Nebraska Math Readiness Project

Ms. Laurie Parker, Nebraska Math Readiness Project Coordinator, provided an overview of the Nebraska Math Readiness Project and shared program updates. She explained that the initiative was developed to address the high number of students entering postsecondary education unprepared for college-level mathematics. Nationally, nearly 60% of community college students begin in developmental math courses, and only about 25% of those students ultimately earn a degree, making math readiness a significant barrier to student success.

Ms. Parker explained that developmental math includes coursework below college algebra, with placement determined through assessments such as ACT scores and Accuplacer testing.

Nebraska Math Readiness Project (cont.)

In addition, because most Nebraska high schools require only three years of math, many seniors go an entire year without mathematics instruction, contributing to skill loss before entering college.

The Nebraska Math Readiness Project is a statewide intervention designed to prepare high school students for college-level mathematics before graduation. The program offers separate pathways for traditional college-bound students and those entering technical or trade programs. Students complete a self-paced, mastery-based online curriculum facilitated by high school math teachers with ongoing support from the project coordinator. The curriculum covers four developmental math levels, emphasizing foundational algebra and numerical skills. Students demonstrate mastery before advancing and may pretest out of concepts they have already mastered, allowing instruction to focus on identified learning gaps.

Ms. Parker emphasized that the program is delivered in high schools, with regular support visits from WNCC staff. Homeschool students may also participate by completing coursework independently and taking assessments at WNCC. The program combines college-developed curriculum with individualized assistance from high school math teachers

She reported that participation has grown from eight or nine schools at the program's inception to twenty of the region's twenty-four high schools, with another school expected to join next year. While initial implementation faced some resistance, increased outreach, dedicated program coordination, and demonstrated student benefits have strengthened support among participating schools.

Students are identified through collaboration with high school counselors and teachers using ACT scores, Accuplacer results, academic performance, and postsecondary goals. Ms. Parker noted that the program is most effective when targeted toward students for whom math readiness could present a barrier to college success. Students who begin the program in high school but do not complete all levels may continue at WNCC without repeating completed coursework.

In response to questions, Ms. Parker explained that some smaller schools face scheduling challenges that limit participation, although the program works with districts to provide flexible implementation options. The program operates during the fall and spring semesters only. She also acknowledged that reading comprehension can contribute to students' difficulties with mathematics, particularly when solving word problems.

Ms. Parker explained that the math readiness program is a statewide initiative rather than solely a WNCC program. It began with three schools in each community college service area under a centralized coordinator. After the Peter Kiewit Foundation restructured the program to improve consistency and outcomes, each community college assumed responsibility for its own service area with a dedicated coordinator while continuing to collaborate statewide to maintain program consistency.

During the eighth year of the program, WNCC partnered with nineteen schools and served 252 students. Since its inception, nearly 1,000 students have participated through WNCC. Laurie encouraged board members to connect her with schools not yet participating, noting that staffing changes and administrative transitions had delayed implementation at several districts, including Bayard, Gordon-Rushville, Sidney, and Hemingford. Her goal is to expand participation to all twenty-four schools in the service area.

Nebraska Math Readiness Project (cont.)

Enrollment has grown steadily from three schools in the program's first year to nineteen schools today. Laurie noted that participation varies by district size and need, with some small districts enrolling nearly an entire graduating class. Scottsbluff plans to expand participation next year by integrating approximately fifty Tech Math students into the program.

In discussing student performance, Laurie emphasized that math readiness is influenced by many factors, including prior instruction, family circumstances, and differences among school districts. The program is designed to address learning gaps by allowing students to progress at their own pace rather than moving on before mastering key concepts. This individualized approach helps prevent students from falling behind and increases confidence in their abilities.

Statewide comparisons showed WNCC performing strongly relative to other community colleges, particularly in Level 3 completions. Completing Level 3 prepares students for college algebra, making it a key indicator of college readiness. Laurie also reported significant growth in Tech Math participation, with both Tech Math and Level 3 providing students with dual college credit.

