



CASCADIA COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, January 21, 2026



January 14, 2026

Dear Trustees and Community Members:

I look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting of 2026.

We start the New Year strong with a 14% increase in enrollment over last Winter Quarter. As we face constant budget headwinds, this helps keep us afloat. We'll start budget season soon and have already begun putting preliminary numbers together. The Governor's hold back of state money ended up being \$18.5M for the community colleges. We should know by the time we gather for our meeting what this might mean for Cascadia.

As you read in the Friday Letter, we have our new Associate Vice President of Advancement in place, Brittany Caldwell. We have worked over the last month to combine the Foundation and our Marketing & Communications department into one cohesive unit. Brittany's first tasks will be to create a strategic plan for the newly formed division as well as work on her staffing model. The Foundation Board is excited for this new role and hopefully the reputation of both the College and the Foundation will only get better.

I have completed almost all of my coffee meetings with the Tenured Faculty and have moved their thoughts and initiatives for the next 7 years to Faculty Council for consideration. In addition to their priorities, the Student Success Council has worked on additional strategic proposals for 26-27. Both lists will be considered this quarter as we look to determine how to shape our efforts for next Fall.

As you can see, a lot is going on. See you soon.

Dr. Eric Murray

Since our last meeting, these have been some of my activities.

On-Campus & UWB:

- Campus Marketing Consultations (x3)
- Coffees with new employees & faculty (10 gatherings; 20 employees)
- EAB Chair (x2)
- College Advisory Council
- Student filming for social media
- Foundation Meetings (x3)
- Donor Dinner at Residence (10 guests)
- UWB
 - Quarterly Leadership Meeting
 - Meeting with UWB Advancement Division (28 people)
- Celebrations
 - Staff Appreciation Lunch / Retirement Lunch for Meagan Walker
 - Student Success Holiday Breakfast
 - Retirement Celebration for NSD Board Members Cast and McGourty
 - Foundation Holiday Party

Community & State:

- Quarterly President's Community Advisory Council
- City of Woodinville State of the College
- WACTC Meetings (x7)
- SBCTC Meeting (x2), including 1:1 w/ Executive Director Nate Humphrey
- Eastside Pathways workshop
- Community Leadership Quarterly Lunch (UWB, Cascadia, NSD, Cities of Bothell, Kenmore, & Woodinville)
- 1:1 mentoring with new Whatcom Community College President
- 1:1 with new Seattle City U President
- School Districts
 - LWSD newly elected Board Member Aspen Richter 1:1
 - NSD Board Chair and Superintendent, planning session
 - NSD Superintendent (x2)
 - RSD Superintendent (x1)

From the Vice President for Administrative Services, Sean Poellnitz

FACILITIES

- During the holiday break, the team installed new emergency procedure guides in all classrooms and shared spaces.
- The facilities inventory was completed and uploaded into a new software system, enabling improved tracking, disposition, and surplusing of assets.
- A review and update of the Inclement Weather plan was completed.
- Updated Department Procedures for Inventory

FINANCE

- Multiple SBCTC deadlines for calendar year end was met regarding 1098-T, cash balance report, HCA OPED headcount, and updated Standard 2E for accreditation.
- Completion of Management's Discussion and Analysis of Fiscal Year 2025
- Updated Department Procedures for credit cards, meals, and light refreshments.

HUMAN RESOURCES, COMPLIANCE AND PAYROLL

- Advanced key recruitments, including VP of Student Learning and multiple full-time faculty hires
- Completed faculty retirement and fall adjunct separations; began early planning for June 2026 and October 2026 retirements
- Onboarded winter associate faculty and student employees; delivered Associate Faculty Orientation
- Finalized all Open Enrollment updates and completed year-end payroll cycles (12A/12B)
- Implemented January 1 minimum wage increase to \$17.13/hour; updated wages for 56 employees
- Processed January 1 personnel changes: promotions, hours changes, title/supervisor updates
- Updated PFML premium rate to 1.13% and implemented expanded 180-day job-protection eligibility
- Continued Title IX compliance efforts: issued final reminders and ongoing monitoring
- Posted updated workplace notices (minimum wage, PFML)
- Completed required reporting/audit tasks: HCA reconciliation, HRMC quarterly reporting, public records requests
- Continued winter-quarter processes: student credit checks, adjunct benefits review, FMLA tracker updates

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

- Information Technology Services collaborated with Learning Technology and Design and Student Success Services to update Canvas, making Kodiak Accounts the main email for all students and employees to improve communication.
- Two sessions were held for supervisors to explain changes to the employee offboarding process and answer questions.
- Employee OneDrive now offers automatic sign-in, file sync, offline access, and easier navigation.
- Microsoft Teams now auto-pins the Approvals and Connections apps to boost workflow and campus communication.
- IT Services created a scoring tool and new process that speeds up accessibility reviews for new technology, cutting review time from hours to minutes, and ensuring thorough documentation.

Faculty updates

Marco Rossi (Political Science) was recently on the podcast Pacific Time and had an editorial published in Tacoma Weekly.

David Ortiz (Communication, Media Studies, Humanities) serves on the City of Bothell's Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee with Stephan Classen and former Cascadia student Tamara Wood.

Jessica Ketcham (English) and her student Lilly were interviewed and quoted in a CNN piece while in Lyon as part of Ketcham's WCCCSA/Cascadia-sponsored study-abroad program.

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/19/travel/europe-public-squares-american-development>

Denise Michaels (Psychology) has been or will soon be published for the following:

- Poem, Flight to Arcata (Angie's Voice) in the *Paterson Literary Review*, spring 2026. This poem is about a first-gen student and feelings of liberation.
- Short Essay, The Way I See It, in *The Journal of Expressive Writing* for publication.
- Poem, Shall I Begin with the Garden? in the *Heart on our Sleeve Press*.

Guided Pathways/Undergraduate Educational Reform

The WA State Board held its annual two-day Guided Pathways Summit this October in Tacoma, bringing together approximately 150 colleagues from all 34 state colleges to advance Guided Pathways reform. Every college is actively implementing strategies to expand access and promote equity. At Cascadia College, we are prioritizing the redesign of our new student orientation and preparing our next two-year plan, which will focus on keeping students on their path and strengthening assessment efforts.

From the Vice President for Equity & Inclusion, Chari Davenport

The start of the winter term is going well for the Office of Inclusion, Advocacy, and Community and we are preparing for a busy and productive season. We have confirmed our two student of color conferences, events and workshops for faculty, staff, and students in the Center, an active Foundations of E&I course and E&I Council, and our Cascadia Scholars are thriving. We are also working on the 'Next Big Idea' for IAC and will include this plan in the February Board Report.

