

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Budget Workshop Meeting 5 pm
Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
April 22, 2025

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Others Present within the Meeting Boardroom: (12)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President of Student Services and Learning Services

Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services

Dr. Joann Chang, Associate Dean

Kari Wyatt, Executive Assistant

Katheline Ocampo, CHRO

Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement

Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant

Renee Munoz, Executive Administrative Assistant

Others Present within on Zoom: (9)

Biri Martinez

Juliana Garcia

Kimberly Trujillo

Miguel Alvarez

Ana English

Elizabeth Supley

Cristina Gonzales

Renee Macaluso

Julia Howe

Community Members Present in person: None

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for April 22, 2025, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Budget Workshop

2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget Development

Dr. Corr's walked through FY26 Draft Budget focusing on student success, strategic plan implementation and professional development paired with federal funding risks, fiscal challenges, and institutional achievements, reflecting AWC's proactive approach to navigating uncertainty while continuing to drive student success and community engagement.

Federal Grant Funding & Fiscal Planning: Two federal grants are at risk of continued funding, but AWC remains committed to supporting personnel through the end of the fiscal year. The Entrepreneurial College Team is in active discussions with federal offices to ensure compliance and pursue continuation, while preparing for delays in response from the U.S. Department of Education.

Executive Summary: FY26 Budget Presentation

Mission & Vision Alignment: Arizona Western College (AWC) remains committed to its mission as *A College of the Community*, focused on transforming lives through education and partnerships. The FY26 budget planning supports this mission with targeted investments in student experience, equity in access, workforce readiness, and fiscal responsibility.

FY25 Recap and Environmental Context

- State-Level Challenges: A \$1.9M reduction in Arizona state support and a \$1.6M shortfall in Agua Caliente funding impacted FY25. Additionally, two major federal grants were “paused.”
- Inflation & COVID Funding: Inflation persists, albeit slower; COVID-era funding has fully expired.
- Strategic Gains: Notable progress includes a \$500K Onvada partnership, strong enrollment growth, and administrative restructuring in alignment with the AWC 2028 Strategic Plan.

FY26 Budget Priorities and Highlights

Key Strategic Investments

- New Positions Funded: Director for the Center for the Future, Prison Program Coordinator, Early College support, and \$100K contingency.
- Innovation Projects: \$86K allocated for projects including LeadHERship, Bug Days & Beyond, Assistive Lab renovations, and more.

Healthcare & Compensation

- Focus on People: Requested Compensation increase of 3.25%
- YABC Premium Increase: 6.3% increase, totaling \$300K, with the average benefit cost at \$873/month for 423 employees.
- Healthcare Grant Transition: With grant expiration in September 2025, two nursing positions will be sustained using carryover funds; a new CNA position added to payroll (total cost ~\$100K).

Utilities & Operational Costs

- Utility costs increased by \$215K due to APS rate hikes and expanded operations at LETA, DeAnza, and MAC facilities.

Capital Improvements

- No new Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) funded initially; project review is scheduled for December 2025.

Revenue & Funding Streams

Partnerships & Grants

- Continued investment and equipment support via Onvada and other CTE-aligned partnerships through the Office of Economic Opportunity and Entrepreneurial College.

Tuition and Residence Halls

- Tuition revenue and a modest rebound in residence hall occupancy (currently 66.7%) projected to yield an additional \$100K.

Property Tax Consideration

- AWC may consider a property tax increase of 1.85% as a last-resort revenue strategy, maintaining commitment to conservative fiscal management.

Innovation & Efficiency

- Emphasis on AI integration, streamlined class schedules, staffing optimization, and process improvements to enhance cost-effectiveness.

Fiscal Outlook and Stewardship

AWC continues a strong tradition of fiscal discipline:

- Improved Credit Rating: From HLC red flag in 2016 to S&P AA+ and Moody’s AAA ratings in

- Within Limits: Budget remains below state-mandated expenditure thresholds.
- Conservative Approach: FY26 budget is framed with caution and strategic foresight amid continued volatility in higher education.

Looking Forward

AWC reaffirms its commitment to delivering on its strategic plan through bold, student-centered investments while safeguarding financial sustainability. FY26 is positioned to be a year of progress, innovation, and community impact.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Corr expressed that Fiscal Year 2026... will be a great year to be a MATADOR!