Students typically complete one level each semester, though highly motivated participants may complete multiple levels in the same term. Laurie noted that the self-paced structure allows students to spend additional time on challenging topics, such as fractions, while advancing quickly through material they master.

Board members inquired about students who may not intend to attend college. Laurie explained that the program often increases students' confidence and encourages them to pursue post-secondary education. Tech Math also provides practical, workforce-oriented mathematical skills that benefit students entering technical careers or the workforce directly.

The program is offered at no cost to students or participating schools. WNCC covers software, licensing, and instructional expenses. During the past year alone, participating students earned the equivalent of 918 developmental credit hours, representing an estimated tuition savings of approximately \$117,000 while also improving their likelihood of college success.

Survey responses from students and teachers reflected strong satisfaction with the program, with approximately 98% of participating students reporting positive experiences. Statewide evaluation data compiled by the University of Nebraska Omaha further demonstrated the program's effectiveness. Among students who became college-ready by completing at least two levels, 74% enrolled in college, 70% remained in Nebraska, 79% persisted into a second year of college, and participants earned an average college GPA of 3.56. Their average grade in college mathematics was an A-, with outcomes exceeding national benchmarks by approximately threefold.

The program is primarily funded through grants from the Peter Kiewit Foundation and the Suzanne and Walter Scott Foundation. With one year of Kiewit funding remaining, efforts are underway to identify additional funding opportunities, with support from a foundation assisting in grant development. ESU 13 has also committed to covering the cost of Pearson subscriptions for students within its service area, an expense totaling approximately \$15,000 last year.

Program leaders negotiated a reduced rate with Pearson, lowering the subscription cost from approximately \$150 per student, per course to \$60 per student for unlimited course access within the program. Although this represents significant savings, costs remain substantial with approximately 252 participating students.

Nebraska Math Readiness Project (cont.)

High school faculty are not reimbursed separately for teaching these courses, as instruction is incorporated into their regular teaching assignments. Students benefit by earning the WNCC component while remaining enrolled in their high school classes.

To improve recognition of student achievement, participating community colleges in Nebraska now record completion of Level 1 and Level 2 developmental coursework on student transcripts. While no letter grade is assigned, the notation provides official documentation that can be recognized by Nebraska community colleges, allowing students to avoid repeating developmental coursework. WNCC also transcripts these levels, ensuring students have evidence of completion if they transfer within the state.

The program also reduces reliance on placement testing, helping students avoid unnecessary developmental courses and alleviating the math anxiety often associated with placement exams.

The presentation concluded with expressions of appreciation from attendees, and the presenter invited future questions and offered to provide contact information for continued communication.

Faculty Report (cont.)

Ms. Winters shared that progress continues on several faculty and leadership development initiatives. Planning is underway to launch the high school component of the Leadership Academy this fall. Ms. Pedersen and Ms. Curtis recently completed three days of certification training to teach the Leadership Development Studies curriculum, which will provide the online component for participating high schools. Work is also progressing on curriculum development, and Meridian has begun scheduling speakers for the fall program.

Professional development remains a priority. Along with Loren King and Andrew Lenzen, participation in the Nebraska State Education Association conference provided additional training and resources to better support faculty and employees.

During the Student Services retreat, a keynote presentation on John Gordon's *Energy Bus* principles received positive feedback and created opportunities for future workshops with campus groups, students, and statewide audiences. An invitation was also extended to present the keynote and facilitate a workshop at the statewide Financial Aid Conference next April.

Community outreach and leadership development efforts continue to expand through pro bono keynote presentations and workshops, reflecting a commitment to sharing the professional growth opportunities the college has provided.

The report concluded with plans to participate in the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Institute at the University of Denver, marking a final year of service on the Honors Program Council with two scheduled presentations.

