GREAT BASIN COLLEGE
Institutional Advisory Council
Minutes
1500 College Parkway
Elko, Nevada 89801
Thursday, September 17, 2026 3:00 pm (PST)

Call to Order and Roll Call
Meeting was called to order by Chair Terri Clark.

Roll Call
GBC IAC Members Present: Terri Clark**,** Michelle Hammond, Caroline McIntosh, Billie Crapo, Tim Sutton, Steve Simpson, Adam Young
GBC IAC Members Absent: Barbara Gallagher, Dave Roden, Stacy Smith, Russ Klein, Todd Sorenson, Randy Miller
GBC and NSHE Staff & Superintendents Present: Natalie Brown, Amber Donnelli, Sarah Negrete, Matt Aschenbrener, David Stoddard, Dean Straight, Staci Warnert, Angie Angelopoulos, Leslie Maple, Akeia Sanders, Carrie Meisner, Tami Potter and Jana Nettleman

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes
Chair Terri Clark asked if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes from the last meeting. Seeing none she entertained a motion to approve.

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 30, 2026 meeting was made by Tim Sutton, seconded by Michelle Hammond Allen and passed unanimously.

Introduction of New Members
Chair Clark talked about the purpose of the Institutional Advisory Council (IAC) is to strengthen the connection between Great Basin College and the community it serves. Having served on the Council for several years, she has witnessed its growth and evolution into a respected organization with significant opportunities to contribute to the college's success. Council members receive updates from college leadership and, in turn, share community perspectives and information to help leadership remain connected with workforce needs, community stakeholders, and students. She emphasized the importance of the Council's role and expressed appreciation for new members who bring fresh perspectives and leadership to the group.

Chair Clark welcomed the new Institutional Advisory Council members: Steve Simpson, CEO of Northeast Nevada Regional Hospital; Todd Sorenson, CEO of Elko Federal Credit Union; Dr. Bryce Putnam, a dentist with Nevada Health Centers and the health officer for the Elko area; and Randy Miller with Broadbent & Associates. She expressed appreciation for the new members and welcomed their feedback and insight as the Council moves forward. She then addressed her resignation from the Council, explaining that she had left the hospital to join Great Basin College as Director of Marketing and Communications. Although she was saddened to leave the hospital, she expressed gratitude for her years there and enthusiasm for her new role at GBC. She noted that her resignation creates an opportunity for new representation on the Council.

President Donnelli explained we had an opportunity to visit with members about somebody taking on the chair's role. Steve Simpson agreed to step into the role after being approached about the opportunity. Members were asked to express any objections or indicate if another member wished to serve as chair.

Additional members were recruited to strengthen the Council and improve representation across the community. However, the new members were unable to attend due to prior commitments, as they had confirmed their participation only a few weeks earlier. It was emphasized that expanding membership would help ensure a quorum and allow the Council to conduct business and vote on items when members are absent.

Terri Clark entertained a motion to approve Steve Simpson as chair of the Council.

Michelle Hammond thanked Steve for stepping forward and accepting the leadership role. She acknowledged the challenges of serving on the Council from an off-site location and commended him for his willingness to take on the responsibility.

Steve Simpson shared that he has been with Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital for just over eight years and highlighted the strong relationship between the hospital and Great Basin College, particularly through the nursing program. He noted that the hospital had recently welcomed 18 new employees from GBC's nursing program and emphasized the value of this ongoing partnership. He expressed his interest in helping maintain and strengthen the relationship between the two institutions and in fostering similar partnerships with organizations throughout the region, including Pahrump and Winnemucca. He stated that he hopes to give back and help sustain the collaborative relationships that have greatly benefited the hospital.

A motion to approve Steve Simpson serving as the new chair of the GBC Institutional Advisory Council was made by Tim Sutton, seconded by Billie Crapo and approved unanimously.

Terri Clark passed the chair to Steve Simpson.