Request for the College's Tax Rate in comparison of all Arizona Community Colleges. Follow up information to be shared with the District Governing Board at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be April 22, 2025, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm

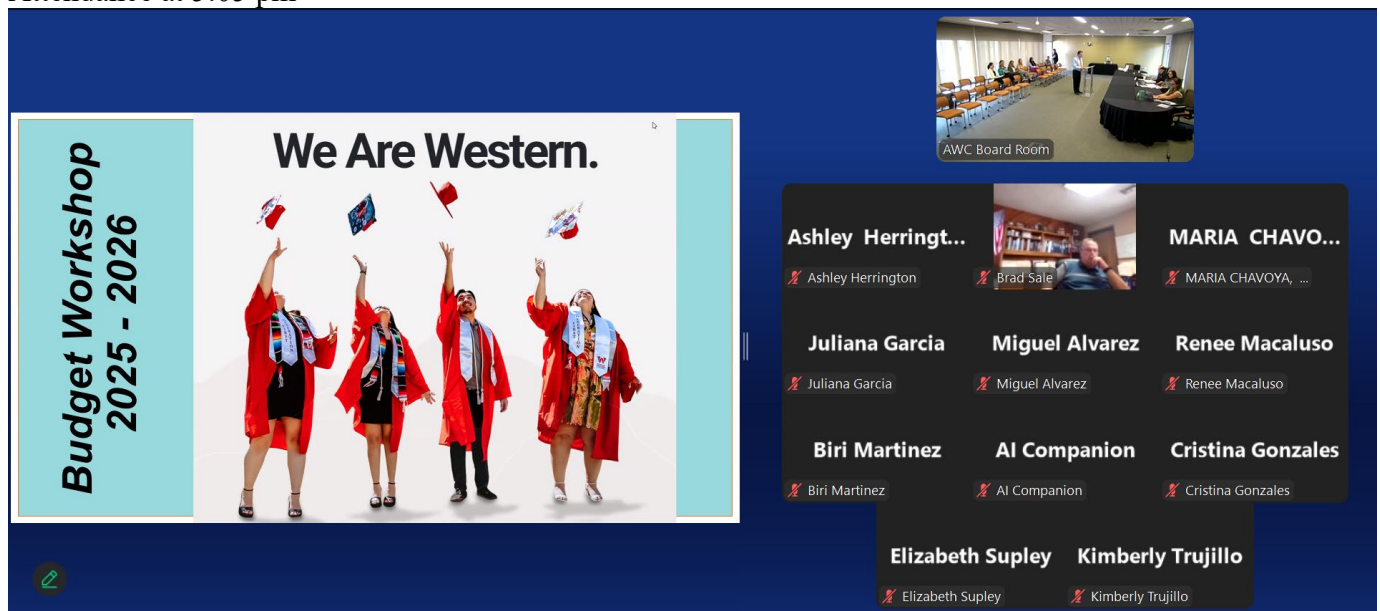
Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,



Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 5:05 pm



MEETING MINUTES
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District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 5 pm
Yuma Campus and Via Zoom
April 22, 2025

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Others Present within the Meeting Boardroom: (17)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President

Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff

Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President of Student Services and Learning Services

Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services

Kari Wyatt, Executive Assistant

Katheline Ocampo, CHRO

Lori Stofft, Vice President of Advancement

Noemi Barraza, Executive Administrative Assistant

Renee Munoz, Executive Administrative Assistant

Cinthia Reyes, Executive Director and Dean of Career and Technical Education

Dawn Wofford, Nursing

Barbara Doel, Nursing

Brandon Vasquez, Student of the Month

3 members of Family of Student of the Month

Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas, Faculty Senate Association

Others Present within on Zoom: (13)

Ana English

Biri Martinez

Cindy Zavala

Cristina Gonzales

Dr. Joann Chang

Elizabeth Supley

Julia Howe

Juliana Garcia

Kimberly Trujillo

Miguel Alvarez

Renee Macaluso

Susanna Zambrano

Jorge Ramirez, SGA

Community Members Present in person: None

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:13 pm.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for April 22 2025, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Call to the Audience: No one approached the call to the audience.