Inclusion and Advocacy Center – Here's what's happening in the Center

- MLK Service Project Day: Wednesday, 01/21, 12:30 to 2:30
- Bystander Intervention/Anti-Bias/De-escalation Workshop: Wednesday, 2/4, 12pm to 1pm. Offered by the Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC).
- Cascadia Staff Affinity Groups Open House: Tuesday, 2/10, 12pm to 1pm.
- Movie Screening and Discussion - Sarah's Oil: Wednesday, 2/25, 1:30pm to 3:30pm. In celebration of Black History Month
- Visual Thinking Exercise – The Library, Jacob Lawrence: ongoing in February

Cascadia Scholars – And... for the Scholars

- Skills-based Workshop - Resumes & Cover Letters for the Non-Traditional Student
- Non-Traditional Student Meet-Up
- Scholars and Mentors event
 - with Areas of Interest Affinity Groups
- Speaker Series (Health Sciences and Professional Tech)
 - We are excited to have Cascadia staff and faculty, community partners, and Foundations Board members share their expertise as panel experts during this series.

From the Associate Vice President for Advancement, Brittany Caldwell

SPRING SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE

It is that time again! We are kicking off the Foundation's spring scholarship cycle. As the larger of our two cycles, we are offering more than 30 awards – worth nearly \$85,000. This cycle's application window will run from Monday, January 12 through Friday, March 6. Scholarship funds from this cycle will be available for the 2026-27 academic year.

Please encourage students to apply: [Application details](#).

Learn more about our scholarships: [Foundation Scholarship details](#).

SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE



Cascadia staff, faculty, students and community:

Join us for our annual Pay it Forward Fundraising event on Wednesday, February 25, 2026!

Experience the stories, impact, and opportunities created when we invest in Cascadia students.

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Location: Mobius Hall, Cascadia College

Presented by the Cascadia College Foundation

All are welcome!

>> [Event Details / Registration](#) <<

Bring a friend to celebrate and enjoy:

- Inspiring student stories
- The impact education has on our community
- Campus updates from Cascadia College President, Eric Murray
- Complimentary beverages and appetizers
- And joining together to raise funds to support access to education for all!

From the Vice President for Student Success, Erin Blakeney

Enrollment Management

- The Enrollment Management and Guided Pathways committee continues to partner with Marketing & Communications to enhance the Cascadia website, with a focus on simplifying and clarifying key entry points for students and families. Current updates center on the “Getting Started” page for prospective and newly admitted students, a new parent and family site, and an updated Running Start/Dual Enrollment page designed to better support students, families, and high school counselors as they navigate enrollment.
- December Outreach Events supported students at multiple points along the enrollment pathway:
 - Staff connected with more than 140 prospective students at the Monroe High School College & Career Fair, providing early guidance and information about Cascadia pathways.
 - Ten prospective students visited campus for guided tours
 - Two prospective students attended a General Cascadia Information Session to learn more about academic and student support offerings.
 - Eleven prospective students and family members participated in a Running Start Information Session focused on readiness and next steps.
 - Forty new students completed the Cascadia Orientation and Registration Experience (CORE) sessions in preparation for the winter quarter.

International Programs

- Twelve “new” international students from Brazil, China, Gambia, Japan, Mongolia, South Korea, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam enrolled for Winter 2026. Eight were new students and four were previously enrolled students who returned to Cascadia.
- Four study abroad students successfully returned from their Fall 2025 programs in Japan and Spain, completing their academic term abroad.
- An updated travel ban announced in December has affected three current students from Benin, Gambia, and Tanzania. Turkmenistan’s ban has been lifted for F-1 international students.
- IP is prioritizing marketing and recruitment efforts for the upcoming quarters. The recruitment plan for Winter and Spring 2026 has been finalized, and a new campaign is now underway to increase visibility and engagement across key markets.

Student Accessibility Services & CARE Team

- Student Accessibility Services, in collaboration with the Technology Accessibility Committee (TAC), is offering virtual Accessibility Consultation and Remediation Support Drop-In sessions for Cascadia employees every Friday. In advance of Title II ADA updates taking effect in April 2026, these sessions provide employees with timely guidance and direct support for creating accessible digital content, strengthening access for students across courses and services.
- The CARE Team distributed \$200 Fred Meyer gift cards to students who received the Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness (SSEH) grant during the fall quarter. Nineteen students received gift cards, which helped them access food and essential supplies during winter break.

Student Life

- Graduation preparations are underway, and a “save the date” mailer will be sent in the coming weeks to students who have completed 60 or more credits, helping students plan early and stay engaged in their completion pathway.
- The Kodiak Cave continues to serve as a vital basic-needs resource for students. During fall quarter:
 - The number of shopping trips increased 6.4% compared to the previous quarter.
 - The number of unique student visitors increased by 10%, reflecting growing awareness and utilization of this support resource.



Board of Trustees Meeting Agenda

Dr. Meghan Quint, Chair

Mr. Alex Lee, Vice Chair

Dr. Rania Hussein

Dr. Colleen Ponto

Mr. Shahryar Qadri

Executive Session & Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

4:00 p.m.

**Cascadia College
18345 Campus Way N.E.
Bothell, WA 98011
Tjossem Board Room CC2-260
or [via Zoom](#)**

**Cascadia College Board of Trustees
Cascadia College
18345 Campus Way N.E.
Bothell, WA 98011**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026
4:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- 1. PUBLIC MEETING CALL TO ORDER (4:00)**
- 2. TRANSITION to EXECUTIVE SESSION (4:02)**

The Board will meet in a 30-minute Executive Session to discuss number 2 below and/or any of the issues listed below:

1. to receive and evaluate complaints against a public officer or employee;
2. **to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee;**
3. to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation to which the college is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge of the discussion would likely result in adverse consequences to the college;
4. to consider, as a quasi-judicial body, a quasi-judicial matter, between named parties;
5. to consider matters governed by the administrative process act, chapter 34.05 RCW; and/or to plan or adopt the strategy or position to be taken during collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or to review proposal made in on-going negotiations or proceedings.

- 3. RETURN TO PUBLIC MEETNG / CONSENT AGENDA (4:30)**
 - A) Meeting Agenda
 - B) Minutes from the last meetings – November 19, 2025, December 3, 2025, January 7, 2026

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cascadia College reserves up to 30 minutes for members of the public to comment on topics related to the meeting's agenda. Each speaker is allotted up to three minutes to provide their comments.

At the discretion of the Board Chair, comments about topics not on the agenda may be heard. Those who wish to provide comment to the board outside of the agenda's allotted time or its designated topics may submit their remarks in writing up to seven calendar days after the conclusion of the meeting. Written comments will be distributed to all board members.

5. NEW EMPLOYEES/PROMOTIONS

- A) Introduction of New Employees

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A) Faculty Sabbatical Presentations

7. DISCUSSION & PRESENTATION ITEMS

- A) Staff Sabbatical Presentations, Yukari Zednick
- B) Mission Fulfillment Moment: Accreditation (SB)

8. ACTION ITEMS

- A) President's Contract

9. OTHER REPORTS

- A) Cascadia Events & Advocacy Board (EAB)
- B) Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers (CCCFT)
- C) Cascadia Classified Union Washington Public Employees Association (WPEA)
- D) Board Chair and Individual Board Members
- E) President

10. OTHER BUSINESS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. NEXT MEETING

- The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 4:00pm.

ACCESSIBILITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION

The facilities for this meeting are free of mobility barriers. Interpreters for hearing-impaired individuals and taped information for visually impaired individuals will be provided upon request when adequate notice is given.

Cascadia College is committed to creating a supportive environment for a diverse student, faculty, and staff population. Individual differences are celebrated in a pluralistic community of learners.

Cascadia does not discriminate on based on, but not limited to race, color, national origin, citizenship, ethnicity, language, culture, age, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy or parental status, marital status, actual or perceived disability, use of service animal, economic status, military or veteran status, spirituality or religion, or genetic information in its programs, activities, or employment, and is prohibited from discrimination by college policy and state and federal law.

Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2025

Cascadia College, 18345 Campus Way NE, Bothell, WA 98011, Tjossem Boardroom CC2-260
4:00pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Present: Dr. Meghan Quint, Chair; Alex Lee, Vice Chair; Dr. Colleen Ponto, Shahryar Quadri, Dr. Rania Hussein

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Chari Davenport (excused), Erin Blakeney, Sean Poellnitz, Dr. Eric Murray, Dr. Ellen Evans, AAG.

Susan Thomas (recorder)

Shannon Bath (presentation assistant)

AUDIENCE

Audience members via Zoom included: See Addendum A

1. Public Meeting Call to Order

Chair Dr. Meghan Quint officially called the regular meeting of the Cascadia College Board of Trustees to order at 4:01pm.

2. Consent Agenda

Chair Quint presented the Consent Agendas for approval. No modifications were proposed.

MOTION: Vice Chair Lee

SECOND: Trustee Qadri

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments submitted or made during the meeting.

4. New Employees / Promotions

Chair Quint and President Dr. Murray introduced:

- Dr. Rania Hussein, new Trustee

VP Sean Poellnitz and Miles Alexander introduced:

- Jack Torres Zuniga, Program Coordinator, Facilities

Kristina Young introduced:

- Devin Ensz, Assistant Professor, Media & Design Studies
- Dr. Andrew Dicus, Full-time Faculty, Student Learning
- Dr. Anhiti Patnaik, Full-time Faculty, Student Learning
- Dr. Sofia Marshak, Full-time Faculty, College and Career Foundations

The Board welcomed the new employees and expressed appreciation for their commitment to student success.

5. Information Item

NONE

6. Discussion & Presentation Items

A. Mission Fulfillment Moment: Data Informed Decisions

One of the college's three recommendations at the NWCCU mid-cycle review was to assure ongoing and systematic evaluation and planning processes were in place to inform decision making and resource allocation: **Improving Institutional Effectiveness**

Dr. Michael Horn presented slide deck "Using Data for Improvement" which overviews examples of how we've done this:

- Previous NWCCU Review
- Continuous Improvement: Small improvements can lead to big change, and every employee can contribute. Home grown ideas, tested with data, create a learning organization.
- Personal Outreach: BLC began staying open later to provide an opportunity for ESL students to come into the center in the evenings, when it worked better for many.
- College Career Foundations: Strong data supporting the CCF students continuing on to earn degrees. New academic advisor emphasis to assist students in the transition from CCF to degree pathways.

- Redmond Town Center: The data showed that most students attended RTC to supplement their main campus enrollment. ESL was popular, so more classes were added to meet the demand. Working with area High School principals to continue improvement plan.
- Academic Plan Mapping: Advising tested an appointment reminder process to increase the number of students who “find a path”. The data from the sample of students who received appointment reminders showed those who received the reminders attended more appointments than the control group.

B. Year in Review: Student Learning

Each Fall, the Trustees hear from division leaders on their “Year-in-Review” to help keep the Trustees informed of operations, challenges, and successes.

Senior Dean Erik Tingelstad and Executive Director of Student Learning Shannon Bath presented Cascadia’s 2024-25 Student Learning division: Student Learning: Riding a Wave of Enrollment Growth. This area is most affected by enrollment.

- Impacts of a 20% Year-over-year increase - Newly hired Associate and Full-Time Faculty, increased demand on services, and capacity constraints emerge.
- Continued Growth – Growth is continuing. We’re evaluating what needs to be addressed to accommodate the growth, including hiring additional faculty. Strong faculty development will be essential.
- Assessment of Student Learning: Collection of student classwork focusing on student learning outcomes and areas of interest learning outcomes to assess. They’re also adopting new software tools and building a new SharePoint site to support the work.
- Learning Technologies & Accessibility: Canvas Ally scores have continued to rise. Accessibility study groups have been running to better support staff and faculty, and more training resources are in development.
- Cascadia in the High School: This dual-credit option allows students to earn credit through Cascadia while still in high school.
- Guided Pathways/College Success: Redesign of College Success curriculum and Career Explorations/Ed plan workshops and assignments. New student orientation is being refreshed as efforts stay centered on getting students onto a pathway

C. Year in Review: Student Success

Each Fall, the Trustees hear from division leaders on their “Year-in-Review” to help keep the Trustees informed of operations, challenges, and successes.

Vice President Erin Blakeney presented Student Success Services 2025: A Year in Motion

- The Climb: Building Momentum – Added new student leadership positions including peer student advisors to reach more students and engage with them. Launched new

programs such as the Community Service program and benefits outreach. Increased Student Engagement through improved communication and outreach efforts.

- The Drop: Challenges and Resilience – Navigated unexpected shifts in financial aid regulations and international programs policies. Managed an increased number of CARE cases. Our staff has been amazing and demonstrated steadiness and resilience throughout these changes.
- The Loop: Collaboration in Action – Continued coordinated work across Complex Student Support & Guided Pathways
- The Ride: Engagement and Belonging – Strong rise in student engagement across clubs, events, athletics and community activities. Noted student participation in study-abroad opportunities.
- The Scenic Overlook: Growth and Support – Growth in Admissions, Financial Aid, CARE team activity, Kodiak Cave usage, and student accessibility services. All the programs across these areas are thriving;
- The Next Climb: Looking Ahead – Ongoing focus on student belonging, Guided Pathways, Enrollment Management, continuous improvement, and Innovation.
- The Finish Line: The Power of Teamwork – This team is truly the best. They're doing solid work, they're woven into the life of our campus, and many of them are graduates of Cascadia College and UW who chose to stay connected. Their work is recognized at both the state and national levels.

7. Action Items

A. Policy Overview Approval

The policy review process is broken up into three equal parts whereby the Board reviews and approves the viability of 1/3 of the Board Policies each year. This year, the Board was asked to review Article 1.

President Murray reviewed the policy review process. All Trustees submitted their review with no changes required.

No Motion Needed.

