



Truckee Meadows Community College  
Office of the President

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# INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

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Thursday, May 12, 2022 9 a.m.–Noon

Truckee Meadows Community College via Zoom

**Call to Order:** 9 a.m.

## 1. Roll Call

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**Present:** Chair BJ North, Vice Chair Nancy McCormick; Council members: Marisa Brown, Edward Estipona, Milton Stewart, Joseph Nannini.

**Guests:** Craig Madole, Nevada AGC; Interim Vice Chancellor Renée Davis, NSHE.

**Ex Officio Members:** Cheryl Cardoza, Nevada Faculty Alliance (NFA) Representative; Tina May, Classified Council President; Dr. Mindy Lokshin, TMCC Foundation President; Dr. Virginia Irintcheva, Faculty Senate Chair. **resident Kirin Hgrsom;**

## 5. President's Update

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### a) March NSHE BOR Recap

President Hilgersom was pleased to report the March Board of Regents meeting was a positive one for TMCC. Five tenure-track faculty officially received tenure this year, student Cassandra Barber received the Sam Lieberman Regent's Award, \$4 mil in gifts for the William S. Pennington Health Science Center were accepted from several sources, and TMCC also received a \$2 mil federal appropriation with help from Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen, as well as Representative Amodoi. The appropriation will help with program expansion. The annual athletic report was also presented at the meeting by Interim Director Hawkins and was also positive. TMCC received approval to offer an Associate of Science degree in Data Science. Most important was the approval of the Bachelor's degree in Architecture, which will be the only bachelor's program in architecture available in northern Nevada. The President also discussed the March special Board meeting, where Chancellor Melody Rose resigned and the board appointed Vice Chancellor Crystal Abba as Officer-In-Charge; Chair



**c) Dean of Life Sciences, Allied Health & Public Safety – Julie Ellsworth**

Julie discussed for-credit and non-credit healthcare apprenticeships. Both have been assisted with grant dollars to cover tuition for entry-level pathways like the CNA and EMT programs. TMCC is working with Renown to help their employees become CNAs as a way of encouraging current employees to gain certifications. The Medical Assistant and Pharmacy Technician programs are both small scale training intended to help students go directly into the workforce. 129 students have gone through the healthcare apprenticeship programs in the last year. These programs help employees take classes with the promise of a job at the end, often with their current employer.

**d) Career Hub Manager – Sidney Sullivan**

Sidney covered internships. The TMCC internship programs are designed to give students work experience related to their field of study; they are shorter than apprenticeships, usually one semester long, and have varied credits, as well as being repeatable. Most are paid, and all are for credit. They are collaborations between the student, employer and Career Hub as well as a faculty member. Students must have a 2.5 GPA or higher and be within the last two semesters of completion of their academic goal. Programs include paralegal, bookkeeping, diesel, HVAC, auto, welding, culinary, logistics and others,

## **h) Karin Hilgersom**

Dr. Hilgersom commented that the internship numbers are small, and she asked Dr. Alexander why more degree programs don't have internship. Dr. Alexander responded that there are other co-curricular learning opportunities that are not part of these formal apprenticeship programs but are a part of many degree programs, either through presentations of industry professionals in the classroom or students going out into the field. Since these apprenticeships require funding, the informal experiences students get in classes are a good way for them to get experience without needing additional funding. Sidney Sullivan gave a brief history of the internships; during the 2008 recession, internships were an elective because employers couldn't offer internships and this prevented students from graduating, so the only program that requires an internship now is bookkeeping. Also, many students can do their internships at their current employer; having to add an internship can be a time requirement students cannot handle, and having it be optional helps. Edward Estipona added that the data from these internships should be collected. Sidney responded that this data is collected, such as if students were working in a place where they completed an internship or if they were hired after, and the reason the data isn't available is that the internship coordinator retired last year. Edward said he greatly appreciates what the team does. Nancy McCormick added that EDAWN collects some of that data as well and it is being tracked with the intent of adding more employers.

## **i) BJ North**

Chair North concluded with several suggestions of ideas for the IAC to reach out to companies in regards to internships. Julie Ellsworth mentioned lack of financial aid can be a roadblock for students and grants can help mitigate that. Chair North had additional recommendations for the community members of the IAC to work in tandem with TMCC to accomplish these goals. Milton Stewart added that his organization also has several resources available that could help students and help with internships, and NevadaWorks will continue to advocate for TMCC's internship programs.

## **8. Listening Session:**

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### **a) IAC Council Member Take-Aways**

Chair North introduced the listening session and asked council members to share something they learned or took away from the meeting.

Nancy McCormick mentioned that her Nevada Promise mentee was unable to get an internship due to lack of real-world experience, and she was able to give him a mock interview to help him be more prepared and have more confidence for his next internship interview; mock interviews could be a way to help students find internships.

Edward Estipona added that the definitions for apprenticeships and internships can be confusing and vague for employers and students, and using more unified language and clearer definitions may help students and employers understand their purpose and what the programs entail better. Nancy McCormick agreed that the branding of the programs needs more consistency. Milton Stewart added that the Nevada Department of Labor has standardized definitions of these programs that may be beneficial as well.

Dr. Hilgersom concluded with a message that workplace experience will be vital in the coming years in higher education,

## 11. New Business

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Edward Estipona mentioned the importance of training people to work from home as the work world shifts to having more WFH personnel, and suggested finding a way to add that into curriculum in some way. Chair North concurred. Nancy McCormick asked the IAC to consider a presentation from Milton Stewart as CEO.3 (e)11 (w)10.7(a)7(rf)7(s)7(e)2v.3 (e)1.9 ( )2 (r