

APPROVED MINUTES

COCHISE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Douglas Campus
Student Union Building
6:00 p.m.**

1. GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.01 Call to Order

Mr. Hudgins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Mr. David DiPeso
Mr. Mark Farr
Mr. Don Hudgins
Mr. Steve Leeder
Ms. Stephanie Money

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. DiPeso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.03 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without modification.

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

1.04 Citizens' In-person Interim

There were no requests to address the Governing Board.

1.05 Standing Reports

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

There were no new AACCT updates.

1.05.2 Senate Report

A written Senate report was submitted and accepted as published.

1.05.3 Student Government Association (SGA)

Joel Sosa, Student Government Association (SGA) President, led the Douglas SGA; highlights include:

SGA Member Introductions:

- Joel Sosa, President
- Fernanda Bustamante, Vice-President
- Alfred Brinker, Secretary
- Bernardo Morales, Treasurer
- Mari Flores, Vice-President for Public Relations
- Hannah Dibadjou, Vice-President of Programming

Fall 2025 Events:

- August – October
 - Welcome Back Social Events
 - Club and Resource Fair
 - Voter Registration Drive
 - Constitution Day
 - Suicide Awareness Prevention
 - Patriot Day Commemoration (911 recognition)

Community Engagement:

- Supporting First Responders
- Arts & Crafts with the Elderly
- Clean Up Day

Upcoming Accomplishments:

- Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos
- Pit Fire
- Domestic Violence Awareness
 - The Director of House of Hope spoke with students
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Blood Drive
- Currently reading Emotional Intelligence 2.0
 - The book is designed to support SGA officers on their journey to becoming leaders within their community.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Hudgins thanked the students for their presentation and for all that they do to support their fellow students.

1.05.4 College President

Dr. Perey, President, thanked the college staff, faculty, and students for all they do to support the college. He then provided updates to the Governing Board; highlights include:

Legislative Update:

- **State-Level Dynamics:** Economic conditions, including sales and income tax revenues, and the anticipated financial impact of the “Big Beautiful Bill,” which may increase state obligations for programs like SNAP and Medicaid—potentially costing up to \$430 million in FY26.
- **Institutional Priorities:** Continued advocacy to maintain current funding levels and support initiatives such as the Promise Program and Workforce Development through AC4.
- **Federal-Level Impacts:** As of October 1, 2025, the federal government has not passed a budget, resulting in the furlough of approximately 750,000 employees and limited agency operations. Student aid programs, including Pell Grants and

FAFSA processing, as well as new grant approvals and federal contracts, are currently on hold. Compliance activities, including audits and investigations, are delayed.

- **Gainful Employment Reporting:** Documentation was submitted on October 1, but federal review is expected to be delayed due to the government shutdown.
- **Planning Implications:** Institutions should prepare for potential delays in federal funding and grant cycles. While short-term impacts are limited, a prolonged shutdown could have a significant impact on operations.

The institution continues to closely monitor developments and remains confident in its current position, particularly regarding the continuity of student financial aid.

Facilities Update:

District

- Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) – The Gordian Group
 - Data Development phase continues
 - Gordian received priority asset updates from facilities and is finalizing the asset report.

Douglas Campus (DC)

- City of Douglas Wellsite
 - The College and CBP have selected the location of the surveillance tower, just west of the City of Douglas' wellsite
 - Wellsite development may start in January.
- Welcome Center Turnabout/Parking Lot A Improvements
 - Curbing and Asphalt placement completed
 - Parking Lot striping is expected to start sometime during the week of October 12.
 - Xeriscaping continues along campus drive.
- Adult Ed (400) Renovation / Courtyard Drainage Improvements
 - Roofing contractor estimates continue
 - Interior build back to start after exterior renovations are completed
 - Stormwater drainage improvements to take place concurrently with the build back
 - The project start date has been delayed, tentatively scheduled to begin in late November
- General Classrooms (700)
 - Renovation of offices and conference rooms continues
 - Estimated project completion end of October/beginning of November

Sierra Vista Campus (SVC)

- Campus Services Building (2600)
 - Building approved for occupancy
 - The Technology Service staff have started the relocation
 - Some additional interior finishes and furnishing installation continue as staff move from existing offices

Downtown Center (DTC)

- Delivery of the helicopter simulator is pending. If it is not received by the end of the fall semester, the storefront will be reinstalled to address pest issues and ensure readiness for future installation.