8. Other Reports

A. Cascadia Events & Advocacy Board (EAB)

Muskaan Grewal shared information on events and advocacy the EAP is sponsoring and planning:

Recent Events:

- Spooktacular - 701 students total attended, 221 Cascadia Students
- Fruit Tabling - 144 students attended
- Club Café - 130 students attended

- Inside Out 2 Movie Night
- Arcade Day

Advocacy:

- Collect student feedback for Phase 2 for the ARC
- Meet with Associated Students of UWB to discuss initiatives and discuss collaborations

B. Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers (CCCFT)

Dr. Dave Shapiro referred to his report in the packet. He highlighted and offered a shoutout to Teya Viola and Shannon Bath who stepped in to resolve an issue with the CBA. This is a testament to the collaborative team we have.

The AFT and CCCFT are actively supporting students and families in need, and he encouraged others to join in that effort.

C. Cascadia Classified Union (WPEA)

Ryan Higgins was not present; no report submitted.

D. Reports from Board Chair and Trustees

- **Chair Quint:** Attended Riverview School District meeting and was able to see President Murray present the State of the College presentation at the November meeting. She enjoyed watching him develop that rapport. They very much appreciate our attendance at their meetings. The impact of this college extends far beyond the campus.
- **Trustee Lee:** Attended the Foundation Scholarship Event and noted that it was a great event – especially getting to see the scholarship recipients themselves. This is a testament to all the hard work that's gone into building the Foundation; it's really paying off.
- **Trustee Hussein:** Shared her excitement at being on campus

E. President's Report – Dr. Eric Murray

- Expressed appreciation to the faculty for their generosity toward students.
- Continuing one-on-one meetings with tenure-track faculty; has met with roughly half so far.
- Developing a collaboration with Northshore School District, focusing on community engagement and mutual student support.
- Attended an Eastside Pathways event last Friday for an All-Partner Meeting; met with a district representative who spoke highly of the Student of Color Conference.
- Cascadia has had strong enrollment trends: three consecutive years of double-digit growth, with a projected 7% increase next year.

- Met with Lake Washington School District representatives in Redmond along with Erin Blakeney and Erik Tinglestad. The meeting was excellent and helped open connections among three of their campuses. Optimism for continued collaboration.
- Would like to submit an application for the campus to host the Supreme Court in a future year.
- Attended a UW Bothell fundraising event earlier today. Held productive conversations about pathways between Cascadia and UWB; their Vice Chancellor was enthusiastic. Positive momentum noted, and the desire is for our campus to become central to their institutional identity.
- The December Executive Session meeting will include a short public session to review rules.

9. Other Business or Announcements

There was no other business

10. Next Meeting – Public Meeting and Executive Session

Date: December 3, 2025, 4:00pm

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Quint adjourned the meeting at 5:26pm

Approval of Minutes

Approved and Adopted on: January 21, 2026

Meghan Quint, Board Chair

Attest:

Dr. Eric Murray, President

Addendum A

Board of Trustees Meeting Attendance

Eric Murray, President	X
Meghan Quint	X
Alex Lee	X
Colleen Ponto	X
Shahryar Quadri	X
Rania Hussein	X
Ellen Evans, AAG	X
Erin Blakeney	X
Sean Poellnitz	X
Erik Tinglestad	X
Muskaan Grewal	X
Dave Shapiro	X
Shannon Bath	X
Susan Thomas	X
Gordon Dutrisac	X
Shawna Pitts	X
Jacinth Nurse	X
Gorgina Lazarova	X
Becky Riopel	X
Deann Holliday	X
Jenny Piper	X
Kristina Young	X
Michael Horn	X

Chantal Carrancho	X
Ana Nina	X
Ifrah Mohammed	X
Tonio	X
Teya Viola	X
Laura Hedral	X
April Brink	X
Jack Torres Zuniga	X
Miles Alexander	X
Bryan Fauth	X
Sofia Marshak	X
Andrew Dicus	X
Anhiti Patnaik	X
Devin Ensz	X

**Minutes Regular & Executive Session Meeting
Cascadia College Board of Trustees
December 3, 2025**

**Cascadia College
18345 Campus Way N.E.
Bothell, WA 98011**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Present: Chair Dr. Meghan Quint, Vice Chair Alex Lee, Dr. Colleen Ponto, Dr. Rania Hussein, and Shahryar Qadri (excused)

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Present: Dr. Eric Murray, Ellen Evans (AAG).

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION

Chair Quint called the public meeting to order at 4:02pm.

2. Action Item

Order to repeal WAC 132Z-119

Chair Quint presented the justification for the repeal: Pursuant to RCW 34.05.360, the Board of Trustees, as appointing authority, must formally adopt any proposed changes or additions to the Washington Administrative Code, Ch. 132Z WAC.

MOTION: Trustee Rania Hussein made a motion to approve. Trustee Colleen Ponto seconded the motion.

APPROVED. Unanimously

3. Board moved to EXECUTIVE SESSION at 4:05pm.

4. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chair Quint adjourned the Executive Session at 5.27pm.

5. Minutes Approved and Adopted on January 21, 2026.

Dr. Meghan Quint, Board Chair

Attest:

Dr. Eric Murray, President
Bdminutes 12/03/2025

**Minutes Regular & Executive Session Meeting
Cascadia College Board of Trustees
January 7, 2026**

**Cascadia College
18345 Campus Way N.E.
Bothell, WA 98011**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Present: Chair Dr. Meghan Quint, Vice Chair Alex Lee, Dr. Colleen Ponto, Dr. Rania Hussein, and Shahryar Qadri

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Present: Ellen Evans (AAG)

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION

Chair Quint officially called the public meeting of the Cascadia College Board of Trustees to order at 4:15pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments submitted or made during the meeting.

3. Board moved to EXECUTIVE SESSION at 4:18pm.

4. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chair Quint adjourned the Executive Session at 6:17pm.

5. Minutes Approved and Adopted on January 21, 2026.

Dr. Meghan Quint, Board Chair

Attest:

Dr. Eric Murray, President
Bdminutes 1/7/26

Cascadia College Board of Trustees

NEW EMPLOYEES and/or PROMOTIONS

Subject: New Employees and/or Promotions

Background:

The Board has requested to meet all new employees and become aware of those who have received promotions.

Details:

The following employees have joined Cascadia since the last Board meeting:

Özge Demirci-Richardson, Assistant Registrar of Enrollment Services:

Özge Demirci-Richardson (she/her) joins our team with more than six years of experience in Washington community college admissions, enrollment operations, and program management. She holds an M.A. in Cultural Studies from the University of Washington Bothell and is deeply committed to developing and refining processes that are equitable and accessible for all students.

In her role as **Assistant Registrar of Enrollment Services**, Özge will oversee Enrollment Services' customer service operations and lead key enrollment processes at the Kodiak Corner front counter.

Outside of work, Özge enjoys spending time outdoors, doing pottery, and gardening.

Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Information Item 6.A

Subject: Faculty Sabbaticals

Justification:

Within the scope of the budget approval process, the Board delegates approval of faculty and staff sabbaticals to the President. As a requirement of the granted sabbatical, employees are required to offer a presentation to the Board via podcast, written report, or verbal presentation.

