

NORTHERN New Mexico College



BOARD OF REGENTS MINUTES

JUNE 26, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, June 26, 2026, Via Zoom in the Board Room of Northern New Mexico College, Española. Campus. Regents Present in person and Viz Zoom: Michael A. Martin, Erica Velarde, Ruben Archuleta (joined meeting at 9:16AM), Ron Lovato, and Dolores Gurule.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer/Compliance Officer, Matthew Baca, General Counsel, Scott Stokes, Chief Information Officer, Juan Gallegos, Windows System/Information Security Administrator, Arin McKenna, Staff Writer/Reporter, Communications & Marketing, Cindy Martinez, Human Resources Admin/Tech, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Milam Shaw, Communications Coordinator, Communications & Marketing, Martin Shupla, Director of Library, Haylie Baca, Financial Aid Advisor, Michelle Martinez, Administrative Assistant, Nursing & Health Sciences, Carmella Sanchez, Director of Institutional Research,

Faculty Present: Scott Braley, Sushmita Nandy

Others Present: Brandee DeAgüero, Student Senate President, Cipriano Marquez, Student Senate

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:06AM.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Martin stated he has a few changes. The Audit Committee did not meet, so we'll strike that from the agenda and Faculty Senate does not have a report for this month. Chairman Martin asked President Balderas if he has anything else. President Balderas stated he just has his Celebrate report.

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Regent Velarde moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second – Regent Gurule. A roll call vote was taken. Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously

III. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports

1. Housing Committee

Chairman Martin stated Regent Archuleta is not with us so we cannot have housing committee.

2. Audit, Finance, Facilities Committee

None.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Gurule stated she actually met with Mr. Baca yesterday and they only had one item to discuss and that is going to be discussed in greater length later in staff reports because it is an action item today.

4. Governance Committee

a. Presidential Evaluation

Mr. Baca states as the Board is all aware, the contract between the college and President Balderas calls for a presidential evaluation to take place once per fiscal year. Usually, we do that at this meeting. The purpose of the action item today is just to postpone that evaluation to either the next meeting or the August meeting, whichever is the board's pleasure.

Chairman Martin stated that he would like to see it at the next meeting if that is alright with the President.

President Balderas stated yes, there was a lot of, he guesses, unconventional issues, he would say, this, this, at the end of the spring, and we just thought it was more prudent to focus on those matters, impacting the institution campus-wide, and that we would, just be delaying by 30 days. We'll have a complete evaluation and criteria and material for the Board to consider in the next month. So, he thinks it was more prudent for us to focus on some of the issues that were impacting the college at the time. President Balderas thanked the Board.

Chairman Martin stated he would entertain a motion to defer the Presidential Evaluation until the July meeting.

Regent Velarde moved to defer the Presidential Evaluation until the July meeting. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. HERC Committee

Chairman Martin stated Regent Velarde and Chairman Martin met with the HERC this past week. They had Secretary Rodriguez give them a presentation about the upcoming constitutional amendment that's going to be on the ballot in November. The HERC had reached out to get legal counsel to see if we could actually, state an opinion on the upcoming...amendment which is going to decide how regions are selected in the future. It adds another level of bureaucracy. The legislature will be involved instead of just the governor in setting up a committee to pick... to choose regents. Our legal counsel informed us that we much like the presidents cannot tell people not to vote against it, we can just encourage them to vote. They did recommend that we maybe send some letters into the... letters to the editor, and as people to consider if they think this is the best... best way to change something that's been done since the...we became a state in 1912. Chairman Martin asked Regent Velarde for her thoughts as she was at the meeting.

Regent Velarde stated, yeah, it was a good conversation, good discussion, it's good to know, you know, what our options are, and as far as, you know, being able to speak about it. But yeah, I'm a lot in the idea that...you're right, an extra level of bureaucracy that, you know, it's already kind of bureaucratic enough, she believes. So, yeah, it was a good conversation, and the HERC meeting was just great as well to be able to move forward on our upcoming fall, fall symposium.

Chairman Martin stated yes, we have scheduled the Symposium for the 3rd and 4th of November in Portales and he'd hope that you all, if you could attend, it would be very worthwhile. We are going to be discussing what's coming up in the next legislative session, electing some new officers, so please put that on your calendar. The Secretary also did give us a handout, which I asked Ms. Pena to circulate to the rest of the board about some of the successes that we had. The presidents and all the colleges had at the last legislative session. Hats off to everybody for all that higher ed was able to accomplish, it was a very good session. Chairman Martin asked President Balderas if he agreed.

President Balderas stated yes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of May 29, 2026.

Regent Gurule moved to approve the minutes of May 29, 2026. – Second – Regent Velarde. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Celebrate Northern

We held our annual Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom last Friday in conjunction with Juneteenth New Mexico. I want to give special thanks to Sonya Smith, Former Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services, for serving as our keynote speaker and sharing why Juneteenth is so personal to her. Our Veteran's Center presided over the Presentation of Colors and raising the Juneteenth Flag. Mayor Dennis Tim Salazar read a proclamation in honor of Juneteenth, Matt Miller read a message from Teresa Leger Fernandez and Ben Ray Lujan sent a video message. Lazy Buffalo provided delicious barbeque and DJ Dave gave us great music.

