

Northwest College Foundation Board of Directors

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Nelson House

<https://nwc.zoom.us/j/99004916518?pwd=vpNjdY9OaxVHsOzmbpZP0eYaIppqCl.1>

From a telephone: Dial 669.900.6833; Meeting ID: 990 0491 6518, Passcode: 191881

1. Call to Order – Steve Rockhold, President
2. NWC Showcase – Graduating Student Lauren Bates 5 minutes
3. Approval of Consent Agenda Items: 5 minutes
 - a. Minutes from February 4, 2026
 - b. Treasurer’s Report
 - c. FY26 Budget Report
 - d. Quarterly impact paid to NWC
 - e. FY26 Fundraising Results (to date)
 - f. Minutes from Development, Donor Accountability & Stewardship, Executive, Finance, and Governance Committees
 - g. Executive Director, Development Manager, and Alumni and Development Coordinator Reports
 - h. Northwest College President’s Report
 - i. Final Legislative Report
 - j. Upcoming events at NWC
4. Committee Work/Board Action:
 - a. Donor Accountability/Stewardship – Jacque Michel
 - i. NWC Scholarships 15 minutes
 - b. Development – Dave Bonner
 - i. Discussion on Fundraising Focus 20 minutes
 - c. Governance – Bryan Lee
 - i. Board Member/Officer Nominations 5 minutes
5. Development Report:
 - a. Giving Day Wrap-up – Jill Hartmann 5 minutes
 - b. AI Agent – Cory Ostermiller 5 minutes
6. Other Business
7. Joint Board Reception with NWC Trustees and Alumni Association, 5:30-6:30 pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 4 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINETY-SIXTH MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE NORTHWEST COLLEGE FOUNDATION
February 4, 2026**

Nelson House and Zoom

Directors Present: Stefanie Bell, Dave Bonner, Clay Cummins, Carolyn Danko, David Hill, Tim Hopkins, Sarah Johnson, Bryan Lee, Stan Lundberg, Tate McCoy, Mike McDaniel, David Northrup, Charlotte Patrick, Trace Paul, Bret Reed, Steve Rockhold, Nicole Rodriguez-Brown, Dusty Schutzman, Casey Sorenson, Chris Taggart, Tyler Yates, and NWC President Lisa Watson.

Directors Unable to Attend: Wendy Capps, R.J. Kost, Jacqueline Michel, Megan Nickles; Tara Kuipers, NWC Board of Trustees Liaison.

Also Present: Shelby Wetzel, NWC Foundation Executive Director; Cory Ostermiller, Development Manager; Jill Hartmann, Alumni and Development Coordinator; Dillon Jeffs, Foundation Accountant; and Diedre Asay, Foundation Technician.

President Steve Rockhold called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Strategic Enrollment Management Plan

Vice President of Student Services Tom Havron reviewed his work to lead development of a Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan for NWC. The SEM process began in April of 2025 with a team comprised of 15 members, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The three pillars the team has identified are:

- Recruitment** - Increase NWC recruitment efforts
- Retention** - Increase overall retention efforts at NWC
- Access** - Increase access to NWC educational opportunities

The 2025-2026 Highlights and Focus are:

- Increased regional recruitment to the NWC service area.
- Career and Technical Education Marketing Plan.
- Increased efforts for student engagement at area high schools, particularly within dual and concurrent programs.
- Early engagement with area youth.
- Flexible academic options for different types of students.
- Financial resources and making college more affordable to all.
- Increased communications to admitted students.

Tom noted that the Foundation has supported the SEM plan by:

- Assisting with a revised scholarship timeline, process, and budget.
- Spring Trapper Scholarship and First Class Free promotion to 109 new students 26/SP

- Scholarship revisions with donors to make scholarships more accessible.
- Fundraising for new Affordability Grants for lower-income students.
- NWC Alumni Pride campaign to area public schools.
- Grant activities to expand educational offerings.

Approval of Consent Agenda

President Steve Rockhold asked for approval of the consent agenda. There were no questions for comments. Tim Hopkins moved to approve the agenda. Charlotte Patrick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Committee Work/Board Action

Finance Committee – Director Chris Taggart reviewed the 2026 endowment payout. For new board members, Mr. Taggart gave a brief example of how the endowment payout works. He also noted that out of the Foundation’s 357 endowments, just two or .006%, are very slightly underwater. These two funds are new endowments that have not been invested long enough to build up a cushion against economic downturns.

Payout and fees are calculated using a three-year rolling average of each fund’s market value on December 31st. The Investment Committee recommends that the Foundation maintain its two-stage plan.

- Funds that are above their historical dollar value-distribute 4.5% plus 1.3% for administrative costs to the Foundation.
- Funds that are “under water” or below their historical dollar value-distribute 3.5% for the donor's intended purpose, plus 1.3% for administrative costs to the Foundation.

Mr. Taggart asked for a motion to approve the 2026 payout as noted above. Bryan Lee moved to approve. Dave Bonner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chris Taggart also reviewed the Non-Endowment Spending Policy. This policy is to guide action related to the use of non-endowed gifts. Gifts from donors without a specific designation will generally be added to the Foundation General Fund to support operations or grants awarded by the Foundation Board.

Gifts of \$500.00 or more will be earmarked for the General Fund Endowment, while gifts below \$500 will be held as currently expendable. Unrestricted gifts or bequests of \$25,000 or more will be reviewed by the Finance Committee/Foundation Board to determine whether a more beneficial or strategic outcome can be achieved with the funding. President Steve Rockhold asked for a motion to approve the new policy. Tim Hopkins moved to approve the policy. David Northrup seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Governance Committee – Ms. Wetzel presented the Board Assessment form to board members present at the Nelson House. Board members participating online were asked to look for the link in their email and complete the Board Assessment survey electronically. Board members were given 20 minutes to complete the assessment.

Development Report

Board Education – NWC Foundation Real Property - Ms. Wetzel presented the board with a real estate holdings spreadsheet and noted that it was in response to conversations that arose during the small-group meetings. Real Property was identified as an area that few board members fully understood. The document provides information about current holdings as well as an historical review of the properties the Foundation has bought and sold over the years.

Giving Day – NWC’s sixth annual Giving Day will be held on March 26-27, from noon to noon. Development Manager Cory Ostermiller reviewed this year’s plan which focuses on Student Access, including scholarships and Affordability Grants. The goal is to raise \$200,000 with support from 300+ donors. There will be matching funds for donors as in previous years for most gifts. Alumni and Development Coordinator Jill Hartmann reviewed the 14 different campus projects that donors can support on Giving Day. She also showed the Foundation's new Giving Day graphic and theme. Ms. Hartmann also noted there will be a dashboard on the Foundation website this year where people can post pictures and comments. The campus rally will be held again this year on Thursday, March 26th, at 1:00 in the NWC Student Center. There will also be free T-shirts for all faculty and staff. Board members are welcome to request one as well.



Other Business

Dave Bonner asked if he was correct in observing that the Foundation’s assets topped \$60 million dollars for the first time with the December 2025 statement. Accountant Dillon Jeffs confirmed the milestone.

NWC President Lisa Watson gave a brief overview of the upcoming Wyoming Legislative Session. The Governor’s original budget provided a conservative start. The Joint Appropriations Committee did not reduce allocations for the community colleges and added back the \$1.5 million tuition reduction adjustment. President Watson will be watching progress on capital construction, tuition increases, local levies, and property tax cuts.

Our biggest future funding challenge will be the voter initiative to reduce property taxes by another 50% in November.

With no other business to conduct, President Steve Rockhold adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Sarah Johnson, Secretary

Approved: Steve Rockhold, President

NWC Foundation
Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2026

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Endowed Fund</u>	<u>Gift Annuity Fund</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Youth Clubs of Park County</u>
ASSETS					
Cash in Bank	86,855.00	432,771.76	9,824.10	529,450.86	-
Undeposited Funds	29,297.82	-	-	29,297.82	-
Petty Cash	250.00	-	-	250.00	-
Investments - Cash	10,179.65	959,993.12	931.55	971,104.32	18,049.80
Investments - Securities	745,124.60	55,433,480.96	53,791.36	56,232,396.92	1,042,260.79
Due To/From	12,872.89	13,742.19	(10,648.08)	15,967.00	(15,967.00)
Receivables	3,428.58	278,649.00	-	282,077.58	-
Real Estate Holdings	364,167.82	882,900.00	-	1,247,067.82	-
Accumulated Depreciation	(31,933.49)	(19,981.82)	-	(51,915.31)	-
Trusts	-	623,069.55	-	623,069.55	-
Other Assets	126,759.95	-	-	126,759.95	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$1,347,002.82</u>	<u>\$58,604,624.76</u>	<u>\$53,898.93</u>	<u>\$60,005,526.51</u>	<u>\$1,044,343.59</u>
LIABILITIES					
Payables	13,070.98	2,830.94	-	15,901.92	-
Accrued Liabilities	95,453.52	762,055.00	-	857,508.52	-
Assets Held in Trust	-	34,591.91	-	34,591.91	1,000,000.00
Investing Activity	-	-	-	-	44,343.59
NWC Assets	175,484.80	18,810,204.96	-	18,985,689.76	-
Charitable Gift Annuity Liability	-	-	17,393.71	17,393.71	-
Other Liabilities	1,000.00	-	-	1,000.00	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$285,009.30</u>	<u>\$19,609,682.81</u>	<u>\$17,393.71</u>	<u>\$19,912,085.82</u>	<u>\$1,044,343.59</u>
NET ASSETS					
Permanently Restricted	-	26,706,694.96	-	26,706,694.96	-
Temporarily Restricted	336,313.98	12,288,246.99	36,425.71	12,660,986.68	-
Unrestricted	725,679.54	-	79.51	725,759.05	-
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>1,061,993.52</u>	<u>38,994,941.95</u>	<u>36,505.22</u>	<u>40,093,440.69</u>	-
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$1,347,002.82</u>	<u>\$58,604,624.76</u>	<u>\$53,898.93</u>	<u>\$60,005,526.51</u>	<u>\$1,044,343.59</u>

