

**APPROVED MINUTES
COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 12, 2025
Benson Center
6:00 PM.**

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Board Members Present:

Mr. David DiPeso
Mr. Mark Farr
Mr. Don Hudgins
Mr. Steve Leeder
Ms. Stephanie Money

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Hudgins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.03 Adoption of Agenda

The administration requested that the agenda be approved, with no modifications, the agenda was approved.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to approve the agenda as posted. With no further discussion, the Board approved, with Mr. Hudgins, Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye.

1.04 Governing Board Organization

INFORMATION

1.04.1 Oath of Office – Mark Farr

Dr. Jacqui Clay, Cochise County Schools Superintendent, delivered the Oath of Office to Mark Farr.

1.05 Citizens' In-Person Interim

There were no requests to address the Board.

1.06 Standing Reports

1.06.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees

Mr. Leeder introduced David Borofsky, Executive Director of the Arizona Community College Coordinating Council and the AACCT organization. He then provided a brief AACCT update from the June 18th meeting; topics included:

- Legislative updates
- ASPEN Institute Leadership program. Two Cochise College members will attend.
- All-college day at the capital next spring, and the decision not to participate.

- The upcoming AC4/AACCT Retreat in Flagstaff on August 21 & 22, 2025. Meeting topics that will be discussed include bylaws and strategic plans for 2026.

1.06.2 Senate

No Senate meetings held during the summer session.

1.06.3 Student Government Association

No Student Government Association Report was provided as students are on summer leave.

1.05.4 College President

Dr. Perey began his report by welcoming Dr. Borofsky to the meeting. He then thanked several individuals for coordinating the Convocation held on August 11. He unveiled three guiding pillars that will shape his leadership: a commitment to being student-centered, deeply rooted in the community, and focused on preparing for the future. Each board member was provided with an HLC publication shared with college employees during Convocation. Dr. Perey then provided updates to the Governing Board; highlights included:

Legislative Update:

State Level:

- Opposed Bills Vetoed: Concealed carry-on campus and restrictions on public resource use in elections.
- Supported Bills Passed:
 - SB1084: Extension of adult education programs
 - HB2765: Expansion of Arizona Teachers Academy to community colleges
- Ongoing monitoring: Campus safety, reporting requirements, and middle school CTE opportunities.

Federal Level:

- Major Legislation Passed: One Big Beautiful Bill Act (July 4, 2025).
 - Introduces Workforce Pell Grants – effective July 2026
 - Tightens Pell eligibility and federal loan rules
 - Establishes a single "Repayment Assistant Plan"
 - Adds accountability measures impacting federal aid eligibility.
- Next Steps: Continued monitoring and advocacy for students and programs.

Facilities Update:

District

- Facility Condition Assessment (FCA)
 - Preliminary Findings & Report completed, and reviewed with Gordian staff
 - After the Facilities' internal review, another meeting has been requested to address additional identified inaccuracies and questions.
 - Results will be presented to the Board in a future report.

DC

- Administration Building (100) Lease and Turnover
 - Hensel Phelps has moved into the building
 - The Port of Entry lay-down area is being established along the truck access road.
- City of Douglas Wellsite
 - Property ownership transfer documentation under review

- City of Douglas estimates well drilling to start 2-3 months after closing
- Library (300)
 - Room 307 classroom split completed
 - Electrical panel relocation and transformer replacement completed
 - The main entrance will be shifted to the north courtyard after the building 400 renovation and stormwater improvements are completed
- Huachuca Hall (1200/1300/1400) Partial Abatement
 - Spaces are abated and ready for future remodeling projects.
- Welcome Center Turnabout
 - Civil construction drawings are completed
 - The estimated start date is 12 August, which is expected to last 3-4 weeks.
 - Access to campus will be maintained
- Asphalt Milling Road Improvements
 - Access road between parking lot A and the truck entrance road in the procurement process

SVC

- Library Barista Café (900)
 - Project completed
 - The County Health Inspector is reviewing documents
 - Expect to open for business once approved by the health inspector
- Campus Services Building (2600)
 - Security Cameras installed
 - Electrical system, access control system, and fire alarm system installation in progress
 - Interior finishes and furniture installation in progress
 - Move-in is tentatively planned to start last week in September

DTC

- Flight/Police Cruiser Simulators
 - Police Cruiser simulators installed and operational
 - Will work with local agencies for training
 - Helicopter Flight Simulator delivery date TBD

Initiative Update:

Nursing & Allied Health:

- Registered Nursing (RN):
 - All but one graduate has taken the NCLEX.
 - 100% first-time NCLEX pass rate.
- Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN):
 - All December graduates passed the NCLEX on the first attempt.
- Paramedic Program:
 - All 6 graduates from the July cohort passed the National Registry exam.

