

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TWELVE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Centralia College	
Hanson Boardrooms Centralia College Boardrooms Centralia, Washington	Study Session/Regular Meeting June 12, 2025 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

• Study Session

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget – Tariq Qureshi

Tariq Qureshi, Vice President of Finance and Administration, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the FY2026 budget and reviewed key data points starting with the academic year (FY24) enrollment numbers. Tariq provided budget projections, an overview of the Running Start program, reserve balances, and summary.

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) has publicly available enrolment data on their website. The data spans academic years 2018-19 to the most recent year and includes comparisons with regional peers: Lower Columbia, Grays Harbor, and Peninsula Colleges.

Tariq noted the relationship between the college's total budget and enrollment, particularly the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)—specifically, cost per full-time equivalent (FTE) student. In 2018–2019, total costs and enrollment were more closely aligned. However, by 2021–2022, the cost per FTE had risen to \$13,525 while enrollment declined to 1,791.

Since then, steps have been taken to control costs, and overall expenses have begun to stabilize. As enrollment begins to rebound heading into FY26, efforts are ongoing to further narrow the gap between total costs and enrollment. The current goal is to reduce the cost per FTE to below \$10,000 over the next few years.

The college is working with draft budget numbers from the SBCTC. Since the release of the initial draft, two additional updates have been received, and further adjustments are expected.

Based on the initial draft:

- Centralia's total state allocation is projected to decrease by 1%.
- The overall allocation base increased by 16%.
- Safe Harbor increased by 26%.
- The largest decrease is in provisos and earmarks, which are down 50%; some of these funds are being reallocated to the Safe Harbor category.
- Direct Education Program (DEP) funding is expected to decline slightly.

Assuming enrollment remains flat, and the standard tuition increase is applied, tuition revenue is projected to increase by approximately 3%.

The Running Start program continues to perform well. Based on last year's enrollment, a 17% increase in funding is projected. Currently, only fall and winter enrollment data are available; the full-year data is not finalized. However, early trends indicate higher enrollment compared to last year.

For budgeting purposes, last year's enrollment figures are being used, with a 2.5% increase applied to reflect the updated reimbursement rates from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The projected funding increase is driven by two factors:

1. A 2.5% increase in the per-student reimbursement rate from OSPI
2. Growth in enrollment

Similarly, on the tuition side, projections assume flat enrollment but incorporate the 3% tuition rate increase.

The state budget allocates 8% to higher education. Of the 8%, 41% is designated for community and technical colleges (CTCs) and distributed by the SBCTC system.

Provisos and earmarks have been significantly reduced, as some of that funding has been shifted into Safe Harbor. The "Other Revenues" category is also projected to decline. This is due to the phase-out of one-time funds, such as the CARES Act, which were previously used to help balance the budget.

The allocation base represents the largest portion, totaling \$13.9 million. Here's how the rest of the funding sources compare:

- Tuition: \$4.9 million
- Running Start: \$4.8 million
- Providers & Earmarks: \$2.7 million (significantly reduced from prior years)
- Safe Harbor: \$3.4 million
- Other Revenue Sources: Approximately \$500,000

Total budget:

- For FY25: \$30.8 million
- For FY26 (projected): \$30.4 million — a 1% overall decrease

All figures remain subject to change, as the State Board continues to meet and revise budget allocations.

The college's budget planning will focus on three key areas:

1. Total Tuition Revenue
2. Running Start Revenue
3. State Allocation

Both tuition and Running Start revenues are directly linked to enrollment. As enrollment continues to increase, those revenue streams are expected to remain strong. These increases offset reductions in state funding and position the college well heading into FY26.

Approximately 85% of the college budget is allocated to personnel costs. Anytime a position remains vacant for a period of time it generates salary savings. Currently, the college is trending about \$2 million under budget for the fiscal year - primarily due to vacancy-related savings.

Outside of personnel costs, most non-personnel expenditures are related to infrastructure and facility maintenance. These expenses are inherently more difficult to project with precision. While estimates for items such as contracted services and maintenance are entered into the system as part of the budgeting process, accurately forecasting these costs remains a challenge.

The distribution of the college's total budget by division provides a snapshot of how funds are allocated institution-wide:

- Instruction: 51%

- Institutional Support: 24%
- Student Services: 14%
- Plant Operations: 9%
- Library: 2%

This allocation reflects the college's continued emphasis on direct instruction and student-facing services, with the majority of resources dedicated to supporting teaching and learning.