Background:

In academic year 2024-25, seven sabbaticals were offered to faculty. The faculty name, discipline, and length of sabbatical is listed below. Each faculty opted for either a podcast, written, or verbal report which is also indicated below.

Three have submitted written reports which are included in your packet:

- Erica Almeda (College and Career Foundations)
- Azzizeh Farajallah (Chemistry)
- Tasha Walston (English)

Three utilized the TLA studio to create a verbal record (podcast) of their experience.

- [Jessica Ketcham \(English\)](#)
- [Kathy Brown \(Art\)](#)
- [Erin Richards \(Political Science\)](#)

Thanks to both Garth Neufeld (Psychology Faculty) and Kelly Leahy (Assistant Director of Student Learning Design and Technology) for their facilitation and editing support.

The seventh faculty member (Debra Waddel – Communications Faculty) will be making an in-person board report at the March BOT meeting.

The Board is invited to listen to the podcasts.

Sabbatical Report – Spring 2025

Erica Almeda – College and Career Foundations (CCF)

INTRODUCTION

In January 2024, I submitted a sabbatical proposal aimed at identifying and disseminating resources to better support domestic students enrolled in the College and Career Foundations (CCF) program, with a particular emphasis on those attending evening classes.

Cascadia's CCF program provides students with a foundation for further education and careers, including transition into college-level courses. Students deepen their understanding of English, math, and content related to the GED (General Educational Development) and high school completion, depending on students' needs. They gain English skills in reading, writing, math, speaking, and listening, critical to their education and work goals. Most of the students CCF serves are immigrants and refugees.

The focus on students who take evening classes was intentional, as evening students often encounter unique barriers to accessing campus-based services and events, which are typically scheduled during daytime hours.

My plan included the following:

1. Research Community-Based Organizations (CBO's) and state resources that serve marginalized and underrepresented students.
2. Connect with said resources
3. Plan, coordinate, and host a resource fair for our evening CCF students

THE WORK

During the research phase, I observed considerable overlap among organizations that provide education, social services, legal aid, and basic needs assistance. Such an event would have provided a centralized opportunity for students to access critical services and programs that they might otherwise be unaware of.

Initial outreach to these organizations began in Spring 2025, with plans to finalize logistics in early Fall for a mid-Fall event.

I contacted about 20 organizations. I chose organizations that serve clients who live in areas where our students usually live, primarily in King and Snohomish counties. These organizations also primarily serve BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) clients. I emailed all the organizations, and then when they responded, I followed up with a phone call, and many were open to being part of a resource fair. I was especially enthusiastic about hosting the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) mobile unit truck on campus, complete with interpreters, to assist students in navigating benefits and support programs.

However, the sociopolitical climate in Fall 2025 is significantly different from when my original proposal was conceived. Heightened concerns regarding documentation status among students introduced new challenges, making an in-person event potentially counterproductive, even stressful. Rather than reducing barriers, such a gathering could inadvertently amplify them. Consequently, I made the decision to pivot away from the resource fair model.

OUTCOMES

Although the primary deliverable—a large-scale resource fair—was not feasible under these circumstances, I've produced a [compilation of resources](#), and I have shared this with the CCF advisor. Through the advisor's holistic and intrusive advising approach, these resources are reaching students in a personalized and meaningful way. Of particular note are programs that support students' school-age children in pursuing higher education, creating a generational impact that aligns with the broader mission of equity and access.

The resource list is now also available to all CCF students, and I remain optimistic that in the future, conditions will allow for resource fairs of the type originally envisioned. Such events would provide invaluable opportunities for students to engage directly with organizations committed to their success and well-being.

This sabbatical has had a positive impact on my teaching and my role as a faculty member because it allowed me to identify and build relationships with community-based organizations that serve adult learners, immigrants, refugees, and individuals who did not complete high school. I gained knowledge of specific programs and eligibility requirements—such as state and nonprofit higher-education access resources—which I now share directly with students in my classes, as I now incorporate this information into my instruction. As a result, our CCF students are better informed about community resources and assistance, as well as concrete next steps toward educational access and post-secondary opportunities.

SABBATICAL SUMMARY REPORT

2024-2025

Reviewing Grant Infrastructure and Pursuing Major Research Instrumentation Funding

Dr. Azizeh Farajallah

Professor of Organic Chemistry
Division Chair, Natural Sciences
Cascadia College

January 2026

Summary

This sabbatical reviewed grant application infrastructure at Cascadia College and completed foundational work for pursuing major federal instrumentation funding. Key achievements include comprehensive vendor consultations for ion chromatography-mass spectrometry (IC-MS) systems, partnership development with UW Bothell and community watershed organizations, NSF grant review service, and strategic planning for NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) grant application.

The project successfully positioned Cascadia College to compete for major federal research funding and established valuable institutional partnerships. When federal funding uncertainty emerged in May 2025, the strategic decision was made to explore alternative funding sources.

Goals and Rationale

Cascadia College lacks formal grant infrastructure; no dedicated grant office, standardized processes, or repository of examples. Also, the newly built chemistry labs lack analytical instrumentations such as ion chromatography and mass spectrometry capabilities, limiting hundreds of students annually to valuable analytical techniques. This sabbatical addressed both gaps by reviewing institutional grant capacity while pursuing equipment funding that would transform STEM education across chemistry, biology, and environmental science programs.

Primary Objectives:

- Reviewed grant documentation and processes at Cascadia College
- Conduct vendor consultations for IC-MS systems
- Develop collaborative partnerships
- Prepare NSF MRI grant application materials

Key Accomplishments

Grant Infrastructure

Reviewed grant application resources include 5-6 annotated examples from successful state and foundation grants. Each example includes complete proposal, budget, and lessons learned, serving as institutional resource for faculty colleagues across disciplines.

Vendor Consultations

Shimadzu Scientific Instruments: Comprehensive consultations regarding IC systems, SPARQ academic support program (on-site training, lifetime technical support, educational discounts), and classroom integration workflows for 24-student courses. Received detailed specifications and application methods for environmental, food safety, and pharmaceutical analyses.

Thermo Fisher Scientific: Extended communications (February-May 2025) covering Dionex IC systems (ICS-6000, Inuvion), comprehensive MS portfolio (single quadrupole through Orbitrap systems), academic pricing with exceptional educational discounts, and software platforms (Chromeleon CDS, TraceFinder). Received complete specifications for LC, GC, and ICP-OES systems for comprehensive analytical capabilities.

Partnership Development

UW Bothell Collaborations: Established communication with Dr. Rob Turner (Water Quality Analysis faculty), Guy Hamilton (Biotechnology Director), and Dr. Melanie Malone (Environmental Science). Documented shared benefits including geographic proximity, complementary institutional missions, shared transfer pathway, and North Creek Wetland research site. Partnership strengthens grant competitiveness through inter-institutional collaboration.

