

GREAT BASIN COLLEGE
Institutional Advisory Council
1500 College Parkway
Elko, Nevada 89801
Thursday, February 26, 2026 7:00 am (PST)

Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Terri Clark.

Roll Call

GBC IAC Members Present: Terri Clark,, Dave Roden, Stacy Smith, , Caroline McIntosh, Russ Klein, Michelle Hammond, Tim Sutton, Billie Crapo

GBC IAC Members Absent: Barbara Kidwell-Gallagher, Adam Young

GBC and NSHE Staff Present: Kiah Beverly, Joe Gent, Amber Donnelly, Sarah Negrete, Matt Aschenbrener, John Evans, Dean Straight, Karl Stevens, Staci Warnert David Stoddard, Leslie Maple, Abel Del Real-Nava, Christopher Salute, and Sheymane Pitts

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes- November 19, 2025

A motion to approve the November 19, 2025 minutes was made by Dave Roden seconded by Caroline McIntosh. Motion passed with Michelle Hammond abstaining.

President's Update

President Donnelly The chair thanked attendees for joining the early meeting and noted that the timing of meetings is under review. After observing strong community attendance at a recent 3:00 p.m. meeting, leadership is seriously considering moving future meetings from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., potentially beginning in the fall, as the later time may be more accessible given local school schedules and other morning constraints.

Greate Basin College has launched a new website. The site, developed in partnership with Modern Campus, represents the culmination of an approximately 18-month project and went live several weeks ago. While some minor issues are being addressed—as is common when transitioning from a significantly outdated platform, the new site offers a more modern, flexible, and responsive design. It enables departments to post updates more efficiently, as demonstrated during a recent power outage when information was quickly communicated online. The IT and Communications teams were thanked for their extensive work on the project, which better reflects the institution's innovation and forward-facing identity.

Finally, the tuition increase approved by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents was discussed. As outlined in the Chancellor's report, lower-division tuition will increase by 9 percent and upper-division tuition by 12 percent, both phased in over three years. For lower-division courses, the increase will occur in increments of 2 percent, 3 percent, and 4

percent. For bachelor's degree programs, the 12 percent increase will be implemented in 3 percent, 4 percent, and 5 percent increments. It was noted that, based on current projections, the institution does not realize surplus revenue from the increase and is expected to remain at an approximate \$130,000 deficit at the conclusion of the three-year phase-in period.

President Donnelly noted that although the tuition increases will not fully offset institutional costs, the current deficit is being mitigated through strong enrollment growth. Enrollment has increased significantly, with more than 100 additional students enrolled this spring compared to the previous year. In fall 2023, enrollment at Great Basin College was approximately 2,900 students, and the institution is currently serving roughly 3,035 to 3,600 students. Several efforts to support students financially. The institution has increased its Pell Grant participation rate, rising from 21 percent last year to approximately 28 percent this year, with projections indicating that more than 30 percent of students may receive Pell support by the end of the spring term. Currently, about 923 students are receiving Pell Grants, bringing nearly \$4 million in federal aid to the institution. Additionally, the college is using access fee revenue to further support students. In accordance with system board requirements, access fee funds must be allocated with 80 percent directed toward need-based support and 20 percent toward non-need-based initiatives that benefit students. These efforts reflect the institution's continued focus on balancing tuition adjustments with increased financial aid and student support resources.

During the spring term, the college launched a marketing campaign encouraging students to meet with advisors and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); students who completed the application received a \$200 incentive. As a result, the college highlights that all students receive some form of aid or support once they engage in the financial aid process. Even when students do not qualify for federal aid, many remain eligible for scholarships supported in part by institutional access fees. On average, the college awards approximately \$750 per student, with some students receiving up to \$4,000.

The Great Basin College Foundation has increased fundraising totals from roughly \$800,000–\$850,000 in previous years to more than \$1.1 million this year. These funds help provide scholarships, equipment, and other resources to support students. In addition, Vice President Negrette has been working with Career and Technical Education faculty to review curricula and identify opportunities to reduce credit requirements where appropriate, helping lower overall costs for students.

