

**WSU Tech Board of Trustees
Board Minutes
October 16, 2025**

Role Call	WSU Tech Board of Trustees met face-to-face at 3:05 pm on October 16, 2025. The meeting was held at WSUS Campus with a virtual option. Role Call: Alicia Thompson – Yes (virtual) Andrew Nichols - No Bryan Frye – Yes (virtual) Derek Penn - Yes Derrick Nielsen - No Doug Stark - No Enrique Villars – Yes Greg Stroud – No Kahlilah Iratheta – Yes Lily Wu – Yes Maggie Topping – no Matt Hesse – Yes Meredith Olson – Yes Pete Meitzner - Yes Absent: Andrew Nichols, Derrick Nielsen, Doug Stark, Greg Stroud, and Maggie Topping
Public Communications	All proper notifications have been sent out, and we have no speakers signed up to speak under Public Communications
Bond Resolution	Sheree discusses the need to re-vote on a bond resolution due to missing a quorum the previous Tuesday. Sheree explained the resolution authorizes staff to sign various documents and mentions Stacia's involvement in the vote. Thereupon, there was presented to the Board a resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING AND ADVISING THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPPING OF AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY; AND RECOMMENDING AND ADVISING THE ISSUANCE OF TAXABLE REVENUE BONDS OF THE WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY IN AN APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF (I) PAYING A PORTION OF THE COSTS THEREOF, (II) FUNDING ANY RELATED RESERVES, AND (III) PAYING CERTAIN COSTS OF ISSUANCE. Thereupon, the Resolution was considered and discussed; and on motion of <u>Pete Meitzner</u>, seconded by <u>Meredith Olson</u>, the Resolution was adopted by a majority vote of members present. Role Call: Alicia Thompson – Yes (virtual) Bryan Frye – Yes (virtual) Derek Penn – Yes Enrique Villars – Yes Kahlilah Iratheta – Yes Lily Wu – Yes Matt Hesse – Yes Meredith Olson – Yes Pete Meitzner - Yes Motion carried 9-0 Andrew Nichols, Derrick Nielsen, Doug Stark, Greg Stroud, and Maggie Topping
Make A Difference Student Award – Justin Pfeifer	Justin introduced the Make A Difference Award and highlights Laura Barrows, an IT student at WSU Tech.

	Justin praises Laura's academic achievements, resilience, and commitment to her education despite personal challenges. Laura Barrows shared her personal story, including her battle with breast cancer and her determination to pursue a career in IT.
Consent agenda	a. BOT Meeting Minutes Recommendation action: Approval of the WSU Tech Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2025 and October 7, 2026, email vote. These documents were provided to the Board electronically in advance of the meeting. The consent agenda was considered and discussed and upon the motion of Board member Doug Stark seconded by Derrick Nielsen, the consent agenda was approved. Motion carried: 9-0 Andrew Nichols, Derrick Nielsen, Doug Stark, Greg Stroud, and Maggie Topping b. <u>Board review & ratification of employment offers June - August</u> <u>*Xavier Ard, Faculty, Phlebotomy EKG</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Associate of Science in Nutrition Sciences, Allen County Community College Adjunct Faculty, Phlebotomy/EKG, WSU Tech (December 2024-August 2025) <u>Paige Bailey, Development Director, WSU Tech Foundation</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Bachelor of Science in Event Planning, Wichita State University About 2.5 years of experience as Advancement Manager <u>Kayla Van Deest, High School Advisor</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Master of Public Administration, Wichita State University Bachelor of Arts in Global & International Studies, The University of Kansas 6 years of experience as Study Abroad Advisor <u>Zachary Evans, Faculty, Industrial Machine Maintenance Technology</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Associates in Robotics, WSU Tech 3 years of experience as Robot Technician <u>Timothy Glassco, Faculty, Machining Technology</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> High school graduate 4.5 years of experience as CNC Machinist <u>*Jacquelin Hoover, Receptionist, NCAT Campus</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> High school graduate About 3 years of experience as an Admissions Coordinator and Office Assistant Federal Work Study, Nursing Programs, WSU Tech (2018) <u>*Glenn Lull, Faculty, Aviation Maintenance Technology</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Most recent experience (6 years) as an ODA Unit Member/Certification, Textron Aviation Over 30 years of experience as Quality Inspector, Quality Assurance, Quality Specialist, and Flight Test Mechanic Airframe and Power Plant (A&P) Certification Inspection Authorization (IA) Certification Adjunct Faculty, AMT, WSU Tech (April 2025-August 2025)

