Valencia College Foundation
Meeting of the Board of Directors
West Campus, Building 6, Room 202
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Board Members Present:
Ms. Sheri Torres, Chair
Ms. Janice Abrew-Coriano
Mr. Waymon Armstrong
Ms. Sharon Arroyo (via Zoom)
Mr. Alan Byrd
Dr. Coleen Cox
Ms. Pat Engfer
Ms. Jennifer Englert
Ms. Erica Ettori
Mr. Shawn Hindle
Ms. Stephanie Howell
Mr. Derrick McRae
Mr. Mike Nichola
Ms. Lee Rambeau

Staff Present:
Dr. Kathleen Plinske
Dr. Carla McKnight
Mr. Joseph Mera
Ms. Lashon Brown
Mr. Bill Mullowney
Ms. Laurel Hayward
Ms. Amanda Little
Ms. Lisa Shrestha

Call to Order	Chair Torres called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. A quorum was present.
Approval of Minutes	A motion to approve the minutes for the March 4, 2026, meeting was made by Director Nichola and seconded by Director Armstrong. Approval was unanimous.
President's Updates	Dr. Plinske recognized Trustee Shawn Hindle, who serves as the District Board of Trustees' representative to the Foundation Board of Directors. Dr. Plinske shared that Trustee Hindle encouraged fellow Trustees to support the Valencia College Foundation and reported that 100% of the District Board of Trustees are now Foundation donors,

marking the first time in the College's history that the entire Board has achieved full participation.

Dr. Plinske provided a legislative update and highlighted recent changes to the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund, which were signed into law in May. The changes expand the allowable use of matching funds and provide greater flexibility for nursing education initiatives, including simulation centers and other workforce development needs. Dr. Plinske noted that the revisions will create additional opportunities for Valencia to partner with healthcare organizations and emphasized the importance of strengthening fundraising efforts with hospital partners. She thanked Representative Erika Booth for her leadership in advancing the legislation.

Dr. Plinske shared an update on Florida College System funding and state appropriations. She explained that the Legislature approved a new allocation model that balances student enrollment and performance measures with support for colleges that have historically received lower levels of funding. Valencia College's state appropriation for fiscal year 2026-2027 is projected to increase by approximately $5.3 million, bringing total funding to $151.5 million. Dr. Plinske noted that the allocation aligns with the College's budget planning assumptions and acknowledged the impact of legislative advocacy efforts, including support from Rob Bradley, in helping advance Valencia's priorities.

Dr. Plinske reported that the Florida Legislature included $1 million in state funding for the development of Building 2 at Valencia College's Lake Nona campus in the 2026–2027 budget.

Executive Director's Updates

Dr. McKnight highlighted a new partnership opportunity supporting high school-to-career pathways. Project Compass, an alternative education school-to-work program in Orange County and one of nine alternative school programs in the district, recently served as the launch partner for the Goodwill Pathways Scholarship. The scholarship provides full support for eligible students to enroll in Valencia College's Accelerated Skills Training programs at no out-of-pocket cost, expanding access to workforce training and career pathways.

Dr. McKnight also shared that the directors received personalized engagement reports outlining terms of service, attendance expectations, and role responsibilities. Board members were reminded of the importance of continued philanthropic engagement, noting that 89% of board members are engaged as donors to the Foundation, with a goal of achieving full participation.

Several staffing and board updates were reported within the Valencia College Foundation, including the retirement of Pamela Dorn, Executive Assistant, and the departure of Angela Mendolaro, Assistant Vice President, Major Gifts & Planned Giving. Amanda Little, Manager, Alumni Relations & Annual Giving, will transition into the role of Manager, Advancement Operations. Board membership changes were also noted, with Nora Rodriguez-Patterson relocating from Central Florida and Dr. Coleen Cox joining as the new faculty representative. Dr. Cox brings extensive healthcare experience and currently serves as Program Director for the Nursing BSN program.

The Red, Black and Boundless Gala on October 3, 2026, will launch Valencia College's 60th Anniversary celebration. This year's goals focus on alumni re-engagement. Board members were encouraged to support the event through attendance, sponsorship, table hosting, assistance in securing sponsorships, and promotion of the event.

Dr. McKnight also highlighted "Uncle Sam's Puma Jam," scheduled for July 1, a large-scale community celebration marking the nation's 250th anniversary milestone. The event will include a drone show over Lake Pamela, along with live music, food, and family-friendly programming designed to engage the broader community.

"5 Things to Know" business-sized cards were shared with attendees and will be available at a future meeting.

Finance & Audit Update

Mr. Mera provided an update on Foundation investment performance through March 31, 2026 (Q4) and the ongoing FY26 audit process. The Foundation's investment portfolio continued to outperform, demonstrating a positive performance relative to established benchmarks.

Investments remain diversified, and the portfolio is within all Investment Policy Statement allocation ranges.

Mr. Mera also provided an update on the FY26 audit process. Berman Hopkins, the Foundation's external audit firm, was acquired by Doren Mayhew in March 2026. The audit and tax engagement teams remain unchanged, and the audit is proceeding in accordance with applicable auditing standards. Discussion included key audit focus areas and the timeline for review of the audited financial statements and Form 990, which are anticipated for Executive Committee review on September 29, 2026, and Board review on October 28, 2026.

New Business

The Board considered the nomination of Craig Moore, CEO of AdventHealth Kissimmee, for appointment to the Valencia College Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Moore was identified as a strong candidate to address a gap in healthcare industry representation, with noted engagement in the local community, including Osceola County and chamber activities. A motion was made by Director Hindle and seconded by Director Abrew-Coriano to approve his appointment; the motion passed unanimously.

The Board also discussed governance structure updates, including elimination of the Secretary officer role and reduction of the Immediate Past Chair term from two years to one year. It was noted that Board administrative support is provided by staff and legal review confirmed a Secretary signature is not required, as any Board member, including the Chair, may execute documents as needed. Following discussion, a motion was made by Director Byrd and seconded by Director Engfer to approve the governance changes; the motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Discussion

The Board engaged in a high-level strategic discussion focused on the Foundation's advancement and operations pillars, emphasizing the Foundation's role as an operating organization. While financially healthy, operational challenges were noted, and CCS Fundraising was engaged to assess people, processes, and technology. CCS identified opportunities to move from a reactive to a more proactive and scalable model, including strengthening donor engagement, improving process consistency, clarifying roles, and enhancing Constituent Relationship Management

(CRM) data use. The Board also reviewed proposed structural refinements aligned to advancement functions and operational support designed to improve efficiency and long-term growth. Discussion included the development of a more comprehensive annual fund strategy, establishment of a formal major gifts program, enhanced donor stewardship efforts, and improved processes for donor identification, assignment, and management. Fundraising priorities supporting College Access Programs, VCentials, the Nursing Simulation Center, and Accelerated Skills Training initiatives were also discussed. Particular emphasis was placed on VCentials and the Nursing Simulation Center as key priorities within the Foundation's long-term growth strategy.

Adjourn

Chair Torres adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Following adjournment, directors were invited to participate in an optional visit to Innovation Studios to learn more about the facility's role in supporting hands-on, workforce-aligned learning opportunities.