Initiatives:

- Nursing
 - The ACEN accreditation visit for the BSN program is scheduled for October 6-8, 2026.
 - 15 BSN students are entering their capstone course on October 20, with the first cohort expected to graduate in May.
 - Cochise College Nursing/Allied Health hosted an “EMS in the Desert” conference on October 10 at the DTC. Nurses, paramedics, and other emergency providers from throughout Southeastern Arizona were in attendance.
 - Dr. Neal and Dr. Ashline took the opportunity to set up a table and recruit for both the BSN and BAS programs outside the lecture hall.
- Business, Career, and Technical Education
 - Two new AI Technology courses (AIT 101 and AIT 102) are currently being reviewed by the curriculum committee for potential General Education (Gen Ed) courses and will be administered through CIS/CYBER upon approval.
 - The Cyber program is serving as a host site for the Arizona Hacking Competition, Capture the Flag, and will host at least five middle and high school students on Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event is in partnership with the University of Arizona and Grand Canyon University, along with five other high schools and colleges.
 - Automotive and Welding hauled the Workforce Development Truck and Trailer to the Cars In The Park Event on Saturday, October 11.
- Workforce Development:
 - Community Connection initiatives continue through October with meetings in Willcox on October 23 and in Benson on October 31. These meetings are designed to enhance engagement and ensure programs reflect the needs and priorities of the people the college serves.
 - October 23 event in Willcox: 9:00 - 10:30 at Dos Cabezas Coffee.
 - October 31 event in Benson: 10:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. at Benson Community Center.
 - Mobile Workforce Training and Nursing and Allied Health will collaborate to promote programs during the upcoming Pit Fire Pottery Festival on November 14 on the Douglas Campus.
 - Collaborating with Dean Molina and Douglas-based import-export customs brokers and warehousing to develop non-credit upskilling programs in support of the new port of entry. The long-term goal is to move this from a non-credit to a credit certificate program and eventually to an associate's degree.

Community Engagements:

- September 12 – Mexican Consulate Function (Mexican Independence Day)
- September 15 – Presented to Rotary Club
- September 17 – AZ State Board of Nursing Visit
- September 18 – A++ Universal Admissions Meeting
- September 19 – Investiture for Dr. Perey
- September 24 – Caterpillar Foundation Advisory Meeting (Internships in Arizona)
- Sept 24-25 – AC4 & Aspen Leadership Program Kickoff Meeting (Mr. Quint Molina and Ms. Cara Elkins attended)
- September 27 – University South Foundation Dine Under the Stars
- October 1 – Ron Reddock (Character Education)

- October 9 – Met with Robert-Francois (SimLeader)
- Oct 13-15 – Arizona Community College Administrator Conference (Participated in a panel discussion with two other new presidents of other community colleges)

Upcoming Activities:

- October 20 – NAU Collaboration Meeting
- Oct 21-25 – ACCT Leadership Congress (New Orleans)
- October 24 – SV Campus Haunted Union
- Oct 27-28 – Tom Hughes Visit (Open Forums for HLC Prep)
- October 29 – Cochise Combined Trust Meeting
- November 1 – Foundation Board Social
- November 3 – UofA Provost Team Meeting
- November 5 – Bring a Vet to Lunch Event
- November 7 – Hosting Arizona Town Hall (SV Campus at 11:30 a.m.)
- November 11 – College Closed (Veterans Day)
- November 18 – Regular Board Meeting (SV Campus)
- November 21 – President's Student Leadership Academy (SV Campus)

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Hudgins asked about the fencing on the Douglas Campus and expressed concerns about road conditions due to recent heavy rainfall. Dr. Davis confirmed that the fencing is part of the lease agreement with contractor Hensel Phelps and serves as a designated staging area for equipment and personnel transportation. She stated the road was resurfaced last summer by KE&G and is currently being maintained to address weather-related impacts.

1.05.5 Monthly Financial Report – September 2025

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

1.05.6 Monthly Academic Progress Report – October 2025

The monthly Academic Progress Report for October 2025 included a workforce development report.