College Reports

Student Government Association, Presented by Jorge Ramirez

Jorge Ramirez, SGA President, shared recent updates and highlighted several upcoming student engagement events designed to promote well-being, cultural awareness, and community connection:

The SGA hosted Student Employee Appreciation Week from April 14–17 to recognize the valuable contributions of student workers. On April 17, a Student Etiquette Luncheon provided professional

development for students by teaching networking and dining etiquette skills. A Sexual Assault Awareness Walk/Run is scheduled for April 30 on the Yuma Campus, including an educational presentation by Amberly's Place followed by a solidarity walk/run. On May 7, a Cap Decorating Party will take place from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the MAC Maker Space, giving graduates the opportunity to personalize their commencement regalia. The year will culminate with the college's Commencement Ceremony on May 16, during which several SGA members, including Jorge Ramirez and Carolina Rojas, will graduate. Mr. Ramirez expressed sincere appreciation to the District Governing Board for its ongoing support of student leadership and engagement initiatives.

Faculty Senate Association, Presented by Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas

The Faculty Senate report presented by Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cárdenas highlighted the ongoing commitment of Arizona Western College faculty to student success, academic excellence, and community engagement. The Faculty Association announced its 2025–2026 leadership team, electing Dr. Emily Kerr as the District Governing Board Representative, Dr. Eric Lee as Faculty Association President, and Dr. Kristine Duke as Vice President. Several academic programs reported notable progress, including the EMS/EMT Paramedic Program, which began advanced skills training in February under the leadership of Joseph Waterford. EMT students also contributed to the community by assisting with blood pressure checks at Exceptional ER. The Radiologic Technology Program, directed by Tracy Iversen, saw a 39% increase in applications, with Clinical Coordinator Francisco Vega and junior students representing the program at the 2025 Career & Trades Experience Expo.

Faculty continued to foster student success through experiential learning and competition. Dr. Kristine Duke accompanied 16 AWC Business Club students to the Arizona Community College Excellence Business Competition at the University of Arizona's Eller School of Business, where a student team placed third overall. Student creativity and academic excellence were also on display through the Seventh Multilingual Student Expo, themed "Music as a Multilingual Bridge" and led by Dr. Sara Amani, the 2025 Student Showcase held at both the Yuma Campus and San Luis Learning Center under the direction of Dr. Ellen Riek, and the Ninth Annual Parker Open Mic hosted by Professor David Kern.

In the realm of scholarship and professional development, AWC faculty shared their expertise at various conferences. Dr. Sarah Snyder presented her work on multilingualism and excellence at the ACAD Annual Meeting, while Dr. Ketchum-Cárdenas contributed to panels on creative change and global justice at the OERizona 2025 Conference and the NCHE Annual Conference, respectively. Beyond the classroom, faculty contributed to community leadership. On March 1, Soroptimist International of Greater Yuma awarded \$9,000 in scholarships to ten AWC and U of A–Yuma students through the Live Your Dream and UpliftHER programs. Dr. Ketchum-Cárdenas also represented AWC at the United Nations 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, reflecting the college's reach and engagement on a global scale. The report collectively underscored the vital role of AWC faculty in elevating students, enriching academics, and fostering deep community connections.

Student of the Month, Presented by Cinthia Reyes

Student of the Month nominee is Brandon Vasquez, Nursing Student, Nominated by Dawn Wolford, and Barb Deol. Brandon Vasquez has been nominated for Student of the Month for Nursing in recognition of his exceptional clinical performance, professionalism, and rapid academic growth. While working on Tower 4 at the hospital, Brandon provided outstanding patient care alongside his preceptor, Petra RN, during an exceptionally demanding shift that included patients in critical condition and those with psychiatric needs. Despite the high-pressure environment, Brandon demonstrated strong clinical judgment, adaptability, and prioritization skills. He proactively assisted in initiating telemetry for a patient—an action that significantly expedited care—and supported nursing and PCA responsibilities with a calm and team-centered approach. His efforts contributed to maintaining patient safety and quality care, as highlighted in a personal thank-you note from a patient.