Chair Steve Simpson expressed his gratitude and respect for Terri Cark.

Reschedule November Meeting Date

Chair Simpson asked if there was any comments or concerns with moving the next meeting date from November 19th to Wednesday, November 18th.

A motion made to change the next meeting date to Wednesday, November 18th at 3:00pm was made by Tim Sutton, seconded by Michelle Hammond Allen and passed unanimously.

President's Update

President Amber Donnelli introduced Akeia Sanders as Great Basin College's new Chief Financial Officer, noting that she was joining the college from the Governor's Office. She then invited Sanders to introduce herself to the Council.

Akeia Sanders expressed her excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to join Great Basin College as Chief Financial Officer. She acknowledged familiar faces among the Council members, including Michelle in Winnemucca, whom she referred to as her doctoral colleague. Sanders looks forward to applying the knowledge and experience she has gained in recent years to support the college's continued progress under President Donnelly's leadership. She also expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming legislative session and her new role representing GBC, and she looks forward to meeting all Council members.

President Donnelli welcomed Akeia and expressed enthusiasm for the knowledge and expertise she will bring to Great Basin College, particularly in grant development. She described the year as another significant one for the institution and noted that the reports reflect the college's accomplishments. Vice presidents Sarah and Matt, along with the deans, would highlight key updates while keeping the presentations focused.

She emphasized that the upcoming legislative session would be a major focus, particularly regarding budget requests, enrollment growth, and funding challenges. GBC is the second-fastest-growing institution within NSHE, with enrollment growth of 22.3%. This growth could generate an additional $3.7 million per year, or $7 million biennially, through caseload growth funding. However, the funding is not guaranteed. She encouraged Advisory Board members to advocate for caseload growth funding with legislators, emphasizing its importance to GBC as a small institution.
She also discussed the small institution factor, which provides additional operational funding to GBC and Western Nevada College due to their smaller class sizes and operating scale. Although the previous legislative session increased the funding factor from $30 to $40, only a portion of the increase was implemented. GBC will request full implementation of the increase during the upcoming session.

Regarding capital improvements, President Donnelli reported that funding had been secured to replace 44 HVAC systems across two buildings. However, the State Public Works Division recommended replacing the roofs concurrently, which means the available funding will cover only one building. GBC will explore options to address the remaining needs through its next legislative request. GBC will also pursue additional safety and security funding to support a keyless entry and lockdown system across its campuses. The college is developing a comprehensive design plan to

assess requirements for improved access control and standardized security cameras. Implementation is expected to begin at the Ely campus due to its remote location and limited security resources.

GBC would continue seeking one-time legislative funding for key initiatives, including nursing program expansion. The college has received $500,000 annually during the past two legislative sessions to expand its nursing programs, with positive results expected to be highlighted in a subsequent report.

Finally, she recognized the increased demands on student support services resulting from enrollment growth. Admissions, advising, the Business Office, and Financial Aid have been working to meet student needs. Financial Aid experienced a 60% increase in FAFSA applications, supported in part by FAFSA assistance events and efforts to encourage Nevada Promise Scholarship students to complete their applications. President Donnelli emphasized that access to financial aid remains a significant factor in students' ability to pursue higher education and commended staff for their efforts in supporting student success.

President Donnelli expressed appreciation for the Advisory Board's new members and noted that additional members would be added. She also highlighted the successful celebration of the Ely campus's 30th anniversary, which drew approximately 150 attendees and was well received by the community. She recognized the significant campus improvements, including new carpeting, furniture, and technology, which have enhanced the facility and its overall appearance. She thanked everyone who contributed to and supported these improvements.

Academic Affairs Update

Vice President Sarah Negrete reported a successful start to the fall semester, highlighting the launch of new faculty and part-time instructor orientations in August. Thirteen new faculty members, including three hired the previous spring, participated in a three-quarter-day orientation designed to help them feel welcomed and connected to the GBC community. Additionally, 27 part-time instructors completed an orientation to learn about college processes and opportunities for involvement.

