



**Valencia College Foundation  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Zoom – 8:00 a.m.  
April 23, 2025**

**Committee Members Present:**

Ms. Sheri Torres, Chair  
Mr. Jeff Mock  
Mr. Alan Byrd  
Mr. David Berelsman  
Ms. Pat Engfer  
Ms. Stephanie Howell  
Mr. John Martinez  
Mr. Richard McCree

**Staff Present:**

Dr. Kathleen Plinske  
Mr. Bill Mallowney  
Mr. Oscar Cristancho  
Ms. Carlee Thomas  
Ms. Angela Mendolaro  
Ms. Sue Fagan  
Ms. Pamela Dorn

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Torres called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Director Martinez moved to approve the meeting minutes of the February 26, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting, as presented. Director Engfer seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **III. President's Update**

Dr. Plinske appointed Ms. Howell as her Foundation Board designee.

She praised Mr. Agrusa's legislative advocacy and thanked him for his commitment to Valencia College.

A video was shared of Evans and Jones High School announcing one-year scholarships for the Class of 2025 graduates, funded by private donors.

### **IV. Executive Director Update**

Ms. Thomas shared that the President's Circle membership increased 14% to 174 members. Members were encouraged to promote the \$1,000/year giving level.

Thanks were extended to Walt Disney World for a \$100,000 gift to VCentials and Duke Energy for \$50,000 in AST scholarships.

The Red, Black & Boundless Gala is set for September 13, 2025.

Two new staff positions are open through April 28 which include the Director of Donor Relations and Experiences and the Director of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving.

In academic year 2024-25, \$1.6 million in scholarships have supported 2,041 students.

Ms. Thomas also highlighted our partnership with the PepsiCo Foundation. Since 2021, the Valencia College Foundation has received grants to support scholarships and emergency financial assistance for students enrolled in select associate degree and accelerated skills training programs. To date, 261 Valencia College students have been PepsiCo Foundation Uplift Scholars – 61 associate degree students and 200 accelerated skills training students.

### **V. Vice-Chair Nominee**

Director Martinez moved to approve the nomination of Director Mock to serve as Vice Chair of the Board. Director McCree seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **VI. Strategic Plan**

Chair Torres shared insights from the AGB Conference, focusing on board structure, term limits, and engagement strategies.

Ms. Thomas emphasized follow-up with board members and noted ongoing calls with current members to review board term limits. A special Executive Committee meeting will be held to approve the 2025–2026 Slate of Officers.

**VII. Fund Modification Process**

Ms. Thomas and AGB consultant Margaret Jarrell-Cole are working together with the team on a fund modification project. The goal is to update gift agreements and ensure all funds are usable. This will be a focus and presentation at the next board meeting.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Chair Torres adjourned the meeting at 8:49 a.m.