	<u>*Jake Masterson, Faculty, EMT</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Associates of Applied Science in Paramedicine, Cowley County Community College 68W10- Healthcare Specialist/EMT, U.S. AMEDD National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians- Paramedic American Heart Association- CPR, ACLS State Paramedic Certifications/ Licensures- KS EMT Lab Adjunct, WSU Tech (January 2020- August 2025) <u>*Amelia Phommachanh, Specialist, Social Media & Digital Content</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Associates of Applied Science in Digital Marketing, WSU Tech Associates of Applied Science in Business Administration, WSU Tech Career Demonstrator-Social Media & Outreach for FutureMaker Lab (December 2024-September 2025) <u>*Sara Plett, Academic Coordinator, HACK</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services Education, Emporia State University Butler Community College (Attended August 2001- May 2003) Assistant Registrar, WSU Tech (June 2012-March 2014) <u>Elissa Triana, Faculty, Interior Design</u> <u>Education/Credentials:</u> Associates in Interior Design, WSU Tech 3 years of experience as Design Specialist and Cabinet Designer <u>*Indicates transition to a full-time position or rehire</u> The ratification of employment offers were considered and discussed and upon the motion of Board member Pete Meitzner seconded by Matt Hesse, the consent agenda was approved. Motion carried 9-0 Andrew Nichols, Derrick Nielsen, Doug Stark, Greg Stroud, and Maggie Topping
Reports of Officers	Vice President of Finance & Administration – Marlo Dolezal Marlo provided an update on the audit, mentioning a clean opinion and the pending release from the Federal government. The financial update shows revenue sources pacing ahead of budget, with a potential shortfall in the Excel and CTE fund. Expenses are generally on budget, with a slight overage in depreciation due to new building and equipment purchases. The net income is forecasted to be \$6.6 million against a budget of \$5.8 million. The September Financials were considered and discussed and upon the motion of Board member Pete Meitzner seconded by Matt Hesse, the financials were approved. Vice President, Instructional & Academic Support – Trish Schmidt Masonry Construction and Heavy Equipment Operation Trish presented proposed revisions to the <i>Masonry Construction</i> and <i>Heavy Equipment Operation</i> programs. These programs were initially approved by the Board last spring to be incorporated into existing programs in order to offer them at CTEC. Per the agreement with KBOR, this structure was to remain in place for one year, after which the programs would need to be established as independent offerings. Both <i>Masonry Construction</i> and <i>Heavy Equipment Operation</i> are now being proposed as standalone programs, available in both Associate of Applied Science (AAS) and Technical Certificate formats, primarily

delivered at CTEC, but the plan is to move them to our City Center location as well.

Electric Power Distribution

Trish presented a proposal for a new program in *Electric Power Distribution*, commonly referred to as the *Lineman Program*. WSU Tech will assume responsibility for this program from Hutchinson Community College, which currently offers it at our City Center Campus. Hutchinson Community College will be discontinuing their delivery of the program, and WSU Tech will take over the existing facilities and equipment at that location.

The *Electric Power Distribution* program will be offered as both an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree and a Technical Certificate. A key advantage of this transition is that much of the necessary equipment and infrastructure are already in place, minimizing startup costs.

Trish noted that subject matter experts were present to address any detailed questions regarding the program.

