

GREAT BASIN COLLEGE
Institutional Advisory Council
1500 College Parkway
Elko, Nevada 89801
Thursday, April 30, 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, Michelle Hammond, Dave Roden, Stacy Smith, Caroline McIntosh, Russ Klein

GBC IAC Members Absent: Billie Crapo, Tim Sutton, Adam Young, Barbara Gallagher

GBC and NSHE Staff & Superintendents Present: Kiah Beverly, Natalie Brown, Amber Donnelly, Sarah Negrete, John Evans, Matt Aschenbrener, David Stoddard, Dean Straight, Staci Warnert, Gail Rappa, Sheymane Pitts, Christopher Salute, Tate Else, and Dennis Holmes

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

President's Update

The President's update was moved up due to a few members joining late, to constitute a quorum before approving the minutes.

President Donnelly reported that Great Basin College is entering a busy season of commencement, pinning ceremonies, and graduation events across all campus locations. Members were encouraged to attend the various celebrations throughout the college's service area.

An update was provided on the Student Awards Ceremony, where the college expanded its President's Outstanding Student Awards to recognize students from Elko, Ely, Pahrump, Winnemucca, CTE programs, and online education. Recipients received scholarships and were recognized alongside students receiving departmental awards. Increased participation in graduation ceremonies across the service area was also noted.

The President shared that the college's new website is now operational, with significant improvements made to search functionality. Users were encouraged to report any remaining issues.

Updates were provided on the implementation of the college's new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, which is designed to improve communication, advising, recruitment, retention, and student access to resources. The college is also actively

implementing its Strategic Enrollment Management Plan to support student recruitment and retention efforts.

Enrollment remains strong and continues to grow, driven largely by dual enrollment partnerships with regional school districts. Appreciation was expressed to superintendents, counselors, and school partners for their support in expanding student participation.

The President highlighted the success of the MTC scholarship program, noting that 190 students applied, 120 qualified for interviews, and more than 108 students received scholarship awards. The contributions of high school counselors and community partners were recognized as critical to the program's success.

Recognition was also given to eight faculty and staff members who completed academic degrees during the year, including one employee who successfully earned a doctoral degree.

Finally, an update was provided on ongoing capital improvement projects across the institution. Campus facilities in Elko, Ely, Pahrump, and Winnemucca continue to receive upgrades, including renovations, new carpeting, and other improvements funded through institutional investments.

Academic Affairs Update

Vice President Negrete provided updates on several academic and strategic initiatives currently underway at GBC.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL): NSHE institutions continue to develop policies and processes that will allow students to earn academic credit for prior workforce experience or previously completed coursework. A GBC team participated in a statewide meeting in Las Vegas to share progress and coordinate implementation efforts. Updated policies and procedures are expected to be in place early next year.

Open Educational Resources (OER): In response to state legislation, GBC is reviewing opportunities to expand the use of Open Educational Resources, which reduce or eliminate textbook costs for students. The initiative is being led by the college library and focuses on identifying and adopting high-quality educational materials that align with course outcomes.

Rural Health Transformation Grants: GBC continues to actively pursue grant funding opportunities to support healthcare workforce development throughout rural Nevada. Numerous grant proposals have been submitted in partnership with hospitals, healthcare

providers, and community organizations to expand educational pathways and address workforce needs in rural communities.

New Academic Programs: Several new programs are scheduled to move through the approval process in June, including a Criminal Justice Skills Certificate designed for correctional facility employees and an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice. These programs are intended to provide stackable credentials and clear transfer pathways to bachelor's degree programs.

Student and Community Engagement: Attendees were invited to view a public art installation being created by GBC welding students for the City of Elko in celebration of America's 250th anniversary. The project reflects collaboration between students, faculty, and the community.

Personnel Announcement: Vice President Negrete announced that following a comprehensive search process, Dean Straight was selected as the permanent Dean of Arts and Sciences. Congratulations were extended on his appointment.

Chair Clark noted that detailed information on the grant proposals had been included in the distributed meeting documentation. The member then asked VP Negrete to elaborate on the Rural Health Transformation funding efforts, specifically inquiring about the overall goals of the 10–20 grant applications currently being pursued and the anticipated areas of growth and development those funds would support.

VP Negrete noted that President Donnelly is the Chair for the state committee.

President Donnelly explained that several of GBC's Rural Health Transformation grant requests focus on expanding healthcare education infrastructure and workforce development in rural Nevada. One major proposal would renovate an apartment complex to provide affordable housing for medical residents, nurse practitioner students, physician assistant students, and visiting healthcare providers, addressing a significant housing shortage in the region.