In addition to his clinical strengths, Brandon has excelled academically in the Maternal Newborn Nursing course. Within just two days of instruction, he distinguished himself through insightful questioning, early concept integration, and a passion for learning that outpaced his peers. His enthusiastic engagement and curiosity were noted by faculty as both impressive and indicative of a strong future nurse. Brandon Vasquez is a commendable example of excellence in nursing education and practice, and a deserving recipient of this recognition.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Approve Candidates for Exempt Positions– Presented by Katheline Ocampo

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

- Madeleine Hayes, Residential Life Lead
- Selina Jaimes Davila, Transcript Evaluation Coordinator
- Sisko Stargazer, KAWC Education Solutions Reporter

Action Item #2 – Consideration to Award a Contract to Educational Services Inc. (ESI) – Presented by Katheline Ocampo

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

The administration recommends that the district award a contract to Educational Services Inc. (ESI) to provide the services for the position: 1. Professor of Economics. The terms for these ESI Contracts are for the 2025-2026 Fiscal year. The total contract amount is no more than \$108,160, which includes the salary, payroll liabilities, ASRS contributions, and the ESI management fee.

Action Item #3 – Consideration to Approve Modified Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) – Presented by Bryan Doak

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

The Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) is the foundation of a community college education in Arizona. Successfully completing the AGEC means all AGEC courses will transfer as a block to ASU, NAU and UA. If the AGEC is completed with a 2.5 GPA or better, the student is guaranteed admission to ASU,

NAU, and UA. Arizona Western College is requesting to modify the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) as approved during the April 14, 2025 Curriculum Committee Meeting.

Curriculum Update proposed: Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC)

Action Item #4 – Consideration to Approve the 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget– Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

The 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget is ready for review and approval by the District Governing Board. The budget planning is driven by the Colleges AWC 2028 Strategic Plan and includes the evaluation of needs, input from the College community, and engagement from the District Governing Board.

Action Item #5 – Consideration to Appoint Authorized Representative and Alternative Representative as the Application Agents with Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs– Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

The Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs is the steward of federal funds to reimburse public entities for costs incurred during the response to COVID-19 State of Emergency. The College is requesting Czarina Gallegos, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services as the authorized representative and Juliana Garcia, Assistant Controller as the alternative representative be appointed. In accordance with the requirement the College designates a representative and/or alternative representative as application agent with District Governing Board Approval to apply for reimbursement.

Action Item #6 – Consideration to Approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the College, the City of Yuma and Yuma County – Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Brad Sale seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

The college is seeking approval for a new intergovernmental agreement and 2 addenda between the College, the City of Yuma, and Yuma County for use of the Arizona Western College Law Enforcement Training Academy Facility. The agreement extends the formal use of the Law Enforcement Training Academy for Yuma Police Department and Yuma County Sheriff's Office to foster collaboration and enhance the quality

of education, training, and professionalism, in the regional, state, and national law enforcement profession. Additionally, the addendums formally incorporate the Adair Park Police Range, operated and maintained by the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, into the scope of shared law enforcement training facilities; and the City of Yuma's Public Safety Training Facility (PSTF) to be made available to AWC Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Action Item #7 – Consideration to Approve Sub-Recipient Grant Funding – Presented by Czarina Gallegos
Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

The college (awardee) is seeking approval to process Grant funding for 3 Subrecipients as part of the Project Puente Consortium Grant. Funds from Year 1 will be rolled over to Year 2 and new subrecipient BPOs will be opened as follows:

- Central Arizona College \$150,000
- Yavapai College \$66,410.34
- Center for the Future of Arizona \$153,224.67

In response to the Department of Education (DE) Perkins Innovation and Modernization (PIM), Arizona Western College (AWC) leads the Grant Project called Project Puente: Connecting the Pathway to a Career program (Puente). This Grant funded program is a collaborative initiative that addresses critical workforce shortages through certificate and degree programs in proximity to the communities in which the students and their families reside. This effort helps advance missions and visions for collaborating partners from February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2027.

Action Item #8 – Consideration to Approve Sub-Recipient Grant Funding – Presented by Czarina Gallegos
Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Maria Chavoya

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

The college (awardee) is seeking approval to process Grant funding for Sub-recipient, Arizona State University, as part of the Department of Energy Clean Energy Job Training Grant. Arizona State University year one value due is \$262,011.02. The year one budget was for the period ending March 31, 2025.

In response to the Department of Energy (DOE) Clean Energy Jobs Training grant, Arizona Western College (AWC) leads this grant funded program collaboration purposed to increase access to career-relevant skills, high-wage, and high-growth jobs. The project will support the partnership between AWC, Institute for American Apprenticeships, Arizona State University, Arizona Public Service, Luxury Electrical Services LLC, Ligget Electric and KYMA to design and implement comprehensive curriculum and training programs in specified green energy fields, culminating in student placement in apprenticeships and jobs in clean energy sectors upon program completion. The grant performance period ends March 31, 2027, with the possibility of a 2-year extension if approved by the Dept of Energy.