We once again partnered with Western Colorado University to host the Trades Culture 2026 Boot Camp in Gunnison, Colorado. I want to thank Ralph E. "Butch" Clark for initially proposing this unique initiative and again fully funding it. Nathaniel Romero, Elisha Arellano, Omar Valles and Dyon Herrera participated in the installation of solar equipment on a Coldharbour Institute student housing facility, utilized the engineering laboratories and resources of WCU's Rady School of Computer Science and Engineering, fabricated project components, and met with local contractors to gain insight into career opportunities and industry best practices.

We partnered with Math Amigos to host a two-week summer camp called Math in Mosaic. Eighteen kids enjoyed math games, the planetarium, pantomimes, and many other math activities. They also completed some tapestry projects at the Española Valley Fiber Arts Center, connecting math patterns with the tapestry work.

Our Summer Basketball Camp was a great success. 80 young athletes worked hard to improve their basketball skills while having fun and building new friendships. Campers participated in skill development drills, competitive games, and team activities. The energy and enthusiasm shown by all the players made the camp a memorable experience. It was exciting to watch each camper grow in confidence, learn new skills, and support one another both on and off the court. Our thanks to Coach Mike Dominguez for creating this camp and Del Norte Credit Union for their sponsorship.

Northern New Mexico College Women's Basketball hosted its 2nd Annual High School Team Camp June 6–7, featuring eight teams from across New Mexico, including Tucumcari, Taos, and Dulce. The gym was packed with fans as teams competed throughout the weekend, with Mesa Vista claiming the tournament championship. NNMC Women's Basketball will next host a Youth Skills Camp on July 7–8 for boys and girls ages 5–17, focusing on skill development and a love for the game.

Eight of our students are recipients of the LANL Foundation Career Pathways Scholarship. We are so proud of:

Abryanna Baca
Prince Patrick Baldomar
Mary Chavez
Lauren Dunbarr
Reynel Orozco
Xander Rigg
Rebekah Sharits
Naomi Velasquez

We hosted the Abiquiú Arts Council's 3rd Annual Gathering of Artisans on our Española campus, with 26 amazing artist vendors and delicious food provided by Lazy Buffalo.

B. CUP/NMICC Report

None.

C. NNMC Foundation

President Balderas reviewed the following with the Board of Regents:

I. President's Eagle \$1,000,000 Campaign - \$1,063,158

April 1, 2025 to June 19, 2026

Corrected total donations from May report.

II. FY26 Philanthropic Donations - \$556,281

July 1, 2025 to June 19, 2026

III. Trades Culture 2026 Boot Camp

The Trades Culture 2026 Boot Camp, held in Gunnison, Colorado, May 31 to June 6, 2026, marked the second year of collaboration between Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) and Western Colorado University (WCU). The program was made possible through the generous support of Ralph E. "Butch" Clark, who fully funds this unique, technical trades initiative designed to connect NNMC and WCU students through hands-on trades education, cultural exchange, and collaborative learning experiences.

The 2026 Boot Camp brought together a diverse group of partners, including NNMC, WCU, Butch Clark, Hearth Design Build, the Coldharbour Institute, local tradespeople, and area business owners. The curriculum provided students with practical, real-world learning opportunities centered on renewable energy and construction trades.

Students participated in the installation of solar equipment on a Coldharbour Institute student housing facility, utilized the engineering laboratories and resources of WCU's Rady School of Computer Science and Engineering, fabricated project components, and met with local contractors to gain insight into career opportunities and industry best practices.

In addition to technical training, the Boot Camp emphasized team building, leadership development, and cultural enrichment. Students explored the natural beauty of the Gunnison Valley through hiking excursions in Crested Butte, participated in white-water rafting adventures, and networked with local trades professionals and business leaders. The week concluded with a graduation barbecue attended by students, partners, local tradespeople, and community supporters, celebrating the accomplishments, friendships, and professional connections developed throughout the program.

The Trades Culture 2026 Boot Camp continues to strengthen educational partnerships, expand workforce development opportunities, and foster cultural understanding while preparing the next generation of skilled trades professionals.

In attendance for the week of camp were, NNMCTrades Electrical Instructor, Marvin Romero, and students, Nathaniel Romero, Elisha Arellano, Omar Valles and Dyon Herrera. Trades Chair, Joe Padilla, and Major Gift Officer, Judith Pepper, attended the graduation celebration along with Butch Clark, Western Colorado students and partnering organizations held in Gunnison on Saturday, June 6.

Since 2021, Mr. Clark has generously contributed \$491,891 to the NNMCTechnical Trades Department, helping strengthen technical education and workforce development. His commitment continues, with additional contributions expected in the years ahead.

Regent Velarde stated she wanted to give a shout out that, there was a third annual Energy Symposium in Espanola this last week and several of our students were there, via, she believes, a scholarship to attend and so she specifically sat with Cipriano and Lauren. So, it was a great event to see Northern students there, and they gave us a great shout-out as well.

Chairman Martin thanked Regent Velarde.