There is a rural transformation, health funding that is coming to rural Nevada. The college has been working with hospitals, clinics, county officials, and community partners to develop collaborative proposals that address workforce shortages in healthcare, including shortages of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and mental health providers in rural communities. The Dean of Health Sciences, Staci Warnert, has been meeting with providers across multiple counties to identify opportunities for partnership and project development. The Nevada Health Centers, here in Elko is trying to figure out how we can have partnerships to bring some of this money to rural Nevada to change the health opportunities including mental health resources. The provider shortage in rural Nevada continues to present significant challenges for residents seeking healthcare services. Access to providers such as obstetricians and even general practitioners remains limited. While several nurse practitioners in Elko have opened urgent care clinics that help address some immediate needs, the shortage of healthcare

professionals persists. As a result, developing partnerships with universities to increase the number of nurse practitioners and physician assistants serving rural communities will be an important strategy moving forward. The availability of funding to support these efforts presents an encouraging opportunity to help strengthen healthcare access in the region.

College leadership also recently traveled to Washington, D.C. with other Nevada community college presidents and system leadership to meet with federal representatives, including Catherine Cortez Masto, to discuss the needs of community colleges and potential federal funding opportunities for institutional projects. Meetings were also held with the U.S. Department of Labor to discuss expanding apprenticeship programs. While the college already partners with Nevada Gold Mines and other industry partners through its training programs, there is interest in expanding federally supported apprenticeship opportunities as part of workforce development.

Additional student achievements were noted, including Career and Technical Education students competing in welding and machining competitions. Students from the college's machining and manufacturing program placed among the top 16 out of 53 schools and will compete in the "Clash of the Trades" competition hosted at College of Southern Nevada. The report concluded with recognition of several institutional honors. Tenured faculty member John Rice will receive the Nevada Regents' Creative Activities Award at the upcoming Board of Regents meeting. Mindy Caskey will receive the Nevada Regents' Outstanding Classified Council Member Award, and the college will present its second honorary baccalaureate degree to Terri Clark. These recognitions highlight the accomplishments of faculty and staff across the institution.

President Donnelly reported that she recently traveled to Washington, D.C. with several other community college presidents from Nevada and Vice Chancellor Natalie Brown to meet with members of Nevada's congressional delegation to discuss the needs of the state's community colleges. During the visit, she had the opportunity to present detailed project information to Catherine Cortez Masto and other federal representatives, outlining several funding requests that will be submitted in the coming weeks. Although the college did not receive funding in the most recent federal round, additional opportunities are expected, and the institution remains hopeful that some of its proposed projects and innovation initiatives at Great Basin College will be successful in future rounds. While in Washington, John & I also met with representatives from the United States Department of Labor, including Maria Sims, to discuss opportunities related to apprenticeship programs. The discussion focused on expanding federally supported, paid apprenticeship opportunities. The college already partners with Nevada Gold Mines and contractors involved in its Manufacturing Technology Center programs, but expanding federally funded apprenticeships will be an important step in securing additional federal support and strengthening workforce development efforts.

President Donnelly shared several highlights recognizing student and employee achievements at Great Basin College. Career and Technical Education students continue to perform well, including participation in SkillsUSA events and a recently hosted welding competition. Notably, machining and manufacturing students placed in the top 16 out of 53 schools and will advance to compete at College of Southern Nevada in the Clash of the Trades competition. Plans are

underway to host a watch party to celebrate and support these students, reflecting pride in their accomplishments and the strength of the program.

Additional recognitions will be presented at the upcoming Board of Regents meeting. Tenured faculty member John Rice will receive the Nevada Regents' Creative Activities Award, while Mindy Caskey will be honored as the Nevada Regents' Outstanding Classified Council Member. The college will award its second honorary baccalaureate degree to Terri Clark in recognition of her exceptional service and impact across Nevada communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she played a critical role in supporting both students and the broader community by helping secure essential resources. She has consistently been a strong advocate for Great Basin College, creating opportunities and championing the institution's mission. This recognition reflects her ongoing dedication, leadership, and meaningful contributions to the college and the communities it serves. These recognitions highlight the continued excellence of students, faculty, and staff across the institution.

President Donnelly concluded by noting that her vice presidents would provide additional updates on key initiatives, and she expressed her continued appreciation for the opportunity to lead Great Basin College, emphasizing pride in the institution's ongoing progress and accomplishments.

