

APPROVED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
Willcox Center
4:00 p.m.

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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 agenda was adopted without modification.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to adopt the meeting agenda. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION PASSED.**

1.04 Citizen's In-person Interim

There were no requests to address the Governing Board.

1.05 Standing Reports

1.05.1 Representative to the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT)

There were no new AACCT updates.

1.05.2 Senate Report

No Senate report was provided as the November 2025 meeting was canceled.

1.05.3 Student Government Association (SGA)

A written Student Government Association report was submitted in the board packet and was accepted as published.

1.05.4 College President

Dr. Perey, the College President, thanked all members of the college community, including staff, faculty, students, and the board, for their remarkable dedication. Dr. Perey then provided updates to the Governing Board; highlights include:

Legislative Update:

State Legislative Outlook:

- The 2026 Arizona legislative session will begin on January 12th, and as it approaches, the overall fiscal context continues to remain tight. Revenue growth is falling short of initial projections, and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee currently estimates that only about \$67 million in discretionary General Fund dollars will be available for FY 2027. Soft sales tax revenues, paired with potential state conformity to federal law, could result in revenue reductions of more than \$400 million in FY 2026 and \$330 million in FY 2027. Although the state has approximately \$1.2 billion in reserves, there is no discussion of drawing on those funds. The institution submitted our budget to the Governor in September, and the Governor will submit her budget to the legislature in January. Despite the uncertain economy, she has signaled in her plan that there will be tax cuts. Although there is no official deadline for passing the budget, a government shutdown could occur if a budget is not passed by June 30th.
- Arizona legislators prepare for the 2026 session with 32 prefilled measures (bills)
- Lawmakers introduced 1,724 bills last year, the second most in state history
- As always, the college remains proactive in advocacy.
- Two weeks ago, the president met with Senator Gowan, Representatives Diaz and Griffin to reinforce the critical work that is done at Cochise College and the positive impacts the college has on Cochise County, the communities, and the residents.

Federal Update:

- With the federal government reopening, Congress has resumed work on rulemaking and appropriations.
- Workforce Pell
 - The U.S. Department of Education is moving forward with the implementation of Workforce Pell through the federal rulemaking process. In early December 2025, the Department released a draft of regulatory language outlining how short-term workforce programs may qualify for Pell Grant eligibility, including funding and accountability requirements.
 - Draft regulations include stronger guardrails than prior Pell rules, including:
 - State-level approval of eligible programs, in coordination with workforce boards. Our Group meets with the Governor's team on December 11th
- In November, the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) announced that it had signed major interagency agreements with the Departments of State, Labor, Interior, and Health & Human Services to begin offloading various DOE programs.
 - The changes announced today include:
 - Elementary and secondary education programs moving to the Department of Labor

- Postsecondary education programs (not including the student loan portfolio) moving to the Department of Labor
- Likely to include:
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, including Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act functions, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) programs (currently under WIOA Title II), and Postsecondary workforce and skills-based education programs.

The College will continue to closely monitor federal regulatory changes, evolving accountability expectations, and shifting national priorities. At the same time, we remain focused on positioning the institution to be fully compliant.

Facilities Update:
District

- Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) - The Gordian Group
 - Meeting on December 5th revealed that additional changes were needed for priority asset ranking and clarification
 - The delivery phase is dependent on report review and acceptance.

Douglas Campus

- Customs & Border Protection Tower Relocation
 - Completed on December 4.
- City of Douglas Wellsite
 - Escrow documents signed for the City of Douglas wellsite parcel
 - IGA and waterline easement review in progress
 - Wellsite development is tentatively to start in March
- Welcome Center Turnabout/Parking Lot A Improvements
 - Irrigation improvements continue for trees and shrubs
- AdultEd (400) Renovation/Drainage Improvements
 - Roof demolition delayed due to weather; rescheduled for 12/8
 - Roofing contractor proposal being finalized
 - Drainage improvement drawing completed, and contractor proposal received, \$364,960.
 - Interior build back to start after exterior renovations are completed
- Rodeo grounds – trailer demolition
 - Scheduled to start Dec. 16
- General Classrooms (700)
 - Large conference room renovation continues – Est. Close the week of Dec. 15

Sierra Vista Campus

- Campus Services Building (2600)
 - The Technology Services and Facilities staff have started the relocation
 - Additional interior finishes and furnishing installation continue as staff move from existing offices.

