

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE DEL MAR COLLEGE DISTRICT**

September 9, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of the Del Mar College District convened on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., at the Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples, Room 106, Corpus Christi, Texas with the following present:

From the Board:

Present:

Ms. Carol Scott, Ms. Libby Averyt, Dr. Nicholas Adame, Dr. Anantha Babbili, Mr. Carl Crull, Mr. Rudy Garza, Jr., Mr. Bill Kelly, and Mr. David Loeb.

Absent:

Dr. Laurie Turner.

From the College:

Dr. Mark Escamilla, President and CEO; Ms. Lenora Keas, Executive Vice President and COO; Mr. Raul Garcia, Vice President and CFO; Mr. Ali Kolahdouz, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; Dr. Jonda Halcomb, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Tammy McDonald, Vice President of Administration and Human Resources; Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez, Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Augustin Rivera, Jr., General Counsel; Mr. Matthew Busby, Vice President of Development and Donor Advising; Mr. Jeff Olsen, Chief of Staff and Vice President of Communication and Marketing; Ms. Delia Perez, Director of CEO Office and Board Relations, Mr. Conrado Garcia, Superintendent in Residence, and other staff and faculty.

CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM CALL

Chair Scott called the meeting to order with a quorum present. She requested a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Del Mar College Vision Statement.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – The public was given the opportunity to provide public comments (both general and specific to any agenda item).

There were no public comments.

RECOGNITIONS:

- Dr. Mark Robbins, History Professor, 2025 Aileen Creighton Award Recipient
(III: Cultivate, Goal 1: Nurture our faculty and staff to achieve their full potential)

Dr. Halcomb recognized Dr. Mark Robbins, History Professor, as the recipient of the 2025 Aileen Creighton award. Dr. Robbins is the 23rd faculty member to receive this honor. The Dr.

Aileen Creighton Award for Teaching Excellence represents the late educator's distinguished legacy of master teacher. The individuals must demonstrate the qualities of having expertise in their selected teaching discipline, setting high standards to deliver exceptional instruction, and exhibit their leadership abilities and commitment to the teaching profession. He has chaired and been a part of numerous committees. His work on labor, history, cultural history and consumer politics has appeared in many journals such as "Labor History", "Public Historian", "Oral History View". Dr. Robbins provided words of appreciation and gratitude.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT Dr. Mark Escamilla

- August 18, 2025: Convocation
(I: Communicate, Goal 1: Collaborate across the College)

Dr. Escamilla stated this year's Convocation was kicked off with music, lights, camera, and action. He thanked Dr. Bissel and the Coalition of the Willing for their performance. He also provided a summary of the upcoming programs and events discussed.

- August 25, 2025: CCREDC hosted Congressman Michael Cloud at Windward Campus for a discussion on economic trends and a tour of Process Technology.
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Dr. Escamilla stated the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Center hosted Congressman Cloud at the Windward Campus for a tour of Process Technology area and discussed with CCAD and other local partners in attendance their continuing support for growth of our program.

Dr. Escamilla recognized Sushil Pallemoni and his team for the preparation of the 2024-2025 Statistical Profile.

REGENT'S REPORTS:

- ACCT India-US Partnership Workshop, August 20 - 21, 2025 Dr. Anantha Babbili
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)

Regent Babbili continues to represent the College at the Association of Community College Trustees India-US partnership. He stated ACCT is leading the way in identifying countries with unique skilling approaches and new technologies to foster partnerships between community colleges internationally. This Partnership is an initiative launched last year with a grant from Cognizant Philosophies, a high-tech firm focusing on AI and cybersecurity. The goal is to address the skills gap in American higher education. ACCT has also initiated a partnership with the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Ireland) to merge learning traditions, skills development, and online/offline education.

Regent Babbili provided a summary regarding the Washington DC meeting he attended. The next phase of cooperation will be identifying colleges specializing in nursing and elder care for potential partnerships. Del Mar College's strong nursing program positions them to play a role.

Regent Babbili discussed ACCT’s next steps being considered. The College's active participation is a significant international initiative led by ACCT, aimed at addressing workforce development challenges, fostering cross-cultural collaboration, and positioning community colleges as key drivers of skills-based education in a globalized world.

With no objection from the Board, Chair Scott changed the order of the agenda:

- 4. Discussion and possible action regarding the College's Internal Audit Activity including: FY25 Internal Audit status for Financial Aid; Maintenance, and follow-up internal audit report for IT Security; FY25 Annual Report; FY26 Proposed Audit Plan Budget Ms. Tammy McDonald (II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Ms. McDonald introduced Dan Graves, partner with Weaver who presented the report of the internal audit for Fiscal Year 2025. She also stated Mr. Graves presented his report to the Audit Committee on August 26, 2025.

