



**Ratified at December 13, 2023 meeting**

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 15, 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 3 PM in the Student Center Event Room.

**Trustees Present:**

Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, Chairperson, Dr. Norman Jacknis, Vice-Chairperson, Deborah Raizes Vice Chairperson, (via videoconference), Clara Carnot, Susan Gerry, Esq., Hon. John Nonna, Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, (via videoconference), Sergio Serratto, Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

**Trustees Excused:**

Robin Bikkal, Esq., Hon. Lyndon Williams.

**Cabinet Members Present:**

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Dr. Vanessa Morest, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Brian Murphy, Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services, Dolores Swirin Yao, Vice President and Dean, External Affairs, Executive Director, WCC Foundation, Tere Wisell, Vice President and Dean, Community Education and Workforce Development, Anthony Scordino, Vice President, Information Technology, Dante Cantú, Vice President of Student Access, Involvement & Success.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson LeRoy Mitchell called the meeting to order.

**Ratification of Minutes**

Trustee Jacknis made a motion seconded by Trustee Gerry to ratify the minutes of the October 18, 2023, Board meeting. The motion passed.

## INFORMATION AND DECISION

### A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

As we enter the Season of Giving, I'm pleased to report that SUNY WCC will once again come together for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution on Monday, November 20. As part of our collective fight against food insecurity, 275 students will be provided with a turkey, side dishes, a ShopRite gift card, and access to college and community resources related to food insecurity. Hosted by the Department of Student Support Services and with support from the WCC Foundation, FSA Dining and Security, and through the very generous support of DeCicco & Sons, ShopRite, and Feeding Westchester, our students and their loved ones will enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. I thank all members of the college community – and our community partners – who will volunteer on Monday to pack up the goodies and distribute to students throughout the day here on our Valhalla campus, and our four extension locations: Yonkers, Mount Vernon, Ossining, and Peekskill.

#### **Student Excellence**

A team of Radiologic Technology students, led by Prof. Sara Fozard, attended the New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences (NYSSRS) Annual Conference in Schenectady – and placed third in the Student Bowl Competition. Congratulations to students Christopher Marshall, Nicholas Zayas, Antonio Siniscalchi, and Martino Desir, and to faculty coach Fozard – and our Rad Tech faculty for supporting our students and preparing them for the competition.

A team of SUNY WCC students joined students from Mercy University in attending the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Metropolitan Association of College and University Biologists (MACUB) conference at the University of Bridgeport.

WCC student Luis Granados conducted research on our campus with faculty mentor Dr. Margaret Eiden in the MERCY-WCC summer 2023 research institute (SRI) and presented the poster: *Abundant Lichen Punctelia rudecta and Phycia stellaris Contain Medicinal Metabolites*.

First place in the MACUB Physiology and Neuroscience category, was awarded to WCC student Gabriella Shikapwashya and Mercy U student Sara Tamayo who co-presented their summer research *Potential Role of LRRK8A in Supplying Cysteine to Neurons Via GSH Release*.

WCC student Ethan Valle won second place in the Physiology and Neuroscience category and presented the summer research from his group at the Bridges to Baccalaureate program at SUNY Binghamton: *The effects of the serotonin drugs*

*Vortioxetine and Vilazodone on Apomorphine-induced dyskinesia in a rat model of Parkinson's disease.*

A team of Environmental Club students, led by club president Lianne Leslie, attended the 2023 College Climate Gathering at Brown University (RI). According to the CCG website, this is a meeting of students interested in climate activism and who participate in “skills-based, student-led organizing workshops, attend talks and panels with experienced academics and environmental justice advocates, and build community with like-minded students from different campuses.” WCC student attendees include Jayden Cancellaro, club VP and The Native Plant Center scholarship winner; Tzipora Grimaldi, club treasurer; Josiah Farrell, William Le Blanc, and Sorelle Marsh.

### **Faculty Excellence**

The college community welcomed Professor Emerita Dr. Iris Cook and her family to back to campus to celebrate the dedication of a bench in honor of Dr. Cook's tireless service to the college and our students. Dr. Cook remains a fierce advocate for the community college mission – and for those who have the pleasure of knowing her – she certainly brought her signature wit and humor to the dedication ceremony. The Cook bench is located outside the Science Building for all to enjoy.

