



**Ratified at July 20, 2022 meeting**

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
June 15, 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 3 PM via zoom video conference.

**Trustees Present:**

Dr. LeRoy Mitchell, Chairperson, Dr. Norman Jacknis, Vice Chairperson, Robin Bikkal Esq., Susan Gerry, Hon. John Nonna, Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, Hon. Lyndon Williams and Yolanda Howell, Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

**Trustees Excused:**

Deborah Raizes, Vice Chairperson.

**Cabinet Members Present:**

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President, Dr. Vanessa Morest, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Dr. Shawn Brown, Chief of Staff and Vice President of Strategic Operations, Brian Murphy, Vice President and Dean of Administrative Services, Dolores Swirin Yao, Vice President and Dean, External Affairs, Executive Director, WCC Foundation, Anthony Scordino, Vice President, Information Technology, Tere Wisell, Vice President and Dean, Continuing Education and Workforce Development, Adam Frank, Interim Vice President of Student Access, Involvement & Success.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson LeRoy Mitchell called the meeting to order.

**Ratification of Minutes**

Trustee Mitchell made a motion seconded by Trustee Jacknis to ratify the minutes of the May 18, 2022, Board meeting. The motion passed.

## INFORMATION AND DECISION

### A. President's Report

Dr. Belinda S. Miles reported:

President Miles gave updates on the following:

#### Enrollment Update

We are still seeing a decline compared to year ago regarding our summer and fall programs.

#### Community Relations

SUNY Westchester celebrates Juneteenth – Under the leadership of our Student Involvement team, the college community is invited to our Remembrance Day event tomorrow at 11 AM. A zoom link and event details are posted on our web events calendar at [www.sunywcc.edu](http://www.sunywcc.edu).

This year, the college will also join the local and national observance of Juneteenth on Monday, June 20.

Focusing on student success and completion, summer session classes will run as scheduled on Monday, especially our 5-week session classes, which are scheduled to end on Thursday, June 23.

As an institution committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, we invite our college community to offer ideas on how we can commemorate Juneteenth. Please forward your suggestions to Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Rinardo Reddick via email.

- This morning, our Mount Vernon Extension Center was the site of a Youth Shelter of Westchester-sponsored community discussion on rethinking justice in Westchester County with panelists from the City of Mount Vernon, the District Attorney's office, Legal Aid Society of Westchester, the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, and the VERA Institute of Justice.

We thank Trustee Williams for thinking of Westchester Community College and our Mt. Vernon Extension to bring together community groups and members of our local government for this important discussion.

- Next Friday and Saturday (6/24 and 25), Yonkers Public Schools will host their graduation ceremonies in our Physical education building. Wonderful opportunity for prospective students and their guests to visit the campus – Yonkers continues to be a major feeder of students to WCC, and we welcome the district to the college in this new way.

### Student Excellence

- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Commitment Day (May 20) – celebrated the more than 1,000 (and growing) students who have committed to attend WCC in the fall. This high impact practice builds connection to WCC and increases engagement, retention, and persistence.
- EOC (Educational Opportunity Center) Graduation (June 9) - first in-person celebration since the beginning of the pandemic, culminating EOC's 49<sup>th</sup> year and honoring three graduating classes.
  - 70 students received High School Equivalency Diplomas
    - CTE (Career and Technical Education) students received over 500 industry certifications
    - 7 students received WEOC Pathways scholarships to attend SUNY Westchester.
- Port Chester Success for All (June 13) - hosted by Port Chester HS – Newly created pipeline to student enrollment at WCC.

I invite Admissions Director Gloria De La Paz and Interim Associate Dean of Enrollment Management Chris Westby to talk briefly about this exciting program and a whole new approach to college admissions.

*Gloria De La Paz and Chris Westby explained the Portchester Schools program.*

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

Trustee Mitchell reported:

#### EOC Graduation

- I was impressed by the history of the student's path to graduation.
- Some students received multiple credentials. Very impressive.

#### Recent Article

- Inside Higher Education – Full time enrollment declines by 3/% nationwide

#### Webinars (Washington, DC) -June 21, 2022

- Discussion for Community College leaders to discuss the ways that intuitions can strategically deploy the Federal Higher Education Energy Relief Funds to uplift students and our economy.
- Pathways Webinar

NYCCT Conference

- The New York Community College Trustees Conference will be held in September in Saratoga.

ACCT Conference

- The conference will be held in New York City this year in October.

**C. Committees**

Finance/Facilities

Trustee Robeson Smith reported:

The Finance committee had discussion on the following topics.