In summary:

- The college continues to maintain a strong fiscal position with healthy reserve balances and sufficient liquidity to manage short-term financial challenges.
- Rising costs, especially in infrastructure, IT, and facilities—remain an area to watch.
- Opportunities include the growth of the interest reserve, which benefits from the current high-interest rate environment.
- Cost saving measures are being actively pursued within the budget to help address ongoing financial pressures.

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Annalee Tobey called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board members present:

- Annalee Tobey
- Pretrina Mullins (Via Teams)
- Mark Scheibmeir
- Chris Thomas
- Court Stanley

Dr. Mohrbacher requested a reorder of the board agenda to present the athletic budget and the S & A budget together under New Business.

It was MOVED BY Mark Scheibmeir THAT THE BOARD REORDER THE BOARD AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Introductions/Presentations:

Dr. Mohrbacher introduced the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Washington Academic Team. Members are:

- Ian Engle
- Daniel Turner
- Ava Brenner
- Kitty Starr

Jenny Bauska introduced the Nursing Program students and their Capstone Project. The students presented "A Future Where Work and Family Thrive Together." Their project highlights that without an infant-in-the-workplace policy, employees face reduced

productivity, less parent-child bonding, and hindered early development. The students requested consideration of such a policy.

Childcare affordability is becoming an increasing issue for working parents. In Lewis County, families spend approximately 22% of their income on childcare. These high costs strain household budgets and individuals who cannot afford childcare may be forced to leave their jobs.

Research indicates that implementing an infant-in-the-workplace policy can significantly alleviate financial pressure on new parents, boost workplace productivity, lower absenteeism, enhance employee satisfaction and retention, and strengthen the parent-child bond, thereby supporting healthy infant development. The policy would be for infants from six weeks to six months.

Joy Anglesey recommended the administrative team discuss the possibility of this proposal to assess whether this is achievable for Centralia College. There would be some challenges in the development and feasibility, but it is something that administration would consider.

The students thanked everyone for their time and invited them to their upcoming pinning ceremony, Friday, June 20th, 5:00 pm in Corbet Theater.

Open Forum

No one requested to speak in open forum.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of Minutes:

It was MOVED BY Court Stanley THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE REGULAR MINUTES OF May 8, 2025, AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy Governance

Policy Updates

Dr. Mohrbacher reported Institutional Effectiveness (IE) met June 4, 2025. Three policies passed on second read.

- 4.040 Athletics (Intercollegiate)
- 4.065 Counseling & Advising Services
- 4.090 Financial Aid Services

Dr. Mohrbacher noted that many board policies are due for review, as they are typically assessed every five years. Several leave policies currently overlap and are being reviewed and streamlined for clarity and efficiency.

5. Trustee Reports

Trustee Activities

Court Stanley attended the Report to the Community on May 27, 2025, and thought the event went well despite a small turnout.

Court also attended the Center for Excellence and Clean Energy meeting.

Pretrina Mullins attended the Association of College Trustees (ACT) Spring Conference in Spokane. Pretrina thought the conference was very informative, especially in regard to AI.

Additionally, Pretrina attended Morton's Baccalaureate and presented awards. Four students received scholarships from the Foundation.

Pretrina will be in attendance for graduation on Wednesday, June 18.

Chris Thomas attended Centralia High School graduation where he and his nephew awarded the Thomas Family Scholarship.

Tuesday, June 10th, Chris attended the Visual Arts display.

Chris commended the college bookstore for yet another sale where he was able to purchase some new Centralia College swag.

Chris is planning on attending the choir concert tonight, the last in a musical series.

Mark Scheibmeir reported that he attended the spring play *Company*. Mark thought it a rather ambitious production for a community college and yet, praised the cast for successfully bringing it to life under the capable direction of Emmy Kreilkamp

Mark attended the Winlock High School graduation where he presented three Foundation scholarships to top ten scholars, including the class valedictorian. The only local high school he has yet to visit is White Pass.

On June 10, 2025, Mark participated in the Trustee Tuesday session titled *Crystal Ball Part 3: The 2025-26 Budget has been Signed and what it Means for our Colleges and What is Next*. The session provided insights into the new budget, its implications for colleges, recommended next steps for trustees, and strategies for staying engaged and advocating during the interim.

