

**Glendale College Foundation
Board Meeting
Monday, January 20, 2026, at 4:30 P.M.
J.W. Smith Student Center (SC212)**

UNADOPTED

Present: Bertolet, Birungi, Chai-Chang, Clover, Cornner, Crouch, Davis, Dinger, Finkelberg, Hamilton, Harnett, Hons, Iuculano, Jouroyan, Nedeff, Richardson, Russell, Sahakians, Sartoris, Semler, Spencer, Vradenburg, Walton, Wilder, and staff: Jacobs, McKenna, Santana, and Tazekand.

Absent: Davitt, Dorian, Gimbert, Haney, Luzuriaga, Melby, Morris, Parikh, Sahakian, and Tonoyan.

Guests: Jasmine Ek, Alicia Hernandez, Alex Leon, and Janet Reyes.

The board meeting was called to order at 4:31 P.M.

WELCOME/PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Jeff Russel, Foundation Board President, welcomed the board and thanked board members for attending and proceeded to introduce the new Foundation Accountant, Christina McKenna, who shared a summary of her background. Russell listed the major gifts (below) received in the second quarter.

Name	Gift Amount	Fund Description
Foundation for California Community Colleges	\$ 109,066.93	GCC CARES
California Community Foundation – <i>Anonymous gift through donor advised fund</i>	\$ 50,000.00	Dream Resource Center
Miscellaneous-Donations <i>(e-Teams fundraiser)</i>	\$ 18,354.50	Baseball Team
Paul A. Farmanian	\$ 15,000.00	Alice K. Farmanian Memorial Scholarship
Citizens Business Bank <i>(beneficiary of CBB golf tournament)</i>	\$ 15,000.00	General Fund
Rick Kinnune	\$ 14,130.00	Alumni Activities & Engineering Project
Knight Insurance Services, Inc	\$ 13,000.00	Golf Sponsorship
Miscellaneous-Donations <i>(Blast Athletics fundraiser)</i>	\$ 12,796.60	Football Program
Charles H. Cahill Charitable Fund	\$ 12,500.00	President's Circle Fund
Margaret R. Kruse	\$ 10,000.00	Kruse Family Scholarship

AUDIT REPORT

Alicia Hernandez, Senior Accountant with CWDL, presented the audit report for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2025, and reported the Foundation received an unmodified opinion.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – Great Minds in STEM Conference

GCC students, Janet Reyes and Jasmine Ek, presented on their Great Minds in STEM Conference experience when they attended this past Fall in San Diego.

SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Cornner provided updates on several key campus initiatives and developments:

1. American Theater Awards

GCC will host the American Theater Awards in February. The event is expected to bring approximately 2,000–3,000 students to campus, with performances scheduled throughout the week.

2. Aviation Program Legislative Efforts

GCC is actively engaged in legislative advocacy to secure \$4.5 million in funding for the acquisition of new aircrafts for the aviation program.

3. USC Partnership and PTOT Program Expansion

The GCC Board of Trustees approved a joint agreement with USC to establish PTOT programs in Montrose, creating associate degree programs for occupational and physical therapy assistants. A new facility will be constructed at the former Citibank site.

Additionally, USC Verdugo Hills is currently relocating its PTOP operations to the PDC building, allowing for expansion of its emergency room services.

4. In Memoriam: Chief Sam DiGiovanni

Dr. Cornner announced the recent passing of Chief Sam DiGiovanni. A scholarship has been established in his memory through the GCC Foundation.

GCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT REPORT

Board President Yvette Davis delivered a report highlighting current and upcoming initiatives across the district:

1. Obligation Bond Sale

On December 17, \$2 million in obligation bonds were sold, resulting in a true interest cost of 0.03%; this will generate an estimated \$1.5 million in savings for taxpayers.

2. David Viar Performing and Media Arts Center

A portion of the proceeds from the bond sale will be used to move forward with the David Viar Performing and Media Arts Center project.

3. Virtual Reality and Inclusion Center

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Virtual Reality and Inclusion Center is scheduled in the near future.

4. Enrollment Update

Enrollment has increased overall by 5% since COVID-19.

5. Legislative Advocacy

District leadership will be in Sacramento next week to advocate for continued support for veterans and proposed changes to the Student Funding Formula.

6. Trustee Elections

GCC Trustee elections will take place this year. Trustees Dr. Hacopian and Ann Ransford will be retiring from their positions.

EXECUTIVE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Wesley Walton gave an overview of the financial statements ending December 31, 2025.

CONSENT ITEMS

Oct. 20, 2025 Quarterly Board Minutes Dec. 31, 2025 Financial Statements	<i>Outcome</i> MSC (Crouch/Bertolet) motion passes unanimously
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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Approve the endowment distribution for the 2025-2026 fiscal year at 5% of the 3-year moving average	<i>Outcome</i> MSC (Walton/Vradenburg) motion passes unanimously
Approve and provide matching funding in the amount of \$348,642.00 to create the BIEN in STEM Sustainability Endowment	MSC (Walton/Clover) motion passes unanimously

FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

Approval of the updated Foundation Mission Statement, **MSC (Nedeff/Chai-Chang)**, motion passed unanimously:

The Glendale College Foundation advances the mission of Glendale Community College by encouraging community members, alumni, donors, and philanthropic supporters to invest in programs and opportunities that empower students to achieve their educational, career, and life goals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

<p>President’s Circle Membership – Chair, Jeff Russell, reported that 12 out of 35 board members have signed up to the President’s Circle. Members can still join by March 31st.</p> <p>Nominating – Chair, Jennifer Bertolet, announced the first meeting took place and the committee is currently reviewing of the slate of new members. Any suggestions to the committee are welcome.</p>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Foundation Executive Director **Paola Santana** presented key Foundation updates and accomplishments since the last Board meeting:

1. Looking Ahead to 2026

Several signature initiatives and events are planned for 2026, including:

- **President’s Circle Celebration** – May
- **Faculty and Staff Grants** – Launching in Spring
- **Annual Installation Dinner** – July 21
- **Golf Tournament** – July 27
- **Poker Tournament** – Summer
- **Athletic Hall of Fame** – Fall

2. Wildfire Relief: One-Year Update

More than **\$900,000 in cash and in-kind contributions** supported both immediate relief efforts and longer-term assistance for over **2,100 GCC students and employees**, including **121 individuals who lost their homes**. A new grant from the **Foundation for the California Community Colleges** will enable the Foundation to expand services and provide continued follow-up support to those affected.

3. Opportunities to Engage

Upcoming campus and community events include:

- **LAEDC Economic Forecast** – February 25 at 8:30 a.m., Auditorium
- **“A Conversation with the Stars”** – March 20 at 7:30 p.m., Planetarium
- **“The Lightning Thief” Theater Production** – March 26 through April 5
- **Kiwanis of the Verdugos Food & Wine Festival** – Save the Date: April 18, Campus Event

NEW BUSINESS - None

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 P.M.

Next Board Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026 | 4:30 p.m. at J.W. Smith Student Center (SC212)