Custom Training, Workforce, and Early College:

- Custom Contract Training:
 - Completed year-long Supervisor and Leadership Training for SSVEC.
 - 13 employees successfully completed the program.
- Workforce Development:

- Hosting first PMP Bootcamp (Aug 25–29) in response to community demand for management upskilling.
- 7 participants enrolled from the military, Army Civilians, and private industry.
- Upcoming Initiatives:
 - Continued focus on training and Community Workforce Forums in Willcox and Benson through August and September.
- Apprenticeship Program:
 - Continuing to work in the three major areas
 - Industrial Maintenance Mechanics with Gunnison Copper Mine; Targeting a Fall 2026 rollout
 - Pre-apprenticeship Certification Program with Arizona G&T/SSVEC; Targeting a Fall 2026 rollout
 - Electrical Apprenticeship with Lectra Serve in Huachuca City is in the development stage.

Police Academy (Law Enforcement)

- The current academy has the largest number of recruits (27) from across Cochise County and surrounding areas, including Sahuarita, Santa Cruz, Greenlee, and Graham.

General Comments:

Community Engagements:

Participated in various community and institutional events, including orientations, ribbon cuttings, graduation ceremonies, media interviews, city meetings, and board-related activities. Notable engagements included the Simulation Lab Ribbon Cutting, Paramedic Graduation, City of Sierra Vista Spotlight Breakfast, Workforce Plenary Session, and discussions with the City of Willcox and other local municipalities and healthcare organizations.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 14 – KBRP Radio Interview
- Aug 15 – Keynote for Hispanic Chamber
- Aug 21-22 – AC4/AACCT Retreat in Flagstaff
- Aug 28 – SASTFA Mini Retreat at PCC
- Sept 2 – Meeting with Rural Hospitals & Shaun Phillips (Tuition Reimbursement)
- Sept 4 – Dual Enrollment Coalition Meeting
- Sept 5 – Groundbreaking for Douglas Port of Entry
- Sept 9 – Good Morning Sierra Vista
- Sept 9 – Board Meeting - SV

1.06.5 Monthly Financial Report – June 2025

The Financial Report for June 2025 was presented and accepted as submitted.

1.06.6 Monthly Financial Report – July 2025

The Financial Report for July 2025 was presented and accepted as submitted.

1.06.7 Monthly Academic Progress Report

The Governing Board reviewed the August Academic Progress Report regarding Military Programs.

Mr. DiPeso asked if the removal of the military intelligence program from Fort Huachuca would impact enrollment; Dean Scarborough noted that no final decisions have been made, there is no anticipated decline, and other programs may come to the Fort, but the college will be sure to keep the Board informed.

2. NEW BUSINESS *

2.01 Consent Agenda *

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Fernando Miranda, Facility Services Technician, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.2 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Armando Romero, Academic / Career Advisor, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.3 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Alejandra Yanez, Events Management Specialist, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.4 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (Jacqline Allen, Associate Vice President for Student Services, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.5 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (Mark Bailey, Senior Systems Administrator, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.6 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (Hadassah Smith, Learning Management System Manager, Downtown Center)
- 2.01.7 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (Martin Versluis, Educational Technologist, Downtown Center)
- 2.01.8 * Adult Education; Appointment (Melanie Molina Villalobos, Adult Education Instructor, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.9 * Faculty; Appointment (Matthew King, Instructor of Fire Science Technology, Downtown Center)
- 2.01.10 * Faculty; Appointment (Breanna Postles, Instructor of Aviation Pathways, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.11 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Sandra Berry, Administrative Assistant – Liberal Arts)
- 2.01.12 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Andrea Cruz Dorame, Receptionist – Welcome Center, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.13 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Amy Pressler, Career Services Coordinator, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.14 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Emily Tinoco, Academic / Career Advisor-TRiO, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.15 * Exempt Staff; Resignation (Rebecca Westby, Director of Testing Services, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.16 * 2025-2026 Course Fee Changes
- 2.01.17 * Acceptance of Minutes for July 8, 2025 – Special Virtual Meeting