Mark praised the publication *Spilled Ink* and stated that it is an excellent publication and recognized the collaboration between students and staff in producing it.

Mark also commended Jeff McQuarrie and Ann Grande Moody on receiving the Exceptional Faculty award, noting that both are very deserving of the honor.

Annalee Tobey attended the Association of College Trustees (ACT) Spring Conference in Spokane. She found the conference to be informative and appreciated the opportunity to hear about challenges other colleges and trustee boards are facing. This reinforced her gratitude for being part of Centralia College. A key theme is the growing impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and how this will shape the college's future.

Annalee attended the *Report to the Community* event on May 27, 2025. Despite lower-than-expected attendance she found the information valuable and the overall tone positive.

She informed the board that she would be leaving the meeting by 6:10 p.m. to attend the Adna High School graduation where she will present Foundation scholarships to graduating seniors.

ACCT

The 2025 ACCT Leadership Congress will be in New Orleans, Louisiana this year on Wednesday, October 22 through Saturday, October 25, 2025. The theme will be “Reimagining Community College: Innovation for a Changing World.” Currently, Annalee Tobey will be attending this year; registration for the event will be done on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at the beginning of the new fiscal year. Any trustee who wishes to participate needs to let the President’s Office know as event lodging fills quickly.

6. President’s Report

Dr. Mohrbacher reported that the Teacher Education Family Development Center is not expected to receive state funding until July 2029. Although there is a slim chance this could change if the state economy improves significantly, current projections place the project third in line. Staff are currently evaluating whether it will be necessary to reenter the design phase, which would increase costs. During the study session, it was noted that the original proposal included a \$1 million local funding commitment from the Foundation; that commitment has since increased to \$1.6 million. While an escalation factor may slightly increase the state’s funding allocation, it typically doesn’t cover the full cost gap.

On a positive note, summer enrollment is currently tracking well, which is encouraging given how close it is to the start of the summer quarter. While it’s still early to predict fall enrollment, early indicators are promising. State enrollment for summer is currently about 33% ahead compared to the same day last year, which is a strong indicator. That number will likely level out somewhat as it gets closer to the start of the quarter, since part of the increase is due to the timing of the comparison. Running Start enrollment is up 33%, state enrollment is up 47%, and overall enrollment is up 48% with 25 days remaining before the start of the quarter.

The college fared well from the recent legislative session, but there are still some reductions to address. At least one position will be eliminated, and the Centers of Excellence saw budget reductions. The State Board is working to clarify the impacts, as the budgets and statutory authority for the various Centers of Excellence are spread across multiple funding sources and legislative years. A work group has been formed to sort through the issues—Dr. Mohrbacher is serving as a co-chair, although he missed the first meeting.

Additionally, there’s uncertainty at the federal level around Perkins funding, which supports a wide range of needs including equipment, partial salaries, and part-time staffing. The outcome is still unclear, but the situation will be monitored closely.

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) also experienced cuts, which may affect the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) contract. While details are still being finalized, the situation appears manageable. A few slots were lost but no staff reductions are expected. Instead, the team will take a more strategic approach to spending, particularly on supplies and curriculum. Rather than immediately adopting new materials, they will proceed more cautiously. Overall, the program remains

stable, especially compared to other colleges and centers that faced more severe impacts.

Commencement is this Wednesday—not Friday, as some may still have in mind. A few fun activities are planned to celebrate the occasion. The Lewis County Community Band will be performing live at the ceremony. Jim Walton, President Emeritus, will be on stage to help kick off the Centennial celebration. Following the ceremony, there will be a picnic in the park. Centennial banners line the esplanade, marking the official start of the 100-year celebration.

Planning is underway for the Centennial Picnic scheduled for September 13, thanks to Alexis Bezio and her team. In addition, the city reached out to collaborate on a drone show, which will be part of the picnic activities. The drone show is planned to begin once it gets dark.

The college will also be participating in the Summerfest Parade with a themed entry: “100 Years of Education.” The entry will feature golf carts decorated in blue and gold celebrating the college’s Centennial. The details are still being finalized, including drivers—if any trustees are interested in driving a golf cart and joining the parade, please let the President’s Office know.

7. SAALT

Joshua Pickett, Student Advocacy Activities Leadership Team (SAALT) President, reported SAALT has been busy wrapping up the year, concluding with its final event: the Capstone grading session.

Transition documents are being finalized with help from SAALTs vice president, to ensure a smooth handoff to next year’s team.