NWC Foundation
Statement of Activities
From 7/1/2025 Through 3/31/2026

Unrestricted

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Endowed Fund</u>	<u>Gift Annuity Fund</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
REVENUE				
Contributions	16,110.00	-	-	16,110.00
Investment Income	6,904.56	-	-	6,904.56
Realized Gains (Losses) on Sales of Investments	54,614.36	-	-	54,614.36
Unrealized Gains (Loss) on Investments	(45,773.03)	-	-	(45,773.03)
Rental Property Income	11,000.00	-	-	11,000.00
Nelson House Income	2,125.00	-	-	2,125.00
Wolfe Property Income	1,125.00	-	-	1,125.00
Cultivation Event Income	9,540.00	-	-	9,540.00
Alumni Event Income	2,255.00	-	-	2,255.00
Farm Lease Income	9,500.00	-	-	9,500.00
Miscellaneous Income	781.65	-	-	781.65
Endowment Management Fee Income	674,155.00	-	-	674,155.00
General Fund Endowment Income	58,899.00	-	-	58,899.00
Transfer of Current Year Activity	500.00	-	-	500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 801,736.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 801,736.54
EXPENSES				
Salaries/Benefits Paid by Foundation	347,129.74	-	-	347,129.74
Annual Giving Activities	3,165.67	-	-	3,165.67
Giving Day Departmental Challenge	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00
Alumni Association Activities	5,830.45	-	-	5,830.45
Cultivation Events	12,631.29	-	-	12,631.29
Relationship Development	2,206.21	-	-	2,206.21
Planned Giving	2,086.86	-	-	2,086.86
Fundraising Technology Software	43,481.77	-	-	43,481.77
Marketing/Advertising	2,248.00	-	-	2,248.00
Financial Management Software	12,218.95	-	-	12,218.95
Communications (publications, email news)	13,655.51	-	-	13,655.51
Graphic Design	6,570.00	-	-	6,570.00
Office Supplies/Expenses	1,540.66	-	-	1,540.66
Vehicle Expense	4,500.00	-	-	4,500.00
Legal Expense	65.00	-	-	65.00
Accounting Expense	26,860.79	-	-	26,860.79
Other Professional Expense	7,315.00	-	-	7,315.00
Board and Committee Expense	301.12	-	-	301.12
Community Memberships/Activities	425.00	-	-	425.00
Staff Development/Education	633.38	-	-	633.38
Investment Fees	1,681.23	-	-	1,681.23
Credit Card Fees	5,879.73	-	-	5,879.73
Nelson House Expense	25,154.16	-	-	25,154.16
Rental Property Expense	9,471.76	-	-	9,471.76
Real Property Expense	9,057.45	-	-	9,057.45
Wolfe Property Expense	738.00	-	-	738.00
Farm Lease Expense	7,100.00	-	-	7,100.00
NWC Presidents Discretionary Fund	449.60	-	-	449.60
NWC Hospitality & Public Relations	1,268.61	-	-	1,268.61
WACCT Dues	23,500.00	-	-	23,500.00
NWC Foundation Grants	2,883.88	-	-	2,883.88
General Funds for Underwater Gift Annuity Accounts	480.00	-	-	480.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 585,529.82	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 585,529.82
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	509,472.82	-	79.51	509,552.33
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	216,206.72	-	-	216,206.72
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$ 725,679.54	\$ -	\$ 79.51	\$ 725,759.05

NWC Foundation
Statement of Activities
From 7/1/2025 Through 3/31/2026

Temporarily Restricted

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Endowed Fund</u>	<u>Gift Annuity Fund</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
REVENUE				
Contributions	386,291.31	64,889.05	-	451,180.36
Outstanding Pledges	(9,000.00)	(132,050.92)	-	(141,050.92)
Investment Income	-	1,068,044.85	1,051.61	1,069,096.46
Realized Gains (Losses) on Sales of Investments	-	10,385,535.48	10,326.66	10,395,862.14
Unrealized Gains (Loss) on Investments	-	(8,382,691.80)	(8,266.45)	(8,390,958.25)
Micellaneous Income	17,159.00	-	-	17,159.00
General Funds to Underwater Gift Annuity Accounts	-	-	480.00	480.00
Giving Day Departmental Challenge	3,475.00	-	-	3,475.00
Change in Value - Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	-	34,658.45	-	34,658.45
Transfer of Current Year Activity	28,423.10	-	-	28,423.10
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$ 426,348.41</u>	<u>\$ 3,038,385.11</u>	<u>\$ 3,591.82</u>	<u>\$ 3,468,325.34</u>
EXPENSES				
Investment Fees	-	225,800.31	243.15	226,043.46
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	-
Cultivation Events Expense	-	-	-	-
Scholarships	54,995.00	764,987.04	-	819,982.04
Program Support	12,428.15	37,067.10	-	49,495.25
Booster Club Expense	14,821.98	2,880.00	-	17,701.98
Athletic Support	-	-	-	-
Directed Funds to NWC	24,770.00	-	-	24,770.00
Change In Liability Associated with NWC State Funds	-	493,413.93	-	493,413.93
Change in Liability Associated with Funds Held for PCYC	-	2,595.67	-	2,595.67
Refund of Unused Receipts	700.00	-	-	700.00
Change In Liability Associated with Gift Annuities	-	-	(1,062.67)	(1,062.67)
Gift Annuity Monthly Expense	-	-	2,182.00	2,182.00
Foundation Management Fee	-	732,376.00	678.00	733,054.00
Transfer of Current Year Activity	228,865.92	26,577.10	-	255,443.02
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 336,581.05</u>	<u>\$ 2,285,697.15</u>	<u>\$ 2,040.48</u>	<u>\$ 2,624,318.68</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	246,546.62	11,535,559.03	34,874.37	11,816,980.02
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	<u>89,767.36</u>	<u>752,687.96</u>	<u>1,551.34</u>	<u>844,006.66</u>
NET ASSETS, ENDING	<u>\$ 336,313.98</u>	<u>\$ 12,288,246.99</u>	<u>\$ 36,425.71</u>	<u>\$ 12,660,986.68</u>

NWC Foundation
Statement of Activities
From 7/1/2025 Through 3/31/2026

Permanently Restricted

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Endowed Fund</u>	<u>Gift Annuity Fund</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
REVENUE				
Contributions	-	871,533.73	-	871,533.73
Giving Day Departmental Challenge	-	1,525.00	-	1,525.00
Transfer of Current Year Activity	-	228,269.92	-	228,269.92
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,101,328.65</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,101,328.65</u>
EXPENSES				
Transfer of Current Year Activity	-	1,750.00	-	1,750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,750.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,750.00</u>
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	-	25,607,116.31	-	25,607,116.31
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	-	1,099,578.65	-	1,099,578.65
NET ASSETS, ENDING	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 26,706,694.96</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 26,706,694.96</u>



NORTHWEST COLLEGE FOUNDATION Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to Actual

<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Actual</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Budget</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Remaining</u>
Executive Director Salary	\$ 112,789.54	\$ 149,400.00	\$ 36,610.46
Executive Director Benefits	\$ 24,785.88	\$ 33,600.00	\$ 8,814.12
Development Manager Salary	\$ 52,303.88	\$ 69,800.00	\$ 17,496.12
Development Manager Benefits	\$ 11,948.59	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 4,551.41
Development Coordinator Salary	\$ 39,060.79	\$ 52,200.00	\$ 13,139.21
Development Coordinator Benefits	\$ 8,765.29	\$ 12,300.00	\$ 3,534.71
Foundation Accountant Salary	\$ 47,696.32	\$ 63,600.00	\$ 15,903.68
Foundation Accountant Benefits	\$ 11,099.18	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 3,900.82
Foundation Technician Salary	\$ 31,401.54	\$ 39,800.00	\$ 8,398.46
Foundation Technician Benefits	\$ 7,278.73	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 2,221.27
Personnel Expenses	\$ 347,129.74	\$ 461,700.00	\$ 114,570.26
Alumni Association Activities (net of fees)	\$ 3,575.45	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 6,424.55
Annual Giving Activities	\$ 3,165.67	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 6,834.33
Relationship Development	\$ 2,206.21	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,793.79
Staff Development/Education	\$ 633.38	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,366.62
Foundation Events (net of fees)	\$ 3,091.29	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,908.71
Planned Giving (brochures, postcard, website)	\$ 2,086.86	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 10,913.14
Community Memberships, Activities	\$ 425.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 575.00
Fundraising Technology Software	\$ 43,481.77	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (3,481.77)
Financial Management Software	\$ 12,218.95	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 31.05
Advertising	\$ 2,248.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 4,752.00
Communications (publications & printing)	\$ 13,655.51	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 6,344.49
Graphic Design	\$ 6,570.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 9,430.00
Legal Expense	\$ 65.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,935.00
Other Professional Expenses	\$ 7,315.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$ (915.00)
Board and Committee Expense	\$ 301.12	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 698.88
Office Supplies/Expense	\$ 1,540.66	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,459.34
Vehicle Expense	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Accounting Expense	\$ 26,860.79	\$ 26,800.00	\$ (60.79)
Operations	\$ 133,940.66	\$ 189,450.00	\$ 55,509.34
TOTALS	\$ 481,070.40	\$ 651,150.00	\$ 170,079.60
<u>Grant/Project Expense</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Actual</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Budget</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2026 Remaining</u>
NWC President's Discretionary Fund	\$ 449.60	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,550.40
NWC Hospitality and Public Relations Fund	\$ 1,268.61	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,731.39
NWC Grants	\$ 2,883.88	\$ -	\$ (2,883.88)
Giving Day Department Challenge	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Academic Impressions Membership/Training	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Nelson House Expense	\$ 25,154.16	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (15,154.16)
Rental Property Expense	\$ 9,471.76	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 1,028.24
Real Property Expenses	\$ 9,057.45	\$ 7,500.00	\$ (1,557.45)
Wolfe Property Expenses	\$ 738.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 762.00
WACCT Annual Dues	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,500.00	\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 77,523.46	\$ 67,000.00	\$ (10,523.46)
GRAND TOTALS	\$ 558,593.86	\$ 718,150.00	\$ 159,556.14