Federal Funding Challenge: May 2025 federal uncertainty have led UW to institute NSF proposal [moratorium](#) due to 15% indirect cost cap, preventing faculty from serving as grant collaborators pending June 2025 court decision. Partnerships remain active for alternative funding strategies.

Community Organizations: Connected with Sno-King Watersheds Council (volunteer water monitoring, Global Water Watch partnership) and Adopt-a-Stream Foundation (30-acre environmental education center, Stream Keeper training). Organizations provide student volunteer opportunities and authentic environmental research experiences.

NSF Grant Review Service

Served as reviewer for NSF Innovation in Two-Year College STEM Education (ITYC) program, March 4-6, 2025. Reviewed 8 proposals using NSF Merit Review Criteria, participated in panel discussions, and contributed to panel summaries under Dr. Kalyn Owens (NSF Division of Undergraduate Education). Experience provided invaluable insight into NSF review standards and competitive proposal writing.

NSF MRI Grant Planning

Identified NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program as optimal funding mechanism for IC-MS acquisition. Program supports awards of \$200,000-\$500,000 for research instrumentation at institutions like Cascadia, prioritizing undergraduate research, multi-disciplinary use, collaborative partnerships, and diverse student populations.

Completed comprehensive preparation including needs assessment, equipment specifications, vendor quotes. Original submission window: October 15 - November 14, 2025.

Strategic Adaptation: Due to the difficult decision that UW has made, I have moved toward exploring alternative funding sources (state grants, private foundations, industry partnerships) while maintaining NSF MRI readiness when program stabilizes.

Challenges and Strategic Responses

Lack of Institutional Grant Infrastructure: Created comprehensive documentation that could benefit future faculty grant seekers.

Federal Funding Uncertainty: changed strategy toward multiple funding pathways while maintaining application readiness.

Inter-institutional Coordination: Established multiple UW Bothell contacts and developed partnership articulating mutual benefits.

Technical Equipment Selection: Conducted thorough multi-vendor consultations, reviewed extensive specifications, and aligned equipment capabilities with curricular needs across disciplines.

Outcomes and Impact

- Faculty colleagues have accessible grant application resources.
- Enhanced institutional grant writing expertise through NSF review experience
- Established network with UW Bothell faculty, community organizations, and vendors
- Comprehensive technical knowledge of IC-MS systems, pricing, and support programs

Next Steps and Recommendations

- Monitor NSF MRI program status and federal funding landscape (court decision June 13, 2025)
- Research state and private foundation alternatives (WA Legislature capital budget, Department of Ecology, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Battelle Foundation)
- Continuing UW Bothell partnership discussions
- Submit grant application when optimal opportunity identified

Conclusion

This sabbatical successfully achieved its primary objectives despite encountering federal funding uncertainty requiring strategic adaptation. Comprehensive preparatory work from vendor consultations, partnership development, grant infrastructure creation, and community engagement positions Cascadia College to pursue transformative laboratory equipment funding through multiple pathways.

The strategic decision to pause NSF MRI submission is not the end as all completed work remains valuable and transferable to alternative funding sources. This sabbatical has created pathways for Cascadia College to acquire equipment that will transform undergraduate STEM education across multiple disciplines.

Spring 2025 Sabbatical Report: Poetry, Pedagogy, and Play

Tasha Walston | Cascadia College | Spring 2025

Introduction

My spring 2025 sabbatical asked: **How can we create and study collaborative storytelling experiences that explore social dreaming, and can we make those experiences accessible enough to become teaching tools?** To find out, I used text-based role-playing games (RPGs) to create poetry about death and transformation, creating deliverables similar to what I ask my English and Humanities students to create.

Alongside my sabbatical project was another project: eldercare and, eventually, grief. In March 2025, I was caring for my sick and disabled mother; she died the following month in April. Because my life had been transmuted so suddenly, my sabbatical work also evolved. During that time, I used text-based RPGs about death and loss to create poetry, discovering in the process a series of accessible collaborative storytelling tools for my English and Humanities classes. In the process, I also identified a series of creative writing-based games that could become accessible collaborative storytelling tools in my English and Humanities classes.

The Work

Text-based RPGs proved to be the accessible collaborative storytelling tools my proposal envisioned. These games use writing prompts rather than complex rules, making them ideal for the literature and creative writing classroom. Using the writing prompts in storytelling games such as *The Librarian's Apprentice*, *Thousand Year Old Vampire*, *Dream Askew*, and *Alice Is Missing*, I responded by writing about death, transformation, the body, and loss... all while inhabiting a particular character. The shift in perspective and added distance allowed me to more safely create the raw material for a **collection of poems called *Death's Country***. The aim of the poems (aside from survival) was to use storytelling games to create a mixed-genre third space for grief. One poem from the collection ("Urban Exploration") was [published in Stink Eye Magazine](#).

Death's Country contains the following poems and continues to develop:

- "The Animals Inside"
- "Transposition"
- "Amputation"
- "Emigration"
- "Suppositions on Death"
- "Dead Mom Club"
- "Isle of Mothers"
- "Repetition: An Argument"
- "Housewarming Party"
- "Hotel Paper"

In addition to *Death's Country*, I also co-created a **visual poetry zine called *Broken Seals*** with my friend, animator and educator [Stefan Gruber](#); we exhibited those zines for sale at the [2025 Short Run Comix Festival](#)

(and later also performed at a [Slide Rule¹ at the Hugo House](#)). *Death's Country* and *Broken Seals* combined are whittled down to over 75 pages of creative work.

Outcome Mapping

My sabbatical work answered the proposal's central question through the following outcomes, demonstrating both that text-based games can explore social dreaming through poetry *and* that these tools transfer directly to teaching practice.

I practiced interdisciplinary skills

In both *Death's Country* and *Broken Seals*, I combined poetry, narrative theory, and design elements to tell stories.

I created artifacts I ask students to create

I have asked students to role-play, experiment with form, and tell stories, so I wanted to know what that was like first-hand in advance of teaching both literature and poetry classes the following year. My poetry collection experiments with form in the following ways:

- Poems formatted as medical records, legal documents, and instruction manuals
- Self-reflective poems that analyze their own construction
- Visible crossed-out text showing the thinking process
- Numbered lists and official forms transformed into poetry
- Obsessive repetition that creates emotional intensity

Which leads to the next outcome:

I played with genre and story/game limits

Poems already have a tendency to blur genre and category, which I endeavored to do with *Death's Country*. In *Broken Seals*, I took that a step further by collaborating with a visual artist to create visual poetry through play. At Short Run, I told a cartoonist that I write poetry and don't draw comics. He said, "Comics are just poetry plus design." This reframing reveals that text-based storytelling games blur these categories entirely.

