

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Del Ames, Chairperson	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Nicole Sedlacek	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT

STAFF

Dr. Leah Barrett
John Blaylock
Dr. Tracy Kruse
Jim Curry
Diane Reikofski
Coleen Bressler

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	ABSENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT

MINUTES

1. Del Ames, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee convened the meeting at 1:36 p.m. in Suite E of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting as distributed.
3. Del Ames extended his appreciation to Dr. Tracy Kruse for her efforts in scheduling appointments with senators and congressmen while they were in Washington, DC.

Takeaways from the National Legislative Summit include the perception of the declining importance of a college education and the need to prepare student for the workplace. Capitol Hill visits included discussion on the Pell Grants, short-term Pell, second-chance Pell, lowering the cost of community college education, and expanding the apprenticeship programs.

Mr. Ames spoke about the Virginia FastForward Program and encouraged board members to read the article that is available in BoardPaq. The FastForward Program is a short-term workforce credentialing program that trains employees for high-demand jobs. Northeast could potentially identify the high-demand jobs in our service area and better align training for these employees.

4. Dr. Tracy Kruse reported that she and Dr. Barrett participated in the C2A3 Conference while in Washington. The Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) realized the value

Mission

Northeast Community College is dedicated to the success of students and the region it serves.

of working directly with community colleges but needed to work with a consortium of colleges rather than individual colleges which is the reason C2A3 was formed. C2A3 is an Alliance of nine institutions from eight states. Dr. Kruse reviewed the history of C2A3 and the accomplishments since the development of it.

5. Dr. Leah Barrett reported that she and Dr. Tracy Kruse attended the Nebraska State Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting at the end of January, providing her the opportunity to interact with the 20-county delegation.

On February 24th, Dr. Barrett, Dr. Kruse, and four Northeast students will travel to Lincoln to participate in Community College Legislative Day. It is important to share the community college story with legislators. Students will have the opportunity to speak with legislators regarding their experience at Northeast.

6. Dr. Tracy Kruse reported that there are several legislative bills being monitoring that are marked as priority bills. She anticipates that if there are dollars attached to any of the bills that it will not advance past general file until the general budget is filed. Greg Adams, NCCA Executive Director, provides a weekly update on the status of legislative bills and Dr. Barrett will forward his email to board members.
7. In other business, Dr. Kruse reported that the Northeast Community College Foundation Board of Directors met on January 28th. Dr. Barrett was introduced to the Board, Bill Tielke agreed to serve as acting president until July, and the Foundation 2019 portfolio was reviewed. Scholarships were paid out at 4.5%, equating to approximately \$265,000. The Achievement Awards Ceremony will be held on October 8, 2020.
8. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned 2:55 p.m.