- Presentation of the College’s Independent Auditor’s Report for the year ended 8/31/21 by PKF O’Connor Davies.
- Operating Forecast
- Capital Projects Update

Trustee Robeson Smith asked Vice President Brian Murphy to go over the forecast for the month ending May 31, 2022 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>
22-9549-537-FAC	Taconic Remodeling Corp	Demolish the Blackboards and install new white boards in the Classroom Building. 69 boards.	7/1/22 – 1/31/23	24,200 HEERF Grant funded.
22-0735-237-SOB	Sewing Machines, Etc., Inc.	On-site maintenance and repair services for sewing machines for fashion programs.	8/1/22 – 7/31/23	\$4,500
22-0240-322-FAC	Sea Breeze General Construction Inc.	Installation of 7 skylights on Physical Building roof.	7/1/22 – 12/31/22	\$7,000
22-9110-233-EOC	Yonkers Police Department	Traffic control for EOC Graduation at YPS Saunders High School.	6/9/22	Original amt \$1,600 Grant Funded. Increase by \$900 to \$2,500

<u>CONTRACT #</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR NAME</u>	<u>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
22-9110-234-EOC	ILYASAH SHABAZZ	Honorarium – Key-Note Speaker WEOC Graduation 2022. Exempt from procurement	6/9/22	Original amt \$500 Grant Funded. Increase by \$4,495 to \$4,995
<i>(note: a policy will be put in place so this discrepancy does not happen in the future)</i>				
22-9110-236-EOC	Majestic Transportation Services	Transportation for Keynote Speaker (I. Shabazz) For WEOC Graduation 2022 (Round trip).	6/9/22	\$315 Grant Funded.
WCC-22-932	Scarsdale Security Systems	Replace current Fire Alarm panel at Ossining.	6/3/22 – 7/29/22	\$5,260
22-9543-323-AA	Professional Health Services, Inc	Fit Mask testing for clinical students. Inst. CRRSAA grant.	8/1/21 – 1/31/22	\$8,154 BOT originally approved up to \$5984 on 9-22-2021. Additional amount added of \$2170 Grant Funded.

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

Resolution:

Approval of Non-Represented Managers Pay Scale Effective September 1, 2019

**WHEREAS**, Westchester Community College values the contributions made by its Non-Represented Managers and their continued leadership.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Westchester Community College herewith approves the attached Pay Scale for Non-Represented Managers which took effect on September 1, 2019.

PAY SCALE III (Effective September 1, 2019)  
WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE MANAGERS

Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I	78,730	83,472	88,215	92,957	97,699	102,442	107,184	111,927	116,669	121,411
II	96,250	102,065	107,880	113,696	119,512	125,328	131,143	136,960	142,776	148,591
III	114,242	120,280	126,318	132,356	138,394	144,432	150,470	156,508	162,546	168,585
IV	132,205	139,342	146,480	153,617	160,755	167,891	175,029	182,167	189,303	196,441

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

NYCCT Nominations for awards

Anne M. Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement – Deborah Raizes

**WHEREAS**, New York Community College Trustees invites nominations to honor outstanding trustees for its Annual Awards Presentation taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022; and

*WHEREAS, Trustee Deborah Raizes has served on the Westchester Community College Board of Trustees since 2018 and served as its vice chair from 2021 to the present time; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Raizes has served on the Westchester Community College Foundation Board in a variety of roles including member, chairperson and president; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Raizes, as Co-chair of the Foundation's Pathways Campaign for Student Success helped raise over \$50 million to support new initiatives in student success, faculty excellence and scholarship opportunity; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Raizes has had a significant local impact through her involvement with the Scarsdale School System where she held several roles, including president of the Scarsdale Council of Parent Teacher Associations and president of the Scarsdale Board of Education; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Raizes personally established the Pathways Endowed Scholarship fund, a permanent source of scholarship funding that will drive innovative student recruitment, retention, and completion initiatives.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees nominate Deborah Raizes for the New York Community College Trustees Anne M. Bushnell Memorial Award for Special Achievement.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board Secretary shall transmit this resolution and corresponding nomination to the New York Community College Trustees.*

#### Alice Holloway Young Award for Distinguished Service by a Retired Trustee – Betsy Stern

*WHEREAS, New York Community College Trustees invites nominations to honor outstanding retired trustees for its Annual Awards Presentation taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022; and*