GBC is preparing for two significant accreditation-related visits. The Lovelock Correctional Center prison education program site visit was scheduled for October 5, requiring coordination with evaluators and correctional facility staff. The Year Seven Education and Institutional Effectiveness evaluation is scheduled for April, with preparations underway to ensure all required documentation is completed.

In September, GBC received final approval for three new bachelor's degree programs: Behavioral Health and Wellness, Comprehensive Medical Imaging with an emphasis in Cardiac Vascular Sonography, and Social Work. The Behavioral Health and Wellness program received funding through SB 165, while the Comprehensive Medical Imaging and Social Work programs received partial funding through the Rural Health Transformation initiative. The Social Work program will allow students to complete the degree entirely at GBC, addressing feedback from students and community stakeholders who identified the need for a locally based program.

The annual planning report was submitted to NSHE, identifying potential degrees and certificates GBC may consider offering over the next four years. Advisory Board members were encouraged to share feedback on programs that would benefit their communities and industries, helping GBC identify future educational opportunities and communicate its planned growth to NSHE.

Student Services Update

Vice President Matt Aschenbrener reported that GBC's fall enrollment is currently 75 students higher than the same time last year, with additional growth anticipated from second eight-week courses and dual enrollment. The college is approaching its goal of 4,000 students. She noted that GBC began enforcing payment deadlines with the first payment cycle this year, rather than waiting until the second or third payment, to reduce bad debt and ensure students who are not attending are removed from enrollment. Despite the earlier enforcement, enrollment remains 75 students ahead of the previous year.

GBC is continuing implementation of its three-year recruitment plan, which includes 39 action items focused on engagement, new academic programs, recruitment events, advising initiatives, and marketing. Four initiatives have been completed, with another 29 expected to be completed during the year and the remaining initiatives planned for later implementation.
GBC's use of the two AI-supported platforms was highlighted. Element451 serves as the college's customer relationship management system, supporting prospective student communications, recruitment efforts, and advising documentation shared among professional and faculty advisors. CollegeVine is being developed as a virtual one-stop service that will integrate with college systems, allowing authenticated students to access information such as account balances, payment deadlines, class schedules, campus facilities, and dining services through phone or text interactions.

Finally, he noted that GBC is developing an assessment model to track student learning outcomes and support accreditation efforts. Integrating these technologies and assessment processes is expected to strengthen student support, institutional effectiveness, and accreditation preparation.

There was a question raised about dropping students for nonpayment. In response to the questions regarding nonpayment drops and bad debt, President Donnelli explained that GBC takes a proactive approach to helping students meet their financial obligations. Staff contact students through text messages, phone calls, and emails and offer payment plans and other available assistance. The college also evaluates potential financial aid, scholarships, and student access fee funding to help eligible students. She emphasized the importance of balancing student support with fiscal responsibility. Previously, unpaid balances continued to accumulate without sufficient safeguards to address bad debt. GBC has since implemented procedures to reduce outstanding debt and protect the institution financially. Before approving enrollment drops, President Donnelli ensures staff have exhausted reasonable efforts to contact students and provide assistance. Students are given multiple opportunities to resolve payment issues, but they must follow through on their payment commitments. She noted that retaining students who ultimately withdraw without paying can negatively affect the institution, making it essential to support students while maintaining responsible enrollment and financial practices.

Dean's Updates
Each Dean has been asked to highlight a few key items from their report to showcase the accomplishments of their division, faculty, and students. The goal was to ensure these important achievements received visibility.

