

**New College Institute  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 15, 2024**

The Board of Directors of New College Institute (NCI) met on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 2:00 PM in the General Assembly Building in Richmond, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator William Stanley, Richard Hall, Eric Jones, Delegate Wren Williams, Hubert Harris, Rebecca Horner, and Cameron Patterson.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Maria Tamburri

**OTHER PRESENT**

Joe Sumner, Executive Director; Christina Reed, Deputy Director; Olivia Garrett, Director of Institutional Advancement; Adam Kane, Assistant Attorney General

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

Senator Stanley called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM, provided a welcome, and that NCI staff has a meeting with Dominion Energy this evening.

**ROLL CALL**

Christina Reed called the roll, noting the presence of a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Richard Hall to approve the meeting minutes from September 21, 2023; seconded by Eric Jones; approved unanimously.

**OFFICER ELECTIONS**

Richard Hall nominated Senator Stanley for Board Chairman. Richard Hall motioned and Cameron Patterson seconded to close the nomination process; vote called to approve, unanimously.

Rebecca Horner nominated Richard Hall for Vice Chairman. Rebecca Horner motioned and Eric Jones seconded to close the nomination process; vote called to approve, unanimously.

Cameron Patterson nominated Eric Jones for Secretary. Rebecca Horner motioned and Hubert Harris seconded to close the nomination process; vote called to approve, unanimously.

Senator Stanley nominated Cameron Patterson for the Academic Committee standing chairman. Richard Hall motioned and Rebecca Horner seconded to close the nomination process; vote called to approve, unanimously.

There is an opening on the Outreach and Marketing committee. Senator Stanley explained the current partnership with the Wendell Scott Foundation as a platform to market within the schools, and he explained that this position would be working on rebranding.

Rebecca Horner asked how many openings we have on the Board. Christina Reed stated that we have 7 openings: 4 are appointees and 3 are general assembly. Rebecca Horner nominated Hubert Harris.

Hubert Harris asked if he will be conducting the marketing for NCI or just overseeing the marketing. Senator Stanley said this position will research how we should market ourselves, and this position will be overseeing the rebranding of NCI.

Rebecca Horner asked if we should wait on filling this position until after we have more vacancies filled. Richard Hall explained that this position is governing and leadership. There are good possibilities for local representation, but this position needs leadership. Delegate Wren Williams volunteered to chair the Outreach and Marketing committee. Richard Hall motioned and Cameron Patterson seconded to close the nomination process; vote called to approve, unanimously.

Senator Stanley nominated Richard Hall for Chair of the Finance Committee. Delegate Hubert Harris motioned and Delegate Williams seconded to close the nomination process; vote called to approve, unanimously.

Senator Stanley requested a list of the suggested new board members to be sent to him for the Governor to review.

### **CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

Senator Stanley stated that NCI was funded for FY25 but not FY26. Senator Stanley made comments regarding this decision in an article and discussed this with the Governor. The Governor promised to visit NCI and he did a week from last Friday from 11am – 2:30pm.

Joe Sumner stated that Wendell Scott Foundation filled 1/3 of the lecture hall with students to talk about Camp Cultivation, NSBE showcased their projects, Rob Spillman shared Dominion's support, NCI's fiber instructor was onsite to discuss the class currently offered, Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Academy demonstrated the de-escalation simulator, and there were other partners in the building. He also toured the Innovation Lab and the high bay. He met with staff and board members on the third floor and discussed where NCI should go from here. It was mentioned that our foundation never raised money. The Governor shared that he was supportive of what NCI is trying to do with the foundation. He also requested a business plan for NCI, and Senator Stanley delivered the plan on Monday.

Senator Stanley said the business plan is in peer review currently. This will be a working document that is not a public document. Senator Stanley was impressed with the plan. It covers expenses for current and future programming. Senator Stanley asked the board for their input on the document and there will be a second meeting to implement and release the document.

Senator Stanley and Richard Hall also thanked the staff, and Richard Hall added that some staff worked 20 hour days to finish this document. He specifically thanked Christina Reed for her work as Interim Executive Director and as Deputy Director.

Senator Stanley asked the board members to review the plan and provide feedback. Cameron Patterson asked about the community's response to the visit. Joe Sumner stated that the community has been supportive and positive. He released an opinion editorial, and he has been bombarded with support phone calls and emails, and these went beyond just the county and city. The responses have driven home that NCI is on the right track. Senator Stanley also received calls of support. He feels comfortable with the Governor's support, and the legislature understands the importance of NCI. He stated that we have the right staff, the right programs, and we are not serving as competition to P&HCC. We now have the support we need to be successful and now we have to be successful. Senator Stanley thanked the board for their support and stated that this board is the most engaged board that he has been a part of.