**Volunteer Luncheon:** Yesterday I had the pleasure of greeting our volunteer corps in celebration of their service to the college community. 549 volunteers donated over 3,816 hours of their time during the 2023 academic year to students and our programs.

**Transforming Futures Together Gala:** November 8. Retired faculty member Rose Tan & her husband William Kaung; County Executive George Latimer; philanthropist Dorry Swope; and SUNY WCC alumnus David Berry were honored during the sold-out event. As Susan Yubas, the Special Events Chair shared, “The impact on our students of the funds raised will be a powerful one.”

**Center for Excellence in Cybersecurity:** Earlier this month we celebrated the inauguration of the Robert R. Wiener Center for Excellence in Cybersecurity, created through the extraordinary vision and support of Mr. Bob Wiener whose commitment to student success has opened the doors to opportunity for hundreds of our students.

**MSCHE Self-Study** has been submitted and we look forward to welcoming Dr. Guy Generals, who is serving as our MSCHE Self-Study Evaluation Team Chair, to campus on November 27 in advance of the team of peer evaluators we will meet with in the spring. College-wide effort.

**Enrollment:** Winter and Spring enrollments are underway. Winter session – 3-week online – instruction starting 12/23 and ending 1/14. Offering 4 spring sessions – 15-week; two 7.5-week; and a 12-week session.

As of November 15, Winter 2024 enrollment is 412, an increase of 59.1% compared to Winter 2023.

Spring 2024 enrollment is 2,170, a decrease of 22% over Spring 2023 during the same time. However, we see a 21.2% increase in full-time enrollment.

**Save the date:** Fall Open House – Saturday, November 18 – Valhalla Campus, 1 – 4 PM  
December Completion Ceremony – Thursday, December 14, PE Building, 4 – 6 PM

## **B. Board Chair's Report**

Trustee Mitchell reported:

### **Transforming Futures Together Gala**

Thanks to Dolores Swirin Yao and the Foundation for a marvelous event.

### **Volunteer Luncheon**

I also attended the Volunteer Luncheon yesterday for all our volunteers. I enjoyed meeting everyone.

### **New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT)**

I attended the 69<sup>th</sup> annual conference of NYCCT on November 3 – 4, 2023 at the Saratoga Springs Hotel.

The theme for this year's conference was *Reimagining Community Colleges*. The conference started with the Board of Directors' meeting, where we were updated on the financial position of the organization, and the activities that were undertaken during the last year. We were also apprised of the progress with the state towards 23-24 funding for Community Colleges. It appears that we may get the 100% floor from 22-23, another 75 million for transfer and removal of the 20% holdback which was part of the deal last year. This is all tentative.

In keeping with the theme, the first speaker was Madhuri Kommareddi. She was the former Director of Workforce Development for NYS Executive Chamber. Her presentation was a summary of an op-ed article which she wrote for the Times Union in which she commented on the predicament of SUNY, its composition, governance structure and performance. The article was not flattering. Indeed, she suggested, among other things, that SUNY should perhaps follow the example of the California or North Carolina system and separate the community colleges from the rest. This, she suggested would place the Community Colleges on an equal footing in Albany in terms of budget and legislative lobbying. She suggested that we rethink the current system. She lamented the fact that of the 16 current SUNY board trustees, only one has a degree from a community college.

There was session for Chiefs of Staff, and secretaries to the Boards of Trustees led by Jennifer Zell from SUNY Ulster.

There were panels on Community College enrollment and Community College Workforce Development.

Panelist from SUNY Broome and SUNY Orange discussed how their respective school's manage enrollment, while CUNY and NY Jobs CEO Council, Hudson Valley, SUNY Broome and Monroe CC, Mohawk Valley Community College and SUNY Erie Community College presented three panels on Workforce Development.

Additionally, there were sessions on Community College Funding, Reimagining Approaches to better serve Adults Students, Reimagining teaching using Extended Reality (XR). A panel from Tompkins Cortland Community College discussed how that college deals with food insecurity among the students. They explained how they manage the food pantry on campus. They also indicated that they were part of a consortium of 16 colleges which collaborate in this effort.

There was also a Governance & Legislative panel, moderated by Ann Fleming, NYCCT pas Chair, which included Patricia Fahy, Chair NY assembly Committee on Higher Education, and Alejandro Chavarria Gonzalez, student from SUNY Broome. The summary of the discussion was that there will be no increase in funding for traditional programs, but there could be funds for programs related to workforce development. The message from Chancellor John B. King was no different when he addressed the gathering later.