Downtown Center

- Flight/Police Cruiser Simulators
 - Helicopter Flight Simulator delivery date is tentatively scheduled for spring break

Initiatives:

A reflection on the work done this year and where the college is headed in the coming year.

- Over the past year, the College has been very intentional about advancing a focused set of priorities and initiatives centered on student success, workforce alignment, and long-term sustainability. Much of this year's work has focused on strengthening our foundation, improving systems, aligning planning and budgeting, and ensuring that we make decisions grounded in our mission. That foundation positions us well to continue building momentum moving forward.
- From a student success perspective, this year, the college continued to explore how to define and measure success. The college is moving beyond access and completion to also examining post-completion outcomes, such as transfer and employment.
- Workforce development remained a major priority this year as economic and workforce needs across Cochise County continue to evolve. The college strengthened partnerships with business, industry, and public agencies; expanded short-term credentials, apprenticeships, and contract training; and began positioning the College for emerging opportunities.
- Academically and institutionally, a significant amount of work has been invested this year in preparation for our upcoming Higher Learning Commission comprehensive accreditation visit. That process has reinforced the importance of integrated, institution-wide planning.
- Financial stewardship has also been a key theme this year. The college has remained focused on using resources responsibly while planning for future investments in facilities, deferred maintenance, technology infrastructure, and targeted growth areas.
- The faculty and staff remain the college's most important resources. This year, there was a strong emphasis on supporting people through thoughtful recruitment, leadership development, and intentional preparation for long-serving leaders approaching retirement. Overall, this past year has been about laying the groundwork; the year ahead will be about building that foundation in a disciplined, intentional, and mission-focused way.

Community Engagements:

- Nov 16-22 – Women's Soccer Championship Tournament (Oklahoma)
- Nov 19 – AC4 Presidents/Chancellor Meetings
- Nov 21 – President's Student Leadership Academy
- Nov 21 – Hispanic Chamber Mixer
- Nov 24 – Meeting re: Ann Stephens Grant (Viticulture)
- Nov 26 – Meeting with Cochise County Legislators (Gowan, Griffin & Diaz)
- Dec 4 – Police Academy Graduation – 26 graduates (Stephanie, Steve, and Mark)
- Dec 6 – Judged the Sierra Vista holiday parade
- Dec 7 – Attended holiday open house for the U of A President
- Dec 8 – Public Safety Training Facility Meeting (City manager & Sheriff)

Upcoming Activities:

- Dec. 11 – Chaplain's Breakfast regarding Nursing program
- Dec 16 – Holiday Luncheon on the Douglas Campus @ 11:00
- Dec 17 – Holiday Luncheon on the Sierra Vista Campus @ 11:00
- Dec 19 – ADOT Statewide Listening Tour in Douglas @1 pm

- Dec 20-Jan 4 – College Closed for Winter Break
- Jan 13 – Governing Board Meeting @ 4 pm in Sierra Vista

1.05.5 Monthly Financial Report – November 2025

The Financial Report for November 2025 was provided in the board packet and approved as submitted.

1.05.6 Monthly Academic Progress Report – December 2025

The monthly Academic Progress Report for December 2025 included an update on the Fall 2025 Enrollment.

2. NEW BUSINESS *

2.01 Consent Agenda *

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Jose Rivera Sainz, Testing Services Specialist, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.2 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (*Timothy Fisher, Director of Advising and Career Services, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.3 * Faculty; Appointment (*Dr. Christopher Anderson, Instructor of Biology, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.4 * Faculty; Appointment (*Renee Irlmeier, Instructor of Nursing, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.5 * Faculty; Appointment (*Douglas Simmons, Instructor of Nursing, Downtown Center*)
- 2.01.6 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (*Susan Porter, Testing Services Specialist, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.7 * Faculty; Resignation (*Jordan Krings, Instructor of Communication, Sierra Vista Campus*)
- 2.01.8 * Curriculum
- 2.01.9 * Change of Board Meeting Date
- 2.01.10 * Acceptance of Minutes for November 18, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Mr. Farr moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION PASSED.**

2.02 Douglas Campus Drainage Improvement

The Administration requested that the Board adopt a motion to approve a contract with KE&G Construction, Inc., to complete the drainage improvement for Douglas Campus Buildings 300 and 400 at a cost not to exceed \$365,960.