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with no further discussion. The Governing Board unanimously approved, with members Don Hudgins, David DiPeso, Stephanie Money, Steve Leeder, and Mark Farr all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

***Introductions of new employees ***

Mr. Wick Lewis, Director of Human Resources, introduced Mr. Matt King, Instructor of Fire Science Technology, and Dr. Jacqueline Allen, Associate Vice President for Student Services.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

INFORMATION

3.01 Communications

- Dr. Perey received a letter from Kathy Chappell, Chief Executive Officer, and Nell Ard, Chief Accreditation Officer, from Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), recognizing Dr. Melesa Ashline for generously contributing time and expertise as an ACEN Peer Evaluator during the 2024-2025 academic year. The letter also notes that the efforts and support of their service make a lasting impact on nursing programs.

3.02 Environmental Scan Report

Dr. Sheena Brown, Interim Vice President for Academics, introduced Dr. Tom Hughes, founder and President of the GSH Education Group, who presented an Environmental Scan; highlights include:

Dr. Perey noted that the Scan is a kickstart to the next steps in Strategic Planning development.

Purpose:

- The environmental Scan aims to provide a wide range of information enabling decision-makers to understand the current context in which Cochise College operates, predict future trends, and incorporate this understanding into the college's strategic direction.

The Scan trend areas:

- Demographics
- Education
- Economy & Workforce
- Social and Political
- Technology

Demographics:

- Population Growth - 1% projected growth for Cochise County in the next 5 years.
- Aging Community:
 - Median Age – 2020
 - Cochise – 39.8
 - Arizona – 38.3
 - U.S. – 38.8
 - Median Age – 2023
 - Cochise – 44.0
 - Arizona – 39.9
 - U.S. – 39.2
 - Population age 65+ - 2025
 - Cochise – 24%
 - Arizona – 19%

Strong Position in New Federal Landscape:

- Pell Grant Program Stabilized: \$10B federal investment ensures continued student aid, avoiding cuts
- Workforce Pell: New eligibility for short-term job training programs (8-15 weeks)

- Accountability Advantage: Cochise's top 5% retention rate among peer institutions positions the college well for new earnings-based accountability that favors community colleges.
- Market Differentiation: While universities face new pressures, community colleges are positioned as the preferred option

Emerging Opportunities:

- Untapped adult market: 30% "some college, no degree" population (highest among comparisons).
- Douglas Port Partnership: \$400M investment creates workforce development leadership opportunity.
- Regional Economic Alignment: Transportation/warehousing (+43%), construction (+17%) growth aligns with Cochise workforce programs.
- Competitive Positioning: ASU encroachment creates urgency for early college partnerships
- Online Education: Balance distance learning with online campus resources to counter online institutions that offer rolling admissions and self-paced learning models.
- Alternative Providers: 24/7 competition from online providers like Outlier.org, LinkedIn Learning, edX, ChatGPT, and more.

Strategic Recommendations:

- Create a comprehensive "Some college, no degree"
 - Completion initiative - With 30% of Cochise County residents having some college but no degree, this represents the most significant untapped student population. These individuals are already education-oriented and geographically proximate. Workforce Pell availability addresses many student cost concerns.
- Launch a strategic partnership with the Douglas Port of Entry Development
 - The \$400 million Port of Entry investment represents a significant regional economic development opportunity. Positioning as the workforce development partner provides clear workforce pathways.
- Provide enhanced student basic needs support.
 - With 47% of Cochise County households earning less than \$50,000 annually and 16% of residents living below the poverty line, students already face substantial economic hardship that directly correlates with educational completion challenges. Pending federal SNAP and Medicaid cuts will further exacerbate financial insecurity among students and their families.
- Establish a comprehensive Early College Partnership.
 - High school graduates peaked in 2025 before a forecasted 15-year decline. Cochise County 9th-grade enrollment dropped 9%, and ASU has already established competing regional programs.

