

MEETING MINUTES
Arizona Western College
District Governing Board Meeting
Regular Meeting 11:30 am
Yuma Campus and Virtually
November 12, 2025

Board Members Present: Board President Dennis Booth and Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Brad Sale
Board Member present by phone, Zoom: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland and Maria Chavoya
Board Member Absent: None

Others Present within Meeting room: (20)

Dr. Daniel Corr, President	Jennifer Freedman, Executive Admin Assistant
Ashley Herrington, Chief of Staff	Kari Wyatt, Executive Assistant
Angie Creel, Director of Library	Kathy Ocampo, Vice President and CHRO
Bryan Doak, Executive Vice President for Learning and Student Services	Mandy Heil, Dean of Communications and Marketing
Czarina Gallegos, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services	Miguel Alvarez, Associate Dean of Reskilling & Corporate Training
Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative, Communications Faculty	Miguel Rios, Director of Apprenticeship
Dr. Hikmet Budak, Ag Science Faculty	Rayna Ramirez, Student of the Month
Dr. Joann Chang, Executive Director - Dean of Healthcare Programs	Scott Estes, Chief Information Officer
Dr. Reetika Dhawan, CEO of Entrepreneurial College	Luis Landeros, Creative Director
	Noemi Barraza, Executive Admin Assistant
	Cindy Zavala, Director of Campus Life

Others Present virtually: (12)

Cindy Zavala	Dr. Nikki Hage
Yanet Avila	Johanna Megui
Michael Rose	Nancy Ney
Julia Howe	Adriana Perez
Karen Davila	Annie Welker
Kimberly Trujillo	Cristina Gonzales

Community Members Present by Zoom: (0)

Community Members Present in Room: (0)

Call to Order: Board Chair Dennis Booth called the Regular Meeting to order at 11:31 am.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda for November 12, 2025, meeting presented for approval.

Motion by Brad Sale seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2025, presented for approval.

Motion by Maria Chavoya, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, 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, Cindy Zavala, SGA Club Advisor. She welcomed the Board and shared recent SGA highlights, including a presentation from Dr. Nikki Hage and Cristina Gonzalez on AWC's economic impact and community partnerships, which provided students with valuable insight into the College's regional role. Recent student engagement events—Salsa Magic, the Salsa Competition, and the Halloween Party—were well attended and celebrated for promoting inclusion and connection across campus. SGA continues to advance initiatives supporting student advocacy, including development of a QR code feedback system to enhance accessibility for reporting student concerns. Ms. Zavala concluded by expressing appreciation to the District Governing Board for their ongoing support of a connected and student-centered campus community.

Faculty Senate Association, Dr. Emily Kerr, Faculty Senate Representative to the District Governing Board, presented the November Faculty Senate update highlighting continued academic innovation, faculty scholarship, and community engagement. Plans are underway to launch a Medical Assistant program at Somerton High School in partnership with the California Dermatology Institute. The EMS/EMT Paramedic Program celebrated its latest graduating class, and the Library hosted a Banned Book Bingo event to promote censorship awareness. Academic highlights included AWC's new Arizona Women in Higher Education (AWHE) chapter, student participation in the Plant and Animal Genome Conference, and Engineering Day, which welcomed over 100 local high school students. Faculty scholarship was recognized through Dr. Liza Martinez's published book review in FLANC Connections Journal. Community engagement efforts featured contributions from Dr. Michelle Sims with the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce and the Onvida Health Symposium, and from Dr. Monica Ketchum-Cardenas with the Imperial Valley Food Harvest Bowl and Historians Against Hunger. In addition, Soroptimist International of Greater Yuma collaborated with campus partners to assemble feminine hygiene packets for students, addressing period poverty on campus.

Student of the Month, Rayna Ramirez. Nominated by Dr. Hikmet Budak, Rayna was recognized for her genuine curiosity and eagerness to learn, consistently engaging with questions that deepen classroom discussions. As a working mother pursuing a degree in Agribusiness, Rayna shared her experiences balancing family, work, and academics, expressing gratitude for the welcoming and supportive environment fostered by AWC faculty and staff. She emphasized her commitment to persevering and completing her degree. Ms. Zepeda commended Rayna's determination and encouraged her to stay the course toward achieving her educational goals.