Mr. Farr moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion to approve a contract with KE&G Construction, Inc. to complete the drainage improvement for Douglas Campus Buildings 300 and 400 at a cost not to exceed \$365,960. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION PASSED.**

2.03 Sabbatical Proposal – Bryan Homrighausen

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve Bryan Homrighausen's sabbatical request for the Spring 2027 academic year. The sabbatical will be to finish his doctoral degree.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion approving Bryan Homrighausen's sabbatical request for the Spring 2027 academic year. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION PASSED.**

2.04 Sabbatical Proposal – Steven Merkley

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve Steven Merkley's sabbatical request for the Spring 2027 academic year to continue research projects. He is also planning to apply for the full-bright scholarship.

Ms. Money moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion approving Steven Merkley's sabbatical request for the Spring 2027 academic year. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

3.01 Communications

The college received the following communications.

- The Cochise College Cyber Security Department was recognized in The Cochise Communicator, published by the Air & Space Forces Association, for its support of the CyberPatriot competition. The CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program of the Air & Space Forces Association.
- Dr. Perey, the college president, received a video of Congressman Juan Ciscomani congratulating Cochise College as the #1 community college in Arizona on the House floor. The President shared the video during the meeting. <https://youtu.be/f6ldgfg-Bbg>.

3.02 Business, Career, and Technical Education Division Report

Mr. Quintin Molina, Dean of Business, Career, and Technical Education, provided a presentation on the Business, Career, and Technical Education Division; highlights include:

Dean Molina began his presentation by thanking and recognizing his team, as well as his department assistant, Kathy Carrillo, and Dr. Kristy Ritter, who had previously served as division dean.

Agriculture:

- Hydroponic Nutrient Injection System water recycling system installed.
- Vertical Hydroponic towers are producing leafy greens, herbs, and strawberries.
- Curriculum has been updated to meet student needs and transfer requirements.

Automotive:

- Student count for Fall 2025 is 85, up 4 percent for Fall 2024
- Curriculum update is complete.

- Meeting with industry advisors
- EV/Battery cooling Trainer is nearing completion
 - Battery cooling system – built by instructor Anderson

Welding:

- Number of Graduates Increased from 15 to 72
- 192 students and 960 credit hours
 - M-Thurs starting at 6:30 am for classes.
 - Friday – 8 hours for high school students
- Completed requirements for CWI Authorized Testing Facility – one of only three in Arizona
 - Three qualified, working on a fourth individual

Residential Construction:

- Sold House #7 on Danny Lane
- House #8 on 1st Street is underway
- Property for house #9 has been secured in the same neighborhood
- Completed the Academic Program Review year 2
- Completed the curriculum revision and update process

New Initiatives in the Works:

- Business, Career, & Technical Education:
 - Ann Marie Stephens Viticulture continues to progress.
 - Plan to roll out classes in Fall 2026 at the Willcox Center
- Workforce Development Collaboration:
 - Excelsior Mining, Johnson Camp Mine, Apprenticeship Program Coordination is in the final approval process.
- Artificial Intelligence Courses
 - AIT 101 and AIT 102 rollout in Fall 2026
 - Exposing students to how to use AI in classes

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Farr noted that in previous years, it has been challenging to retain residential construction students throughout the semester and asked if this issue persists. Mr. Molina responded that retention has improved significantly, largely due to effective communication about the program's purpose and structure.

Mr. Hudgins referenced the partnership the college had with the owner of the Lawley dealerships, and asked about the partnership with the new owner, Ed Morese. Dean Molina noted that the partnership is going well and that automotive instructors have met with the new owners and service managers to address any potential needs. Mr. Morse has been invited to attend the April Advisory meeting.