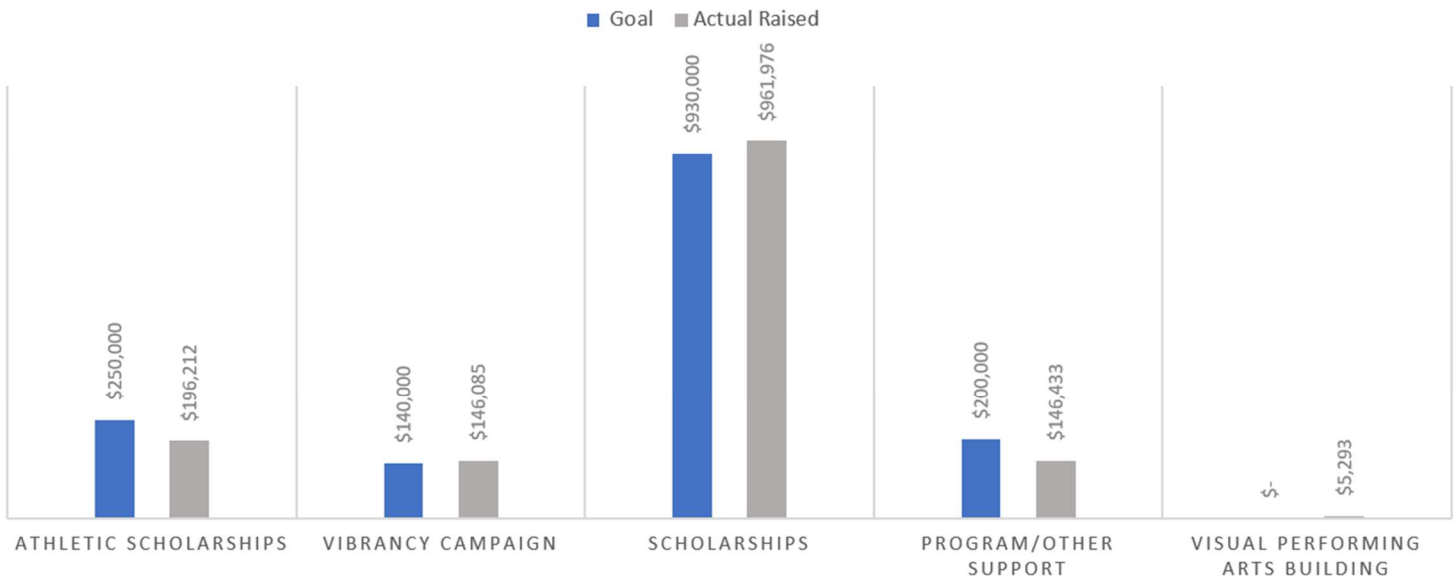
NWC Support Detail
January 1 - March 31, 2026

Account Description	Journal reference	Amount	Fund Name
Booster Club Expense	Wrestling Uniforms	\$2,000.00	Trapper Booster Club Endowment
Booster Club Expense	Gym Banner	\$135.00	Trapper Booster Club Endowment
Booster Club Expense	Scoreboard Metal Sign Redesign for State Farm Insurance	\$472.00	Trapper Booster Club Endowment
	Booster Club Expense Total	\$2,607.00	
NWC Foundation Grants	Writers Series Event Photography	\$99.83	Cody Writers Series
	NWC Foundation Grants Total	\$99.83	
Program Support Funds	TV for Scholars	\$169.99	Art and Elsa Reichert International Student Program Endowment
Program Support Funds	Mochi Tea Cakes and Lanterns	\$218.40	Art and Elsa Reichert International Student Program Endowment
Program Support Funds	ISSS Expenses- food items for events	\$432.65	Intercultural Center/BOCES Programming Endowment
Program Support Funds	Native Ways Tea	\$42.00	Intercultural Center/BOCES Programming Endowment
Program Support Funds	Intercultural Event Supplies	\$1,568.81	Intercultural Center/BOCES Programming Endowment
Program Support Funds	Library Expenses	\$4,157.93	Mary Shoemaker Nelson Memorial Endowment
Program Support Funds	Human Relations Area Files	\$1,231.00	Mary Shoemaker Nelson Memorial Endowment
Program Support Funds	Library Expenses	\$418.02	Mike Brodrick Library Acquisition Fund
Program Support Funds	Library Supplies	\$2,175.13	Mike Brodrick Library Acquisition Fund
Program Support Funds	Audio Cabling	\$223.36	Music Technology Endowment
Program Support Funds	Mileage and Supplies for Travel	\$417.88	Tom and Mary Ann Jones Education Endowment
Program Support Funds	Books and Poster	\$250.96	Tom and Mary Ann Jones Education Endowment
Program Support Funds	Ornament Project Poster	\$126.38	Tom and Mary Ann Jones Education Endowment
Program Support Funds	Work study Earnings	\$183.75	Tom and Mary Ann Jones Science Endowment
Program Support Funds	Chat GPT subscription and Work Study Earnings	\$121.00	Tom and Mary Ann Jones Science Endowment
Program Support Funds	Guest Artist Workshop	\$400.00	Friends of Northwest Music
Program Support Funds	Wendy Bredehoft-Visiting Artist and Guest Artist	\$421.00	Giving Day: Art and Design
Program Support Funds	Guest Artist Workshop - Guzman	\$1,600.00	Giving Day: Music
Program Support Funds	Backdrops from GD 2025	\$2,512.00	Giving Day: Photography
Program Support Funds	Stethoscopes for Students	\$1,091.09	Stethoscopes for Students Project
	Program Support Funds Total	\$17,761.35	
	Grand Total	\$20,468.18	

NWC Foundation Dashboard

March 31, 2026

FY2026 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN PROGRESS



Donor Retention

(donors that gave last year and this year)

Year	Retained		Goal	Revenue
	Donors	Retention %		Retained
FY 2026	576	54.14%	60%	\$908,080

Donor Acquisition

(new donors and donors that have not given in the last 5 years)

Year	Acquired		Goal	Acquisition
	Donors	Acquisition %		Revenue
FY 2026	286	11.51%	15%	\$268,502

Donor Recapture

(donors that have not given in the past 15 months but gave in the last 5 years)

Year	Recaptured		Goal	Revenue
	Donors	Recapture %		Recaptured
FY 2026	115	9.90%	15%	\$277,576

Giving Levels	No. of Donors	Total Gifts
\$10,000 and above	28	\$ 963,938
\$1,000 - \$9,999	148	\$ 356,484
\$500 - \$999	129	\$ 74,029
\$250 - \$499	112	\$ 34,065
\$100 - \$249	247	\$ 33,568
\$50 - \$99	139	\$ 8,153
\$1 - \$49	189	\$ 3,902
	992	\$ 1,474,139

Donor Pyramid



Northwest College Foundation FY2026 Fundraising Goals

Program Fundraising	2026	2026	2026	2025
	<u>Fiscal Year Actual</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Goals</u>	<u>Fiscal Year %</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Actual</u>
Athletic Scholarships	\$ 196,211.87	\$ 250,000.00	78.48%	\$ 235,676.15
Vibrancy/Student Center Campaign	\$ 146,084.92	\$ 140,000.00	104.35%	\$ 224,946.00
Scholarships/Affordability Grants	\$ 961,976.24	\$ 930,000.00	103.44%	\$ 923,483.34
Program/Other Support	\$ 146,432.98	\$ 200,000.00	73.22%	\$ 326,829.82
Visual Performing Arts Center	\$ 5,293.08	\$ -	0.00%	\$ -
Gift-in-Kind Contributions	\$ 18,140.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 313,418.59
Fundraising Total	\$ 1,474,139.09	\$ 1,520,000.00	96.98%	\$ 2,024,353.90

Appeal Tracking	2026	2026	2026	2025
	<u>Fiscal Year Actual</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Goals</u>	<u>Fiscal Year %</u>	<u>Fiscal Year Actual</u>
Athletics - Team Projects	23,589.63	25,000	94.36%	27,045.31
Athletics - Trapper Booster Club	60,148.32	55,000	109.36%	54,277.92
Foundation Events	3,885.95	10,000	38.86%	60,946.13
Friends of Music	11,592.44	8,000	144.91%	8,487.12
General Support	42,493.73	25,000	169.97%	51,427.90
Giving Tuesday	4,097.09	3,000	136.57%	4,051.48
Gift-in-Kind	18,140.00	-	0.00%	27,269.59
Individual Solicitation	595,520.96	700,000	85.07%	691,025.88
Memorials	16,181.74	10,000	161.82%	42,793.17
Outside Projects	38,835.35	35,000	110.96%	34,044.23
Pass-through/Named	42,725.00	50,000	85.45%	52,500.00
NWC Giving Day	163,013.18	200,000	81.51%	225,970.96
Planned Giving - New Estate Gifts	215,178.72	200,000	107.59%	531,496.13
Planned Giving - Recurring Estate Gifts	36,377.72	40,000	90.94%	40,928.87
Stethoscopes for Students	1,182.49	5,000	23.65%	4,611.15
WyoGives	7,292.68	4,000	182.32%	-
Year-End Giving	193,884.09	150,000	129.26%	167,478.06
	\$ 1,474,139.09	\$ 1,520,000.00	96.98%	\$ 2,024,353.90
Minus State of Wyoming Match	\$ 117,175.00	\$ 200,000.00	58.59%	\$ 500,000.00
Fundraising Total	\$ 1,356,964.09	\$ 1,320,000.00	102.80%	\$ 1,524,353.90