Industrial Technology and Workforce Development
Dean Dave Stoddard highlighted another successful scholarship year, with 108 students receiving support through the longstanding MTC scholarship program, which continues to grow through strong industry partnerships. Additional scholarships from the Governor's Office of Energy support students in hybrid programs, including 12 electrical students and six industrial maintenance students. Scholarships will also be available in January for diesel and instrumentation hybrid students. Significant growth in hybrid programs designed to accommodate students balancing full-time employment, family responsibilities, and other commitments. The industrial maintenance

hybrid program launched in the fall with six students, while the second electrical cohort grew from four students to a full cohort of 16, exceeding enrollment expectations. The hybrid format expands access for part-time students, who represent 68% of GBC's overall enrollment but were previously not represented in industrial trades programs.
A second diesel cohort is planned for January, with the Ely location joining the program and six to eight prospective students expressing interest. The instrumentation hybrid program is also expected to launch in January with approximately 12 students, all of whom have completed GBC's electrical program through either traditional or hybrid delivery. Dean Stoddard expressed enthusiasm for the continued growth and positive reception of these programs.

Arts & Sciences
Dean Dean Straight noted the Arts and Sciences department is exploring an additional pathway within GBC's existing Bachelor of Arts in English degree, emphasizing professional and technical writing, rhetoric, and composition. The proposed pathway would complement, rather than replace, the existing literature-focused degree and provide clearer connections to workplace writing, communication, and other professional applications. The division is reviewing how much of the pathway can be developed using existing curriculum and where targeted curriculum development may be needed.

The division is also exploring formal certification of GBC's writing tutorial program through the College Reading and Learning Association's (CRLA) International Tutor Training Program Certification. This certification would recognize the institution's tutor training program rather than certify individual tutors. The process would establish consistent professional standards for tutor selection, training, experience, and evaluation, with particular emphasis on maintaining appropriate boundaries among tutoring, editing, and classroom instruction. The division is reviewing CRLA requirements and determining how to align them with existing practices in the Learning Commons.

Health Sciences & Behavioral Health
Dean Staci Warnert highlighted GBC's success in securing all five grants submitted under the Rural Health Transformation workforce development and retention funding initiative. Funded projects include support for the accreditation process for the Bachelor of Social Work program, development of a Cardiac Vascular Sonography pathway planned for fall 2027, and a rural dental assistant skills certificate emphasizing dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. Additional funding supports a postsecondary health sciences discovery pathway for fifth- and sixth-grade students in Elko County, introducing them to healthcare careers through campus visits and hands-on laboratory activities. Future funding requests will seek to expand these opportunities to Winnemucca, Pahrump, and Ely and provide continued engagement with students throughout high school. GBC was also awarded more than $3 million for simulation equipment upgrades across all four campuses to replace aging equipment and incorporate emerging technologies, ensuring equitable access to hands-on training.

She emphasized the importance of investing in sustainable healthcare workforce initiatives and invited committee members to recommend additional healthcare and workforce development opportunities for future grant applications.

She also reported positive results from funding dedicated to nursing program expansion, which supported additional faculty, a nursing director, and a nursing navigator to guide students through recruitment, advising, enrollment, and retention. The number of qualified nursing applicants increased by 60% this year. GBC admitted 53 students across its nursing programs, compared with

33 the previous year, with additional prospective students in the pipeline. The speaker expressed enthusiasm for the continued growth and impact of these investments.

Business, Computer Technologies, and Online Education
Although Dr. Stevens was unable to attend, VP Negrete explained he wanted to share that 27 students graduated from the Associate of Applied Science in Business program at Lovelock Correctional Center in May, with 58 students currently enrolled for the fall semester. The program continues to thrive, and an on-site visit with accreditors and evaluators is scheduled for October. VP Negrete welcomed Jana Nettleton as the new center director in Winnemucca and recognized her valuable work coordinating between GBC's business program and the correctional facility, particularly in managing the logistical requirements of the prison education program.

GBC Foundation Update – Leslie Maple
Foundation Director Leslie Maple welcomed Olivia Larkin as its new Foundation Operations Coordinator, filling the administrative support position that had been vacant since February. She will assist with gift processing, donor stewardship, and related operations, bringing the team back to three members.