*WHEREAS, former Trustee Betsy Stern served on the Westchester Community College Board of Trustees as its vice chair from 2011 to 2019; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Stern served on the Westchester Community College Foundation Board from 1985 to 2020, serving as president for over 10 years and chair for several more; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Stern, as Chair of the Foundation's first capital campaign, helped raise over \$3 million in 1997 for a library expansion, and advocated for and participated in the Gateway Campaign, which focused on educational opportunity for new Americans; and*  
*WHEREAS, Ms. Stern has been responsible for the development of the Foundation's volunteer program, now 600-members strong, which helps ESL students learn English, supplies tutors in our Academic Support Center, and provides other important mentoring services to our students; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Stern has been an active and influential member of her community, serving on and leading numerous boards, including the Edgemont School Board, the Board of Westchester Medical Center, Westchester County Parks, and others.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees nominate Betsy Stern for the New York Community College Trustees Alice Holloway Young Award for Distinguished Service by a Retired Trustee.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board Secretary shall transmit this resolution and corresponding nomination to the New York Community College Trustees.*

*Friend of Community College Award – Harry Phillips*

*WHEREAS, New York Community College Trustees invites nominations to honor outstanding contributors to community college education for its Annual Awards Presentation taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022; and*

*WHEREAS, former Trustee Harry Phillips III has served SUNY Westchester Community College for over thirty years as Chair of the Board of Trustees and as a WCC Foundation Board member; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips has been a valued advisor to SUNY WCC presidents in his capacity as Regent for the New York Board of Education, a position he held for fifteen years; and WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips, as New York State Regent, was directly involved in licensing and credentialing that impacted community college curriculum, including for registered nurses and Emergency Medical Technicians, ensuring safety and high standards for these critical middle skills professions.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees nominate Harry Phillips III for the New York Community College Trustees Friend of Community Colleges Award. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board Secretary shall transmit this resolution and corresponding nomination to the New York Community College Trustees.*

*Benefactor Vision for Tomorrow Award – Robert (Bob) Wiener*

*WHEREAS, New York Community College Trustees invites nominations to honor distinguished alumni for its Annual Awards Presentation taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022; and*

*WHEREAS, benefactor Robert (Bob) Wiener leads The Wiener Philanthropy to provide financial, educational and psychological aid to children and young adults at risk, helping them build a better foundation and ensure a brighter future; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Wiener has been supporting the educational journey of SUNY WCC students for over two decades through over \$1 million of scholarship support to almost 600 students; and*

*WHEREAS, The Wiener Philanthropy donated \$1 million to create the Robert R. Wiener Center for Excellence in Cybersecurity, which includes a state-of-the-art Cybersecurity lab and technologically advanced classrooms, and covers the cost of faculty development, curriculum development, and adding new degree programs and industry credentials; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Wiener provided additional funds to establish the Robert R. Wiener Cyber Scholars which provides scholarships to the most promising students in the SUNY WCC Cyber program.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees nominate Robert Wiener for the New York Community College Trustees Benefactor Vision for Tomorrow Award.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board Secretary shall transmit this resolution and corresponding nomination to the New York Community College Trustees.*

*Edward J. Pawenski Business-Industry Partnership Award – JPMorgan Chase (JPMC)*

*WHEREAS, New York Community College Trustees invites nominations to honor outstanding business partners for its Annual Awards Presentation taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022; and*

*WHEREAS, JPMorgan Chase (JPMC), through its Market Team Leadership Group, is deeply involved in regional economic development projects; and*

*WHEREAS, JPMC has a long and fruitful partnership with the WCC Foundation, spanning 30 years of support totally \$2.75 million, making JPMC the WCC Foundation's largest corporate donor; and*

*WHEREAS, JPMC has invested over \$1.5 million in SUNY WCC's Money Smart Forum financial coaching program, which has positively impacted students' financial health; and*

*WHEREAS, JPMC awarded \$150,000 to the WCC Foundation – the Workforce and Development and Community Education division to lead the research and publication of a middle skills gap report for the Lower Hudson Valley, which identified areas where educational capacity could be expanded or further strengthened to help regional residents connect to well-paying, high-demand, middle-skill jobs and associated careers, and contribute to the economic vitality of the region; and*

*WHEREAS, JPMC's investment in SUNY WCC's new White Plains Education and Training Center enabled the college to develop its first extension center dedicated solely to short-term workforce development programs.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees nominate JPMorgan Chase for the New York Community College Trustees Edward J. Pawenski Business/Industry Partnership Award.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board Secretary shall transmit this resolution and corresponding nomination to the New York Community College Trustees.*

*Distinguished Alumni (Civic) Award – Lisa Denig*

*WHEREAS, New York Community College Trustees invites nominations to honor distinguished alumni for its Annual Awards Presentation taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022; and*

*WHEREAS, alumna Lisa Denig has broad experience in her volunteerism, serving her community with her work with Hillside Food Outreach, Habitat for Humanity, her church and as a foster for animals at the local shelter; and*

*WHEREAS, Ms. Denig, despite all these activities and her position as Counsel to the Chief Judge of the State of New York, she is always eager to answer when SUNY Westchester Community College calls and now serves on the advisory board for the SUNY WCC*