Participation Goals	<u>FY2026 Actual</u>	<u>FY2026 Goals</u>	<u>FY2026 %</u>	<u>FY2025 Actual</u>
Total Number of Donors	992	1150	86.26%	1007
Donor Acquisition	11.51%	15%	76.73%	11.83%
Donor Recapture	9.90%	15%	66.00%	13.30%
Donor Retention	54.14%	60%	90.23%	50.74%
Alumni Donors	432	510	84.71%	443
Employee Donors	107	115	93.04%	102
Increase payroll givers	71	85	83.53%	79
Employee participation	61.85%	65%	95.15%	58.96%
Increase Presidential Partners	168	220	76.36%	177
Key Leadership participation	94.74%	100%	94.74%	97.44%
Foundation Board participation	96.00%	100%	96.00%	100.00%



NWC Foundation Fundraising Report by Month

FY 2026

Reference	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
CGA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Endowed Funds	\$ 20,749.57	\$ 14,187.92	\$ 29,370.64	\$ 97,254.50	\$ 45,606.58	\$ 321,009.90	\$ 268,113.89	\$ 134,062.72	\$ 122,842.06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,053,197.78
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 1,137.21	\$ 495.04	\$ 615.24	\$ 781.60	\$ 2,096.13	\$ 5,952.53	\$ 785.06	\$ 619.76	\$ 3,627.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,110.00
General Scholarships	\$ 659.00	\$ 248.84	\$ 174.00	\$ 174.00	\$ 749.00	\$ 899.00	\$ 224.00	\$ 5,174.00	\$ 3,524.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,825.84
Restricted Scholarships/Funds	\$ 17,250.00	\$ 52,741.00	\$ 30,470.00	\$ 42,770.00	\$ 34,775.00	\$ 24,624.05	\$ 16,985.00	\$ 35,808.92	\$ 71,074.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 326,497.97
Directed Program Funds	\$ 2,027.50	\$ 27.50	\$ 27.50	\$ 27.50	\$ 77.50	\$ 27.50	\$ 8,277.50	\$ 14,277.50	\$ 12,657.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,427.50
Program Scholarships	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 475.00	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 740.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,940.00
Sub Total	\$ 42,023.28	\$ 67,850.30	\$ 60,807.38	\$ 141,482.60	\$ 85,929.21	\$ 355,412.98	\$ 295,125.45	\$ 190,142.90	\$ 217,224.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,455,999.09
GIK's	\$ -	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 13,600.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,140.00
Grand Total	\$ 42,023.28	\$ 69,590.30	\$ 74,407.38	\$ 141,482.60	\$ 85,929.21	\$ 357,912.98	\$ 295,125.45	\$ 190,142.90	\$ 217,524.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,474,139.09
% of Total	2.85%	4.72%	5.05%	9.60%	5.83%	24.28%	20.02%	12.90%	14.76%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
Cumulative	\$ 42,023.28	\$ 111,613.58	\$ 186,020.96	\$ 327,503.56	\$ 413,432.77	\$ 771,345.75	\$ 1,066,471.20	\$ 1,256,614.10	\$ 1,474,139.09	\$ 1,474,139.09	\$ 1,474,139.09	\$ 1,474,139.09	\$ 1,474,139.09



NWC Foundation Fundraising Report by Month

FY 2025

Reference	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
CGA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Estate Gifts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 285,549.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 145,947.13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 431,496.13
Endowed Funds	\$ 18,163.30	\$ 125,391.85	\$ 133,043.86	\$ 102,887.53	\$ 66,050.66	\$ 255,541.60	\$ 67,138.30	\$ 43,707.17	\$ 135,343.98	\$ 9,916.45	\$ 58,997.21	\$ 17,164.00	\$ 1,033,345.91
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 218.51	\$ 314.14	\$ 286.00	\$ 3,374.21	\$ 2,258.76	\$ 8,645.44	\$ 3,665.16	\$ 923.70	\$ 1,007.94	\$ 6,085.20	\$ 614.43	\$ 1,822.56	\$ 29,216.05
General Scholarships	\$ 105.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 875.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 929.00	\$ 194.00	\$ 934.00	\$ 10,737.00
Restricted Scholarships/Funds	\$ 13,987.00	\$ 100,596.00	\$ 27,963.00	\$ 23,923.00	\$ 19,508.86	\$ 44,756.00	\$ 37,831.50	\$ 24,305.00	\$ 113,672.86	\$ 18,397.00	\$ 9,215.00	\$ 12,640.00	\$ 446,795.22
Directed Program Funds	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 275.00	\$ 777.50	\$ 10,327.50	\$ 19,685.00	\$ 1,055.00	\$ 31.50	\$ 27.50	\$ 32,199.00
Program Scholarships	\$ 45.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 845.00	\$ 395.00	\$ 845.00	\$ 3,995.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 12,695.00
Sub Total	\$ 32,528.81	\$ 226,461.99	\$ 447,786.86	\$ 131,754.74	\$ 89,538.28	\$ 314,063.04	\$ 109,547.46	\$ 79,398.37	\$ 427,006.91	\$ 36,457.65	\$ 69,227.14	\$ 32,713.06	\$ 1,996,484.31
GIK's	\$ 290.00	\$ 2,630.59	\$ 15,075.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,977.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,097.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 27,869.59
Grand Total	\$ 32,818.81	\$ 229,092.58	\$ 462,861.86	\$ 131,754.74	\$ 90,038.28	\$ 321,040.04	\$ 109,547.46	\$ 79,398.37	\$ 427,006.91	\$ 38,554.65	\$ 69,527.14	\$ 32,713.06	\$ 2,024,353.90
% of Total	1.62%	11.32%	22.86%	6.51%	4.45%	15.86%	5.41%	3.92%	21.09%	1.90%	3.43%	1.62%	
Cumulative	\$ 32,818.81	\$ 261,911.39	\$ 724,773.25	\$ 856,527.99	\$ 946,566.27	\$ 1,267,606.31	\$ 1,377,153.77	\$ 1,456,552.14	\$ 1,883,559.05	\$ 1,922,113.70	\$ 1,991,640.84	\$ 2,024,353.90	\$ 2,024,353.90

Northwest College Foundation

Development Committee Minutes from March 10, 2026

Dave Bonner, chair, called the meeting to order. Committee members participating were R.J. Kost., Trace Paul and Nicole Rodriguez-Brown. Shelby Wetzel, Executive Director, Cory Ostermiller, Development Manager, and Jill Hartmann, Alumni and Development Coordinator, were also in attendance.

Shelby Wetzel shared a spreadsheet detailing the NWC scholarship budget for the 2026-27 academic year. After several years of the Foundation providing nearly all scholarship money, NWC is coming to the table with an additional \$350,000 to improve the College's ability to recruit new students. Programmatic changes being made include removing athletes from the Trapper Scholarship pool (some money will follow them to Athletic Scholarships) and then dedicating respective Trapper budgets for new and returning student populations. Evaluation had indicated that too much of the award dollars were being claimed by athletes and returning students, leaving limited funding for securing new students at NWC. One of the takeaways is that there is still a need for scholarship fundraising.

Committee members reviewed current statistics regarding Key Leadership giving during the first 9 months of FY26. Foundation staff will reach out to those who've not yet made a gift to encourage participation in Giving Day or to make other giving plans before June 30.

Ms. Wetzel provided some updates to potential fundraising projects. The Visual and Performing Arts building has been in limbo pending the legislative session. The good news is that the legislature funded capital construction projects and reaffirmed a commitment to cover up to 55% of funding for community college projects. NWC will begin budget planning and determine the next steps for this facility. She also noted that the Hanover Research survey has indicated that area healthcare providers are feeling challenged by their own funding, and do not have the ability to provide significant financial investment supporting our desire to fund an endowed healthcare position. Work on this front will need to be focused on individual donors.

As we approach FY27, Foundation staff prompted discussion around fundraising priorities. The first topic noted was whether to seek unrestricted gifts, so the Foundation can have more flexibility to help NWC with changing initiatives. A campaign for Unrestricted Funds was not embraced because fundraising trends show that most donors desire to direct their giving. Some general categories might be able to be developed such as Faculty Endowments or Facility Improvements. Ms. Wetzel noted it might be good to identify a couple short-term projects with NWC such as Residence Hall Improvements or CTE programs. She will gather additional input from President Watson.

Lastly, directors reviewed the Development Committee's designated FY26 Strategic Plan actions and checked their mid-year progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Shelby Wetzel, NWC Executive Director

Northwest College Foundation Donor Accountability and Stewardship Committee Minutes from April 8, 2026

Jacque Michel, chair, called the meeting to order. Other participants were Stefanie Bell, Wendy Capps, Clay Cummins, Carolyn Danko and Casey Sorenson; plus, Shelby Wetzel, Executive Director and Jill Hartmann, Alumni and Development Coordinator.

Shelby Wetzel opened the meeting by updating committee members about the \$7 per credit hour tuition increase passed by the Wyoming Community College Communion for the eight community colleges coming this 2026-2027 academic year. She noted NWC is working on a plan to mitigate the impact on its students. The college administration is also preparing to remove the limits for the number of scholarships awarded to be bold with its recruiting efforts. NWC will be launching some dedicated marketing on these programs. The group discussed the need for boots on the ground and for everyone to help spread the word!

Shelby shared that she is currently conducting a series of one-on-one meetings with all board members. She mentioned a couple of ideas regarding campus impact reporting that the committee might champion in the future and encouraged the group to think on this topic themselves as they prepare for meetings with her individually.

Jill Hartmann shared an invitation to the upcoming Presidential Partners Appreciation Event on May 5 at the NWC Art Gallery (inside the Cabre Building) that will feature this year's top student artwork. It also includes a walk to the Student Center to take in the outstanding student photography displayed in the Big Horn Federal Gallery area. Faculty from both departments are excited to welcome guests to campus and showcase the talents of their students who will also be in attendance.

Jill also displayed the Friends of Music Jazz Night Reception invitation that will be held at the Nelson House on April 18 prior to NWC's Spring Jazz Concert on campus. Supporters can visit with faculty before attending the musical performances in the NPA Auditorium.

Shelby reported that 39 Scholarship Donor Profiles have been completed so far in FY26, bringing the overall total to 205 (out of 329). The goal is to complete 16 more and reach 55 by the end of FY28.