2. NEW BUSINESS *

2.01 Consent Agenda *

The following items were approved:

- 2.01.1 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Alejandra Carrillo, Receptionist – Welcome Center, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.2 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Kayla Coronado, Academic / Career Advisor – TRiO / SSS, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.3 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Amelia Fimbres, Mailroom Technician, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.4 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Laurel McEwan, Facilities Office Supervisor, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.5 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Martha "Vivian" Ramirez, Testing Services Specialist, Douglas Campus)

- 2.01.6 * Non-Exempt Staff; Appointment (Emily Russell, Financial Aid Technician I, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.7 * Exempt Staff; Appointment (Molly Dunbar, ERP System Engineer, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.8 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Kathleen Denney, Facilities Office Supervisor, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.9 * Non-Exempt Staff; Resignation (Miriam Salcedo DuPuis, Business Analyst Small Business Development Center, Downtown Center)
- 2.01.10 * Faculty; Resignation (Douglas Schlarbaum, Instructor of Residential Building Construction Trades, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.11 * Non-Exempt Staff; Separation (Jacob Loseke, Electrician Senior Technician, Douglas Campus)
- 2.01.12 * Non-Exempt Staff; Retirement (Daniel Wetstein, Facility Services Technician, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.13 * Faculty; Retirement (Kenneth Charters, Instructor of Biology, Sierra Vista Campus)
- 2.01.14 * Curriculum
- 2.01.15 * Acceptance of Minutes for September 9, 2025 – Regular Meeting
- 2.01.16 * Acceptance of Minutes for September 30, 2025 – Retreat

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

*** **Introduction of New Employees** ***

Mr. Wick Lewis, Executive Director of Human Resources, introduced Eddy Gonzales, Building and Grounds Manager; Larissa Runyan, Instructor of English; Melanie Molina Villalobos, Adult Education Instructor; and Alejandra Yanez, Events Management Specialist.

2.02 Intergovernmental Agreement – Arizona Board of Regents Program

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Arizona Board of Regents, allowing participation in the Arizona Community College Promise Program.

Mr. Leeder moved, and Mr. DiPeso seconded a motion to approve the IGA with the Arizona Board of Regents to participate in the Arizona Community College Promise Program. The Governing Board unanimously approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.03 Proposed College Calendar for 2026-2027

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the proposed 2026-2027 College Calendar. The calendar lists all holidays and duty days.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Leeder seconded a motion to approve the 2026-2027 College Calendar. With no further discussion, the Governing Board unanimously approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2.04 Appoint a Voting Delegate for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion appointing a voting delegate for the ACCT Leadership Congress.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Mr. Farr seconded a motion to appoint Mr. Leeder as voting delegate for the ACCT Leadership Congress. With no further discussion, the Governing Board approved with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Farr, and Ms. Money voting aye, and Mr. Leeder abstaining. **MOTION CARRIED**

2.05 2026 Governing Board Meeting Schedule

The administration requested that the Governing Board adopt a motion to approve the proposed 2026 Board Meeting Schedule. Dr. Perey noted that the 2026 meeting schedule includes a new meeting start time of 4:00 p.m.

Mr. DiPeso moved, and Ms. Money seconded a motion to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule with a new 4:00 p.m. meeting start time. With no further discussion, the Governing Board unanimously approved, with Mr. DiPeso, Mr. Farr, Mr. Hudgins, Mr. Leeder, and Ms. Money all voting aye. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

3.01 Communications

- Cochise College was recognized as the #1 community college in Arizona and ranked 38th among the Top 50 Best Community Colleges in the nation by SmartAsset.

3.02 Athletic Report

Jeff Falkner, Director of Athletics, provided a presentation on the Athletic program; highlights include:

Women's Soccer:

- 2024 Record: 11-4-3 (6-2-2 Conference)
- 2nd place regular season finish in ACCAC
- Sabrina Amezcua (NJCAA Second Team All-American, First Team All-Region)
- Michelle Gomez (First Team All-Region)
- Santos Rangel (NJCAA Region 1 Coach of the Year)
- 3.29 Team GPA (8 NJCAA Academic All-Americans)
- Next Level from 2024 Roster: 2 NCAA DII, 9 NAIA
- New Assistant Coach: Ivana Siles
 - Former Cochise Women's Soccer player (2020-2022)
 - University of Nebraska-Kearney
 - Participated in the 2025 Women's Copa America (Bolivian national team)

Men's Basketball:

- 2024 Record: 21-10 (13-5 Conference)
- 2nd place regular season finish in ACCAC
- Ben Henderson (NJCAA DI National Player of the Week, March 2025, First Team All-Region)
- MJ Clegg (First Team All-Region)
- 2.96 Team GPA (1 NJCAA Academic All-American)