Mr. Graves stated the Financial Aid Audit for fieldwork was completed August 31, 2025, and is currently in the review phase. The final report will be presented at a future Board meeting. The Maintenance Audit is in the preliminary planning stage and will focus on facilities maintenance, construction, repairs, ground maintenance, and deferred maintenance. Field work will begin in October after the Facilities Team gathers requested information. Information Technology (IT) follow-ups are complete. All findings for IT security audit have been remediated and are available for review. The FY 2025 Risk Assessment Update and Annual Report is being worked on with College Administration to update and create an internal audit plan for FY 2026. Planning for the update has started and will include SB 17 compliance audits.

Regent Garza made a motion to approve the College Internal Audit Report as presented. Regent Loeb seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands and the motion carried unanimously 6-0, amongst Regents present, Regents Scott, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza, and Loeb in favor.

STAFF REPORTS:

- Write-Offs of Account Receivables Mr. Raul Garcia (II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Mr. Garcia stated that in accordance with College Write-offs and Default Board Policy B4.20, student account receivables are written off after multiple collection efforts have been exhausted. For the current year, \$27,555 is delinquent from fall 2021 through summer 2022. This year’s write-off represents one of the lowest in College history. The College’s bad debt recovery rate currently is 99.3%.

Mr. Garcia responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Freedom to Dream Cohort 1 Update

.....Dr. Patricia Benavides-Dominguez and Mr. Ali Kolahdouz
(I: Communicate, .II: Elevate, and III: Cultivate)

Mr. Kolahdouz provided a program overview of the Freedom to Dream (F2D) cohort regarding the goal to provide access to higher education and support student success. The CRM Element 451 was crucial for communication and application processing. A significant achievement with enrollment numbers includes 1,734 F2D students registering for Fall 2025 which represents a 34% yield from applicants. The enrollment trend shows a spike in activity from May through August as applications were processed and students registered. The F2D cohort makes up about 14% of the total Fall '25 headcount (12,133 students), a substantial increase compared to the Fall 2024 headcount (10,256). The Full-Time Equivalency (FTE) is 7,787, with the F2D cohort contributing 22%. This is a significant increase from the Fall '24 FTE of 6,334.

Dr. Benavides-Dominguez provided information regarding student profile and demographics. A large portion have zero semester credit hours, typical of community colleges. The number of non-dual enrollment seniors indicates the program is providing access to students who might not have otherwise enrolled. About 61% of F2D students are pursuing high-demand degrees in transfer and non-transfer fields.

An in-depth discussion was held among the Board of Regents, Dr. Escamilla and presenters.

Dr. Benavides Dominguez provided information relating to the student support systems, a key component is success coaching with a new department being developed. The Student Success Center and the Del Mar Care team are proactively engaging with F2D students. The lessons learned for future cohorts will highlight early insights to improve the program and will include predictive analysis and engaging with students earlier.

Dr. Benavides-Dominguez, Mr. Kolahdouz, Mr. Jeff Olsen, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Dual Enrollment and Continuing Education (DECE) Staffing UpdatesDr. Leonard Rivera
(II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students and III: Cultivate, Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience)

Dr. Rivera presented a brief overview and states the DECE division has been restructured to improve effectiveness and efficiency. The changes aim to optimize performance measures related to House Bill 8 (HB 8) to align with the College's overall strategic plan. An increase in dual enrollment numbers, which are currently at a record high (approximately 3,800 students) with is a growth of 20%, an all-time high. They will ensure a prescriptive student trajectory that allows students to complete stackable credentials (while still in high school). Open enrollment will increase participation in Continuing Education programs.

Workforce-related career and industrial training programs will be offered to both high school (Dual Enrollment) students and the general public. Programs mentioned include welding, bookkeeping, process technology, and millwright.

Dr. Rivera continued and stated in the Adult Education (GED and ESL) program, they plan to expand and launch a new high school diploma program. The program is currently under review and being strengthened in alignment with the Coordinating Board's vision. The launch is anticipated in the spring. The division has secured over \$10 million in grants in the last eight years.

Dr. Rivera introduced faculty and provided information regarding new leadership and changes to the Continuing Community Education programs. The success of the division is attributed to the teamwork and support from the directors, deans, and the entire Del Mar College community.

The Board of Regents commended Dr. Rivera and Dr. Escamilla for their strategic thinking, restructuring and integrating the workforce and continuing education pieces. Dr. Rivera mentioned a video prepared by Mr. Olsen's team, "Strengthening Student Success" that provides in depth information about the DECE Division and its staff.

Dr. Rivera and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions by the Board of Regents.