Additional large-scale requests include expanding and remodeling the High Tech Center to accommodate growth in health science programs and partnering with Elko County Ambulance to expand the Community Paramedic Program. The initiative would provide advanced training for paramedics to deliver community-based healthcare services, including follow-up care, telehealth support, and other patient services.

President Donnelly also noted that several grant applications seek funding for updated medical equipment to enhance healthcare training programs. Other projects include collaboration with local high schools to expand dental-related educational opportunities.

Beyond GBC-specific initiatives, the college is assisting communities such as Tonopah and Esmeralda with grant development and submission efforts. These partnerships support local healthcare workforce needs while also creating educational pathways for students pursuing careers as EMTs, paramedics, medical assistants, certified nursing assistants, and other healthcare professionals

Chair Clark expressed appreciation for the additional information, noting that while grant writing can be challenging, the implementation and administration of grant-funded projects often require an even greater effort. The member commended Great Basin College for undertaking such a broad scope of work, particularly its willingness to serve as a community partner by helping address regional healthcare needs and supporting neighboring communities through the grant process.

President Donnelly added that additional Rural Health Transformation initiatives include expanding the ECHO program and increasing healthcare education opportunities for Native American communities served by the college. She noted that discussions are underway to provide additional programming in areas where partnerships already exist and to broaden healthcare workforce training opportunities.

She further highlighted GBC's receipt of SB 165 funding, which is supporting the expansion of behavioral health and social work programs. Proposed initiatives include a new bachelor's degree in Behavioral Health and the transition of the current Social Work 3+1 model into a fully online, four-year bachelor's degree program offered entirely through GBC. The proposed rural-focused social work program is designed to address workforce needs in rural communities and is expected to move forward through the approval process in June.

Additional members had joined and a quorum was met.

Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the February 26, 2026 minutes was made by Caroline McIntosh seconded by Russ Klein. Motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Proposed Meeting Dates for 2026-2027

Discussion on a proposal to change the regular meeting time from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members expressed support for the change, noting that the later meeting time would be more convenient.

The proposed meeting schedule for 2026-2027 is

- September 17, 2026, at 3:00 pm
- November 19, 2026, at 3:00 pm
- February 25, 2027, at 3:00 pm
- April 22, 2027, at 3:00 pm

A motion was made to accept the meeting schedule for next year and to move the meeting time to 3:00pm by Russ Klein seconded by Caroline McIntosh. Motion passed unanimously.

Stacy Smith asked for clarification regarding the meeting calendar and confirmed that the current meeting would be the final meeting before the committee reconvenes in September. Staff confirmed that the next scheduled meeting will be held in September.

President Donnelly confirmed the next meeting will be September 17th.

Business & Operations Update

Vice President Evans reported that Great Basin College is in the final stages of fiscal year closeout, with purchasing activities concluding in May and final budget reconciliation occurring in June.

He announced that the College has initiated an appraisal process for the Winnemucca CTE facility and three surrounding properties to evaluate potential acquisition opportunities and reduce the need for new construction.

Vice President Evans also provided a staffing update, noting that 12 hiring actions have been completed or will be finalized by the end of the fiscal year. These positions include a CPA, Executive Director, Police Officer, Biology and Political Science Instructor, CTE Lab Aide, Administrative Assistants in Winnemucca and Continuing Education, a Financial Aid Specialist, and three Nursing Instructors. An additional 13 hiring actions are currently in progress. Regarding facilities, he reported that flooring replacement projects are underway at all GBC campuses. Ely and Pahrump are receiving building-wide flooring upgrades, while Winnemucca is addressing flooring repairs and completing the MAPE Lab renovation. Additional projects include the construction of instructor offices and a new campus sign in Ely, completion of Berg Hall landscaping, exterior improvements to the Health Sciences Building, upgrades to the McMullen and Lund building entrances, renovations to the stream area, library flooring and shelving replacements, and flooring updates in modular buildings across all campuses. Looking ahead, Vice President Evans stated that next year's capital improvement efforts will focus primarily on the Elko campus, including enhancements to student spaces, replacement of the Griswold Hall roof, and renovations to student apartments. He then invited questions from the committee.

Student Services Update

Vice President Aschenbrener reported the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan was presented at the All College, which outlines 30 initiatives designed to increase enrollment, improve student success, and address the region's educational attainment gap. He noted that while approximately 40% of U.S. adults over age 26 hold a bachelor's degree, Nevada's rate is approximately 28%, and the counties served by GBC average only about 20%, underscoring the importance of expanding educational opportunities throughout the region.