It was especially meaningful to see this year’s student leaders reflect on their goals—nearly all of which were either fully accomplished or actively underway. Their efforts have laid a strong foundation for the incoming team.

Joshua introduced next year’s leadership team. Several outstanding candidates were interviewed, and he was pleased to announce that Alicia Jenkins—AJ—has been selected as the 2025–26 SAALT President. He is excited to see AJ step into this role and continue building on the strong foundation laid by this year’s team.

The trustees commended Joshua on his biography in the Outstanding Student flyer. It not only highlighted his many accomplishments but also provided meaningful insight into his contributions and activities throughout the year.

8. Faculty

No report provided.

9. Classified

Emil Parke-Fagerness, Classified Representative, noted that classified staff were fully occupied this month and therefore he had no updates to share. He anticipates having news to report in September

10. Instruction

No report provided.

11. Human Resources & Equity

Joy Anglesey, Vice President of Human Resources and Equity, highlighted the *Centralia Cares: Together We Belong* event held on June 5th. The gathering united students, faculty, and staff in a celebration of inclusion. Attendees received commemorative T-shirts bearing the message “Centralia College – Together We Belong,” fostering a sense of campus-wide community.

The HR team delivered an exceptional event, supported by the Wellness Committee and several college employees. Attendees enjoyed salsa dancing, drumming, and other activities. Feedback was positive and it is hopeful that HR can host it again next year, pending funding. Enough T-shirts were ordered for incoming students and employees to be included in a “care package” when hired. Overall, the event was affirming, and HR hopes to build on its success.

The annual listening sessions were held alongside the *Together We Belong* event, and they were a great success. This year, a consultant was hired to facilitate one-on-one conversations, including conversations in Spanish. The in-person listening sessions were supplemented with an online and paper-based survey, offering multiple participation formats. Although the survey remains open until July 15, 75 responses have been received, exceeding last year’s total. This increased engagement suggests that providing accessible, varied options has a positive effect.

12. Student Services

Dr. Robert Cox, Vice President of Student Services, provided a few updates.

The Centralia Downtown Association, Rotary, and College are hosting a free Community Breakfast on July 4th from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the TransAlta Commons, followed by a 5K run starting from campus.

On July 12 and 13, Centralia College will serve as the official midpoint for the Seattle-to-Portland (STP) Bike Race, with approximately 9,000 riders expected — an increase over last year. Volunteers are needed for two breakfast shifts at 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. on the 13th.

Tony Holmes and Dr. Cox attended a productive meeting with several local community service providers where information about the college’s resources and support was shared.

Dr. Cox met with United Way to discuss the Scholars Haven program and submitted a proposal to ACCT to give a presentation about Scholars Haven at the Leadership Congress in October. The expansion of Scholars Haven, now supported by Community Youth Services and PacMtn, allows the college to increase the student capacity and offer wraparound services, creating a more comprehensive, student-centered program. Although this new partnership development occurred after the ACCT submission, Dr. Cox plans to update the proposal to reflect this progress.

13. Administrative Services

Tariq Qureshi, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reported two final updates. As of the end of April, the college was \$2.2 million—or about 9%—under budget. With May now closed, that number remains close to \$2 million.

The college has received formal approval from the State Board for the increased capital expenditure on the Sports Complex, following several additions to the project. The

total increase amounts to \$815,000: \$380,000 for batting cages, funded by the Foundation and recorded on the College's books and \$434,000 for bleachers and press boxes, financed through \$421,000 in SAALT funds and \$13,000 from the Foundation.

With the State Board's approval, the revised capital expenditure is fully authorized. Tariq thanked everyone who contributed to moving this forward.

14. Foundation

Christine Fossett, Associate Vice President of Advancement, acknowledged how the costs of the Teacher Education building will increase over the next few years. A generous Foundation board member had already volunteered extra funding to increase their commitment in anticipation of those rising costs; then they immediately announced their retirement and resigned from the board.

Mark Scheibmeir has just concluded his 31st year on the Foundation Board. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently gone far beyond passive board attendance, offering thoughtful guidance, supporting events, and actively contributing to the Foundation's initiatives. Christine expressed her gratitude for his lasting dedication and engagement over the years.

15. New Business

Athletic Budget and S & A Budget

Dr. Robert Cox introduced Ceanna Larson, Assistant Athletic Director, Katie Madinger, Athletics Program Coordinator and Shelley Bannish, Director of Student Life and Involvement Center to present on their respective budgets.