Academic Affairs Update

VP Sarah Negrete outlined several upcoming initiatives and program developments to be presented to the Board of Regents next week. Two new skills certificates will be brought forward for approval, including a Business and Technology certificate in Artificial Intelligence and a Technical Writing certificate. Both programs are designed to address workforce needs, particularly for individuals seeking to strengthen skills in areas such as grant writing and professional communication.

In addition, the college is preparing to introduce a standalone Bachelor of Social Work degree, expected to appear on a future agenda. Currently offered as a 3+1 partnership with UNR, the program requires students to transfer for their final year. Recognizing that this transition can be a barrier, the college has developed a curriculum tailored to rural community needs, allowing students to complete the full degree locally. Current students will not be impacted as the transition is implemented.

The institution is also pursuing approval to pilot a reduced-credit bachelor's degree program, allowing degrees between 90 and 120 credits. This effort, supported in collaboration with system leadership, aims to position Nevada competitively alongside neighboring states such as Utah and Idaho, where similar models are already in place.

Leadership transitions were also noted, including the retirement of Mary Doucette and the appointment of Dean Straight as interim Dean of Arts and Sciences. With this transition, responsibility as the accreditation liaison officer has shifted to VP Negrete. Later in the meeting there will be a short presentation on what our accreditation means to GBC and where we stand in the cycle of accreditation at this very moment.

Michelle Hammond asked a couple questions regarding the Bachelors of Social Work. The rural focus is important, does the current or planned curriculum include components related to supervisory or management skills. Many organizations are able to fill entry-level positions but struggle to find candidates equipped to step into supervisory or office leadership roles.

Dean Staci Warnert responded by clarifying that the Bachelor of Social Work program at Great Basin College is designed as an entry-level degree into the profession, while clinical practice and advanced supervisory roles are typically developed at the master's level. The curriculum has been intentionally built to align with the standards of the Council on Social Work Education, the accrediting body for social work programs, with a strong emphasis on ethics, foundational competencies, and population-based practice. However, there may be opportunities within upper-division coursework to incorporate elements of leadership or supervisory skill development. While maintaining alignment with accreditation requirements, the program leadership expressed openness to reviewing the curriculum to determine whether additional content in management or supervision could be appropriately integrated. All bachelor's degree programs at Great Basin College already include a leadership component within the curriculum. In response to the concern about supervisory readiness, it was noted that the next step will be to review how leadership is currently integrated—particularly within the Bachelor of Social Work program—and assess whether those elements sufficiently address supervisory and management skills. This review will help determine if enhancements or more targeted content are needed to better prepare students for leadership roles in their respective fields.

Michelle Hammond asked for more information on which areas the reduced credit bachelor degrees related too.

VP Sarah Negrete responded the only reduced-credit bachelor's degree currently being proposed by Great Basin College is a new program: a Bachelor of Applied Science in Project Management. This program would be a brand-new offering for the institution, rather than a reduction or modification of any existing degree programs. If approved, it would apply only to new students enrolling in the program and is intended to provide an innovative, efficient pathway aligned with workforce needs in project management

Chair Terri Clark asked what the timeline is for the completely rural social work program?

VP Sarah Negrete responded that it is going to be at least 1-1/2 to 2 years because accreditation requires certain things.

Dean Staci Warnert explained it is a complicated timeline. The first step is securing institutional approval through the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, which is currently in progress.

Following Board approval, the college will submit initial materials to the Council on Social Work Education, the accrediting body, including a fully developed curriculum. The program will then enter a structured, multi-phase accreditation process consisting of approximately four phases, each with specific benchmarks and timelines that must be strictly followed. Based on current projections, the college is targeting a potential program launch in either spring or fall 2027, depending on alignment with accreditation requirements. She emphasized that adherence to the accreditor's timeline is critical to ensure that students graduate from a fully accredited

program. In the meantime, current students will continue to be supported through the existing 3+1 pathway in partnership with University of Nevada, Reno, ensuring no disruption as the institution transitions to offering its own standalone degree. Regular updates will be provided as the process moves forward.

VP Sarah Negrete added one more thing to be highlighted. Great Basin College was recently awarded over \$600,000 to expand its Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program, with recognition given to Gail for her efforts in securing the funding. The investment will support the purchase of a new tractor-trailer, addressing the need to replace aging equipment and enhance hands-on training for students.