He highlighted several key initiatives, including:

- Expanding student life through the creation of a student ambassador program to assist with recruitment, campus tours, and student engagement.
- Establishing a GBC student identification program to strengthen a sense of belonging and reinforce the "One GBC" culture.

- Enhancing recruitment efforts through new outreach initiatives, many of which are already underway.
- Increasing financial aid support by offering additional FASFA workshops, developing instructional resources, expanding outreach to school districts, and adding a more comprehensive financial aid calculator to the College website.
- Leveraging the new CRM (Element451) to improve recruitment, advising, and student retention through targeted communication campaigns, advising notes, and reminders related to registration, financial aid, and academic milestones.
- Promoting academic pathways that encourage students to continue from associate degree programs into bachelor's degree programs, particularly in high-demand fields such as nursing and teacher education.
- Expanding marketing efforts by featuring monthly spotlights on academic programs to showcase the breadth of opportunities available at GBC.

Vice President Aschenbrenner also reported that the CRM has been successfully implemented for academic advising and that the student application system transition would be completed the following Monday. He concluded by noting that searches for the Director of the Winnemucca Center and the Director of Advising were nearing completion, with both positions expected to be filled by the end of May.

Michelle Hammond asked about the proposed Student Life initiatives, noting that GBC previously had a Student Ambassador Program and issued student photo identification cards. When those programs were discontinued, what factors led to their elimination, and how the College plans to ensure similar initiatives are sustained if they are reintroduced.

President Donnelly explained that several student engagement initiatives, including the Student Ambassador Program and student identification cards, were discontinued under a previous administration, in part due to the College's strong emphasis on online education. Since the pandemic, however, GBC has intentionally focused on rebuilding campus engagement and creating opportunities for students—whether online or in person—to participate in campus life through organizations such as Student Government Association (SGA) and Phi Theta Kappa. She noted that SGA has become stronger than ever and has identified student ID cards as a priority. The proposed ID program would not only foster a stronger sense of belonging and connection to GBC but would also support partnerships with community businesses that could offer student discounts. The estimated cost to implement the program is approximately \$1,500, plus card distribution expenses.

President Donnelly added that enhancing student life is a key institutional priority. After significant investments in campus facilities over the past two years, the College's focus will shift toward improving student-centered spaces, including housing, common areas, and furnishings. These upgrades are intended to create more welcoming, modern environments that strengthen students' connection to GBC and improve the overall campus experience. Thank you for raising the question and acknowledged the value of the historical perspective.

Michelle Hammond thanked President Donnelly for renewing the focus on student life initiatives, noting that, as a former GBC student and active Student Government participant, they had been heavily involved in efforts to enhance student engagement, including providing input during the renovation of Griswold Hall and advocating for improvements to the student experience and expressed concern that some of those earlier initiatives had been discontinued but voiced appreciation that the College is once again prioritizing student life. She also offered

their assistance and support for future efforts to strengthen student engagement and campus life.

President Donnelly shared that GBC is intentionally creating dedicated student spaces across its campuses to strengthen student engagement and campus life. In Pahrump, an entire classroom has been designated as an SGA and student life space to provide students with a dedicated area to gather and participate in campus activities. Similar opportunities are being explored at all GBC locations.

She noted that student life activities will vary by campus size and student population. Smaller campuses, such as Ely, may focus on activities like study groups or board game nights for small groups of students, while the Elko campus is able to host larger events serving 30 to 60 participants. Regardless of campus size, the College's goal is to ensure that all students have meaningful opportunities to engage in campus life and feel connected to the GBC community.

Michelle Hammond noted as a former SGA president serving on both the Winnemucca campus as a senator and then at the Elko campus, I again appreciate and thank you.

Terri Clark also reflected on her experience as a former GBC student, sharing that the College provided a strong sense of community and belonging. Although most of the coursework was completed online, she continued to spend time on campus because it served as their school community and gathering place, and fostering those connections has a meaningful impact on the overall student experience.

GBC Foundation & Communications Update

President Donnelly provided the Communications report on behalf of Leslie Maple, who was unable to attend the meeting.

She reported that the Communications team is actively promoting GBC's summer session, which offers approximately 100 courses and serves between 1,000 and 1,200 students annually. Summer courses provide students with opportunities to accelerate degree completion or remain on track for graduation. She encouraged committee members to help promote these offerings within their communities.

President Donnelly also highlighted an ongoing marketing campaign supporting the nursing program through **SB 498** funding. The campaign includes outreach to prospective students, enhanced recruitment efforts in neighboring states—including Utah, Idaho, and California—and the recent hiring of a Nursing Navigator to support applicants. She noted that application numbers in Pahrump have returned to previous enrollment levels, reflecting positive momentum from these efforts.