Action Items

Action Item #1 – Consideration to Accept Candidates for Exempt Positions, presented by Katheline Ocampo
Motion by Olivia Zepeda seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

- Bianca Melendrez Valenzuela, Adult Education Faculty
- Lauryn DeGuzman, Sports Coordinator/Assistant Softball Coach
- Perla Greta Villicana, Coordinator for Military and Veteran Services

Action Item #2 –Consideration to Approve New Curriculum presented by Dr. Reetika Dhawan
Motion by Brad Sale, seconded by Olivia Zepeda

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

The Entrepreneurial College is requesting to add new Certificates. These certificates are designed to support student credential attainment and workforce readiness as well as provide additional opportunities for apprenticeships. If approved, these certificates could begin in the Summer 2026 semester.

New Certificates proposed in:

- CERT.BARP1 Barber Apprenticeship: Part 1 (8 credits)
- CERT.BARP2 Barber Apprenticeship: Part 2 (12 credits)
- CERT.LGS4 Sustainability in Supply Chain (3 credits)
- CERT.LGS5 Global Supply Operations (3 credits)

Action Item #3 –Consideration to Identify Chief Fiscal Officer presented by Dr. Daniel P. Corr

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

Dr. Daniel Corr, President of Arizona Western College wishes to identify Czarina Gallegos as the Chief Fiscal Officer of Yuma/La Paz Counties Community District for expenditure limitation reporting, per Arizona Revised Statute §41-1279.07(E), for Fiscal Year 2024.

Action Item #4 – Consideration to Approve Voucher (October 2025) – Presented by Czarina Gallegos

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, seconded by Brad Sale

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Brad Sale, Dr. Kenneth MacFarland, Maria Chavoya, Olivia Zepeda, and Dennis Booth

Nay: None

Abstain: None

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

Summary –

Fiscal Status Overview: Monthly Operating Cash Balance: \$18,865,111 October 31, 2025, compared to \$15,420,215 on October 31, 2024.

- Current Strength: For the month ending October 31, 2025, expenditures decreased by 7.9% compared to prior fiscal year.
- Revenues vs. Expenses: The District has received 30% of anticipated revenues, with 33% of the budgeted expenditures spent.

Fiscal Revenue Analysis:

- Year-over-Year Comparison Revenues:

- o FY25/26 Actual Revenues: \$18,272,378
- o FY24/25 Actual Revenues: \$22,863,707
- o Percentage Change: An increase of approximately 20.1% in actual revenues.
- Year-over-Year Comparison Expenditures:
 - o FY25/26 Actual Expenditures: \$21,712,856
 - o FY24/25 Actual Expenditures: \$23,582,503
 - o Percentage Change: An increase of approximately 7.9% in actual expenditures.

Enrollment Status:

- Current Enrollment: 91,819 credit hours.
- Comparison with Previous Year: 78,497 credit hours

Early College Highlights:

- Current Enrollment: 18,370 total credit hours, 10,956 are dual enrollment
- Comparison with Previous Year: 14,835 total credit hours, 9,690 are dual enrollment

Detailed Financial Data & Key Observations:

- Fiscal Strength: The district continues to show strong financial health, supported by steady enrollment growth, responsible fiscal management, and thoughtful strategic planning. In October 2025, revenues are projected to increase by at least 4% once all revenues are recorded.
- Enrollment Expansion: The district continues to experience strong enrollment growth, with a 17% increase through October 2025. The 13% rise in dual enrollment signifies a positive trend in student participation, offering substantial cost savings for students and strengthening community partnerships.

Information Item #1– Informational Review – Purchases over \$50,000– Presented by Czarina Gallegos
Summary –

Since the Purchasing threshold increased from \$50,000 to \$250,000 per Procedure 337.1, the College presents purchases of over \$50,000 to the next District Governing Board meeting for information. Information Item #1: Purchase of Capital Equipment for Welding Program at Parker Learning Center. The college is providing information regarding the purchase of capital equipment for Welding Program at the Parker Learning Center as follows:

- (2) Augmented Reality Welding System including simulator, teacher software, protective headgear and accessories; The total estimate including shipping and tax should not exceed: \$87,000.00
- This equipment will offer students realistic hands-on practice prior to actual live arc welding in the lab. Included teacher resources will help maximize instructor efficiency and student success in the program.

President's Reports

Economic Impact, Presented by Dr. Daniel Corr

Dr. Daniel Corr, President of Arizona Western College, presented the 2025 Economic Impact Report, emphasizing AWC's vital role in driving regional prosperity through education, workforce development, and community partnerships. The presentation highlighted how AWC's academic programs, capital investments, and collaborations with business and industry contribute significantly to the local economy. Dr. Corr underscored the College's continued commitment to economic growth, student success, and community advancement, illustrating how AWC serves as both an educational and economic engine for Yuma and La Paz counties.