The CDL program continues to demonstrate strong outcomes, maintaining a 100% pass rate and operating at full capacity each session. With this new funding, the college plans to expand access by taking the program on the road to communities such as Ely and Winnemucca at least once per year. This mobile training approach will allow students in rural areas to participate locally, increasing accessibility and supporting regional workforce needs.

Additionally, the funding will support hiring another instructor to facilitate this expansion. Overall, the initiative represents a significant step in strengthening a high-demand workforce program and extending its reach to better serve the communities across the college's service area.

Business & Operations

VP John Evans provided an update on facilities, technology, and capital planning efforts at Great Basin College. A recent increase in the technology fee—from \$6 to \$10—was approved, with the majority of those funds dedicated to strengthening cybersecurity measures over the next several years. This investment is intended to enhance the safety and security of online systems for both students and faculty, helping the institution address current gaps and align with best practices.

Progress continues on Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), with design work underway for both sidewalk and HVAC improvements. Recent upgrades to Zoom-enabled classrooms have been completed, with plans to pursue a second phase of enhancements in the near future.

Additionally, the college is preparing for campus-wide wireless upgrades to improve connectivity across all locations.

The Strategic Resources Committee and Equipment Advisory Group have approved more than \$300,000 in funding for facility improvements and equipment replacement. These projects will benefit all campuses, and continued input is encouraged to identify additional needs.

Finally, discussions are ongoing regarding facility expansion in Winnemucca. While the college is preparing to seek approval from the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents to move forward with new construction—estimated at \$29 million—there is also interest in identifying an existing building between 10,000 and 20,000 square feet as a potential alternative. The item is expected to be presented for information in April and for possible action in May.

Student Services

VP Matt Aschenbrener provided an update on enrollment, advising, and student engagement initiatives at Great Basin College. The college is in the process of implementing a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, which will enhance both internal advising functions and external communication with prospective and current students. The system will allow for

improved tracking of advising interactions while also strengthening recruitment and outreach efforts, with full implementation expected in the coming month.

Enrollment trends remain positive, with the college seeing an increase of approximately 100 students compared to the previous spring. This growth supports the institution's strategic goal of reaching 4,000 students by 2030. Efforts to achieve this goal include coordinated initiatives across departments such as marketing, communications, and financial aid, with a focus on expanding outreach to diverse student populations across the state.

Additionally, the college is finalizing a comprehensive advising plan aligned with national standards, targeting a ratio of approximately 350 students per advisor. The model will incorporate faculty advisors for upper-division bachelor's programs, while professional advisors will primarily support first- and second-year students. This structure is intended to improve student support, retention, and overall academic success.

Foundation Update

Leslie Maple reported on the Foundation and Communications highlighted upcoming events, new philanthropic support, and marketing progress. The Foundation is actively planning its event calendar, including support for the CTE department's Popoc Memorial Scholarship BBQ on May 13, as well as MTC scholarship activities with applications due in March and April. "Draft Day" events are scheduled for April 21 in Winnemucca and April 23 in Elko. Additional major events include the annual Golf Classic on August 1 and a 30th anniversary celebration and fundraiser this fall for the Ely Center.

Several new gifts and funding opportunities were also announced. A \$100,000 contribution from General Motors will support the expansion of electric vehicle curriculum within the diesel program. Approximately \$53,000 was received from a closing education foundation in Ely to support facility revitalization at the Ely Center. Additional support includes two \$5,000 scholarships from I-80 Gold for students in Elko and Winnemucca, as well as a new \$20,000 private scholarship with plans to grow into an endowment. The Foundation is also preparing to support a future capital campaign related to facility expansion in Winnemucca.

From a communications and marketing perspective at Great Basin College, the recently launched website has received strong positive feedback from students, faculty, and staff, improving accessibility, engagement, and overall marketing effectiveness. The platform is also enhancing lead generation efforts and enabling better tracking of return on investment for marketing campaigns. Following the retirement of longtime web manager Frank Sawyer, the college is actively recruiting for a Web and CRM Manager and is encouraging referrals to support continued growth in digital communications and enrollment strategies.

Current marketing efforts include an active spring campaign running through March 16, focused on promoting second eight-week and late-start courses. In addition, the fall nursing campaign is underway in collaboration with Dean Warnert, with targeted outreach—particularly through paid social media—aimed at prospective students in Southern Nevada. The college is also concluding its town hall series, with an upcoming event scheduled for March 9 in Eureka.