Lastly, directors reviewed the DA&S Committee's designated FY26 Strategic Plan actions and checked their mid-year progress.

The meeting was adjourned.

Shelby Wetzel, NWC Foundation Executive Director

Northwest College Foundation

Executive Committee Notes from February email communication

Executive Director Shelby Wettzel proposed some updates to the NWC Foundation's Blackbaud database contracts to the Executive Committee. NWC Foundation has an opportunity to be part of an early adopter program and help pilot a new AI Agent as one of 35 selected clients.

The Foundation tiptoed into some AI communications with the previous Gravyty product, but staff feel this approach may work better for several reasons:

- It adds capacity by facilitating outreach on its own rather than drafting messages for them, clogging up their inboxes and adding to our daily workload. This AI Agent transitions prospects to staff members after a prospect responds to engagement and is ready for more personal activity.
- We'll be able to 'train' the Agent with messaging tailored to NWC Foundation and Alumni and NWC, and we'll review communications prior to distribution to ensure quality control.
- The technology is being developed by our existing database company, not as an add-on product, so the interface should be cleaner and secure.
- We still need to embrace AI and find the best ways for it to streamline our future work.

There is a cost of \$20,000 annually for up to two years. This is discounted from what it will cost after the pilot. We would like to complete the two-year package, to provide ample time to determine the product's value for the future. Our Blackbaud wealth screening contract will end in March. A new three-year agreement will cost \$14,642.26 in 2026, \$15,813.64 in 2027 and \$17,078.73 in 2028. While the information provided is valuable, it takes us more than a year to work through the data. (In fact, we've asked if we can contract every other year, but that is not possible!) We are willing to forgo the wealth screening contract for the next two years, so our additional investment would average about \$5,000 per year. At the end of the two-year period, we'll need to reinvest in wealth screening and perhaps continue with the AI Agent, if it provides a reasonable ROI.

Shelby shared some slides from the company's presentation and noted the potential outcomes listed below.

- **Increase donor engagement**
 - i. Expand outreach to mid-tier (\$500-\$4999) donors through more timely and efficient digital communication
 - ii. Increase giving participation frequency from mid-tier* donors

- **Improve donor retention**
 - i. Identify trends in giving behavior to create more frequent touch points with existing donors
 - ii. Increase average annual gift size over time

- **Increase donor expansion**
 - i. Increase response rates and engagement metrics with more tailored, personalized communications
 - ii. Develop and cultivate mid-tier donors into major donors

- **Improve resource utilization (reactive to proactive)**
 - i. Eliminate repetitive time-consuming tasks to redeploy staff on strategic programs or development efforts
 - ii. Enable organizations to focus on execution against top goals

Through an email exchange, committee members expressed support for a small, additional investment. The plan will be to evaluate the ROI/value and determine how to proceed again in 2028.

Shelby Wetzel, Executive Director



Northwest College Foundation

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2026

Present in person: David Northrup, Mike McDaniel, Tim Hopkins, Shelby Wetzel, Dillon Jeffs, Brian Bentley (Morgan Stanley)

Present online: Steve Rockhold, Tyler Yates, Dusty Schutzman, Chris Taggart

Chris Taggart called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM

1. The meeting began with Brian Bentley going over the quarterly and annual investment performance. As of 3/31/2026 the Foundation had approximately \$55.23 million in our Morgan Stanley investment accounts, plus \$3 million in our general account with Morgan Stanley held in treasuries for our annual scholarship payment. Brian highlighted the trailing portfolio returns (annualized, net of fees) for the calendar year of 2025 the Foundation accounts:
2.
 - a. Year-to-date return was -1.68%, Trailing 12-month return was 13.66%, 3-year return was 10.78%, 5-year return was 6.3%, 10-year return was 8.15%, and since inception in 2008 our annualized return is 6.65%.

After reviewing the returns Brian noted that April has seen the markets rebound, and the markets were back near all-time highs as of the time of the meeting. Brian also noted that there is a small concern of a “credit event”. This happens when private credit firms see a run on withdrawals exceeding funds flowing in. We have a small position in Blue Owl Private Credit, and a credit event could prevent us from liquidating the position quickly if we need access to the funds. Since our position is so small (less than a .5% of our total portfolio), Brian is not overly concerned. Our portfolio currently yields approximately \$1.1 million in dividends and interest in addition to the market gains, and Brian feels that much of the market risk right now is narratively driven and not based on actual economic indicators. We are currently in compliance with our investment policy, with an allocation of 77.4% in equities, 7.8% in alternatives (approximately 6% in real estate) and 14.9% in fixed income. There was some brief discussion on the percentage of our portfolio being in equities, with the committee deciding that to meet our investment earnings target of 7% we need exposure to equities, and since we are in line with our investment policy statement, there is no problem with our current level of exposure.

During the first quarter of 2026, value stocks outperformed growth stocks, primarily due to them being less risky during the downturn because of the conflict with Iran. Our Jennison Natural Resources fund was the high performer of the quarter at 18.77%. Brian ended his discussion on the market by talking about inflation being the primary risk for the rest of the



year. If oil prices remain high long-term, this could drive inflation up. Apart from this risk, Brian noted that if you cut through the noise of social media and news outlets, the economy is strong, and Morgan Stanley is optimistic for the rest of the year.

There was also discussion on timing of treasuries maturing. In the coming months, the Foundation will need to pay the college for scholarships, endowed chair positions, Paul Stock funds, Student Center payments, and various operational endowments. The total of these payments will require approximately \$2.1 million, which will be transferred from the \$3 million of treasuries currently held in the Morgan Stanley General Account.

3. Shelby briefly went over the Foundation's annual strategic plan checklist. She noted that we have streamlined our investment management to a more passive strategy to reduce fees, we have facilitated the timing of annual payments to NWC to maximize the utilization of resources, and she has continued to work with donors to adjust criteria to enable the awarding of scholarships with restrictive criteria. Shelby has also continued work with college administrators to establish various quasi-endowments that will allow cash flows to the college for various needs, including support for grant positions and professional development. She is optimistic this will be completed by the end of the year. She ended by mentioning that we completed an operating reserve policy and we continue to build our unrestricted cash reserves.

4. After Shelby finished going over the annual strategic plan check-in, Dillon reviewed the quarterly unrestricted general fund overview. The report summarizes the quarter-end position and the quarterly activity of the unrestricted general fund's liquid assets. As of the end of March, the quarter-end unrestricted general fund balance was \$208,569.43 and the net activity was a surplus of \$206,358.01. Dillon explained that the third quarter of the fiscal year will typically see a decline in the net activity surplus because the primary funding source of the general fund is the Endowment Management Fee and the payout from the Foundation General Fund Endowment. These two internal transfers make up over 90% of the general fund's funding every year and they are assessed in the second quarter. Dillon noted that because of this the Foundation General Fund will likely continue to be steadily drained for the remainder of the fiscal year, and he projected that by the end of the fiscal year the net activity should remain positive, and that the Foundation's general fund is trending in the right direction.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 PM

Dillon Jeffs, Foundation Accountant

Northwest College Foundation

Governance Committee Minutes from March 16, 2026

Megan Nickles, chair, called the meeting to order. Committee members attending were Bryan Lee, Stan Lundberg, Tate McCoy and Charlotte Patrick. Also present were Shelby Wetzel, executive director, and Cory Ostermiller, development manager.

Shelby Wetzel introduced review of the recent performance assessment survey. Twenty-four of the Foundation's 25 directors completed the survey. The results are mostly satisfactory, with a few outliers. The committee discussed adding a question about the length of service on the board to better pattern if those who are unsure in some respects are newer to the board or if we have gaps of understanding over time. Ms. Wetzel shared that she has developed some follow-up questions and plans to schedule one-on-one meetings with all directors. She hopes this will elicit some ideas of how to better use Board member skills or what kind of communication or training people desire. The committee will assess the need for action after Shelby gathers further input from these visits.

The Governance Committees continued its work in developing a timeline for review of the various CASE Foundation Management Checklist items. The plan is to determine if activities should fall into one-year, three-year or five-year rotations based on the specific topics. Committee members worked through sections three and four on the checklist and will address the final sections at their next meeting.

Lastly, directors reviewed the Governance Committee's designated FY26 Strategic Plan actions and checked their mid-year progress.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Shelby Wetzel, Executive Director

Executive Director Report for February 2026

Introduction

At our last meeting, we conducted the Foundation's biennial Board Assessment which provides some quantitative analysis of people's feelings about our work. I'm now completing individual meetings with all directors to gather additional qualitative information and ideas regarding the Foundation, to probe areas needed for training, and identify ways to improve communication or support for directors.

The Governance Committee will review the findings of both activities and develop recommendations for future action which will be presented at the meeting in August. You'll still see the full survey results at that time.

Impact Story



The NWC Alumni Association is drumming up Trapper Spirit in classrooms throughout the Bighorn Basin. Trapper Educator pennants were sent to alumni working in area schools to help shine a light on Northwest College and create a sense of pride in the institution with hopes that there will be tickle down to enrollment success for NWC. It's been very well received, and many photos have been shared!

Foundation Headlines

Other highlights from our current work include:

- Much of my Giving Day work is concentrated in the strategy development for matching funds and working to solicit Challenge Donors to help set the stage for the annual giving activity. I also helped coordinate NWC administrator participation and assigned campus projects.
- The Jones Family Endowed Chairs are open to new applicants every three years. I am facilitating the selection process this spring for the Science and Education opportunities.

- We have developed a Planned Giving marketing plan with our outside vendor for the coming year. Development of the first postcard mailer is underway.
- We received notification of another pending estate gift worth \$70,000 or so. Noel Wilkie established a family scholarship many years ago and left a provision for some additional funding after both he and his wife passed away. Connie, age 97, has been living in Maryland and died on March 28.
- Northwest College is seeking cash management services from the Foundation to enhance the returns it can receive through 'Quasi-endowment Investments' with non-governmental funds. President Watson and folks from NWC's Business Office plus Dillon and me met with representatives from the UW Foundation to visit about their operations and agreements. We are in the planning phases but hope to move forward soon.
- We collaborated with Financial Aid regarding scholarship budget development and selection for the 2026-27. We coordinated outside selection work with clubs and organizations who maintain NWC scholarships. We also processed award letters to 330+ students regarding the Trapper Scholarship awards packages.
- I continue to participate as a member of NWC's Grants Leadership Team related to strategy development and help ensure complimentary focus for the Foundation in the process.