- Next Level from 2024 Roster: 3 NCAA DII, 2 NAIA

Women's Basketball:

- 2024-25 Record: 20-10 (12-5 Conference)
- 3rd place regular season finish in ACCAC
- Inaugural Cochise Classic (Nov. 15-16, 2024)
- 2nd Annual Cochise Classic: November 14-15, 2025
- Jessie Joaquim (NJCAA DI National Player of the Week, February 2025)
- Micayla Silas (NJCAA Third Team All-American, First Team All-Region)
- Kaylynn Asberry (First Team All-Region)
- 3.59 Team GPA (7 NJCAA Academic All-Americans)
- Next Level from 2024 Roster: 4 NCAA DI, 1 NCAA DIII

Baseball:

- 2025 Record: 43-16 (23-13 Conference)
- 2nd place regular season finish in ACCAC
- Head Coach Todd Inglehart 900th career win (March 4th, 2025)
- NJCAA Region 1 Semifinalists
- Tyson Owens (First Team All-Region)
- Collin Smith (First Team All-Region)
- 3.39 Team GPA (9 NJCAA Academic All-Americans)
- Next Level from 2025 Roster: 5 NCAA DI, 2 NAIA

Rodeo:

- 2025 Women's NIRA Grand Canyon Region Champions (Back-to-Back)
- Taten Erickson, Murphy Gaasch, Macie Fowlie, Braulio Barraza, Rilee Christensen, and Sealey Bottom (2025 NIRA National Rodeo Qualifiers)
- 2.82 Team GPA (2024-2025)
- Murphy Gaasch (Goat Tying) - National Championship Round Qualifier (Finished 4th overall nationally)

Department-Wide Achievements:

- All NJCAA teams qualified for the Region 1 playoffs.
- Department GPA: 3.2.
- 29 Academic All-Americans, including six with perfect 4.0 GPAs.
- 29 student-athletes received scholarships to four-year institutions.

Shared a video of Cochise Apache athletes participating in the community events, some of which included:

- "Love of Reading Week" (Soccer, Basketball)
- Cochise College Family Fall Night (Soccer, Basketball, Rodeo, Baseball)
- Student-Athlete Leadership Workshop (Soccer, Basketball, Baseball)
- "Cochise Buddies" Youth Basketball Camp (Men's Basketball)
- Rodeo event for the military in Fort Huachuca (Rodeo)
- "Meet Your Future" Day at Douglas High School (Admin and Training Staff)
- "Los Rookies" from Agua Prieta youth basketball night (Men's Basketball)
- Elfrida and Benson School's visit (Basketball)

Digital & Media Enhancements:

- The athletics website underwent a modern refresh, featuring new additions such as alumni tracking and a video series (“Apache All Access”). A facilities video was also launched to support recruitment.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Leeder asked if athletics had one ask, what would it be? Mr. Falkner responded, noting that the department has what it needs, but one challenge is scholarships for students.

3.03 Aviation Report

Belinda Burnett, Director of Aviation, provided a presentation on Aviation program updates and invited everyone to the Aviation Open House on November 14; highlights from the presentation include:

Aviation Program Performance, Enrollment, and Operations:

FAA Certification Performance:

- The program maintains an 81% first-time pass rate for FAA certifications, exceeding the national average of 77%. This includes both internal and external exams, supported by strong relationships with designated pilot examiners across Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Enrollment Growth:

- The program reached its benchmark of 50 students in the last fiscal year, a key milestone for long-term sustainability. Student demographics show a mix of local (Cochise County), Phoenix, Tucson, and out-of-state enrollees, reflecting the program’s growing reputation.

Operational Improvements:

- Strategic scheduling of FAA check rides has enhanced student access and success, with other institutions frequently requesting access to Cochise’s examiner schedule due to limited availability elsewhere.

Aviation Program Outreach & Operations Update:

Industry Engagement:

- The aviation program continues to host themed open houses each semester. The spring “Your Time to Soar” event featured representatives from PSA Airlines, Mesa Airlines, and Utah Valley University (UVU). PSA conducted 11 interviews for regional airline positions and led a 3-hour professionalism workshop. The next open house is scheduled for November 14, with the same partners participating.

University Partnership:

- The program maintains a strong articulation agreement with UVU, allowing students to transfer their associate degree and flight certifications directly. Students can complete eight additional courses at Cochise to earn a bachelor’s degree, significantly reducing costs.