The Foundation's audit has been completed, with no findings reported to date, pending official results. Work is beginning on the annual report. The Foundation anticipates providing approximately $1.3 million to GBC this year, including $1.05 million in scholarships awarded to approximately 377 students. Twelve new scholarships were established, including two endowed scholarships totaling $50,000. Endowed scholarships provide long-term sustainability by distributing investment earnings to support students.

The William and Pennington Foundation renewed its scholarship support, providing $295,500 for high-demand workforce programs. This included $171,000 for 18 nursing scholarships at $9,500 each and $124,500 for career and technical education programs, including industrial trades, commercial driver's license (CDL) training, and paramedic programs. Following the increase in qualified nursing applicants, the Foundation hopes to expand scholarship support through future renewals.

The Foundation reported positive results from its fundraising events. The fourth annual Golf Classic generated approximately $36,000 in revenue, with net proceeds of $25,312, comparable to the previous year's $25,678. The Foundation also supported the Ely campus's 30th anniversary celebration, which attracted approximately 150 attendees. The event generated $12,500 in sponsorships and approximately $1,500 through a raffle. Caroline McIntosh was recognized for her community outreach and assistance in securing attendance.

Looking ahead, the Foundation is working with Continuing Education to secure business sponsorships for the CDL program, with advertising opportunities planned on the program's tractor-trailer. The Foundation is also beginning preliminary planning for GBC's 60th anniversary capital campaign next year. Redevelopment of the Armory building on the Elko campus is a leading potential project, while other campaign priorities will focus on communicating GBC's broader impact and engaging supporters throughout its service area and across Nevada. The Foundation will continue developing the project's scope and case for support and work with the committee to identify potential partners and donors.

GBC Communications Update

Terri Clark, the Marketing and Communications Director, expressed enthusiasm for supporting GBC's departments and divisions by promoting the college's programs, attracting students, and strengthening community engagement. She provided updates on recent and upcoming marketing campaigns, noting that efforts combine paid advertising through the Reno-based agency Estepona with organic social media and marketing initiatives.
The nursing campaign ran for 20 weeks, from April 13 through August 31, increasing website users from 8,084 to approximately 41,000 and generating 73 submitted inquiry forms. The highest-performing advertisements promoted the opportunity to begin working in the field after the first semester and the availability of scholarships for RN and BSN programs.
The general enrollment campaign launched approximately seven weeks before the start of classes and significantly increased online engagement. Website users increased from approximately 37,000 to nearly 131,000, while sessions rose to 217,000. The highest-performing advertisements emphasized career opportunities without significant debt and affordable bachelor's degrees. The most popular call to action was "Explore Programs," indicating that prospective students were using the campaign to learn more about GBC's offerings. The department is improving its tracking capabilities to better measure how prospective students progress from initial interest to enrollment.

She reported as of the first day of classes, GBC's headcount was 190 students higher than the previous year, a 5.8% increase, while full-time equivalent enrollment increased by 104, or 4.8%. Although enrollment declined slightly following the removal of students who had not established payment arrangements, enrollment remained more than two percentage points above the previous year's level. She emphasized that these results reflected a collaborative effort across departments, deans, and college administration. Committee members were encouraged to share GBC's social media posts and paid advertisements to extend their reach through trusted community connections.

Upcoming initiatives include an industrial technology campaign beginning October 5, featuring paid digital advertising, direct mail, and radio advertising. The department will also use GBC's customer relationship management systems to develop targeted outreach for prospective students, students who leave before completing a program, and those who have not returned to continue their degrees. The spring enrollment campaign will begin in October, with registration opening October 26. The department is also developing a workforce-focused campaign to connect local employers and businesses with GBC's training and professional development opportunities, including human resources certificates and other programs designed to strengthen workforce skills and business capacity.