Recruitment efforts for the MTC Scholarship program have shown strong results, with approximately 50 applications received to date compared to 33 at the same time last year. With the application deadline approaching on March 15, further increases are anticipated. The upcoming implementation of a new CRM system is expected to significantly enhance marketing

capabilities, particularly in tracking the effectiveness of outreach efforts from initial engagement through application and enrollment.

Dual Enrollment

VP Sarah Negrete added in the area of enrollment at Great Basin College, dual credit continues to be a significant driver of growth, with enrollment in this space increasing by nearly 30% (29.6%). This substantial rise has contributed meaningfully to the institution's overall enrollment gains. Additionally, high school full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment has grown by over 30%, indicating that participating students are not only enrolling in dual credit courses but are also taking more classes per student, further strengthening their academic progress.

This growth is the result of extensive outreach and strong partnerships with regional school districts. College leadership has engaged directly with superintendents and district leaders, including meetings with Pershing County superintendent Dennis Hall, Nye County superintendent Joey Gottschall, and ongoing collaboration with Adam Young, who has been a consistent and constant supporter of dual credit in White Pine County. Additional outreach efforts include recent meetings with the Elko County School District, reflecting a continued commitment to strengthening relationships across service areas.

The college also recognizes the critical role of high school counselors, whose efforts in advising students and promoting dual credit opportunities are essential to the program's success.

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and Community Colleges

Natalie Brown reported the Board of Regents, leadership continues to prepare for the upcoming meeting, where systemwide workforce policy and legislative updates will be key topics of discussion. Of particular interest is the continued momentum surrounding the development of 90-credit bachelor's degrees, representing a significant shift in how higher education credentials are structured. Great Basin College is playing a leading role in advancing this conversation, reflecting broader trends seen in neighboring states such as Utah and Idaho. This initiative aligns closely with ongoing priorities around workforce development and economic alignment. At the state level, Nevada has been selected by the Lumina Foundation as one of 13 states to update its attainment goals, which focus on increasing the percentage of residents aged 25–64 with postsecondary credentials. Currently ranking near the bottom nationally, 40th out of 50, the state is working toward a goal of 60% attainment by 2040. As part of this effort, institutions will collaborate to establish measurable benchmarks related to student success, including graduation rates and persistence, with updated targets expected to be presented for approval in the fall.

Additionally, representatives recently participated in the Association of Community College Trustees National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., an important forum for advancing federal priorities related to community colleges. Key focus areas included workforce development, Pell Grant expansion, and alignment between federal policy and institutional innovation. Nevada's presence was especially notable this year, as Regent Del Carlo currently serves as chair of the national organization.

Further reinforcing its commitment to workforce development, Great Basin College recently secured additional grant funding to support diesel and CDL programming. This investment highlights the college's continued focus on high-demand, industry-aligned training opportunities that meet regional workforce needs and build on the success of existing programs.

Institutional Advisory Council Members

Billie Crapo reported regarding upcoming events and activities for the Elko Area Chamber of Commerce. A Lunch and Learn is scheduled for February 26 at noon at Sherman Station Visitor's Center, where Chamber member benefits will be reviewed.

Looking ahead, a Member Luncheon will be held on April 21 at noon at the Western Folklife Center, featuring lunch from Las Brisas provided by the Board of Directors. This event will include a review of 2025 accomplishments and a preview of upcoming initiatives for 2026.

Additionally, the Chamber is preparing for its 47th Annual Home Show, scheduled for May 9–10, and is currently seeking vendors to participate. Interested individuals or organizations are encouraged to reach out directly for more information at ceo@elkonevada.com.

Caroline McIntosh announced the Ely Center's 30th anniversary celebration, scheduled for September 12th. Appreciation was expressed for Director Sheymane Pitts' efforts in organizing the event, and attendees were encouraged to save the date. It was also noted that recent changes at the Ely Center under President Donelli's leadership have resulted in a more modern appearance, which is greatly appreciated.

Stacy Smith expressed support for the new 3:00 p.m. meeting time, noting that early morning meetings can be challenging. An announcement was shared that Desert View Hospital will celebrate its 20th anniversary on April 25 with a community block party, and attendees were encouraged to participate if they are in the Pahrump area. It was also noted that this time of year offers an opportunity to visit Southern Nevada, including seasonal blooms in Death Valley.