She shared that GBC continues to expand its digital marketing presence through platforms such as TikTok and is in the process of hiring a dedicated Social Media Coordinator to strengthen student engagement and recruitment efforts.

Looking ahead, she noted that the College's fall recruitment campaigns will begin in the coming weeks and that early application numbers for several academic programs are encouraging.

President Donnelly also recognized the Communications team's success in promoting student achievements, including GBC's outstanding performance at the **SkillsUSA** competition, where the Diesel program earned podium finishes in every event and qualified two students for the national competition.

GBC will be represented at the national SkillsUSA competition in three disciplines—Welding Fabrication, Diesel, and Machining—highlighting the significance of students advancing to the national level of competition.

Providing a Foundation update on behalf of Leslie Maple, she praised the efforts of the Foundation staff, noting that fundraising has exceeded \$1.2 million, compared to approximately \$800,000 during the previous year. She recognized the team's exceptional work in cultivating donors and securing additional scholarship support for students.

President Donnelly also announced that the Foundation recently secured a new donor commitment of \$15,000, which will provide \$3,000 scholarships across multiple academic programs. She emphasized the importance of scholarship funding and expressed appreciation for the continued generosity of donors and the Foundation's fundraising efforts.

She concluded by noting that the Foundation is preparing for its annual Golf Tournament in August and is actively seeking sponsors to support the event.

GBC Institutional Advisory Council Member Report & Questions

Michelle Hammond provided the following community updates from Winnemucca:

- Reported that the community continues to experience significant growth, driven by ongoing construction activity and an expanding workforce.
- Announced that a new Tractor Supply store will soon open in the former Ridley's building on Winnemucca Boulevard.
- Shared updates on changes within the local school district:
 - The district is transitioning to a K–6 educational model.
 - French Ford Middle School will be repurposed as a K–6 elementary school while Grammar School undergoes renovations.
 - The changes have created uncertainty among parents as the community adjusts.
 - Discussions regarding a potential four-day school week have continued, but no action has been taken.
- Highlighted upcoming community events, including Murals and Music and the Run-A-Mucca Motorcycle Rally, as the community prepares for the summer season.
- Reported that NevadaWorks will begin strategic planning discussions in the coming weeks and reaffirmed a commitment to advocating for Great Basin College's role in regional workforce development through continued participation with the organization.

Superintendents Report

Russ Klein noted, while reviewing proposed meeting dates for the upcoming year, that February 25th coincides with the National Superintendents Conference, an event that nearly all local superintendents are expected to attend. Attendance at that conference is typically very high—approaching 90% or more—and as a result, it would likely be difficult for many members to participate in any scheduled meetings on that date. The board may wish to reconsider or adjust the proposed meeting schedule to avoid the conflict.

He continued regarding the Associate Programs for students and revisited prior discussions about WNC's Jumpstart program. Support had previously been expressed for aspects of the Jumpstart model and believe several of its features could be beneficial if implemented more broadly across the region.

He requested the opportunity to revisit and further explore the concept, suggesting that a group discussion or working session with relevant stakeholders could help re-engage the conversation and evaluate potential next steps for expanding similar programming within GBC's service area.

Dennis Holmes reported that things are going well in Pershing County, noting that work on the Portrait of a Graduate initiative is progressing and that a capstone meeting for the process is

scheduled for next Tuesday. The county remains eager to expand educational and workforce opportunities and expressed interest in exploring additional programs and initiatives that could benefit students in the region and would welcome any future opportunities for collaboration or program expansion. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the ongoing work of the group and for the opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Tate Else reported there have been ongoing local conversations about how the educational landscape has changed and the challenges and barriers related to the Department of Education. This feels like an important time to re-evaluate what can be improved. This feels like an important time to re-evaluate what can be improved. Many of the systems and decisions currently in place were established years ago, and the original decision-makers are no longer involved. Because of that, there may be an opportunity to simplify processes and better align pathways for students.

There is interest in rethinking how we guide students into clearer education and career pathways earlier in their academic journey, including certificates and CTE options. These discussions are not necessarily representative of all superintendents, but reflect ongoing personal and professional conversations, including recent discussions with counselors and participation in the NCE Career X national event focused on CTE pathways.

There is concern that current state-level CTE structures and local district priorities may not always be fully aligned with what is most beneficial for students, suggesting a need for broader dialogue. Funding structures tied to state CTE programs can include significant requirements and limitations, which may make participation less feasible for some districts under current budget constraints.