The above programs were considered and discussed and upon the motion of Board member Pete Meitzner seconded by Enrique Villars, the programs were approved.

Motion carried 9-0 Andrew Nichols, Derrick Nielsen, Doug Stark, Greg Stroud, and Maggie Topping noted absent

Vice President of Student Success – Dr. Justin Pfeifer

Adult Enrollment: Highest headcount and credit hour totals in the college's history for postsecondary (adult) learners.

Recent High School Graduates: The college has seen significant success attracting students who graduate in May and enroll in the fall semester. This year, **527 recent graduates** enrolled directly from high school—up **20%** from last year. Early indicators suggest that this record will be surpassed again next year.

High School Enrollment: Record-setting enrollment in both headcount and credit hours for dual credit and current high school students. With a typically higher spring enrollment, another record is anticipated for spring.

Program Impact: New and expanded programs have been key drivers of enrollment growth. *Electrical Technology* enrolled 45 new students, *Mobile Equipment*—in its first full semester—enrolled 93 students, and *Mental Health Technician* launched successfully. Upcoming programs such as *Electric Power Distribution* are expected to continue this momentum.

Partnership Growth: The partnership with **CTEC in Pittsburg and southeast Kansas** contributed 144 students between June and August, with projections for 200–250 students in the coming year as name recognition expands in the region.

Spring Outlook

Spring enrollment trends remain strong, marking the **fifth consecutive full semester** of record-breaking growth. Early data show adult enrollment up over **6%**, and high school enrollment significantly ahead of last year's pace. Projections suggest continued growth in the **7–10% range** for both populations.

During discussion, a board member asked if enrollment growth might ever plateau. Justin noted that the only recent declines occurred during the Boeing 737 production slowdown and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussion also addressed broader demographic trends, including declining birth rates and the potential impact of expanded four-year degree options at technical colleges. Sheree and Justin acknowledged these

	as challenges but noted that Wichita continues to experience in-state migration from rural areas, helping offset population declines. The college remains focused on maintaining enrollment strength despite a shrinking pool of college-going students.
President's Report	WSU Tech President's Report – Dr. Sheree Utash NCAT Construction update – Johnna Hart Provided a construction update on the Wichita Biomedical Campus, highlighting the progress and key milestones. The board is informed about the budget position and the favorable bidding process for the NCAT expansion project. The board was updated on the timeline for the NCAT expansion, including the expected completion date and key milestones. The board was encouraged to visit the construction sites to see the progress firsthand. Capital Campaign Sheree provided a brief update on the ongoing Capital Campaign. • Proposals Pending: 11 • Donations Received to Date: \$301,894 • Pledge Commitments: \$2,811,806 Sheree noted that progress continues to be positive, with multiple proposals under review and continued donor engagement supporting the campaign's overall goals. Shock Tank Provided an update on the <i>Shock Tank</i> innovation initiative and highlighted the continued success of <i>On Deck at Tech</i>, a project that—while not a Shock Tank entry—was launched around the same time and has significantly enhanced the student orientation experience. The program continues to receive outstanding feedback from students and staff for improving engagement and readiness. Previous Shock Tank winners were also revisited. <i>Tech Connections</i>, proposed by Sam Nava, Director of Community Navigation, was selected two years ago and has exceeded expectations. The program helps connect lower-income families to education, breaking down barriers and building community relationships. Another past finalist, <i>Organizational Leadership and Learning</i>, placed second that same year and has also grown substantially, adding a transfer team position to support WSU Tech students pursuing bachelor's degrees at Wichita State University. 2025 Shock Tank Finalists This year's competition featured four strong proposals, each introduced through short video presentations: • Propel Language Learning Lab – A hybrid learning model providing English-language support for students through structured sessions and drop-in assistance, utilizing the Burlington English platform. • Access Bridge – A program designed to provide educational and employment pathways for individuals with intellectual disabilities, fostering inclusion and workforce participation. • Tech Financial – A financial wellness and literacy initiative offering students, employees, and community members access to financial education through workshops, one-on-one sessions, and online learning. 1. Grow Your Own Technical Faculty Program – An apprenticeship model that cultivates future instructors from WSU

Tech’s own graduates, pairing them with mentors and guiding them toward bachelor’s degrees in technical education through Wichita State University.