D. Introduction of Staff and Faculty

None.

VII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Faculty Senate President Brailey stated he does not have a report today.

VIII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Brandee DeAgüero stated they have two new members joining student senate as senators. Khiana is the temporary President and Reporter until a reporter is hired for her position. They are trying to plan and organize a set schedule for the fall semester of events they would like to host for the fall semester. Cipriano Marquez stated it was wonderful for the shout out from Regent Velarde. He has a blueprint document to initiate with Brandee.

Chairman Martin stated it sounds like Student Senate is very busy and thanked her for all they do for the college.

Student Senate President DeAgüero stated Cipriano Marquez is present and asked if he wanted to speak on anything from Student Senate.

Chairman Martin stated we would love to hear from Cipriano and asked if he had anything to share with the Board.

Mr. Marquez stated it was wonderful to also go ahead, and shout out to Erica for the earlier shout-out. We did go ahead and attend the third annual energy symposium and with a lot that he goes ahead and learn for the college, I'm happy to bring back some notes, add them to our meetings, so much so that they have a...blueprint document of trying to align forces with clubs on campus at the moment with the help of President Brandee he is hoping to initiate that pretty soon.

Chairman Martin thanked Mr. Marquez and thanked Ms. DeAguero and asked if there were any questions.

IX. STAFF SENATE REPORT

None.

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

1. Nursing Department Request for New Course Fees

Mr. Baca stated as the Board has seen in the packet, there is a request for the nursing department to, create a \$242 course fee to be attached to the course Nursing 1119. This is a, licensing examination test prep course. It is part of the associate, in, degree program. It is not a required course, but it's growing in popularity. The course offers the students the opportunity to, just effectively prepare for their licensing examination. The course itself is taught, with... in conjunction with materials through a company called ATI, which is a leading test prep company. The purpose of the fee is to add another feature for students to be able to get individualized and direct feedback on how they're doing in their test preparation, where they are in that process, and what they need to do to bring themselves up to speed. As you all know, the nursing program has seen 100% passage rates on this exam for the last couple of years. So, Mr. Baca thinks that's in no small part to tools like this that are available to our students who go on to take that licensure examination. So, the request from the nursing department is to add this course fee to this particularized course. Mr. Baca emphasized again that the course is not necessarily required, so this is not necessarily a fee that all students have to pick up. But should they choose to participate in this test prep course, they now have the option to get this very personalized feedback. So, the recommendation to the Board of Regents is to entertain and pass a motion to institute the course fee.

Chairman Martin asked if there were any questions and entertained a motion to approve the Nursing Department Request for New Course Fees.

Regent Velarde stated these types of prep courses are very valuable. She took one when she had to take her licensure for engineering and it really did prep her and get her prepared for that test so she is in full support of that.

Regent Velarde moved to approve the Nursing Department request for new course fees. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Martin stated he would entertain a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition or disposal, particularly the Rio Arriba County Real Estate Transfer Agreement.

Regent Velarde moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition or disposal, particularly the Rio Arriba County Real Estate Transfer Agreement. Second – Regent Gurule. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents entered into executive session at 9:24AM.

XII. VOTE TO REOPEN MEETING - Certification that only those matters described in the Executive Session Agenda were discussed in the closed session; if necessary, final action with regard to certain matters will be taken in Open Session

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to come out of executive session, certifying that only those matters described in the agenda were discussed in the closed session and no action was taken.

Regent Velarde moved to come out of Executive Session. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents returned from Executive Session at 10:24AM.

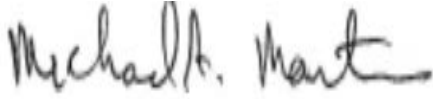
XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

Regent Velarde moved to adjourn. Second – Regent Lovato. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Lovato – yes, Regent Gurule – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents adjourned at 10:25AM

Approved:



Michael A. Martin
Chairman



Erica Rita Velarde (Aug 18, 2026 14:09:29 MDT)

Erica Rita Velarde
Vice Chair

Minutes 6-26-26

Final Audit Report

2026-08-18

Created:	2026-08-18
By:	Amy Pena (amy.pena@nnmc.edu)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAASeEiop0NuZ1Ta9Z_QQpqlasBjiguK08R

"Minutes 6-26-26" History

-  Document created by Amy Pena (amy.pena@nnmc.edu)
2026-08-18 - 2:15:04 AM GMT- IP address: 75.161.66.239
-  Document emailed to erica.velarde@nnmc.edu for signature
2026-08-18 - 2:15:33 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by erica.velarde@nnmc.edu
2026-08-18 - 8:01:37 PM GMT- IP address: 104.28.123.133
-  Signer erica.velarde@nnmc.edu entered name at signing as Erica Rita Velarde
2026-08-18 - 8:09:27 PM GMT- IP address: 146.75.175.1
-  Document e-signed by Erica Rita Velarde (erica.velarde@nnmc.edu)
Signature Date: 2026-08-18 - 8:09:29 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 146.75.175.1 - Signature Appearance Selected: MOBILE_DRAW
-  Agreement completed.
2026-08-18 - 8:09:29 PM GMT