Fundraising Focus

Northwest College continues to face enrollment challenges.

We pat ourselves on the back and note that we have significant assets for a college of our size and we do. However, one conclusion we've made is that there is still a need for more scholarships.

But do we need larger awards to turn heads and really capture students? Do we need more dollars to spread to a greater number of students? The College is being bold and promising scholarships to every student this year to see if that moves the needle. We're hoping it may help inform our future work, but you can count on scholarships being a significant focus.

Programmatic offerings are also being evaluated. There might be fundraising opportunities for us here but they might develop more slowly.

We plan to discuss this in greater detail at the meeting.

As always, I look forward to working with each of you to reach the Foundation's goals.



Shelby Wetzel
Executive Director

Development Manager Report

Cory Ostermiller
April 2026

Foundation Work

- Worked with Shelby and Jill to secure Giving Day challenge and matching sponsors for donor incentives/matching gifts.
- Worked to prompt gifts on Giving Day via solicitation calls and emails to NWC alumni and community supporters.
- The 2026 Giving Day is complete. The Foundation raised over \$189,000 with 318 donors. We are reviewing the event and shaping future strategies.
- Continue to initiate top donor solicitations and seeking pledges for general/named scholarships and programs.
- Focusing on stewardship activities and promoting good will and accountability to donors.
- Continue work on updating Scholarship profiles.
- Develop and assign prospects for specific initiatives such as Affordability Grants.
- Continued work with the Development and Governance committees.
- Working with Blackbaud with the onboarding process of setting up Development Agent 'Trapper Sam'.
- Looking to make a minimum of three contacts per day with both pools. Relationship Manager and Prospect Pipeline.

Athletics

- Working on targeted Athletic scholarship prospects to support recruiting student athletes.
- Planning for the 2026 Trapper Bonanza Golf tournament, dinner, and Calcutta. Working with AD Brian Erickson to secure sponsors for golf events. This year's tournament will once again be held in conjunction with Paint the Town Red weekend in August.
- Supporting individual team crowdfunding to raise money for the athletic teams.

Misc.

- Supporting Jill Hartmann with the Alumni Association, annual giving, alumni programming and employee giving.
- Contributing to the Foundation publications/newsletters such as TrapperLink, TrapperConnect etc.
- Begin planning for the Trapper Classic Car Show at the end of June.

Alumni & Development Coordinator Report

Jill Hartmann | April 2026

Annual Giving

- Engaged in donor cultivation through birthday emails.
- Collaborated with E-Sports to host fundraiser raffle to benefit a newly established team scholarship.
- Coordinated planning and mailing of March 2026 NWC 4 Life retiree newsletter.
- Planned and hosted Jazz Night Reception for over 20 Friends of Music donors and guests on April 18th.
- Planned Presidential Partner Appreciation Reception in conjunction with the Art & Design and Photography departments to be held on Tuesday, May 5th.
- Met with PG Calc representative to determine planned giving strategy for FY27.

Giving Day

- Set up and managed GiveCampus platform.
- Oversaw design and distribution of two direct mail pieces, three email promotions, and a series of emails tailored to each campus project sent to alumni from that field.
- Designed new eblast series segmented into four recapture and retention prospect groups.
- Designed “Promotion Toolkit” for 14 campus projects so they would be equipped to promote their projects.
- Managed Facebook and Instagram posts for full 24 hours of Giving Day updates.
- Designed and executed “Clear the Path” and “Student Scavenger Hunt” sub-campaigns for faculty, staff, and students culminating at the “Giving Day Campus Rally”.

Alumni Programming

- Hosted online Alumni Association Board Meeting in February.
- Hosted “Alumni Climbing Night” on February 17th which welcomed over 60 alumni and friends.
- Planned and facilitated meetings for four Alumni Association Board Committees (Events, Communications, and Philanthropy all met in March; Executive met in April).
- Collaborated with Executive Committee to recruit new board members.
- Facilitated review and selection by Philanthropy Committee members of 2026-2027 Alumni Scholarship recipients.
- Continued to recruit mentees for Alumni Mentoring Program.
- Solicited Distinguished Alumni nominations and coordinated selection committee meeting.
- Designed “Trapper Educator” pennants and distributed over 250 to alumni who work in an educational environment in Park, Big Horn, and Washakie Counties.
- Planning for the quarterly Alumni Association Board meeting and Distinguished Alumni Luncheon on Saturday, May 9th.

Publications, Website and Social Media

- Coordinated the February issue of TrapperLink.
- Coordinated content and design on Spring TrapperConnect to be mailed on April 21st

Other

- Participated in Park County Travel Council monthly meetings in February and March plus board retreat in April. Elected as Treasurer at April board retreat.
- Participated in Foundation Board committee meetings for Development and Donor Accountability & Stewardship.

President's Report

March 30, 2026

State

Legislature

The legislative session wrapped up on March 11, 2026. The budget session brought more positive State support than expected, but not without considerable effort from the Colleges, the Commission, the Presidents, and especially Director Erin Taylor. The Colleges will be shifting efforts towards interim work and the loss of funds and pending election as it relates to property tax, and local levies.

The Colleges are extremely thankful to those legislators who believe in and support the Colleges' programming and operations for their students and community. Attached at the end of this report is the WACCT Final Legislative Summary as of March 12, 2026, which summarizes the results and policies enacted that affect Community Colleges.

Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC)

No WCCC meeting was held in March.

Wyoming Association of Community College Trustees (WACCT)

No WACCT meetings were held in March, as work was focused on the Legislature while it was in session.

Campus

Spring Break was March 9 to 13, 2026, with many students and faculty taking time off from semester work.

Men's and women's basketball wrapped up regular season play and moved on to the Region 9 tournament playoffs. Each team had a very competitive season, resulting in Northwest College hosting the 1st round of the Region 9 North playoffs. Both teams progressed successfully through several rounds before losing. The women's team played up and in the final Region 9 tournament, eventually losing to Gillette. Both teams had great seasons, with many talented athletes participating and earning national recognition.

NWC Wrestling traveled to Iowa from March 6 to 8 for the National NJCAA Tournament. We were very excited to congratulate Austin Richens for winning the National Championship in the heavyweight division and also earning Most Outstanding Wrestler, the first Trapper to ever receive this award. Asadbek Faysullaev and Zachary Covolo also placed third in the 184- and 141-pound weight classes, respectively. Northwest College finished strong, placing 8th overall after bringing six other national qualifiers to Nationals. Congratulations, everyone, on a great season.

Forensics - Stetson Asay, Aspen Atkinson, Katie Badget, Taylah French, Isabella Gomez, Eric Kraft, and Seid Orazgulyyev competed in the 2026 Western States Communication Association Forensics Tournament from February 27- March 1, hosted by San Diego State University. In the individual events, Seid placed 14th as a speaker in NPDA on Day 2. Isabella tied for ninth place in extemporaneous speaking and was the seventh speaker in NPDA. Katie placed eighth in

communication analysis on Day 1, sixth place in POI on Day 2, and fourth place in communication analysis on Day 2. Aspen placed sixth in Prose on Day 1. The Northwest College Forensics team also won second place in the community college sweepstakes awards.

The weekend of March 7, Stetson Asay, Aspen Atkinson, Katie Badget, Taylah French, Isabella Gomez, Eric Kraft, Seid Orazgulyyev, and Shir Shamedov competed in the 44th Annual Pioneer Trails hosted by Casper College. Taylah won fifth in persuasive and seventh in informative. Stetson won fifth in drama. Eric won second in drama. Katie won third in duo, second in ADS, communication analysis, and tied for second in POI. Aspen won third in duo and prose and tied for second in POI. In terms of sweepstakes, Northwest College took second overall for the Pioneer Trails tournament.

The Northwest College Forensics team competed in the 2026 Phi Rho Pi Region One tournament, hosted by the College of Southern Idaho over ZOOM on Friday, March 20, Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22. Stetson Asay, Aspen Atkinson, Katie Badget, Paul Curry, Isabella Gomez, Eric Kraft, and Seid Orazgulyyev competed over three days via ZOOM in individual events and two types of debate. On Friday, Stetson, Isabella, and Seid competed in Parliamentary debate. Both teams won all four of their rounds! Seid partnered with former NWC student Zach Fernandez and placed 4th. Isabella and Stetson placed 3rd. Isabella also placed second out of 28 competitors. On Saturday, students competed in individual events. Eric took second in Drama. Katie took second in DUO and CA and FIRST in ADS. Aspen took second in DUO and FIRST in POI. On Sunday, Stetson, Paul, and Isabella competed in IPDA debate. Stetson earned a bronze award. Isabella won a silver award and placed fifth as a speaker out of 20 competitors. Congratulations to Forensics for the strong showing this month!

The agriculture program hosted its annual FFA contest on campus on Thursday and Friday, March 26-27. Several hundred contestants participated in various agriculture-related events across campus, with attendees from three states. The campus was alive! VP Erickson, VP Havron, and I had the opportunity to watch some of the livestock judging and welcome everyone to campus.

This month, I attended the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) conference and presented on the Student Center project. The “Small Budget, Big Impact: Creative Fiscal and Space Planning at Northwest College” presentation was well received with good attendance and several attendees staying after for follow-up questions. Attendees were particularly interested and commented on our planning for the temporary dining facilities, our work with the County, and the creative use of the fairgrounds' commercial kitchen. It was my first presentation as President at a national conference.

I also attended the Higher Learning Commission conference in March, where I participated in the full-day President's Series. Speaker sessions included updates on the current state of accreditation, credentialing, leadership, student financial mobility, federal updates, and advocacy. Following the Presidents Series, I participated in the full conference with Marnee Crawford and Walt Jatkowski, attending various sessions on dual credit, faculty credentialing and qualifications, AI in higher education, cocurricular assessment, international student trends, and federal immigration and proposed regulations.