>> Dr. MacFarland left the meeting at 12:28 pm.

Communications and Marketing: Celebrating AWC Medallion Wins, Presented by Mandy Heil

Ms. Mandy Heil, Dean of Communication and Marketing, presented an update on the College's efforts to strengthen engagement, visibility, and partnerships across the district. She highlighted AWC's recent recognition through the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) District Awards, noting expanded media outreach, the elevation of student success stories, and increased collaboration with community partners to enhance awareness of College programs and events. Ms. Heil emphasized the role of authentic storytelling and strategic communication in advancing AWC's mission and reinforcing its positive regional impact.

She reviewed the College's award-winning submissions, which reflect both creativity and strategic alignment, including campaigns such as "Bookstore Breakup" and "Meet Mateo." AWC earned multiple Medallion Awards, including:

- Bronze – Communication: Wellton Future48 Groundbreaking
- Silver – Novelty Item: Camp-Style Mug
- Silver – Computer-Generated Illustration: Mateo
- Silver – Interior Signage/Displays: San Luis Learning Center
- Gold – Outdoor Signage: La Paz County Outreach Van
- Gold – Video Short Feature: STEaM Programming
- Gold – Campaign Wildcard: Mateo Mascot Launch

Ms. Heil noted that Dr. Corr was honored as the 2025 Pacesetter of the Year, recognizing exceptional presidential leadership in supporting college communications and marketing. Additionally, Luis Landeros was commended for his outstanding design work and for developing the branding for the upcoming NCMPR national conference in Washington, D.C.

She concluded with an overview of the "Start Here. Get There." campaign, emphasizing its strong visual design and bilingual messaging in English and Spanish, which has been well received across social media platforms.

Closing Items:

Good of the Order by Dr. Daniel Corr

Dr. Corr shared his appreciation for the opportunity to meet in the Learning Resources Building, noting that the College was simultaneously hosting a professional development day for The Gowan Company, exemplifying AWC's continued commitment to serving as "A College of the Community." He highlighted recent travel with Ms. Maria Chavoya and Ms. Olivia Zepeda to Denver to attend the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Conference, where two AWC students participated in a student development learning track. Dr. Corr congratulated Ms. Zepeda on her appointment as a Board Member with the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), a national organization representing trustees across the country, noting the significance of her role in elevating both AWC and the broader Western Region on a national stage.

He reminded the Board that the next meeting will be held on December 11 at 11:30 a.m., following the Morning's Annual Employee Service Awards ceremony, and extended an invitation to attend the event. The following day, December 12, AWC will host its Fall Commencement Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on the Yuma Campus to celebrate graduates. Looking ahead, Dr. Corr announced plans for a January 2026 Budget Workshop, which will include a grant review and mid-year FY26 budget update.

He closed by sharing his excitement for AWC's Women's Soccer Team, which has been invited to compete in the National Championship Tournament in Enid, Oklahoma, representing the College at the highest level of competition.

Recess Into Executive Session; Motion to Recess into Executive Session at 12:47 pm.

Motion by Olivia Zepeda, Seconded by Brad Sale

Recess to Executive Session:

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session 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

Executive Session Minutes following

IV. Recess to Executive Session

Call to Order at 12:52 pm by Dennis Booth

Executive Session Meeting – Boardroom and Virtual meeting room closed to the public.

Board Members Present: Board Chair Dennis Booth, Board Secretary Olivia Zepeda, Maria Chavoya and Brad Sale

Board Member present by phone, Zoom: None

Board Member Absent: Dr. Kenneth MacFarland

Others Present within the Meeting Boardroom: (2)

Katheline Ocampo

Reetika Dhawan

Others Present Virtually: None

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Motion to Adjourn from Executive Session at 1:48 pm.

Motion to adjourn 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

>> Resume Regular Meeting at 1:48pm <<

Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled will be December 11, 2025, with the next Regular meeting conducted both in-person and via Zoom and at the Yuma Campus.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Sale, seconded by Maria Chavoya.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Nay: None

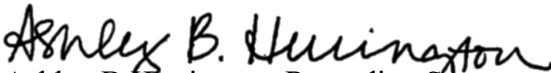
Abstain: None

The Board **Approved** the next meeting date and final matters of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Adjourn: The meeting matters were complete.

Respectfully submitted,


Ashley B Herrington, Recording Secretary