LOS RIOS COLLEGES
FOUNDATION

Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, May 9, 2025, 11:30am to 1:30pm
American River College – Career Technical Education Building, Room 107
4700 College Oak Drive, Sacramento, CA 95841

Minutes

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE: Paula Allison, Bryan Byrd, Kristin Emmett, John Knight, Jonathan McMurtry, Tim Mech, Deborah Ortiz, Allison Otto, Kevin Pressey, John Ruden, Annie Sterling, Anna Trunnell, Rachel Wyatt.

GUESTS AND STAFF: Gary Aguilar, Sue Byrne, Kirsten DuBray, Marian Eitzman, Jessica Falor-Ward, Kara Smith, Michele Steiner, Dan Tichenor.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: Rachel Wyatt welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Rachel Wyatt asked if there were any non-agenda items or public comments and there were none.

INVESTMENT REPORT: Dan Tichenor from Graystone discussed April's tariff-induced market volatility and provided an overview of the updated outlook for financial markets. He updated the board on the Foundation's portfolio and performance as of Q1, with a flash update through April 30 due to the recent market volatility. He finished with recent developments to the portfolio and future considerations before the Finance Committee.

CONSENT CONSIDERATIONS: Rachel Wyatt asked for a motion to approve the consent items. Anna Trunnell made a motion to approve; Annie Sterling seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

FOUNDATION BUSINESS: Paula Allison thanked the board for a successful year. She noted that scholarship reviews had just been completed and thanked board members who served as reviewers. She also thanked Accenture for making scholarship reviewing a team volunteer activity and thanked Donald Terry for helping to recruit bank employees from around the region to review scholarships. She expressed appreciation to the Stewardship Committee for leading two different thank-you letter projects during the year. Paula invited board members to assist with another stewardship project over the summer.

Paula shared news of Chancellor King's planned retirement at the end of the 2025–26 academic year and encouraged board members to participate in the upcoming chancellor search process. A survey will be sent to board members later in the summer for input.

Paula announced that Kevin Pressey would be concluding his board term. She recognized Kevin's involvement with the district since 2017 and thanked him for his leadership and service.

Kristin Emmett reported on the success of the Big Day of Giving. The Sacramento region raised $13,829,321 in total, with Los Rios raising $24,104 to help students with transfer application fees. SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union will also be matching $5,000 in employee giving.

MISSION HIGHLIGHT- Technical Education Program: Gary Aguilar, Dean of Manufacturing, Construction and Transportation at American River College, gave a brief overview of the construction of the Career Technical Education building. Gary highlighted some of the new aspects of the building including a design lab for faculty/student projects, multiple electronics labs, and classroom tables that can double as computer spaces.

Gary shared that the Grand Opening of the building will take place in the second week of September. Kirsten DuBray noted that naming opportunities in the building are still available.

Gary invited board member Allison Otto, president of Otto Construction, to speak about her company's involvement. Allison shared that a significant percentage of the current workforce in industries represented in the Career Tech Ed Building are nearing retirement, creating a strong need for younger workers. Otto Construction, which has partnered with Los Rios for 25 years, saw the project as an important opportunity to support the community.

Paula asked if the board had any further questions before going on tour. Bryan Byrd requested a budget update. Trustee Deborah Ortiz reported that Los Rios is expected to remain financially stable during the 2025–26 academic year, but beyond that the outlook is uncertain due to market conditions. Los Rios receives funding from Prop 98, and the Student Centered Funding Formula. Enrollment is up. Federal cuts are problematic but are manageable this year. Potential grant cuts will affect Los Rios students' ability to get Financial Aid. Paula Allison added that from a fundraising perspective, the Foundation's priority must remain on direct student support.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm

Minutes prepared by Kara Smith, Los Rios Colleges Foundation Staff