Additionally, Remote Area Medical is expected to return to Pahrump in the fall, and support from partners, including Dr. Salute and his team, was acknowledged. Input and additional support for this event were welcomed.

Positive feedback was shared regarding the strong partnership with local schools and the success of dual credit programs, which allow high school students to graduate with significant college credits. Appreciation was also expressed for the development of the social work program, highlighting its importance in addressing workforce needs in rural Nevada and supporting students in continuing their education.

Michelle Hammond reported Winnemucca is experiencing significant growth, largely driven by the Thacker Pass project, which currently employs over 800 workers, with approximately 700 housed in workforce housing on the east end of town. This rapid expansion is bringing many new residents and contract workers, creating notable changes in the community.

In workforce development efforts, collaboration is underway with NevadaWorks on a BUILD Youth Grant application through the Department of Labor. The proposal focuses on apprenticeship opportunities in building trades, including rural counties and school districts, with potential connections to community colleges.

Additionally, the Spring Valley Mine in Pershing County is preparing to begin construction this fall and has started hiring, further increasing demand for both construction and mining professionals. There is a recognized workforce shortage, highlighting the need for regional recruitment efforts, with Great Basin College playing a key role.

Finally, an invitation was extended to attend the Tech Center open house in Winnemucca from 4:00–7:00 p.m., encouraging participation from colleagues and community members.

President Donnelly announced the Tech Hub facility in Winnemucca was established through grant funding; however, the space is currently leased only through 2029. While there is interest in expanding the existing campus, estimated construction costs of approximately \$29 million present a significant challenge. As an alternative, the option of purchasing a building is being explored, though the current property owner is not interested in selling.

The facility currently supports four primary programs and serves as a strong example of how grant funding can be effectively utilized. However, the funding includes a deadline, creating a need to secure additional long-term resources. Efforts will continue to identify future funding opportunities to sustain and expand the space.

An invitation was extended for individuals to visit the facility, either during the scheduled open house or by arranging a tour when traveling through Winnemucca.

Michele Hammond noted her efforts to identify a permanent building location have been ongoing and continue to be a priority. Available properties are limited due to rapid growth in the area, and those on the market are typically priced at a premium, creating additional challenges. Previous potential sites were evaluated but ultimately not pursued due to high costs.

Given current market conditions, it was suggested that purchasing an existing building, even at a higher price point, may still be more feasible than new construction, considering the significantly higher estimated cost of building. Continued monitoring of available real estate opportunities will remain important moving forward.

VP John Evans acknowledged that purchasing a building at a premium price may still be more cost-effective than new construction, and interest was expressed in pursuing any viable opportunities that may arise. The estimated \$29 million construction cost is significantly impacted by prevailing wage requirements in Nevada, which substantially increase overall project expenses. As a result, projects that might otherwise cost significantly less become financially prohibitive, creating challenges for state and local entities pursuing new construction.

Chair Terri Clark shared several updates, including the recent opening of the Boys and Girls Club's new facility, which includes a health and fitness center sponsored by the hospital. The facility was described as a valuable addition to the community, supporting local wellness initiatives. The annual Health and Fitness Fair is scheduled for March 21, and appreciation was expressed for the continued support of GBC nursing students and faculty. Additional recognition was given to programs such as MAPE and others for their ongoing collaboration and contributions to hospital initiatives.

It was also announced that Reno Orthopedics has relocated to a new space within the hospital's Medical Office Building (Suite 203). The new location includes upgraded X-ray equipment and expanded space, enhancing patient care services.

Dr. Joe Gent expressed appreciation for the positive remarks shared and noted a productive recent meeting with Carrie Meisner. He highlighted the strong outreach efforts and partnerships, including collaboration with Dr. Blue.

Dual enrollment was emphasized as highly valuable to both the Pahrump community and surrounding areas, with students from across the county benefiting from access. While concerns about funding for dual credit were acknowledged as a statewide issue, it was noted that even without funding support, Great Basin College remains highly affordable compared to other institutions.

Dennis Holms expressed appreciation for the January 15 meeting with GBC, which provided valuable insight into available programs and opportunities. Interest was shared in expanding the partnership to increase opportunities for students, particularly in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. It was noted that there is potential for growth at the high school level, including Coal Canyon High School and the Adult Learning Center, which is now serving students throughout the day. With anticipated economic growth in the region, including mining activity north of the area, there is a strong opportunity to collaborate in supporting both students and adult learners seeking further education and workforce training. Overall, support was expressed for continued partnership and appreciation for GBC's efforts.