Fleet & Flight Operations:

- Despite two aircraft incidents requiring extended repairs, the program logged over 4,500 flight hours last fiscal year and is on track to exceed 5,000 hours this year. The program has already logged over 1,100 hours since late July.

Financial Stability & Reinvestment:

- Strategic increases in flight and technology fees, combined with stable enrollment (50 students), have strengthened the program’s financial position. Surplus funds were reinvested in safety and infrastructure, including:
 - Three new aircraft engines
 - A Redbird flight simulator
 - A fuel truck (“SUSY”)

Aviation Program Facilities & Technology Update:

Facilities Maintenance:

- A chip seal project is planned for the covered parking area and a section of taxiway in the spring. This will be privately funded due to limited ADOT resources.

Technology Enhancements:

- CloudAhoy: A flight debriefing tool now used by all instructors, providing objective flight performance analysis and scoring based on aircraft data.
- AirSync: Installed in aircraft to enhance CloudAhoy accuracy and provide real-time engine and flight performance data to maintenance staff, improving safety monitoring.
- Redbird Insight: Simulator-based debriefing tool for standardized instruction and feedback.

Student Tech Requirements:

- Beginning the spring semester, all aviation students will be required to use iPads equipped with ForeFlight and CloudAhoy, aligning training with industry standards for electronic flight bags.

Program Growth & Recognition:

- Enrollment for spring is already full, with six students enrolled for next fall.
- Continued affordability and strong industry partnerships drive recruitment.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Hudgins noted that about four years ago, the college administration and two board members lobbied with Senator Kelly regarding check-ride opportunities. Mr. Hudgins also commended Ms. Bennett and the program for working to make the program sustainable and reduce program costs.

3.04 Douglas Campus Report

Abe Villarreal, Douglas Campus Dean, provided a presentation to the Governing Board; highlights include:

Douglas Campus 2025:

- The student population is diverse, comprising traditional students from local high schools and surrounding communities, as well as international students from 23 countries.
- Students typically enroll in 12-15 credits, contributing significantly to the institution's credit base.
- There are 41 classrooms being utilized. This includes the addition of Room 308.
- Two additional classrooms are being created in the old 400 building.
- The 700 building is being renovated to create a classroom, conference room, and office spaces for senior leadership.
- Expanding academic offerings, including a partnership with the Douglas Fire Department for fire science courses (Spring 2026) and the reinstatement of the popular medical assistant program (Fall 2025).

Community Engagement:

- OSHA classes in partnership with the City of Douglas Adult Education, registration at local businesses
- Community partners on campus: Pio Decimo Center, Chiricahua Health, Southeast Arizona Federal Credit Union, Hensel Phelps, Mexican Consulate
- Ceramics of the Borderlands exhibit showcased at the Consulate this fall

- Writing/Art exhibit this past summer in Agua Prieta. Upcoming initiatives include exploring workforce development opportunities for the Sonoran community, Weekly coffee networking hours from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Fridays
- Weekly office hours at the Mexican Consulate, Weekly radio spot
- Presence at school board meetings and city council meetings
- Monthly tabling events
- Adult Education Registration Day Event

More Updates:

- Study pods installed in the library
- Updates to refresh furniture in Que Pas, Central Housing, and the 600 building
- Turnaround construction project at the entrance of the campus – ongoing
- TRiO grant re-awarded for 5 years (serves 165 students)
- Summer Camps are being developed for 2026
- Donor for campus upgrades through the College Foundation
- Job Shadow Week with local partners in Spring 2025

Into the Future:

- Douglas Campus will continue to build toward future successes by focusing on:
 - Workforce opportunities with our partners at Hensel Phelps for the commercial port of entry
 - Continued engagement with elementary, middle, and high schools
 - Volunteerism and service learning with local agencies, including non-profits, city, and state governments

4. COMMENTS FROM GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

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

- Mr. DiPeso
 - Thanked Ms. Burnett for the aviation presentation
- Mr. Leeder
 - Noted it is incredible the breadth and depth of what the college accomplishes; keep pushing and doing the great work.
- Ms. Money
 - Expressed that the presentations were very impressive.
- Mr. Hudgins
 - Thanked staff for all they do to support the college

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hudgins adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Crystal Wheeler, Executive Assistant, Office of the President

Mr. David DiPeso, Secretary of the Governing Board