Shelley introduced Madison Beck, SAALT Vice President, who chaired the Student Budget Committee. The presentation began with a brief overview, followed by a walkthrough of the student budget process, and an overview of the athletics portion by Ceanna. Questions will be addressed at the end.

Many students don't realize how their tuition is allocated; most students guess books or faculty salaries but that's only part of the picture.

For example, a student taking 15 credits pays approximately \$1,645 per quarter. Of that, \$174.95 goes directly to the student budget via Service and Activities (S&A) fees. In addition to S&A fees, the student budget is supported by other key revenue sources. One is the Student Activity Fee, established by student vote years ago and gradually increased over time. This year, students voted to raise it from \$45 to \$50 per quarter.

The student budget receives a portion of Running Start funding. When Running Start launched in the 1990s, the student government wisely established an MOU with the college to dedicate a share of those funds to student activities. Although the amount remained unchanged for years, it was successfully increased to \$55,000 this year.

All of those combined revenue sources—the S&A fees, Student Activity Fee, and the Running Start allocation have given the student budget a total exceeding \$1 million for the 2025–26 academic year, marking the first time this amount has been reached. The focus now is how to effectively manage and allocate these funds to support student programs and services.

The student budget supports campus programs and services, including athletics, esports, Spilled Ink, drama productions (covering performance rights), childcare, the

summer play in East County, and SAALT's operations covering salaries, travel, and programming as well as student clubs.

The ASCC Clubs and Organizations line remains unchanged—this central fund is available to all campus clubs after they've spent their own fundraising. Clubs may apply to the SEC Governing Board for additional support from this shared pool once personal funds are exhausted.

The SAALT program received a \$3,000 increase this year, reflecting higher costs due to the rising minimum wage and its impact on salary expenses. The Children's Lab funding rose from \$21,000 in 2024–25 to \$31,000 for 2025–26. This adjustment responds to underestimated staffing needs from the previous year.

In the operating section of the budget, several Student Life (SLIC) office lines were adjusted to reflect rising costs. The general SLIC budget line increased due to inflation-related expenses. Funding for leadership development went up to accommodate higher travel costs, and the student engagement advisor line rose following the hire of a new advisor at a higher salary. Marketing and advertising expenses also increased in line with market rates, and the cardio room student worker budget was updated to reflect the current minimum wage.

This is the first time a student budget committee has both allocated and received approval for a budget exceeding \$1 million.

Ceanna Larson explained the athletic portion of the budget.

This year's athletic budget adjustments reflect rising travel costs, shifts in roster sizes, and a commitment to a more transparent, accurate budgeting process.

Baseball's budget increased significantly due to a larger roster, higher travel expenses, and the correction of previous underestimations. Maintaining a large college baseball roster comes with significant financial implications, including increased travel, equipment, coaching staff salaries, and facility maintenance costs.

In contrast, basketball's budget decreased slightly. Despite adding two additional players to the roster, the team managed to reduce expenses.

Volleyball's budget rose slightly, also tied to a larger roster and associated travel costs. Adding five more athletes increased expenses by \$14,219, reflecting the direct impact of roster size on budgets.

Softball saw a more substantial increase, similar to baseball, as earlier budget miscalculations were corrected and accounted for roster growth on the women's side.

Women's golf experienced a slight decrease based on reduced current needs.

Both men's and women's soccer budgets remained unchanged, as last year's estimates proved accurate.

Esports is now fully incorporated into the athletics budget, covering both equipment needs and the salary for their coach.

When Ceanna assumed responsibility for the athletic budget, her primary objective was to build a more equitable and transparent system. Previously, coaches lacked a clear picture of their budget, making it difficult for them to make informed, strategic decisions for their teams. To address this a solid baseline was established.

The baseline was determined by focusing on actual league schedules, calculating travel costs based on allowable roster sizes to establish a base budget aligning with NWAC regulations. Recognizing that full preseason schedules are rarely used, expectations were adjusted accordingly. Individual meetings with each coach were

conducted, acknowledging that some programs rely more heavily on preseason competition, while others depend on league performance. The goal was to balance each sport's competitive requirements with the realistic support available through Service & Activities funding, especially with increasing travel, food, and operational expenses.