Given tightening budgets and declining enrollment trends, this may be a good time to reassess how programs are structured and how students are supported into appropriate pathways.

There is particular interest in expanding dual enrollment opportunities, especially as districts face staffing reductions, which may increase the need for students to access college-level options earlier.

Overall, this is viewed as a timely opportunity to strengthen collaboration, streamline systems, and better support student success through more flexible and responsive programming. The immediate focus remains on completing the current school year, which is approaching quickly.

President Donnelly appreciated all of the remarks and noted a proposal has been submitted to the Elko County School District outlining how GBC could support high school instruction in the event of teacher reductions. Specifically, identified opportunities where GBC could help supplement courses such as English, political science, and math to help offset potential staffing and funding impacts.

We are also happy to develop similar proposals for each of your districts if that would be helpful.

Tate Else commented this would also be a good opportunity to revisit the concurrent enrollment model. There may be opportunities that have been overlooked, and it would be worthwhile to have those discussions again. Currently, we partner through WNC, and while that arrangement was established before my time, it would be beneficial to re-evaluate whether it continues to be the best approach for meeting our students' needs.

Caroline McIntosh recognized Superintendent Adam Young for his exemplary leadership in expanding dual credit opportunities and developing strong CTE programs in the White Pine County School District. His contributions were acknowledged, and members expressed that he will be greatly missed. Welcome to Angie Angelopoulos as his successor.

The importance of school districts as key feeder partners to GBC was emphasized, along with appreciation for the strong alignment and collaboration between the college and its district partners. Members also looked forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of the GBC Ely Center in September and encouraged IAC members to attend and celebrate the milestone.

President Donnelly announced that the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the GBC Ely Center will be held on Saturday, September 12. Additional event details and invitations will be distributed by Great Basin College as the celebration approaches.

Dave Rodin commented that the Lithium project in Humboldt county is proceeding and is going to benefit the county.

Stacy Smith expressed support for revisiting CTE pathways and expanding dual credit opportunities, noting there are additional possibilities for collaboration between school districts and GBC. She suggested exploring shared instructional models, where qualified instructors could support programs across multiple districts, building on existing partnerships such as those in nursing.

She also encouraged continued collaboration as GBC develops its bachelor's programs in psychology and social work, offering community support in identifying internship opportunities for students and commended GBC for its partnerships with local hospitals and rural communities, including Tonopah and Esmeralda, and praised the college's continued commitment to expanding its presence and serving communities throughout rural Nevada.

Terri Clark reported that the hospital is approximately 90% complete with the installation of a new state-of-the-art MRI system. The project has been a significant undertaking, and while calibration and staff training will follow installation, the new equipment is expected to be operational soon.

She also shared that, in her role overseeing ambulatory and medical group services, the Medical Assisting (MAPE) program has been invaluable in meeting workforce needs. She noted that prior to the program, the hospital faced challenges with inconsistent applicant preparation and on-the-job training. MAPE graduates have been exceptionally well prepared, and she expressed sincere appreciation to GBC for the program's positive impact.

Vice Chancellor Brown provided several updates from the NSHE System Office. She announced that Brody Leiser recently joined the System Office as NSHE's Chief Financial Officer, bringing experience as the Chief Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst for the Legislative Counsel Bureau. She also shared that Jason Frierson will begin serving as Vice Chancellor for Government Affairs, bringing extensive local, state, and federal government experience.

She reported that NSHE continues to advance its Credit for Prior Learning initiative, highlighting the successful systemwide convening held at the end of March. She commended GBC for its leadership in helping move the initiative from policy development to implementation and emphasized its importance in recognizing learning acquired outside of traditional higher education.

Vice Chancellor Brown also provided an update on Workforce Pell, noting that policy and process guidance is expected to be posted by the end of the month, along with the institutional application, in preparation for the July 1 implementation date.

In addition, she discussed the upcoming Strengthening Community College Training Grant (Round 6) application, a statewide collaborative effort involving Nevada's community colleges, NSHE, workforce agencies, and local workforce boards. The consortium is seeking approximately \$10.8 million to support Workforce Pell implementation and related data infrastructure. She thanked GBC for its active participation and leadership throughout the grant development process.

She concluded by expressing appreciation for GBC's continued partnership and reaffirmed the System Office's commitment to supporting the college's workforce development efforts.

Round Table

The round table discussion was postponed due to time constraints. It was noted that Sarah's presentation and accompanying slides will be moved to the fall meeting.

No new business or additional public comments were presented.

The next meeting is scheduled for **September 17 at 3:00 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 am.