Jee Hang Lee, President and CEO of ACCT gave us an update on what is going on in Washington.

Dr. Jeff Cox, President of the North Carolina Community System explored with us the differences between their system and what we have in New York.

The awards banquet was held on Friday, November 3.

The Trustee Institute had concurrent sessions on the morning of Saturday, November 4.

## **C. Committees**

### Committee of Whole

Trustee Mitchell reported:

The committee had discussion on the following topics.

- North80 discussion
- Anti Bullying Policy
- Nepotism Policy
- Middle States Self Study

### Student Trustee Report

Trustee Carnot reported:

- On December 7, 2023, the Student Government Association (SGA) will be having a Town Hall where we will be discussing our endeavors, addressing student concerns, and answering student questions.
- The Student Government Association (SGA) recently passed a resolution – *The Student Focus, Diversity, Equity, and Access committee*.
  - We will survey students every semester and choose one area to focus on depending on the results of the survey.
- This semester we are working with FSA to find ways to combat inflation because students are concerned about rising food prices.

### Finance/Facilities

Trustee Robeson Smith reported:

The Finance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Operating Forecast
- Capital Projects Update
- Contracts

Trustee Robeson Smith asked Vice President Brian Murphy to go over the forecast for the month ending October 31, 2023, and the contracts.

Vice President Murphy presented the contracts to the Board.

### Resolution: Contract Ratification

**WHEREAS**, *Westchester Community College is required to enter into agreements for the continued operation of the College; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the attached schedule represents those agreements approved by the College since the last meeting of the Board of Trustees; therefore*

**BE IT RESOLVED**, *that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College hereby ratifies the aforementioned agreements.*

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
24-0240-600	Nieves and Tatis Enterprise LLC DBA Jet-Black of Westchester	Sealing of parking lot cracks and restriping as needed.	4/1/24 – 8/1/24	\$23,879.30
24-0240-359	Arco Protection Systems, Inc.	Replacement 3 Pryo Chem ATD-75 cylinder tanks and 1 PSC-10 tank. Fire suppressant system for the College's fuel island.	12/1/23 – 1/31/24	\$7,796
24-9543-282	National Fit Testing Services LLC	To establish an agreement with vendor to perform mask Fit test for clinical students	1/8/24 – 1/26/24	\$3,095 HEERF Grant Funded
24-8221-283	Environmental Leaders of Color, Inc.	ELOC 2024 Technology Environmental Education Saturday program	1/13/24 – 12/7/24	\$2,500 Revenue
24-0240-601	Empire Mechanical Services, Inc.	Remove 2 existing sump pumps, motors, and controller Furnish and install new sump pumps In PE boiler room.	12/1/23 – 2/29/24	\$22,250
24-0240-362	New England Property Maintenance, Inc.	Cut and prune trees that are close to buildings causing roof damage. Includes Admin, Library and Tech buildings	12/1/23 – 3/1/24	\$14,500
24-0240-592	National Standby Repair, Inc.	Generator maintenance which includes oil changes and inspections of our generators campus-wide. \$5K MAW included in the cost.	4/1/24 – 3/31/25	\$21,800
24-0240-593	Environmental Compliance Management Concepts, LLC	Fuel tank inspection and maintenance of fuel tanks campus-wide. \$5K MAW included in the cost.	2/1/24 – 1/31/26	\$25,140
24-0155-596	Paul T. Bucci, PhD, LLC	Renewal of Grants Consulting and writing services Contract. 3 <sup>rd</sup> option of 3 one-year renewal options.	8/1/23 – 7/31/24	NTE \$27,500 \$175/hr.

**\*\*Motion: Robeson Smith/Nonna – all in favor**

Resolution: Capital Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of SUNY Westchester Community College hereby approves the 2024-2025 Capital Program

**\*\*Motion: Robeson Smith/Serratto – all in favor**

Public Comment

Trustee Mitchell invited members of the community for public comment.

No public comment

Trustee Serratto

I attend the open house for Ossining and Peekskill extension sites. It was wonderful experience.

Adjournment

**\*\*Motion: Jacknis/Serratto – all in favor**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for December 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

*Yolanda Howell*

Yolanda Howell  
Secretary, Board of Trustees