*paralegal programs, the WCC Foundation Board and as President of the Alumni Council for the WCC Alumni Association; and*  
*WHEREAS, Ms. Denig, as VP of Nominations for the Alumni Council helped establish a set of criteria for service to the Alumni Council which placed expectations on the volunteers to step up their own service to the college; and*  
*WHEREAS, Ms. Denig, as a member of the WCC Foundation Board, has worked with the scholarship committee to identify areas of growth and connections that can benefit SUNY WCC students; and*  
*WHEREAS, Ms. Denig, through her busy schedule and the enthusiasm and commitment she exhibits through her many engagements, is an inspiring individual in her commitment to service.*  
*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees nominate Lisa Denig for the New York Community College Trustees Distinguished Alumni Civic Award.*  
*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board Secretary shall transmit this resolution and corresponding nomination to the New York Community College Trustees.*

*Distinguished Alumni Professional Award – John Watkins*

*WHEREAS, New York Community College Trustees invites nominations to honor distinguished alumni for its Annual Awards Presentation taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022; and*  
*WHEREAS, alumnus John C. Watkins, as the Curriculum Chair of the Cybersecurity program at SUNY Westchester Community College, has built the program to the point of being designated a Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the US Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency; and*  
*WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins has provided his students with opportunities to participate in internships and cyber-competitions, acquire certifications, and engage in an extensive hands-on learning approach in the classroom; and*  
*WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins has been awarded prestigious grants to further the development of the Cybersecurity program, including \$1 million to create the Robert R. Wiener Center for Excellence in Cybersecurity; and*  
*WHEREAS, the alumni of Mr. Watkins' program speak highly of his efforts in preparing them for careers in Cybersecurity, citing their internships, classroom experience, and job placements; and*  
*WHEREAS, Mr. Watkins has exhibited an indefatigable enthusiasm for growing the Cybersecurity program and preparing his students for careers in this field vital to our nation's growth and security.*  
*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees nominate John Watkins for the New York Community College Trustees Distinguished Alumni Professional Award.*  
*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board Secretary shall transmit this resolution and corresponding nomination to the New York Community College Trustees.*

Community College Innovation Award – SUNY Westchester Community College

*WHEREAS, New York Community College Trustees invites nominations to honor innovative Community Colleges for its Annual Awards Presentation taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022; and*

*WHEREAS, research has shown that high stakes single measure placement exams have significantly under-placed students, leading them to enroll in developmental education and impacting their ability to succeed; and*

*WHEREAS, the onset of the pandemic and the resultant move to remote operations required an alternative assessment and placement approach since the existing sources for Multiple Measures would not be available; and*

*WHEREAS, SUNY Westchester Community College (SUNY WCC) decided to forge ahead with its student success innovations and implemented its Directed Self-Placement (DSP) questionnaires; and*

*WHEREAS, the adoption of Multiple Measures and DSP has resulted in higher percentages of Black and Latino students placing into gateway math and English courses as well as improved success rates in these courses among these populations; and*

*WHEREAS, the implementation of the DSP has coincided with a drastic decrease in equity gaps, with the placement rates for math of Black students increasing from 46.0% to 66.7% compared to the overall rates of 59.7% to 72.2%; and*

*WHEREAS, the percent of incoming students who pass a college level math course by the end of their first term has increased from 23% to 30% and the success rate in English has remained relatively flat even though the share of students being placed in these courses has increased; and*

*WHEREAS, SUNY WCC has been invited to present at several SUNY Strong Start to Finish workshops and the SUNY Student Success Summit, as well as the American Association of Colleges and Universities national conference and the Community College Showcase.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees nominate SUNY WCC for the New York Community College Trustees Community College Innovation Award.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board Secretary shall transmit this resolution and corresponding nomination to the New York Community College Trustees.*

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

Public Comment

Trustee Mitchell invited members of the community for public comment

Professor Sheldon Malev addressed the Board

- A tree was planted on campus as a memorial to Dr. Joseph Hankin. The tree is lacking a memorial plaque. I would like to suggest that members of the BOT donate the plaque.

Other Business

Chairman Mitchell noted that this is the week that we celebrate Juneteenth. Dr. Miles and Dr. Rinardo Reddick gave a brief overview of the meaning of the holiday.

Dr. Miles announced that Adam Frank has been named by the Business Council of Westchester as one of the Rising Stars-40 Under 40, a diverse and highly talented group representing an impressive array of professions and fields. The winners will be honored in a ceremony at Million Air on September 20.

Adjournment

**\*\*Motion: Mitchell/Jacknis – all in favor.**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for July 20, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

*Yolanda Howell*

Yolanda Howell  
Secretary, Board of Trustees