



Foundation

**Cuesta College Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Feb. 2, 2026 | 3:30 p.m.
Hotel Cerro | Olive Tree Room
1125 Garden St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Zoom Option Available**

A. Call To Order

Foundation Board President Craig Darnell called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

B. Roll Call: A quorum was present.

Board Members

Present:

Executive Committee

Craig Darnell, Chair

Jim Anderson

Stuart Campbell

Janice Fong Wolf

Grigger Jones (Zoom)

Scott Lathrop

Debbie Perrault

Jill Stearns, Ph.D.

Board Members

Andrea Devitt

Erica Flores Baltodano

Patricia Gordon, Ed.D.

(Zoom)

Eric Holmen

Mary E. Howell

Barbara Martinez

Steve McGrath

Pragna Patel-Mueller

George Pudlo

Isaac Pummil

Lisa Rubio-Castillo

Cheryl Vines

Marcy Woolpert Rourke

Board Members

Absent:

Ryan Ashlock

Michael Boyer

Elizabeth Coria, Ed.D.

Jeff Darnton

Susan Dressler, Ph.D.

Cyndee Edwards

Rob Garcia

Robyn Letters

Patrick Mullen

John Rolph

Foundation Staff

Present:

Rick Camarillo

Jane Connely

Sarah Fesseden

Andrea Horvath

Katie Osman

Jessica Strano

Guests Present:

Stephan S. Vines



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C. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approve as presented. (McGrath/Fong Wolf)

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

D. Public Comment

None.

E. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve the Dec. 1, 2025, Board of Directors meeting minutes as presented. (Vines/Howell)

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

F. Business Agenda

a. Financial Report

Rick Camarillo provided a financial report for the period July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, reviewing the Foundation's income and expenditures for the same period. No action was taken.

b. Commensurate Return Report

Katie Osman presented the Commensurate Return Report for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The annual report demonstrates the level at which the Foundation reimburses the District for its support and confirms the Foundation's compliance with Title 5 requirements as an auxiliary organization of the District. The report reflects a return on investment to the District of \$20.11 for every \$1 invested. This report is presented annually to the Board of Trustees. No action was taken.

c. Giving Societies

Katie Osman introduced for discussion the concept of establishing giving societies to strengthen donor stewardship and engagement. Three proposed societies were outlined:

- Community Circle – recognizing individuals and employees who support Cuesta College through recurring monthly gifts or payroll deduction. These contributions provide steady, predictable support and allow the Foundation to plan responsibly throughout the year.
- President's Circle – recognizing donors who make major gifts of \$10,000 or more.
- Dr. Barbara H. George Legacy Society – named in honor of the



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Foundation's founder, recognizing individuals who have made a planned gift or included Cuesta College in their estate plans. This item was presented for discussion only. No action was required.

G. Action Items

a. Gift Acceptance Policy

After advance review and approval by the Executive Committee, Katie Osman presented the proposed Gift Acceptance Policy to the full Board. The policy clarifies items such as the types of gifts that may or may not be accepted by the Foundation, outlines approval thresholds and authority, and helps protect both the Foundation and the District from risk.

Motion: Approve the Gift Acceptance Policy, as presented.
(Lathrop/McGrath)

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Special Distribution from the Ann Waters Coppenbarger Quasi-Endowment

In October 2022, the Cuesta College Foundation received a \$250,000 estate gift from Ann W. Waters Coppenbarger designated to support the Cuesta College Concord Chorus. At the department's request, \$225,000 of the gift was placed into a quasi-endowment. The Concord Chorus is now requesting a special distribution of \$100,000 to support expanded programming in FY26 and provide operating support through FY27.

Motion: Approve the Special Distribution from the Ann Waters Coppenbarger Quasi-Endowment, as presented.
(Flores Baltodano/Campbell)

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution for Mary Strobridge

Craig Darnell presented the Resolution of Appreciation for Mary Strobridge.

Motion: Approve the Resolution, as presented. (Fong Wolf/Vines)

Result: Motion passed unanimously.