The "Why I Teach" campaign, available on GBC's website, which introduces faculty members to prospective and current students and helps establish personal connections before students enroll. A related "Why I Serve" initiative will further showcase faculty and staff and strengthen connections between the college and the broader community.

Assistant Vice Chancellor For Workforce Development and Community Colleges
Natalie Brown commended GBC's Communications team for its social media efforts and marketing initiatives. She reported that the statewide initiative to expand Credit for Prior Learning continues, with two all-institution convenings completed and the third and final convening scheduled to be hosted by CSN the following week. She looks forward to hearing updates from institutions, including GBC, regarding progress and next steps. The system has also received recommendations from Student Ready Strategies to streamline the process, which will be shared with institutions as plans for potential improvements are developed.

She reported that a decision on the $10.8 million statewide Strengthening Community College Training Grant application was expected by the end of the following week. She thanked GBC for its active participation and partnership in developing the statewide consortium proposal, which would support the development of a new workforce prior learning process and strengthen statewide data infrastructure. These improvements would help institutions report outcomes and better measure the return on investment of educational and workforce training programs.
She also noted that searches were underway for the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs and the Executive Director of Institutional Research, with both positions expected to be filled by the beginning of the year.
The inaugural Nevada Workforce Summit, scheduled for October 27–28 at the Durango Casino in Las Vegas. The event is free to attend, and the agenda was expected to be published shortly. She encouraged IAC members and GBC representatives to participate and thanked President Donnelli for agreeing to serve as a panelist.
Vice Chancellor Brown concluded by thanking GBC for its continued partnership and leadership.

Dual Credit Update
Carrie Meisner, Executive Director of Student Success, reported continued growth in dual credit enrollment. Compared with the same time last year, high school full-time equivalent enrollment increased by 12.4%, while high school headcount increased by 18.4%. The largest gains occurred at Nevada State High School, Elko, Front Valley, West Wendover, and Eureka high schools. She noted that additional efforts are needed to encourage dual credit students to matriculate to GBC after high school graduation.

GBC is developing a Dual Credit Academy with in-person and online options. The program will establish cohorts of high school students who progress through coordinated sequences of college courses, providing peer support and a shared sense of purpose while balancing high school and college expectations.

The in-person model will serve traditional and charter school students near GBC campuses. GBC is working with the Elko Institute for Academic Achievement as a pilot partner, with a full launch planned for fall 2030 and the possibility of an earlier, phased rollout. The online model is being piloted for students who live farther from a GBC campus, including those in Pershing County and Battle Mountain. Both models could also expand access for homeschooled students.
Current efforts include aligning GBC courses with Nevada high school diploma standards and requirements and developing pathways that allow students to complete high school while making meaningful progress toward a college certificate or degree.

GBC Institutional Advisory Council Members
Caroline Mcintosh commended Leslie Maple, Sadie, and the Elko team for the successful 30th anniversary celebration in Ely, recognizing the event's thoughtful planning and execution. She emphasized the importance of fundraising and noted the strong community support demonstrated through sponsorships and interest in partnering with GBC. She highlighted the college's role not only in securing financial contributions but also in responding to local industry needs and workforce development. She thanked the team for its efforts in strengthening community relationships and celebrated the college's continued impact, looking ahead to the next 30 years.

Michelle Hammond-Allen requested that legislative talking points be shared with council members to help them communicate effectively about GBC's priorities and initiatives during conversations with legislators. She expressed enthusiasm for the Bachelor of Social Work program reaching this milestone after years of advocacy and recognized the success of the CTE hybrid programs in providing flexible pathways for students eager to enter the workforce.

She highlighted the need to keep the Winnemucca Industrial Technology Center's capacity on the radar, noting that the recent open house demonstrated strong demand and that the facility already appears to be outgrowing its available space and also encouraged GBC to proactively explore emerging artificial intelligence technology, including AI avatars that could support faculty and students after hours, while considering potential legal and liability concerns.