Strategic Plan

(Pillar 1.1.2) *Collaborate with K12, State, & Businesses on program needs.* The Presidents continue to meet with WIP Director Schoenfeld as part of the Presidents' Steering Group to discuss Statewide programmatic and industry sector needs. The Wyoming Business Alliance is working hard to transition WIP and work with the PSG, businesses, K-12 and government to define the next phase of statewide collaboration.

(Pillar 1.5.1) *Innovate academic programming.* Hanover completed the Farm and Ranch agricultural study and will be working on a study focused on the Visual and Performing Arts program offerings. Discussions began about the business programming study and the renewal of employment needs data.

(Pillar 1.1.4.) *Implement and operate campus grants.* Northwest College continues to work on writing and/or the recent submission of several grants. The Lowe's Foundation Gable grant was completed and submitted on Friday, March 27, 2026, and focuses on career and technical programming. Thanks go out to Ellucian, Christi Greaham, Ty Flock, Dave Erickson, and the entire grant team. This submission was a lot of work, and we went through programmatic needs assessments and opportunity review. A Wyoming Arts Council grant was also submitted on March 27 for the 2027 Jazz Festival. Several other discussions are ongoing with departments relating to grant requests and ideas.

(Pillar 2.1.1) *Develop a robust marketing plan around college branding and strategic enrollment.* Director Miller and President Watson kicked off meetings with Ms. Pam Cox-Otto, retired CEO of Interact Communication and Consultant to Twenty Fifth Hour Communication, around our current marketing efforts and strategic focus. Ms. Cox-Otto was on campus March 23-27 to meet with the Marketing and Communications team and the Strategic Enrollment team. Pam will be working with Director Miller and her team as we redefine our efforts in Pillar 2.

(Pillar 2.2) *Elevate Strategic Enrollment efforts.* VP Havron and President Watson kicked off meetings with Ms. Pam Cox-Otto, retired CEO of Interact Communication and Consultant to Twenty Fifth Hour Communication, regarding the strategic enrollment plan and current operational efforts for Fall 2026 enrollment. Ms. Cox-Otto was on campus March 23-27 to meet with the Admission and SEM team, along with other Student Service groups, Financial Aid, and the Foundation. Pam will be working with VP Havron, VP Erickson, the faculty, and campus staff as we focus on redefining our roles and responsibilities relating to admissions, enrollment, student retention, and best practices.

(Pillar 3.3.4) *Advocate for compensation and benefits.* The College Presidents and Trustees successfully advocated for increased compensation funding at the legislative session. Allocation of these funds is still being calculated and will be available effective July 1, 2026.

(Pillar 4.1.3) *Revitalize Campus – ORB Renewal Project.* The Orendorff building project continues on pace for late summer completion and is about 50% complete with resurfacing of the CMU walls. The existing electrical transformer was too small and has been successfully upgraded and installed. Internal electrical upgrades continue, along with the installation of new heating and cooling ductwork. Wiring for data and the phone system, along with the installation of the sprinkler system, is nearing completion.

(Pillar 4.1.5) *Revitalize Campus – Trapper Village West Improvements.* The full renovation of two out-of-service three-bedroom units at Trapper Village West is complete. In-house minor repairs and mid-range renovations continue for all active units as they become available and staffing allows.

(Pillar 4.2.1) *Grow Revenue- advocate for legislative support.* The College Presidents, Trustees, and Commission advocated and received \$5 million in increased funding for the base State funding. Additional funds were approved for Career and Technical Programming and Dual Enrollment through the WY Department of Education. Allocation amounts are yet to be determined.

Foundation, Alumni, and Booster Club

The Foundation held its annual giving day on March 26-27. In its sixth year, the event was once again successful in raising funds for key areas, including scholarships and programmatic support. Over 318 donors contributed over \$189,000. My sincere thanks to Shelby Wetzel and her team for their ongoing commitment to Giving Day and their creative efforts to increase campus engagement through the Clear the Path event. There were many pies to the face that campus members seemed to enjoy watching! I

am also truly thankful to our NWC donors whose contributions make scholarships and programs available for the benefit of our students.

Local engagement

Powell Economic Partnership

I could not attend the PEP meeting on March 19, 2026. The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report and the Director's report. An executive session was held on the budget and Organizational structure. Additional agenda items centered around policy work for both PEP and the PEP Foundation.

Forward Cody

I could not attend the Forward Cody meeting on March 24, 2026. The meeting included a regular review of financial statements, an update on property holdings and membership, the CEO's report, and updates on various projects, including a short-term loan to CYAIR as guaranteed funds for expanded air service from Cody to Chicago during the summer.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa M. Watson
President

FINAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY MARCH 12, 2026

The Wyoming Legislature wrapped up its 2026 budget session on Wednesday, March 11, after an intense and fast-moving four weeks. While the primary task was crafting a balanced, conservative budget, lawmakers devoted substantial time to high-profile debates on gun rights, abortion, election policy, and proposed cuts to the University of Wyoming and the Wyoming Business Council. Throughout these discussions, the role and visibility of the Community Colleges rose significantly, as conversations about property tax relief, capital construction, and long-term funding stability became increasingly interconnected.

During the 2026 Budget Session, a total of 335 bills and resolutions were numbered for introduction, with 114 ultimately passing both chambers. The Senate introduced 101 bills and sent 72 to the Governor, while the House introduced 91 bills and advanced 42. Across the session, legislators worked through 837 amendments, and committee bills once again proved the most successful, with 65 clearing both chambers (57 percent), compared to 49 individually sponsored bills (22 percent).

The Legislature adopted the State's 2027–2028 biennial budget on March 2 after months of review and debate. The final budget includes \$10.10 billion in total appropriations from all funds, with \$3.46 billion from the state's general fund. This represents a reduction of \$33.8 million in all funds and \$1.9 million in general funds from what the Governor and Judicial Branch originally requested (excluding capital construction). Budget deliberations were extensive: the House considered 247 amendments and adopted 37, while the Senate debated 72 and adopted 37. A Joint Conference Committee reconciled the two versions before the bill was sent to the Governor.

Gov. Mark Gordon signed the budget on March 5 and issued several line-item vetoes. The Legislature voted by a two-thirds majority in both chambers to override four of those vetoes, finalizing the 2027–2028 biennial budget.

In addition to the budget, lawmakers passed two major K–12 education measures. The school finance recalibration bill includes a \$275 million appropriation for the School Foundation Program, and the K–12 school facilities bill provides \$393.7 million for construction, maintenance, and upgrades to public school buildings statewide.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Through the Wyoming Community College Commission (WCCC), the college began the budget session asking for a combined \$43M in funding (\$19M unrestricted operating funding, \$15M CTE, and \$9M for Wyoming Works), still carrying an emphasis on sustainably funding the colleges into the future.

It's essential to understand the full financial picture when reductions to local mills are layered on top of the rising cost of delivering community college education. Overall, ongoing funding to the colleges amounts to \$33M. The Wyoming Community College Commission estimates that current property tax relief measures will reduce local mill revenue by **\$16.6M** across the system over the biennium. When that loss is combined with the **\$19M** the Commission requested simply to keep pace with inflation, the colleges still end up \$380,854 short. The gap becomes even more pronounced when compared to the Commission's original **\$48M** identified need earlier in the budget cycle.

While it may be tempting to focus on what the colleges did not receive, the real issue in front of all of us is the **actual cost of delivering high-quality community college education**—and how that cost continues to grow as revenues decline.

The takeaway is straightforward: we are playing a long game when it comes to messaging about **sustainable funding** (this includes the right dollar amount and funding model) and the true cost of education delivery. With a general election approaching—and a proposed 50% reduction in residential property taxes on the horizon—clear, consistent communication about the financial realities facing Wyoming’s community colleges is more important than ever.

Please see the summary below:

Community Colleges

- \$14.6M for community college employee compensation increases (a priority for the colleges for several years)
- Adds \$5M to the WCCC block grant for the colleges - ongoing funding
- Maintains \$1.5M in state aid (denying recalibration reduction)
- \$7.5M for CTE - ongoing funding (asked for \$15M)
- \$600K more for college rodeo teams (already have \$200K) - ongoing funding
- \$750,450 competitive grant for dual enrollment pilot program - one-time funding
- Includes language prohibiting the use of state aid to pay student athletes salaries or endorsement compensation

Wyoming Community College Commission

- Funds 100% of technology request within the WCCC's administration budget request
- \$5M (asked for \$9M) for Wyoming Works programmatic funding and \$584,486 for student funding - one-time funding
- \$3,929,004 for Adult Education, \$7,521,256 for Wyoming Investment in Nursing, \$481,250 for Veteran's Tuition Benefits
- Raises state employee compensation to 2024 pay tables

Wyoming Public Television

- WPTV's standard budget request, plus increases the WPTV's endowment spending authority to \$400K
- \$3M for WPTV's exception request for operations
- \$283,598 for WPTV employee pay increases

BILLS OF INTEREST (BILLS THAT PASSED)

- **SF 20 – Data privacy for government entities** – the WCCC and the colleges need to keep track of the impacts of this bill. If it requires an increase in resources (including dollars), we will need to report back to the Department of Enterprise Technology Services and the legislature.
- **SF 47 – Increase in Hathaway Scholarship awards** - This bill increases the scholarship awards from the Hathaway Scholarship Program (Program) beginning July 1, 2026, by increasing the awards by 40.5 percent: Hathaway Provisional Opportunity Scholarship and Hathaway Opportunity Scholarship increase from \$840 to \$1,180 per semester, Hathaway Performance Scholarship increases from \$1,260 to \$1,770 per semester, and Hathaway Honors Scholarship increases from \$1,680 to \$2,360 per semester. The maximum Hathaway Need Based Scholarship, for students other than Hathaway Honors Scholarship awardees, increases from a maximum of \$1,575 to \$2,120 per year and a minimum of \$105 to \$150 per year. Program award amounts have been increased once since the Program began in FY 2007, a 5 percent increase in accordance with 2014 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 119, beginning FY 2015.
- **HB 25 – Wyoming’s Tomorrow Scholarship** – eliminates the continuous enrollment requirement for the scholarship.
- **HB 45 – Long Term Homeowner Tax Exemption** – This is the only tax relief bill to pass this session. This bill changes the long-term homeowner tax exemption deadline and repeals the sunset date, decreasing property taxes beginning in tax year 2027 (FY 2028). Tax year 2025 impact of \$45M. The bill passed with amendments to keep the 25 years of paying taxes (65 years of age), owner occupied, and put a limit on the amount of assessed valuation to which the exemption would apply (the first 3M of market value), and amend the exemption to 50%

of assessed value. The WCCC will continue to calculate the impact of this bill, along with the other tax relief measures.