I gained a deeper understanding of social dreaming through play

We know [there are many therapeutic benefits to playing RPGs](#). [Vivian Paley observes](#) that children understand 'through play, [they] will understand more about who [they are] than in any other format.' This applies to adults too: creating the right conditions for play ([acknowledging feelings, avoiding self-judgment, listening](#)) creates conditions for creative work. Text-based RPGs designed for writing lead to self-knowledge and a willingness to try on other perspectives about complex issues. Better still, they require no corporate purchases, no hostile mechanics, just prompts and imagination.

¹ Slide Rules are multimedia comics/animation slide shows

I explored words as magic

In writing poetry alone and collaboratively, I transfigured a portion of my grief into art—the ephemera of words, sure, but also the physical, designed objects of the zines. I feel more equipped to share these things with my students and create the conditions for them to do something similar. Already in my fall 2025 English 101/Political Science 202 learning community, I used these approaches to co-teach role-play and zine creation for our 1912 election simulation, engaging 49 students to embody their own understanding of historical perspectives and civic engagement through storytelling and roleplay.

Conclusion

The creative artifacts (*Death's Country* and *Broken Seals*) I created during my sabbatical demonstrate how RPGs can generate third spaces² where writers can use a play mindset to explore form, genre, self, and the world around them. The pedagogical application proved immediate: I've already used these approaches to teach role-play and zine creation in my fall 2025 English 101/Political Science 202 learning community. If collaborative storytelling through games helped me navigate Death's Country, these tools can also help my students navigate uncertainty in its many forms.

Moving forward, I plan to:

- Integrate text-based storytelling games into my Winter 2026 literature and poetry courses
- Share these accessible collaborative storytelling methods with colleagues
- Continue developing *Death's Country* for potential publication

Writing and creating are the work of my profession. This sabbatical taught me that text-based games bridge play, poetry, and pedagogy, a discovery that has propelled me to enroll in an EdD program in Critical Pedagogy at Antioch University, where I will continue studying role-play as a means to help students become more confident writers who are willing to take risks in their work.

² [Third places](#) are “separate from the two usual social environments of home (‘first place’) and the workplace (‘second place’)”

Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Discussion Item 7.A

Subject: Staff Sabbaticals

Justification:

Within the scope of the budget approval process, the Board delegates approval of faculty and staff sabbaticals to the President. As a requirement of the granted sabbatical, employees are required to offer a presentation to the Board via podcast, written report, or verbal presentation.

Background:

In academic year 2024-25, one sabbatical was offered to staff. Yukari Zednick, Director of International Programs, will present to the Board about her 2-month (July-Aug 2025) experience.



ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

Summer 2025 Sabbatical Project

Yukari Zednick

Director of International Programs

January 2026

SINCE 2004 / 12 STAFF MEMBERS / 30 COUNTRIES

WHERE WAS THE MARKETING KNOWLEDGE STORED?

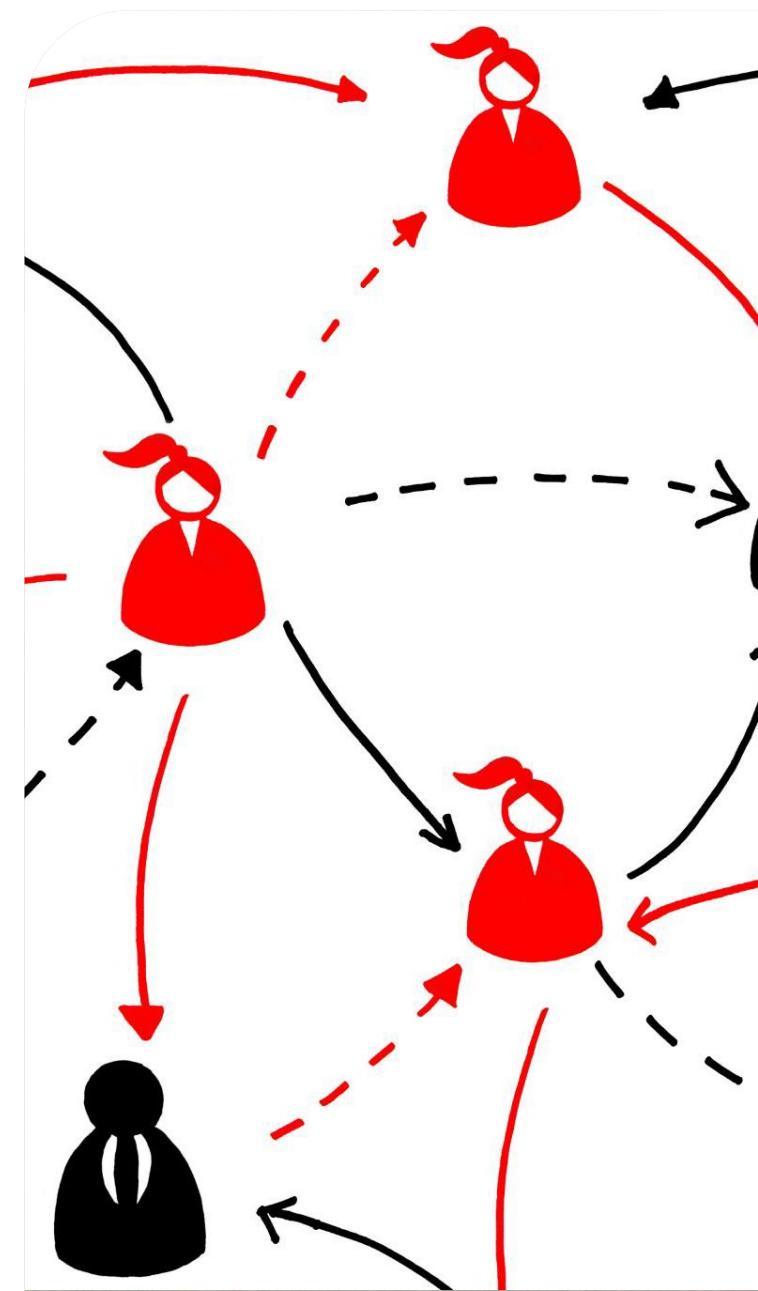
Personal Systems - Scattered Knowledge

Personal Notes, Access Database, Shared Drives, OneDrive, Teams

- Inaccessible and fragmented data

Need to Store Collective Experience and Data in a Centralized System

- accessible and actionable for current and future IP members
- better trend analysis, opportunity identification, and strategic adaptation
- smarter, sustainable recruitment plan aligned with long-term Cascadia goals





ACTION PLAN FOR CENTRALIZATION

Platform Selection

OneDrive ensures efficient knowledge storage and management

Data Compilation Focus after 2020

- Cascadia started international recruitment in 2004
- Market trends change constantly
- Compiling data from 2020 onwards guarantees accuracy and up-to-date market information for Cascadia
- Recorded event metrics, costs, contacts, ratings, educational system in each market

 Meagan				
 Raldy	 Armenia	 20-22 Pandemic		
 Shao-Wei	 Bangladesh	 Cambodia	 2022	
 Yukari	 Brazil	 Indonesia	 2023	
 2022 Marketing and Recruitment	 Colombia	 Japan	 2024	 April
 Country Resources.docx	 Germany	 Japan - Taiwan (until 2019)	 2025	 September
 Template Recruitment Travel R	 Indonesia	 Malaysia		
	 Kazakhstan	 Singapore		
	 Kyrgyzstan	 Taiwan		
	 Mexico	 Thailand		

NEXT STEPS & LONG-TERM GOALS

Data Storage and Migration

Continue to work with ITS to identify a platform that supports international recruitment, admissions, and retention

Ongoing Updates and Assessment

Maintain system currency and usefulness through ongoing updates

Record agent interactions to assess partner engagement effectiveness annually



Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Discussion Item 7.b

Subject: Accreditation Standard 2

Justification:

The college's 7-year accreditation cycle requires the submission of the Year 6 Standard 2 report in March 2026. This item offers the Board a chance for review.