Several workforce development opportunities were identified:

- Mining and autonomous technology: As mining companies transition to autonomous fleets, GBC should plan for the equipment, training, and funding needed to prepare students for these evolving roles.
- Human resources: Growing business and industry demand for HR professionals may be contributing to corporate mining offices relocating to Reno. Developing local workforce capacity in this area could help address these needs.
- Energy: Expansion in utilities, pipelines, geothermal, and solar operations presents opportunities to work with employers to identify workforce requirements and develop relevant training.
- Environmental technology: GBC could explore certifications and training programs aligned with employer needs, potentially building on existing programs and related skill sets.

Regarding community engagement, she reported attending a Humboldt County School District Board meeting and encouraging Mr. Corbett to participate more actively in the IAC. The district also has an open school board position representing the McDermott area.
There is continued challenges in filling elementary teaching positions, with schools relying on long-term substitutes. While recognizing GBC's existing teacher education programs, she encouraged further evaluation of potential barriers to recruiting and preparing qualified teachers and expressed concern about the growing reliance on alternative licensure pathways.

Finally, there are several community fundraising initiatives in the Winnemucca area, including support for the aquatic center, a museum educational interpretive trail expansion, the Family Support Center's Handbags for Hope fundraiser, and an upcoming domestic violence services dinner. She requested further discussion with Leslie Maple about scheduling the GBC Foundation dinner for the following year to allow for advance planning and coordination with other community events.

President Donnelli reported that GBC has submitted a federal funding request, supported by Congressman Horsford, to redevelop the Armory building into a facility focused on autonomous vehicle technology. The proposed project would support workforce training to prepare students to repair and maintain autonomous vehicles. GBC is among 26 projects Congressman Horsford is supporting, and the college is hopeful the funding will be awarded.
Regarding the Winnemucca Industrial Technology Center, President Donnelli reassured the council that expansion remains a high priority. GBC has submitted a request to State Public Works for approximately $7.2 million in design funding. The anticipated construction cost is approximately $29 million, with $19 million sought from the State of Nevada, $5 million contributed by GBC, and an additional $5 million to be raised through fundraising. The project will be included in the college's upcoming 60th anniversary capital campaign, with Leslie Maple helping lead fundraising efforts.

Vice President Negrete noted that, as reflected in the planning report, Dean Straight and Dave Stoddard are exploring the development of a stackable credential pathway in industrial hygiene. The proposed pathway would allow students to earn a certificate, progress to an associate degree, and ultimately complete a Bachelor of Applied Science in Industrial Hygiene. Because the program is science-intensive and potentially costly to implement, GBC is exploring federal grant opportunities and other funding sources to support its development.

President Donnelli also acknowledged the workforce needs identified in industrial hygiene, environmental fields, and human resources. She noted that GBC already offers an HR certificate and that she and Terry have discussed expanding its promotion to address local employer demand for employees with human resources knowledge and skills. She thanked Michelle for the recommendations and feedback

Billie Crapo reported that the Chamber is hiring for two positions: a part-time front desk employee and a new position combining graphic design and event support. The additional position is needed following the Chamber's assumption of responsibility for the DBA, which has expanded its event planning and coordination responsibilities.

Upcoming activities include Business After Hours, hosted by Loster Aesthetics, and Sip and Saturday, organized in collaboration with the Balloon Festival and Sky Fair. The Chamber also held its first candidate forum earlier in the month, with a second forum for city council and mayoral candidates scheduled for the 23rd at the Convention Center. Nine candidates are expected to participate, with a meet-and-greet from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. followed by the forum at 6:00 p.m. Billy thanked GBC for its continued partnership with the Snowflake Festival, particularly its support for the Great Basin College Santa's Workshop, which will return following a successful event last year.

New Business
There was no new business.

Public Comments
No public comments

Meeting adjourned on a motion made by Michelle Hammond-Allen, seconded by Billie Crapo at 4:28 pm.

DRAFT