



WNC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Dini Library and Video Conference via Zoom

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Meeting ID: 856 3703 6634 and Passcode: 819007

Board Members Present: Sean Davison Scott Fields
Michelle Ketten Ronele Dotson
Amanda Jacobson Jeff Brigger
Rick Kohler Miranda Hoover
Tina Holland
Maria Denzler Devin Sizemore
Robert Ramsdell

Board Members Via Zoom: Kathy Halbardier Rochelle Tisdale

WNC Staff Present: Niki Gladys Carol McIntosh
President Vincent Solis Dr. Kyle Dalpe
Rachael Schneider Steve Yingling
Lauren Slemenda Dr. Rebecca Bevans
Ms. Rachelle Bassen Mr. Eric York

Board Members Absent: Lane Mills Darcy Houghton
Christie Asis Julie Wood
Sena Loyd Stacy Woodbury

Proposed Board Members: N/A

Public Members Present: N/A

Mr. Davison introduced Tina Holland as proposed Co Vice Chair of the Western Nevada College Foundation Board. Mr. _____ . Mr. Davison called for a motion to approve. _____ motioned to approve, and Miranda Hoover seconded. The motion passed.

7. State of the College

Dr. Solis gave an update on the State of the College.

- There is new guidance and policies from the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) requiring students to get the COVID-19 vaccination. More students are enrolling in online classes for the spring semester.
- All employees are required to get the COVID-19 vaccination. There are 115 employees that have not received the vaccination. It is anticipated that 5-8% of the current workforce will not receive the vaccination and their employment will be terminated as a result. This may cause in a disruption of service. Replacing employees at current market rates places additional financial pressures on the budget.
- Employees are able to apply for religious and medical exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccination requirements. A committee comprised of college employees has been created to evaluate these applications.
- Dr. Solis and Dr. Dalpe will be attending a conference at Arizona State University (ASU) to learn more about offering programs online.
- Ms. Angela Holt is now the Diversity Officer, following the retirement of Lupe Ramirez.
- A CDL program is now being offered at the college as a result of the recent demand for truck drivers. A POST program is being developed for police officers.
- Dr. Robert Morin has passed away and Western N Tf1 0 (following)9692 retetehep00912 0 612 79

- Dr. Solis announced he is interviewing and may be accepting a role in Texas. The opportunity could come within the next 30 days.

Faculty has learned they need to provide flexibility to their students because of the demands of students caring for sick family members, working and caring for themselves. Students have adapted to online classes requiring the education system to accommodate their needs. Students are struggling with adjusting to the requirements of wearing a mask in class. It is more difficult to read facial expressions and to connect with their peers. Instructors are increasing their interactions with their students through emails, comments on their assignments and personal interactions in the classroom. Faculty is doing a fantastic job in connecting with their students. Instructors are learning to present in flex classes and providing students the information they need to be successful.

10. Roundtable Discussion

The Board engaged in a robust discussion about the impacts of COVID-19 on education.

11. COVID-19 Video Project and WNC Testing Site

Mr. Davison introduced Ms. Rachelle Bassen, Professor, Biology, and Eric York, Director of Strategic COVID Response, and shared their bios.

Ms. Bassen presented as a result of the mandatory COVID-19 vaccines she is creating a video series in support and education of the vaccines. Ms. Bassen wants students to have information before making the decisions that cause them to drop out of school. Ms. Bassen has observed her students experience a very hard time as a result of caring for those who are ill. Ms. Bassen is interviewing a variety of individuals including students, instructors and members of the community. She is in the process of collecting additional information from the Nursing Department at Western Nevada College. Ms. Bassen is working to compile the videos and present them on the website and social media. Over 70% of students and faculty have been vaccinated with very little side effects. Ms. Bassen shared one of the videos she has created. The efficacy rate of the vaccine is unbelievably high. It is a renaissance of science and breakthroughs in medical technology. Pure influence is a significant factor in the decisions we make. Ms. _____ is that students will be able to influence each other to make evidenced based decision rather than emotional decisions. Dr. Bevans presented that No Child Left Behind has decreased

Dr. Bevans shared that good science research changes frequently. Scientific research is a healthy process. Science that should be challenged is science that is outdated and has not been evaluated in years.

There was no public comment.

17. Adjourn Meeting

Mr. Davison adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

The next WNC Foundation Board meeting is Thursday, January 20, 2021.