Background:

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is the college's accrediting body. The 7-year accreditation cycle (2020-2027) includes a Year 6 report on Standard 2 (**Governance, Resources, and Community**). This report is due March 2026.

In March 2027, the Year 7 report on Standard 1 (**Student Success and Institutional Mission & Effectiveness**) is due.

The Board is asked to read the draft report attached as an addendum in preparation for its submission. During the meeting, Dr. Eric Murray and Shannon Bath will be available to answer questions and field suggestions so that we may move the draft into final form.

Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Action Item 8.A

Subject: President's Contract

Justification:

The Board is responsible for annually reviewing the performance of the President, making salary adjustments, and approving the on-going contract.

Background:

The Board conducted a review of the President's performance on December 3 and January 7. That review was delivered in executive session on January 21 and the Board finds the President to be in good standing.

Recommendation:

The Board recommends the following:

"Finding the President in good standing based on our review from December 3 through January 7, the Board moves to approve the 2026 Addendum to the President's Contract as presented in the Board Materials."

The contract addendum is attached.

Action:

Trustee makes motion: _____

Trustee seconds motion: _____

Vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Hussein			
Lee			
Ponto			
Qadri			
Quint			

Date of Adoption: _____



**2026 Addendum to Presidential Contract
Between
Cascadia College District 30
and Dr. Eric W. Murray
January 21, 2026**

On motion duly adopted by the Board of Trustees at an open public meeting on January 21, 2026, the Presidential Contract between Cascadia College District 30 and Dr. Eric W. Murray, dated June 1, 2010 ("Contract"), is hereby amended as set forth in this 2026 Contract Addendum.

II. Appointment

The second sentence of Article II of the Contract ("Appointment") is modified to read as follows: "This appointment shall run through and including January 31, 2032, subject to further extension as provided herein."

V. Salary

Article V of the Contract ("Salary") is modified to read: "The annual salary of the President shall be \$331,863.00 (3% retention increase) subject to whatever periodic increases may be provided by the Board during the term of this contract for exempt administrative staff."

The TERMS AND CONDITIONS of this appointment are hereby accepted by:

Dr. Meghan Quint, Chair
Cascadia College Board of
Trustees

Date

Dr. Eric W. Murray,
President Cascadia College

Date

Approved as to Form:
AAG Ellen Evans

Report to the Board of Trustees

January 2026

Events & Advocacy Board

Cascadia College

By Muskaan Grewal, Advocacy Chair

Recent Events:

- Arcade day – December 2nd
 - Arcade Day was held on December 2nd from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the ARC Overlook. 164 students enjoyed a night of Arcade fun featuring Classic arcade games such as Ms. Pac-Man, Spiderman pinball, and sports arcade games like Skee ball and air hockey! While playing arcade games students also enjoyed popcorn and a delicious Italian soda.

Upcoming Events:

- Lunar New Year - February 26th
 - EAB will host a Lunar New Year celebration in the ARC Overlook on Thursday, February 26th, from 4-6:30PM. There will be food, games, calligraphy, lantern making, and small competitions to win prizes! There will also be lion dance performers coming in to demonstrate a traditional lion dance. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the cultural holiday, and to entertain and educate students on many aspects of Asian culture!
- Casino Night - January 28th
 - Casino Night will be from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on January 28th in the ARC Overlook. Students will mask up for an unforgettable Masquerade Gala themed Casino Night! There will be casino games, food, drinks, and even a live game show to win a cash prize. This is a cosponsored event with UWB's Campus Events Board (CEB).
- Winter Dance – February 13th
 - The Winter Dance will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on February 13th in the ARC Overlook. Students will enjoy a night of fun with a DJ to bring the energy, decorated photo areas for students to take pictures, a dance floor, and some

appetizers! This social event will encourage students to meet new people, enjoy themselves with friends, and dress up for the night.

Advocacy:

- EAB has kicked off this quarter by planning for S&A budget season, including recruiting potential members for the S&A budget committee as well as committee education while tabling.
- Additionally, many students have complained about the lack of bottled water available in vending machines due to Cascadia's commitment to a sustainable campus. EAB is working to bring back the previous Cascadia Student Government campaign of handing out reusable water bottles and encouraging students to use those rather than purchasing bottled water.
- Lastly, I will be heading down to Olympia with President Murray to speak with legislators about how proposed budget cuts will impact Cascadia students.

Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers Local 6191, AFT



**Report to the Board of Trustees
Cascadia Community College
Meeting Date: January 2026**

❖ **Teaching in 2026: An Observation and an Appeal**

As winter quarter 2026 gets underway, here are three events that have occurred: United States armed forces, under the direction of the US President, conducted a secret military operation with no approval from Congress to abduct the leader of a sovereign foreign country in an apparent violation of standing international law; an Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officer in Minneapolis shot and killed an unarmed American citizen on a residential city street and Homeland Security officials continued to justify the action by publicly lying about the details of the tragedy; and a Philosophy Professor at Texas A&M University has been forced by his school to remove the *Symposium* by Plato from his syllabus because it supposedly violates university rules restricting teaching about race and gender.

And we're not even two weeks in!

I write this to highlight the world in which CCCFT members come to the classroom every day and the background pressures we—and our students—face in doing so. And to emphasize our commitment to teaching and learning in ways that empower our students to face the challenges of this world, even when doing so requires us to carry on in spite of those pressures.

I also write to recognize how Cascadia College has historically been a place where academic freedom, social justice, and support for immigrant students and communities have all been valued and supported. And I hold on to every hope that those values will continue to be at the foundation and forefront of all that we do.

And so, I implore our Board of Trustees and President Murray to resist any incursions by government officials or non-official parties that would seek to undermine our core educational mission to educate students and help create a more free, just, and peaceful society for everyone, especially those who are most vulnerable.

We are in this effort together, and so we ask for assurance that in the likely event that the remaining months of 2026 (and beyond) will continue on the trajectory of we have seen so far, that our College leadership will bring to this effort the same commitment to our shared values and mission that CCCFT members do every day. I have every confidence that this will be the case, but in times such as this, it is vital that these words are heard and affirmed by those in positions of leadership and authority.

Thank you.