As a result, the budgets are more accurate, transparent, and equitable. Standard allocations were added for equipment and recruiting to support basic in-season needs. The athletic budget now includes allocations for training equipment, giving coaches the flexibility to adapt and enhance training annually. A recruitment budget should eliminate out-of-pocket travel expenses for coaches.

Dr. Cox emphasized that over the past two years, the student government has increased funding for athletic programs. Previously, coaches were funded many operational expenses through their own fundraising efforts. Programs with strong fundraising capabilities thrived, while others struggled. With student government support, fundraising is now reserved for items such as player packages, practice jerseys, and scholarships.

It was MOVED BY Chris Thomas THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ATHLETIC BUDGET FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-26 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Approval

Tariq Qureshi, Vice President of Finance and Administration, presented the FY26 budget. The projected total operating budget is \$30.4 million, approximately \$345,000 less than last year with planned reductions between \$623,000 and \$675,000.

The current assumptions are flat enrollment but factors in tuition increases and allocation changes. As more information is received from the State Board, that information will be presented at one of the early fall board meetings.

It was MOVED BY Mark Scheibmeir THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Emeritus

Dr. Mohrbacher reported that the Emeritus committee sent forth two individuals for emeritus approval: Carmen VanTuyl, Faculty Counselor, and Vann Cantin, CC East faculty.

It was MOVED BY Pretrina Mullins THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE TWO NEW NOMINATIONS FOR EMERITUS STATUS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hispanic Serving Institution/Opportunity College Designation

Dr. Mohrbacher reported the college is currently classified as an "Emerging HSI" institution (15–24.9% Latinx enrollment). Internal data for FY26 shows that 26% of students identify as Latinx, surpassing the 25% federal threshold for full HSI designation.

However, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) reflects an 18% Latinx enrollment, based on state-submitted data. Until IPEDS confirms 25% or more, the College will retain the emerging HSI classification.

Dr. Mohrbacher reported that the College has officially been designated an Opportunity College under the revised Carnegie Classifications. This designation evaluates institutions based on two key metrics: access—enrollment of underserved and underrepresented student populations—and earnings outcomes—post-graduation income relative to peers. Institutions that score high on both measures receive Opportunity College status, recognizing their role in promoting student success and economic mobility.

In Washington State, only two community colleges, Centralia College and Bellingham Technical College, hold this distinction; the rest are four-year universities: Central, Western, and Eastern Washington.

Tribal Elder Tuition Waiver

Dr. Cox proposed that Centralia College formally adopt the voluntary tuition and fee waiver for tribal elders as permitted under Senate Bill 5110. The bill authorizes community and technical colleges to waive all or part of tuition and Service & Activities fees for tribal elders aged 55 and older from federally recognized tribes.

Given the strong partnerships with regional tribes such as the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, adopting this waiver supports the College's values of inclusion, equity, and community engagement. It honors tribal elders' contributions and expands access to lifelong learning in a culturally respectful manner.

It was MOVED BY Court Stanley THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZES THE COLLEGE FOR FULL TUITIONS, FEES, AND SERVICES AND ACTIVITY FEES WAIVERS TO TRIBAL ELDERS OVER THE AGE OF 55. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Old Business

Board Retreat Planning – Agenda, Date, Location

The board retreat will be held Tuesday, July 22nd. Dr. Mohrbacher will send out the retreat agenda to Annalee Tobey for discussion. The location will be at 3512 Gravelly Beach Loop Northwest, Olympia, WA.

Strategic Planning

Fia Eliasson-Creek, Executive Director of Institutional Research, provided an update on mission fulfillment and highlights three objectives from the strategic plan selected due to the availability of complete data for the current academic year.

1. Objective 1.1.1 – Enrollment Growth with Emphasis on Underrepresented Students
Goal: Increase enrollment to at least 2,700 with a focus on growing the underrepresented student population.
 - Progress: Annualized FTE increased by 11% from the 2022 baseline, reaching approximately 2,240 FTE for this year (final number pending state verification).
 - Strategies implemented:

- Targeted marketing to returning, current, and prospective students
- Hiring of a multicultural recruiter fluent in Spanish
- High school outreach, including FAFSA events and registration sessions
- Addition of bilingual staff and student workers at the Welcome Desk
- Demographic shifts:
 - Latinx student population increased by 12% now comprising 26% of total enrollment.
 - Multiracial students increased by 12%, becoming the second-largest demographic group.
 - American Indian/Alaska Native and Black/African American student numbers remained stable.
 - Non-reporting of race/ethnicity decreased from 9% to 2%; many now identify as white resulting in a 6% increase in white student enrollment.
 - Overall, students of color now represent a slightly higher portion of the student body, with a 1% year-over-year increase.

