

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson	PRESENT
Arlan Kuehn	ABSENT
Julie Robinson	PRESENT
Gene Willers	PRESENT
Steve Anderson, ex-officio	PRESENT

STAFF

Dr. Leah Barrett
Scott Gray
Paul Feilmeier
Amanda Nipp
Dr. Michele Gill
Jessica Dvorak
Jim Curry
Diane Reikofski

GUESTS

Greg Adams
Courtney Wittstruck

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

Del Ames	PRESENT
Donovan Ellis	PRESENT
Terry Nelson	PRESENT
Dirk Petersen	PRESENT
Jeff Scherer	PRESENT
Carol Sibbel	PRESENT

MINUTES

1. Nicole Sedlacek, Chairperson of the External Relations Committee, convened the meeting at 11:01 a.m. in Suites E & H of the Lifelong Learning Center.
2. Recommended approval of the Minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting as distributed.
3. Greg Adams, NCCA Executive Director, introduced Courtney Wittstruck who will be assuming the NCCA Executive Director position on January 1, 2022. Mr. Adams and Ms. Wittstruck will be working together through the end of 2021, providing for good interaction between the two and time to understand roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Wittstruck spoke to her excitement of being able to advocate for something that she truly believes in, community colleges. While state legislative lobbying will be in the forefront, she will also be involved in economic development and being a lead in attracting and bringing businesses to Nebraska.

4. NCCA Annual Meeting was held in Scottsbluff, October 3-4, 2021. A representative from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in Chicago spoke on how the HLC is changing the approach to how the accreditation process is done.
5. Nebraska's community college presidents developed a request that was presented to Governor Ricketts related to how funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 could be utilized. The request for funds would be used to support workforce development initiatives across the state.

Mission

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

Other initiatives being worked on include the Good Jobs Challenge grant, Siouxland Initiative through the Siouxland Chamber, Invest Nebraska, broadband initiatives, etc.

6. The HLC site visit will occur in Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 and Northeast will learn in early November of the confirmed date. Dr. Barrett expressed the importance of a few board members attending the HLC Annual Meeting in Chicago, April 1-5, 2022. Interested members should contact Diane Reikofski.
7. Dr. Leah Barrett has been chosen to be part of the Aspen New President's Fellowship. The significance for taking on the fellowship is for people who are willing to or interested in making a change of culture in learning environments. Steve Anderson stated that there is a great deal of work involved but her participation provides great benefit for Northeast Community College and the surrounding area.
8. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.