H. Executive Reports

a. Foundation Board President

Craig Darnell highlighted the success of the Board's first Strategic



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Planning Retreat and thanked those who attended for their thoughtful engagement in the process. He reminded members that the second retreat is scheduled for Thursday and reiterated the meeting details. Craig noted that strategic planning is a core responsibility of the Board and emphasized the importance of clearly defining our priorities. He also recognized Scott Lathrop and the Nominating Committee for their recent efforts to identify and recruit strong prospective Board members.

b. Superintendent/President

Dr. Jill Stearns began by acknowledging Dr. George and shared that naming the legacy society in her honor is a fitting tribute to her legacy and the important work she accomplished. Dr. Stearns also announced that Cuesta College has officially acquired 1650 Grand Avenue in Arroyo Grande for the South County Campus. Next steps include engaging a project manager and architect to develop exterior renderings while program planning continues, with design and renovation currently anticipated for late 2028 or early 2029, subject to change. She then noted that on Friday evening, the College will hold the Paramedic Pinning ceremony, honoring graduates of the paramedic program. No Action was taken.

c. Foundation Executive Director

Katie Osman observed that it was rewarding to see the recently approved Program Coordinator positions come to fruition, with Jane Connely and Sarah Fessenden in attendance at the meeting. She remarked that the impact of their work in such a short period of time has been overwhelmingly positive. Katie then shared brief biographies of Jane and Sarah with the Board. She noted that the Foundation's pace of work has been intentionally focused on building long-term organizational capacity by improving core infrastructure and prioritizing internal systems and standard operating procedures. She also shared that she has developed a strong, collaborative relationship with the Executive Director at Allan Hancock College, which has been invaluable. Katie highlighted recent staff efforts across all areas of the Foundation. She then concluded by presenting the Rodeo Event sponsorship prospectus for the May event to the Board.



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I. Representative Reports

a. Associated Students of Cuesta College (Isaac Pummill)

Isaac Pummill provided a new-semester update, noting that ASCC held its first meeting and reviewed its mission and goals for the term. The Cuesta Democratic Club is very active, with two local speaker events scheduled for February. No action was taken.

b. Board of Trustees (Patrick Mullen)

No report due to absence.

c. Faculty (Andrea Devitt)

Andrea Devitt reported that on Opening Day in January, Rachael Barnett received the well-deserved Adjunct Faculty Award. Andrea organized the nomination, with 15–16 colleagues submitting letters of support. She emphasized the challenges adjunct faculty face, the meaningful connections faculty build with students beyond expectations, and the positive impact of collaboration among management, faculty, and staff on student success.

J. Committee Chair Reports

a. Alumni Relations Committee (Fong Wolf)

The Honored Alumni event has arrived, and Janice Fong Wolf encouraged everyone to stay after the meeting to celebrate the alumni being recognized. Jane is actively reaching out to feature an alumnus in each Foundation newsletter. The 2026 Honored Alumni nomination period is open through May 4, with recognition planned for the fall.

b. Development Committee (Darnton)

Jessica Strano presented in Jeff Darnton's absence. The Area of Greatest Need reached 176% of the goal, up from 77% at the same time last year. The Fall Appeal mailer generated 82 gifts with a \$357 average. Crowdfunding, primarily for athletics, has 814 contributors to date compared to 526 last year, with all teams now participating. She also highlighted several major gifts of \$10,000 or more.

c. Finance Committee (Campbell)

Stuart Campbell and Rick Camarillo provided an update on investment performance.

d. Nominating Committee (Lathrop)

Scott Lathrop reported that six Board Members have terms ending,



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and the Nominating Committee has contacted them regarding their interest in continuing service. The goal is to add four to six new members, focusing on diverse industry representation where gaps exist. Term limits are under discussion within the Committee, along with the idea of creating Associate Member roles for those rotating off the Board. These concepts will be vetted and brought back to the full Board.

K. Comments by Staff

Andrea Horvath encouraged Board Members who were unable to attend the January Board Retreat to pick up a leather Foundation notebook.

Jessica Strano expressed her gratitude to the Board for the support of the restructuring that brought the Program Coordinators onto the team.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Next Foundation Board Meeting Date: Monday, Apr. 6, 2026.