After presentations and voting, the results were announced as follows:

- **4th Place:** *Access Bridge*
- **3rd Place:** *Propel Language Learning Lab*
- **2nd Place:** *Tech Financial*
- **1st Place / Winner:** *Grow Your Own Technical Faculty Program*

Winning Presentation – Grow Your Own

Team members **Matthew (Dean of Information Technologies)**, **Jenna Roth (Dean of School Partnerships and Community Outreach)**, and **Jesse Lane (Dean of Applied Technologies)** presented the *Grow Your Own* initiative. The program aims to address faculty shortages by creating a pipeline of qualified instructors from WSU Tech’s own graduates and industry professionals. Through mentoring, classroom assistantships, and partnerships with Wichita State University, participants will earn teaching credentials while gaining real-world classroom experience.

The initiative supports workforce sustainability by developing instructors who combine industry experience with educational training—benefiting WSU Tech, local high schools, and regional employers.

President Sheree Utash praised all four projects, noting that the final vote was very close and that each idea demonstrated innovation and alignment with WSU Tech’s mission. She also shared her commitment to pursuing additional funding or partnerships to support the remaining three proposals.

Board Member:

President Sheree Utash took a moment to recognize Meredith Olson, noting that this meeting marked her final service as a member of the WSU Tech Board of Directors. Meredith has been an active and dedicated board member since 2017, serving as Board Chair for four years, including during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also been a member of the Finance Committee since 2018.

Sheree expressed her deep appreciation for Meredith’s outstanding leadership, trusted guidance, and steadfast support, both for the college and for her personally. She noted that Meredith has been a “right hand” through critical times—offering principled advice, encouragement, and advocacy—and thanked her for her commitment, positivity, and service to WSU Tech’s mission.

Meredith shared her gratitude, expressing that serving on the WSU Tech Board has been one of the most rewarding experiences of her professional life. She noted that of all the boards she has served on, WSU Tech has been her favorite, citing its exceptional leadership, culture of collaboration, and focus on innovation and student success. Meredith thanked Sheree and the leadership team for always making her feel valued—not only for her organizational representation but also for her personal insights and ideas.

Meredith shared that after more than 20 years with Koch Industries, she has transitioned to serve full time as President of the VELA Education Fund, a venture philanthropy organization she co-founded that invests in innovative K–12 educational entrepreneurs across the country. Since its launch in 2019, VELA has grown from supporting three founders to a network of over 4,700 educational innovators serving more than 500,000 students.

	Meredith concluded by sharing her excitement for this next chapter while affirming her continued connection to Wichita and her support for WSU Tech. Sheree also noted that Meredith recently appeared on “The Way I Heard It with Mike Rowe” podcast, highlighting her impactful work and continued influence in education innovation. In-Service and Community Engagement President Sheree Utash shared highlights from the college-wide <i>In-Service Day</i> held on September 28. The morning focused on professional development and wellness activities, providing faculty and staff an opportunity for reflection, growth, and team building. In the afternoon, the college community participated in a large-scale service initiative across Wichita, volunteering at multiple nonprofit organizations and community sites. WSU Tech is proud to give back to a community that has given so much to the college. Following the in-service activities, WSU Tech also participated in Open Streets ICT, taking over the area along Douglas Avenue in front of East High School. As part of this effort, Mandy and Caitlin created a special project titled “<i>A Love Letter to the City of Wichita</i>” — a creative reflection of WSU Tech’s gratitude and pride in its role within the community.
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:25 p.m.

Approved:

Signature

Dated