Strategic Plan – Theme 2

Student Success

A short presentation and overview was provided on the college's strategic plan, implemented in Fall 2025 - emphasis on Goal 2: Student Success. One key objective is to increase the number of students completing their educational goals, with an institutional target of reaching 4,000 students by 2030. Progress is monitored annually through the Mission Fulfillment Report, which evaluates data, identifies trends, and informs action plans to address areas needing improvement.

Key metrics include tracking student enrollment and completion rates in gateway English and math courses to better understand where students may need additional support. The institution aims to improve completion rates by identifying gaps and implementing targeted interventions. Another objective focuses on expanding student support services, including counseling, tutoring, and career advising. Increased usage of the BetterMynd mental health platform was highlighted as a positive trend, indicating greater awareness and student engagement. Tutoring services have also expanded, with improvements to the Learning Commons creating a more welcoming environment, along with the addition of Brainfuse, a 24/7 online tutoring resource. Additionally, a Career Center is being developed to centralize services such as resume assistance, interview preparation, and student workshops. Overall, efforts under Goal 2 are centered on strengthening student success through data-informed strategies and enhanced support services, with further updates to be shared as annual data is reviewed.

Round Table Discussion – Year 6 Accreditation Report

VP Sarah Negrete gave an overview of accreditation was provided, noting that the institution is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and operates on a seven-year accreditation cycle. Comprehensive self-study reports are required in Years 3, 6, and 7, along with annual reports each August, ad hoc reports as requested, and submissions for substantive program changes (generally defined as changes exceeding 25%).

The institution is currently in Year 6 of the cycle, with the report being submitted this week. This report focuses on governance, policies, and financial resources (Standard 2), requiring demonstration of adequate policies, resources, and institutional capacity. Due to prior delays, recent accreditation activities have been condensed into a shorter timeframe, increasing the intensity of current efforts.

Upcoming activities include an ad hoc report and site visit for the Lovelock Correctional Center this fall. The Year 7 report, scheduled for Spring 2027, will be the most comprehensive and represents the culmination of the accreditation cycle.

It was emphasized that accreditation is a continuous improvement process. A standing committee meets monthly to review progress and identify areas for enhancement. One key area identified is the need to systematically review and update institutional policies. To address this, a plan is being developed to implement a regular five-year review cycle for policies, ensuring they remain current and effective.

It was clarified that major accreditation reports, including Year 6 and Year 7, are typically submitted in the spring, while the annual report is due in August. Although the schedule was slightly adjusted this cycle due to a fall site visit being postponed last spring, the standard timeline places major reports in the spring.

VP Negrete noted that the current accreditation schedule feels condensed, with activities occurring nearly every semester; however, this is expected to improve as the cycle normalizes. Feedback from the October site visit was very positive, with reviewers recognizing the institution's significant progress over the past two years.

Appreciation was expressed for the contributions of the accreditation team, including Mary Doucette (retired), Sarah (now leading efforts), Dean Strait, and Vice President Matt Aschenbrenner, whose experience in accreditation has supported the institution's continued success.

Chair Clark comment was made acknowledging the complexity and scope of the accreditation process, noting that while it can be challenging, it is highly valued by the community. Appreciation was expressed for having an accredited community college that offers a wide range of programs.

New Business

The group was then invited to share any questions or comments. Following this, a call was made for any new business, with clarification that discussion under this item is limited to a brief description and rationale for proposed topics.

A request was made for clarification regarding the upcoming machinist competition at College of Southern Nevada, specifically asking if a date has been determined. It was also requested

that event details be shared once available, as there is interest in attending if in the Las Vegas area.

VP Sarah Negrete confirmed that the machinist competition at College of Southern Nevada will take place during the second week of March and will span three days. Specific competition times for GBC participants are not yet available, but details will be shared once finalized. The Dean of Workforce has also expressed interest in attending the machinist competition to support participants. However, it was clarified that spectators are not permitted inside the competition area while events are in progress, which differs from other competitions such as SkillsUSA.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 30th at 7:00am

Meeting adjourned 8:18 am