- **HB 96** – lowering the age of conceal carry from 21 to 18.
- **HB 111** – State funded capital construction – includes funding for the following projects:
 - LCCC exterior renewal
 - Sheridan College Science Center
 - Major maintenance for all colleges, including the NWC Student Center
 - \$750,000 one-to-one match for CWC Jackson Campus
 - \$6M for the GCCD Enzi Building (only if they impose 4 mills)

INTERIM TOPICS

The Management Council will meet on April 1st to discuss interim topics. The Community College should expect to see interest from the Joint Education Committee and the Joint Corporations Committee. Meetings dates have not been set at this time.

WHAT'S NEXT

As we close out the 2026 budget session, expect to hear from Erin Taylor with guidance on how to communicate with your legislators about the work that unfolded over the past four weeks. This session was unpredictable at times—some legislators supported community college priorities one day and not the next. There were numerous votes touching our issues, and not everyone voted consistently or even on the same side from bill to bill. That's the nature of a fast-moving budget session with high-profile debates layered on top of complex funding questions.

One truth in politics remains constant: you may not agree with someone today, but you may need their vote tomorrow. Relationships matter. And as we continue the long-game messaging around sustainable funding, especially with a proposed 50% reduction in residential property taxes looming in the general election, maintaining those relationships is more important than ever.

I have one request for all of you—***thank your legislators***. It's okay to keep track of who supports your college but keep working to maintain relationships. Our job is to keep educating, keep showing up, and keep building trust.

NWC NEWS DESK

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Good News for Northwest College Students: College and Foundation Team Up to Cover State Tuition Increase

April 09, 2026

Share via:   

POWELL, WY – Northwest College has some good news for its students and their families: despite a [tuition increase recently approved by the Wyoming Community College Commission](#) for all Wyoming community colleges, Northwest College students will not see that increase in their bills next year, including in-state, out-of-state, and WUE students.

Together, the College with the Northwest College Foundation are covering the cost of the tuition increase for new and continuing degree-seeking students enrolling for the 2026-27 academic year, so students can stay focused on their education without worrying about an added cost. The new program is called the Northwest College Bridge to Success Grant and shows NWC's commitment to student affordability.



"We know times are tough right now for a lot of people in our community," said Lisa Watson, President of Northwest College. "Groceries, gas, everyday expenses, it all adds up. The last thing we want is for a tuition increase to stand between a student and a high-quality education. That goes for students who are just starting out and for those who are working to finish what they started."

The College and Foundation are also removing the caps on the Trapper Scholarship for BAS, AA, AAS, and AS degree students, so more eligible students can benefit. And in the months ahead, the Foundation will announce focused scholarship opportunities for students in select certificate programs. This is all part of a shared commitment to making sure that cost is never the reason a student has to stop or delay their education.

"The community has generously supported our Foundation through the years, and this is one of the many ways that together we can give back, especially now where costs are rising everywhere," said Foundation Executive Director Shelby Wetzel.

Students are encouraged to register for fall classes before heading out for the summer. Getting registered early means securing a spot in the courses needed to stay on track toward a degree or certificate and starting the fall semester with one less thing to worry about.

"This community has always supported Northwest College, and we are proud to support it right back," said Watson. "Every student who walks through our doors deserves access to a high-quality education, and together with the Foundation, we are making sure that happens."

For more information about this and other financial aid, visit nwc.edu/financialaid.



We'll Double Your Gift to Scholarships!

Now is the perfect time to support NWC students by making a gift that will be matched \$1 for \$1*

You may have seen [in the news recently](#) that Northwest College and NWC Foundation are teaming up to cover the cost of recently approved tuition increases for new and continuing degree-seeking students enrolling for the 2026-27 academic year.

"We know times are tough right now for a lot of people in our community," said Lisa Watson, President of Northwest College. "Groceries, gas, everyday expenses, it all adds up. The last thing we want is for a tuition increase to stand between a student and a high-quality education. That goes for students who are just starting out and for those who are working to finish what they started."

In addition, the College and Foundation are also removing the caps on the Trapper Scholarship for BAS, AA, AAS, and AS degree students, so more eligible students can benefit.

This is where you can help! By making a gift to scholarships, you empower students to stay focused on their education instead of worrying about cost.



"Every student who walks through our doors deserves access to a high-quality education, and together, we are making sure that happens." -President Lisa Watson

All gifts made to general scholarships before June 30, 2026 will be matched \$1 for \$1, up to \$1,000, while matching funds last.

Make your gift today to help NWC students!

[Give to Scholarships](#)

*\$1 for \$1 match, up to \$1,000 per donation, while matching funds last.



[Update Your Alumni Info](#)



[Refer a Student to NWC](#)





April 22, 2026

TO: Foundation Board of Directors
FROM: Megan Nickles, Membership Committee Chair

It's time to identify candidates for new Foundation Board members and officers. Please be mindful that the committee works to balance characteristics such as gender, age and geographic location and active connection to NWC in its nominations.

We request that you submit candidate names at the upcoming meeting or by sending your ideas to Shelby at 231 W. Sixth St., Powell, WY 82435 or shelby.wetzel@nwc.edu by May 22, 2026.

Your Name: _____

NWC Foundation Board

Suggestion for Potential New Directors

Reasons for Submission

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Employment: _____

(Additional names/info can be listed on back of this sheet.)

Foundation Officer Service – see attached

Yes, I would be interested in serving in a leadership role with the Foundation as follows:

- ___ Committee chair
___ Secretary/Treasurer
___ Presidential ascension

___ No, I do not have the time to serve in a leadership capacity at the current time.

___ No, I'm better suited to general Board work.

I would like to nominate the following individual(s) for officer positions (The committee will seek permission from individuals before anyone is slated for an office):

President: Tim Hopkins
First Vice President: Trace Paul

Second Vice President: _____
(Must be prepared for six-year rotation through the presidency)

Limit 2 continuous terms in the same office for the following positions. Many of these offices will need to transition:

Secretary/Asst. Secretary _____

Treasurer/Asst. Treasurer _____



2026 Giving Day Review

The Foundation conducted its sixth annual NWC Giving Day on March 26-27, 2026, securing **donations over \$189,000 from 318 donors.**

Given current strains on the economy, we are satisfied with the results and proudly note a **23% increase in participation** with the number of donors rising from 245 to 318!

Scholarships	\$ 68,479	36%
Affordability Grants	\$ 36,063	19%
Athletic Scholarships	\$ 35,920	19%
CTE Scholarships	\$ 16,650	9%
Program Projects	\$ 27,890	15%
Other	\$ 4,200	2%
Total	\$189,202	100%

Giving Day Goals: This year, our goal was to raise **\$200,000**, with support from **300 donors**. However, the most significant goal is to increase donor participation by rallying supporters, bringing back lapsed donors and inspiring people who’ve never made a gift.

Nationally philanthropic organizations are experiencing decreases in donor counts and struggles with retention, even while support increases. NWC Foundation is not immune and has seen fewer donors, with some giving more dollars to propel our success. It’s important for the Foundation to continue stewardship efforts with existing donors and engage new people to build strong donor pipelines that will drive future support for Northwest College.



That’s where Giving Day comes in. And it’s why the increase in donors is so important. Annual giving is spotty by nature with donors who drop in and drop out. Of the 73 additional gifts from last year, **29 are NEW** donors and many others are infrequent donors who came back this year.

From a marketing perspective, Giving Day captures the attention of our audience and that’s also a good start for the future – people must pay attention before they decide to give. Throughout the month of March, we sent 21 eblast (email) messages. Many of these were segmented by academic area or by giving pattern, so people received a handful of messages. Our typical open rate for TrapperLink communications is 16.9%. Our Giving Day emails averaged a **29% open rate!**

It may seem like we’re all about fun and games, but there’s a method to madness. But speaking of fun...

- We are especially appreciative to the Student Senate for sponsoring our Student Scavenger

Hunt. **Twenty lucky students** who found the heart tokens hidden in the Student Center were able to donate \$250 each to the giving area of their choice.

- President Watson and the vice presidents were great sports to make themselves vulnerable for the **Clear the Path** for Student Success promotion by dressing up and taking pies in the face! They helped raise \$2,400 from employees for Affordability Grants with this activity.
- **53 Employees** gave to one of the various Giving Day options.

Finally, we were fortunate to still have access to matching gifts from the State of Wyoming, and we're especially grateful for the following leadership gifts that incentivized tremendous activity.

Matching Donors

Affordability Grants:

- Carolyn Danko
- Charlotte Patrick

Scholarships:

- The late Dr. Tom & Rita Anderson
- Isaac Amarillas
- James & Stefanie Bell
- Clay & Lynne Cummins

Athletic Scholarships:

- Dave and Sue Bonner

Challenge Donors

- Dave Erickson
- Tom Havron
- Burt Reynolds

CTE Scholarships:

- Bairco Construction
- Dan and Denise Laursen
- Bob and Sandy Newsome
- R&A Safety
- WYDOT

Academic and Program Projects:

- NWC Foundation Board

- NWC Student Senate
- Lisa Watson
- Shelby Wetzel

Giving Day continues to be a great way for all Trappers to come together and make a difference in thousands of students' lives and impact the future of NWC.