Although the number of Latinx students increased by 2% and multiracial students also grew, the overall percentage of students of color rose by only 1%. This is primarily due to a change in reporting: the percentage of students who did not report their race dropped from 9% to 2%, with most now identifying as white. This shift offset the growth in underrepresented groups.

2. Objective 1.3.1 – First-to-Second Year Retention (Degree-Seeking Students)

The fall-to-fall retention rate for first-time, degree-seeking students improved by 5 percentage points, rising from 52% to 57%. This marks significant progress toward the goal of achieving the highest retention rate among Washington community colleges and moves Centralia from 13th to 5th in the statewide ranking.

A key contributor to this gain is the College and Career Success course. Students who completed the course had a 77% retention rate, compared to 53% for those who did not, highlighting the impact of early academic and advising engagement.

Disaggregated data shows positive trends:

- Latinx students: up from 52% to 56%
- Black/African American students: up from 36% to 50% (small cohort of 16 students)
- Multiracial students: up from 57% to 60%
- White students: up from 53% to 60%
- Asian and American Indian/Alaska Native students did not see an increase this year. Overall, students of color remained steady at 53%.

Statewide, the average retention rate is 54%, while our peers stayed flat at 58%.

Objective 2.2.1 – Streamlining College Operations and Processes

41 operations and processes across the college have been identified that need to be streamlined to improve efficiency, reduce manual effort, and improve effectiveness. These include:

- Employee onboarding and offboarding
- Student intake and advising
- E-signature scheduling systems
- Transitioning the catalog from PDF to interactive online format
- Compliance clarity and IT asset replacement schedules

Many of these processes are interdependent; improving one often exposes other areas that need attention, resulting in broader systemic updates.

Progress

- 14% of identified processes have been fully completed
- 22 processes (54%) are currently in progress, with several steps within them already completed

A significant increase in completion next year is expected as in-progress items are finalized.

Institutional Impact

Of the 41 total processes:

- 20% directly impacts enrollment and retention
- 23% directly support student success
- 10% aim to reduce expenses or increase revenue
- 28% focus on internal controls, data access, and financial process improvements
- 25% aim to strengthen campus culture and working conditions

These efforts support long-term improvement and sustainability in college operations.

Accreditation

Fia Eliasson-Creek, Executive Director of Institutional Research, provided an update on the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) accreditation visit. NWCCU is scheduled to convene in July 2025. During this meeting, the Commission will review both the college's Year Seven Self-Evaluation Report and the evaluation team's findings. Based on this review, the NWCCU will determine the appropriate follow-up actions, which may include an Ad Hoc Report request or a visit to the campus to address any recommendations made during the evaluation. Both Dr. Mohrbacher and Fia will attend the July NWCCU meeting.

17. Executive Session

Under RCW 42.30.110, the board may hold an executive session for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee; consultation with legal counsel regarding agency enforcement actions, or actual or potential agency litigation or to review professional negotiations; or considering the sale or acquisition of real estate.

At 6:15 pm board members moved into executive session to review the performance of a public employee and consult with legal counsel about current or potential litigation. The Board will be in Executive Session until 6:25 p.m. unless you are notified that the time is extended.

The Board has adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the Open Session. The time is 6:25 p.m.

The Board will proceed with the final agenda items.

18. Action from Executive Session

There was no action from Executive Session.

19. Board Elections

It was MOVED BY TRUSTEE COURT STANLEY TO ELECT ANNALEE TOBEY THE POSITION OF CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE 2025-26 YEAR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was MOVED BY TRUSTEE COURT STANLEY TO ELECT PRETRINA MULLINS TO THE POSITION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE 2025-26 YEAR. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

20. Announcement of Upcoming Meeting Date and Place:

The next meeting is the board retreat and will be held Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 3512 Gravelly Beach Loop Northwest, Olympia, WA.

August Board Meeting

Dr. Mohrbacher requested a decision regarding the August Board meeting.

It was MOVED BY Court Stanley THAT THE BOARD CANCEL THE AUGUST BOARD MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

Annalee Tobey, Board Chair

Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, Board Secretary