Action Item #9 – Consideration to Approve Voucher for March 2025 – Presented by Czarina Gallegos
Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The **Board Approved** the Action Item as Presented.

Summary –

Fiscal Status Overview:

• All Funds Cash Balance

- o Fiscal Year End: \$74,774,031 ending 2024, compared to \$73,157,928 ending 2023.
- o Monthly: \$59,783,720 March 31, 2025, compared to \$69,417,997 on March 31, 2024.
- Monthly Operating Cash Balance: \$10,412,217 March 31, 2025, compared to \$7,159,956 on March 31, 2024.
- Current Strength: For the month ended March 31, 2025, expenditures decreased prior fiscal year expenditures by 10.8%
- Revenues vs. Expenses: The District received 77% of anticipated revenues, with 71 % of the budgeted expenditures spent.

Fiscal Revenue Analysis:

• Year-over-Year Comparison Revenues:

- o FY24/25 Actual Revenues: \$44,147,490
- o FY23/24 Actual Revenues: \$44,687,789
- o Percentage Change: A decrease of approximately 1.2% in actual revenues.

• Year-over-Year Comparison Expenditures:

- o FY24/25 Actual Expenditures: \$50,363,289
- o FY23/24 Actual Expenditures: \$56,457,641
- o Percentage Change: A decrease of approximately 10.8% in actual expenditures.

Enrollment Status:

- Current Enrollment: 72,077 credit hours.
- Comparison with Previous Year: 66.589 credit hours

Early Education Highlights:

- Current Enrollment: 15,532 total credit hours, 9,805 are dual enrollment.
- Comparison with Previous Year: 13,991 total credit hours, 8,517 are dual enrollment.

Detailed Financial Data & Key Observations:

- Fiscal Strength: Despite a decrease in cash balance and revenues, the district remains in a good fiscal position, with strong financial health support led by consistent growth in enrollment, as well as prudent fiscal management and strategic planning.
- Revenue Growth: There is a notable increase in tuition revenue due to increased enrollment.
- Enrollment Expansion: The growth in dual enrollment signifies a positive trend in student participation, providing significant savings to students and fostering community engagement.

Information Items

1. Purchases over \$50,000, presented by Czarina Gallegos

The **Board acknowledged** the Information Item as Presented.

Summary –

Since the Purchasing threshold increased from \$50,000 to \$250,000 per Procedure 337.1 in January 2024, the college committed to communicating purchases reviewed and approved over \$50,000 between District Governing Board meetings.

Total	Summary
\$128,000.00	Yuma Truck Driving School Blanket Purchase Order
\$53,956.00	Training Ammunition Combat (TAC) House for Law Enforcement Training Academy program
\$253,586.67	HVAC Training Equipment, VR Training equipment for Program, HVAC Mobile Trailer to offer HVAC courses with full lab experiences for students to South Yuma and La Paz County campus sites
\$85,000.00	Automotive Diagnostic Scanners for Automotive Technology Program

To support high-impact, hands-on learning across key technical programs, the College recommends the purchase of critical capital equipment for the Truck Driving School, the Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA), HVAC, and Automotive programs, totaling \$520,542.67. These investments will significantly enhance student training environments, providing realistic, scenario-based learning, and expanding access to industry-relevant tools and technologies across the district. These enhancements underscore the College's commitment to workforce readiness and equitable access to high-quality education.

Closing Items:

Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel Corr

In his closing remarks, Dr. Corr expressed gratitude to the Board for their continued trust and partnership, reinforcing the College's commitment to student success, fiscal responsibility, and innovation amid changing higher education landscapes.

Dr. Corr's reflected on the IGA Addendum approved with the Law Enforcement Training Academy reflecting the good public stewardship at the College.

As the Semester ends, the celebration season starts with the Employee Recognition Event Wednesday with program recognition event of the amazing accomplishments of students and the Faculty and Staff at AWC. Over 650 students have indicated their intent to be part of the May 16 Commencement evening.

Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting will be May 8, 2025, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley B. Herrington
Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary

Attendance at 6:15 pm

