



**Valencia College Foundation  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
West Campus, Special Events Center, Building 8  
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Ms. Janice Abrew-Coriano  
Mr. Robert Agrusa  
Mr. Waymon Armstrong  
Ms. Sharon Arroyo  
Mr. Steve Burriss  
Mr. Alan Byrd  
Mr. Bruce Carlson  
Ms. Jennifer Englert  
Ms. Carolyn Fennell  
Mr. Darren Hinshaw  
Ms. Lisa Macon  
Mr. John Martinez  
Ms. Maritza Martinez-Guerrero  
Mr. Jeff Mock  
Mr. Joshua Murdock  
Mr. Mike Nichola  
Mr. Alex Poreda  
Ms. Nora Rodriguez-Patterson  
Mr. Toufic Simaan

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Kathleen Plinske  
Mr. Oscar Cristancho  
Mr. Bill Mallowney  
Ms. Cynthia Santiago-Guzman  
Ms. Carlee Thomas  
Ms. Pamela Dorn  
Ms. Sue Fagan  
Mr. Michael Herrera  
Ms. Amanda Little  
Ms. Angela Mendolaro  
Ms. Crystal St. Julien

**Guest(s):**

Ms. Vicki Pugh – Advancement Experts  
Mr. Jae Tillman – Student Speaker

**Call to Order**

Chair Alan Byrd called the Valencia College Foundation Board of Directors Meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.  
Chair Byrd confirmed a quorum was present.

He introduced new Director Steve Burriss. Director Burriss is the Chief Operating Officer of Orlando Health. Director Burriss said he is looking forward to serving on the Foundation Board and collaborating with fellow directors.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes for December 4, 2024 was made and approved without objection.

**Introduction of Speaker –  
Jae Tillman**

Ms. Little, Manager of Alumni Relations, introduced Mr. Jae Tillman, Valencia College's Alumni Relations Fall 2024 Distinguished Graduate.

Mr. Tillman shared his Valencia College story. He affirmed that Valencia College is a place where anyone can learn anything under the right conditions.

**College President's Report**

Dr. Plinske recognized Mr. Tillman's accomplishments and lauded his decision to attend Valencia College.

Dr. Plinske reported on several generous partners who were recognized at the February District Board of Trustees meeting.

Specifically, she recognized the following million dollar (or above) gifts to the Valencia College Foundation, as follows:

- AdventHealth has contributed more than \$1 million to the Valencia College Foundation over the years, and most recently provided a gift of \$500,000 that will be matched by the state of Florida Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund, a state grant available to Florida education institutions to expand nursing education opportunities.
- Orlando Health has contributed more than \$1 million to the Valencia College Foundation over the years, and most recently provided a gift of \$500,000 that will be matched by the state of Florida LINE Fund.
- The 3 Pointer Foundation was also recognized for its commitment of \$1 million to support three academic areas of the College.

Dr. Plinske stated that the contribution to the Foundation from the Orange County Supervisor of Elections Office has been returned.

### **Executive Director Report**

Ms. Thomas shared that the Foundation's fundraising efforts to date have raised over \$4 million. The Foundation currently has 438 donors.

On January 16 the Foundation hosted leaders from the Heart of Florida United Way for their annual meeting at Valencia College's Heart of Florida United Way Center for Accelerated Training.

The Foundation hosted a President's Circle event in January where Dr. Plinske and Director Martinez-Guerrero participated in a fire-side chat covering a myriad of College programs and accomplishments.

In January, the Foundation was well represented at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) 2025 Foundation Leadership Forum. AGB is the gold standard for governing boards for universities and colleges. Ms. Thomas attended along with Vice Chair Sheri Torres, Mr. Oscar Cristancho, and Mr. Bill Mullowney.

Ms. Thomas reported that for the academic year 2024-2025 the Valencia College Foundation awarded \$1,659,133 in scholarships to a total of 2,041 degree-seeking students.

There are two vacant positions at the Foundation that will be filled: the Director of Donor Relations and Experiences and the Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving.

The Foundation is setting a fundraising goal of \$4.25 million for fiscal year 2025-2026.

### **Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget and Restricted Funds Spending Plan**

Mr. Cristancho shared a presentation on the Valencia College Foundation's proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 Operating Budget and Restricted Funds Spending Plan.

The report included a summary of the Valencia College Foundation's budget principles and proposed operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

He presented a restricted funds spending plan and a balanced operating budget to the Foundation Board of Directors for its approval, which includes an increase in the administrative fee from 1.5% to 1.8%.

A motion to approve the Foundation operating budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 was made by Director Martinez-Guerrero and was seconded by Director Agrusa. Approval was unanimous.

### **The Governance Pillar**

Ms. Vicki Pugh of Advancement Experts stated that the Foundation staff has made progress on the Advancement and Operations Pillars of the strategic plan and that the Foundation Board will be working on the Governance Pillar.

### **Elevator Pitch Prompts**

Director Josh Murdock provided his rendition of the Foundation "elevator pitch."

Dr. Plinske and Ms. Thomas presented Chair Byrd with a plaque thanking him for his service as Board Chair.

Mr. Byrd expressed his appreciation and stated that it has been his honor and pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors.

### **Adjourn**

Chair Byrd adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.