Questions/Comments

Mr. DiPeso asked if the report could be shared with students, especially as it relates to jobs; Dr. Perey noted that the report needs to be desegregated, cleaned up, and dashboards created. The data can then be broken down into different areas that may be used to share with the community and used for the next strategic vision, along with the AC4 Economic Impact Study.

3.03 Community Engagement Division Report

Dr. Jennifer Wantz, Executive Dean of Community Engagement, provided community engagement and center updates; highlights include:

Benson Center:

- New Marquee Installed, Landscaping Project: Major Rock landscaping completed at the entrance, and Nursing Lab Remodel: Two classrooms merged into one large lecture lab with support from Dr. Beth Hill
- Facility Pride: Staff efforts highlighted; slideshow of renovations available in the lobby
- Adult Education Courses: Includes CIS and English
- Community Participation: Involvement in the Butterfield Rodeo and Lantern Festival
- Partnerships & Meetings:
 - Hosts SEGO, Coronado National Forest, and Benson Unified School District meetings
 - Luncheons with the Southeast Arizona Economic Development Group
 - Collaborations with the City of Benson for Lifelong Learning Class (e.g., math for wastewater training via ADEQ)

Communication & Marketing

- Year in Review Publication: Initiated during COVID to engage stakeholders by sharing the college's impact on the community
- Social media growth: Increased presence with student-led video production
- National Recognition: Students received accolades and strong mentorship from Robyn Martin's team

Community Outreach

- Events Management: Expanded use of facilities by community groups, especially at the Douglas Campus.
- Event participation: Numbers are stabilizing post-COVID, approaching pre-pandemic levels.
- Library Services: Secured a major grant; active in "Conversations in Civility" book club promoting civic dialogue.
- Alumni Engagement: Two socials were held last year; more are planned. Inclusive participation encouraged.

Special Events

- 60th Anniversary Celebrations: Involved in parades, fairs, and community booths.
- Community Survey: Revealed strong public support and pride in Cochise College

Willcox Center:

- Staff Recognition: Jodi Brock-Olivares awarded Non-Exempt Employee of the Year
- Community Involvement: Active in Project Central, local competitions, and outreach
- Educational Offerings: Adult Ed, GED, ESL, and various business and tech courses
- Community Events: Hosted fairs, Steam Fest, Chamber events, and UofA Extension meetings. A Community Connection Event will be hosted on September 4th from 8-10 AM, focusing on the need for AI in Small Business courses.
- Job Fairs: Arizona at Work hosted events at the Center

Library Services:

- Grant Awarded: \$26,000 from the Arizona Library System for four study pods (individual soundproof booths with laptop access) on the Douglas Campus.
- Student Support: Continued provision of hotspots and laptops
- Archival Work: Nearly complete collection of commencement programs; still missing 1992 and 1993.
- Database Management: Led by Alex Felton; subscription adjustments for cost-efficiency and relevance (e.g., New York Times, and nursing database for BSN program)

Classroom and Event Scheduling:

- Courshedog Implementation: Academic scheduling module completed.
 - Replaces Banner for scheduling
 - Improves usability and visibility for schedulers.
 - Enables better class planning and instructor assignment

3.04 Revised Policy 303 President Succession – First Read

Revised Policy 303 – President Succession was presented to the Board for a first reading.

4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Hudgins turned the time over to Governing Board members to provide comments/share information.

- Ms. Money
 - Welcomed Mr. Farr to the Board.
- Mr. Leeder
 - He noted that every event he has attended at the college has been outstanding, and Convocation was no exception. He enjoyed seeing everyone in attendance and felt it was a great way to begin the year.
 - Welcomed Mr. Farr to the Board
- Mr. DiPeso
 - Welcomed Mark to the Board and others to the Benson Center
- Mr. Farr
 - He expressed his happiness about being on the Board.
 - Introduced his wife, Tanya
- Mr. Hudgins
 - He expressed that the Convocation was awesome; serving breakfast and seeing everyone was great.
 - Welcomed Mr. Farr to the Board
 - Thanked Dr. Borofsky for attending the meeting

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

Mr. David DiPeso, Secretary of the Governing Board