Nebraska Community College Association

The group was reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for August 11 in Kearney, eliminating the need to travel to Lincoln. Members were also asked to reserve October 4–5 on their calendars, as Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) will host the annual meeting this fall. The event will take place on Sunday and Monday, and there is anticipation for a successful gathering.

A question was raised regarding the planning committee for the event, and it was confirmed that a meeting will be scheduled in the near future to begin preparations.

WNCC Foundation

There was no Foundation report.

President Comments

President Dart provided several enrollment and program updates.

Summer enrollment has reached approximately 500 students, a 24.2% increase over last year. While most summer courses are offered online, enrollment growth reflects increasing demand from both current students completing degree requirements and visiting students from across the country who are attracted by the college's competitive summer tuition rates. The college also continues to serve a growing number of high school students during the summer term.

Fall registration has surpassed 1,000 students, with registration pacing approximately ten days ahead of last year and nearly three weeks ahead of two years ago. Current registrations are approximately 19% higher than at the same point last year. While early registration does not necessarily predict final enrollment, it demonstrates the success of coordinated efforts by Student Success, faculty advisors, and Admissions to register returning and dual-credit students earlier.

The Construction Trades program continues to expand. The new place-based Associate of Applied Science program, located in the EAKES building in downtown Scottsbluff, has eleven of its fifteen available seats filled and is expected to begin at capacity this fall. The college is also launching dual-credit Construction Trades courses while continuing its mobile non-credit training programs. Recent hands-on experiences for students with developmental disabilities highlighted the program's community engagement efforts.

Additional workforce training opportunities are expanding through a partnership at the Western Sugar facility. Electrical and plumbing courses for high school students will begin there this fall, followed by an Industrial Maintenance non-credit program in the spring, with plans to transition the program to college credit in the coming years. Western Sugar has provided the facility for the college's use at no cost.

Planning continues for the college's Centennial celebration, with numerous commemorative activities underway. A Centennial premiere event is scheduled for August 6 at the Midwest Theater, where a commemorative video will debut. Additional projects, including a coffee table book, are also in development.

President Dart concluded by expressing appreciation to the Board and college community after completing three years in the role, noting gratitude for the opportunity to serve and enthusiasm for the years ahead.

Board Member Comments

Board member Starr Lehl shared that during a routine blood draw, the staff member mentioned that she had previously attended WNCC. As they talked, the phlebotomist shared that she was interested in returning to school to pursue training in ultrasound technology.

She was asked whether she had seen WNCC's new instructional space, and when she said she had not, she was encouraged to visit the campus and request a tour. It was suggested that seeing the new facilities might inspire her to continue her education. The interaction was a positive and encouraging reminder of how everyday conversations can spark interest in returning to school.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

1. **2026 ACCT Governance Leadership Institute for New Trustees**
August 5-7, 2026
Anaheim, California
2. **2026 NCCA Board of Directors Third Quarter Meeting**
Monday, August 10, 2026
Central Community College, Kearney, NE
3. **2026 NCCA Board of Directors Fourth Quarter Meeting and Annual Conference**
Sunday, October 4, 2026, Scottsbluff Hampton Inn
Monday, October 5, 2026, WNCC John N. Harms Center
4. **2026 ACCT Leadership Congress**
October 21-24, 2026
Hyatt Regency, Chicago, Illinois
5. **2027 ACCT Community College National Legislative Summit**
February 7-10, 2027
Marriott Marquis, Washington DC
6. **2027 ACCT Leadership Congress**
October 13-16, 2027
Mariott Philadelphia Downtown
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

****Follow links to access information.**

[WNCC Athletics](#)

[WNCC Performing Arts](#)

[WNCC Athletic and Academic Calendar](#)

Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 1:00 p.m., Coral E. Richards Boardroom, Western Nebraska Community College, Scottsbluff Campus, 1601 East 27th Street, Scottsbluff, NE.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:54 p.m.

John P. Stinner, Chair

Susan L. Verbeck, Secretary