Dr. Perey thanked Dean Molina and his team for the amazing work with students.

3.03 Workforce Development and Military Programs Report

Mr. Cullen Scarborough, Dean of Workforce Development and Military Programs, provided a presentation on the Workforce Development and Military Programs Division; highlights included:

Nothing happens without collaboration.

Division Overview:

- Collaboration across Cochise College, Cochise County, and Arizona
- Update the Governing Board on the major accomplishments and initiatives for the five departments.

Military Programs:

- Major Accomplishments (11/2024-10/2025)
 - 12 percent increase in MOS registrations and completions
 - Expanded military community outreach and engagement
 - Military/Army curriculum is changing
- Initiatives (6-12 Months)
 - Increase graduation and retention
 - Increase in-person enrollment at Fort Huachuca
 - Increase BAS-LMO enrollment

Early College:

- Major Accomplishments (11/2024-10/2025)
 - 8 percent increase in credit hours earned
 - EKG Certification added to Buena HS CNA Program
 - Helios Scholarship for ENG 101 (21 Students)
- Initiatives (6-12 Months)
 - ED Ready for Douglas and Tombstone HS to help improve English and Math proficiencies in high school students
 - Developing an online resource guide for Early College students

Adult Education:

- Major Accomplishments (11/2024-10/2025)
 - 27 percent increase in HSE (GED) graduates
 - Focused remediation and clearly defined learning pathways
 - Strategic increases in instructional rigor – higher measurable skill gains
- Major Initiatives (6-12 Months)
 - Partnership with EAC to expand the services needed
 - Unified standards and outcomes that align with industry standards.
 - Expand to Graham and Greenlee County
- 2024-25 Data
 - Students – 572
 - IET – 57
 - HSE - 64
 - ENG Proficiency - 103

Small Business Development Center:

- Major Accomplishments (11/2024-10/2025)
 - Rebuilding with new leadership and capacity
 - Launched DreamBuilder Program
- Major Initiatives (6-12 Months)
 - Business 101 Roadshow – integrating into CTE classes
 - Pathways from training to credentials
- 2024-25 Data
 - Customers Served – 210
 - Attendance – 124
 - Business Starts - 37

Center for Lifelong Learning:

- Major Accomplishments (11/2024-10/2025)

- 43 percent increase in contract training
 - Expanded workforce development and customized training across Cochise County
 - Initiative-driven partnership
- Major Initiatives (6-12 Months)
 - Expand partnerships in support of community/workforce needs
 - Continue to build a core of qualified instructors and cadre
- 2024-2025 Data
 - Students Served – 2693
 - Contract Training – 737
 - Free Lecture – 1206

Workforce Development:

- Major Accomplishments (11/2024-10/2025)
 - 55 percent increase in OSHA enrollment
 - High school level to prepare for CTE
 - 4 certified trainers
 - FTSE submission for non-credit enrollments (10,954 hrs.)
 - Community Workforce Forums
 - Conducted PMP for Fort Huachuca
 - \$1999 Tuition Assistance
- Major Initiatives (6-12 Months)
 - Expand workforce training programs
 - Continue Douglas Port of Entry analysis and collaboration
- Student Data 2024-2025
 - CDL – 39
 - OSHA – 114
 - Comp TIA Sec+ - 15
 - PMP - 7

Summary:

- More than 11,227 enrollments and community customers over the last year
- One Community, One College, One Team

Questions/Comments:

Dr. Perey thanked Dean Scarborough for the work he and his team are doing to make sure community needs are met.

Mr. Hudgins noted that he had a plant tour of the conductor in Phoenix, which is amazing. Thank you for all you do to prepare students.

Mr. Farr noted that the Workforce Division will be ahead of the curve with the transition from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor.

4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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

- Mr. DiPeso
 - Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas
- Ms. Money
 - Stated that she is very impressed with all that the college is doing.

- Wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- Mr. Leeder
 - He stated that he is amazed at the phenomenal work of the college, changing lives, serving the community with dedication and hard work.
- Mr. Hudgins
 - Gave thanks to the college team and noted they are amazing.
 - Wished everyone a very Merry Christmas

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

Mr. David DiPeso, Secretary of the Governing Board