- Policy Review Schedule Fiscal Year 2026 Ms. Tammy McDonald
(I: Communicate, Goal 1: Collaborate across the College)

Ms. McDonald introduced Ms. Jessica Alaniz, who provided information regarding the policy review process. The schedule is typically presented in September to outline the review process for the year. This year the focus will be on Chapter One (Introduction) and Chapter Two (Administrative Organization).

Ms. McDonald reported that they will specifically be recommending "B" policy changes, as well as some changes based on legislation including SB 2615 (Telework Bill) which is already in effect and being complied with. SB 2972 (Free Speech) requires changes, and the institution is working with General Counsel to prepare and comply with these changes. SB 37 changes include a portion related to Faculty Council structure with a 9/1 effective date and has already been addressed. The remaining portions, effective January 1st, will be presented for review, covering shared governance, curriculum changes, and hiring/personnel evaluations at certain levels.

Ms. McDonald responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

- Deactivation of Selected Programs Dr. Jonda Halcomb
(II: Elevate, Goal 1: Increase completion for all students)

Dr. Halcomb reported program deactivations approved by department chairs, academic deans, and the Curriculum Committee. The College routinely evaluates programs through a five-year review cycle, considering enrollment, graduation rates, and workforce relevance.

Dean Davis Merrell provided information on the following deactivations: Auto Body Applied Technology (AAS and Certificates) - This program was deactivated due to zero declared certificate options in '23 and '24, declining major enrollment (6 in '23, 0 in '24), the retirement of the sole instructor, and a lack of industry demand driven by automation and readily available parts for DIY repairs. Most students were using the program for personal projects. Aviation Maintenance Airframe Applied Technology (OSA) - this OSA was deactivated because it didn't allow graduates to enter the aviation maintenance field due to strict FAA requirements. OSAs are designed to allow completers to enter the workforce as a helper or assistant, but the OSA did not provide a path to actual maintenance options, and the block scheduling of the aviation program made it difficult. Industrial Machining Applied Technology (AAS and Certificates) the entire program was deactivated due to low enrollment (though enrollment increased in '24 due to the teach-out), the instructor's retirement, a lack of industry demand (employers prefer apprenticeships), and the repurposing of lab space for welding. Automation has also reduced the need for skilled machinists.

Dr. Jack Southard (STEM, Kinesiology, and Education) presented on the following deactivations: Interactive Game Technology and Simulation (Level Two Certificate) - this certificate was deactivated due to a steady decline in majors and few certificates awarded in the past five years. IT Essentials, Computer Programming (Level Two Certificate) – this program is deactivated due to zero graduates in the last five years and low enrollment. Students can pursue stackable credentials towards an AAS in computer programming. Web Development (Associate Applied Science) and Web Design Essentials (Level One Certificate) – this program is deactivated due to declining enrollment. Courses can be stacked into other programs within the department. Chemical Engineering (Associate in Science) is deactivated due to declining enrollment and graduation rates, despite graduates successfully pursuing bachelor's degrees in chemical engineering. Students can still pursue a chemistry major and have those hours count towards a chemical engineering degree with proper advising. Advanced Technical Certificate (Allied Health) – this program is deactivated due to low enrollment and few graduates. Students were often returning to their original bachelor's degree institutions to take the required courses, often online.

Dr. Halcomb, Mr. Paul Creacy, Mr. Merrell, and Dr. Escamilla responded to questions from the Board of Regents.

PENDING BUSINESS: Status Report on Requested Information is provided.

**CONSENT AGENDA
Notice to the Public**

CONSENT MOTIONS:

(At this point the Board will vote on all motions not removed for individual consideration.)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

1. Approval of Minutes:
Called Meeting, Budget Workshop, July 29, 2025
Regular Board Meeting, August 12, 2025
(I: Communicate, Goal 2: Connect beyond the College)
2. Acceptance of Investments for August 2025
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)
3. Acceptance of Financials for July 2025
(II: Elevate, Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College)

Regent Loeb made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Regent Crull seconded the motion. There was no further discussion from the Board. There were no public comments. A vote was taken by show of hands, and the motion carried unanimously 8-0, amongst Regents present, with Regents Scott, Averyt, Adame, Babbili, Crull, Garza., Kelly, and Loeb in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

At 2:56 p.m., the Chair announced that the Board was going into Closed Session pursuant to:

5. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to:

- A. **TEX. GOV'T CODE§ 551.071**: (Consultation with legal counsel), regarding pending or contemplated litigation, or a settlement offer, with possible discussion and action in open session; and/or the seeking of legal advice from counsel on pending legal or contemplated matters or claims, with possible discussion and action in open session; and,
- B. **TEX. GOV'T CODE§ 551.074(a)(1)**: (Personnel matters), regarding the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

The Board of Regents reconvened in Open Session at 4:07 p.m. with no action taken.

CALENDAR: Discussion and possible action related to calendaring dates.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED BY GC: /s/ARjr