Senator Stanley stated that NCI has full commitment from Dominion Energy for wind and potential commitment for fiber. NCI staff are meeting with Dominion Energy tonight and are taking a tour of the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program tomorrow.

Senator Stanley stated that there is proposed legislation to add language to NCI's Code to allow for more collaboration among state agencies and for aligned workforce metrics that Delegate Eric Phillips passed through the House of Delegates and that will be presented to the Senate. Part of this language would allow NCI to work with DOLI to create workforce programs that can be tracked.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**

Joe thanked the Board, Richard Hall, Senator Stanley for the work and support they have contributed to assisting NCI in this current situation and looks forward to great success.

The following are activities and events that needs to be mentioned:

- NCI hosted a motorsports career exploration event in partnership with P&HCC & Wendell Scott Foundation. There were 226 students on campus and they were able to explore careers in motorsports. We will host this event annually.
- NCI partnered with the Wendell Scott Foundation to host the Legendary Conversations event with Richard Petty, Frank Scott and Clay Campbell. There were 178 attendees.
- NCI also partnered with the Wendell Scott Foundation to host a reading of Born Driven to 457 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from Henry County Public Schools. NCI has multiple field trips planned for K-12 students.
- The STAGS doubled their enrollment of students and mentors from last season. We have 17 students and half that number of mentors. There are two competitions in March, and the first is in Blacksburg. The board asked to be invited via email.

- Magna Vista High School's STEM Coordinator reached out to NCI to mentor their robotics team of 10 students. Magnaflux is now housed at NCI. They finished this season and will start back in May. Our STAGS are their mentors and they are receiving community service hours for FIRST requirements. Bassett has a team that will be starting in the fall, and we may mentor them as well. We also offered to mentor the City's team as well.
- NCI was approached by individuals who were starting a local chapter of NAMI. NCI will be providing them office space and are currently offering them classroom space for their meetings.
- NCI started its fiber program in the fall. Five people were certified in the first class. NCI is currently using a contractor for the training. We plan to schedule this class once a month moving forward. We have a full cohort of 10 students this month. We already have 5 students in the March cohort. We are working with Senator Stanley to grow the program. Eric Jones asked what the hours are for the training. Joe stated that it is a 40-hour class that runs Monday – Friday from 8am – 5pm. Five of the students are City of Martinsville employees and 5 are individuals. We used WSLS for targeted ads online and published branded articles. They also issued monthly mass emails to about 50,000 people.
- NCI hosted its first sea survival training for 1 employee from Siemens Gamesa. We showcased what we can do and received great feedback. The student said that it felt like a small organization and that it was more personal.
- The Piedmont Regional Community Justice Training Academy (PRCJTA) had its first graduates since opening the simulator. There were 16 graduates, all of which were employed before walking. They've had 60 more cadets use the simulator. We have to work on their schedule, but we need to look at a way to generate revenue from this equipment and create ½ day professional development for those already in law enforcement so they can receive CEUs. Eric Jones asked to think about the health & human performance aspect. He asked how people react and if we can track that. Joe mentioned that we have the BrainCo devices and will look into merging the two programs.

#### Upcoming Activities:

- We have the AFCEA Code-A-Thon coming up on March 1, 2024 and we look to offer this annually.
- We are exploring one-on-one and small group training for the differently abled in manufacturing.
- March SACSCOC visit for Longwood. Gameplan in place. 10<sup>th</sup> year. Meetings & walk throughs.

- NIA professional development class is coming up soon. Teachers will leave with curriculum and activities to implement in their classrooms.
- Spring completion ceremony is scheduled for Longwood. NCI will invite the board to attend.
- PRCJTA's next graduation is schedule for March.

Joe also noted that from the Governor's meeting, NCI was encouraged to increase partnerships for studies to be held at NCI. With a the focus on what is next? And how are we going to generate revenue? NCI will continue our momentum forward and will utilize the funding that we have. The foundation is issue continues to be a hinderance NCI funding sources and opportunities. NCI will look at more self-sustaining programs so we can look at growing other programs.

## **FINANCES**

Christina Reed reviewed the General Fund and Non General Fund finances. General Fund is just under 50% spend rate for expenses when looking at a 6-month comparison. We have 1.9 million for salaries and have only spent \$800,000, leaving a balance of 1.1 million. We are being conservative with recruitment. We have not filled some positions.

Non general fund is contains revenue generated from other funding sources. NCI's balance is currently around \$432,000 and we projected gaining revenues for a total of \$758,000.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Hall led the meeting into closed session with the following motion:

“At this time, 3:23 pm, I move that, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711 (A)(8), the New College Institute Board of Directors convene in a closed meeting for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel, as well as the following NCI staff members, Joe Sumner, Christina Reed, and Olivia Garrett, whose presence will aid in the Board's consideration of this matter, participate in the closed session.”

Motion was seconded by Hubert Harris, with a roll call vote the following voted to enter into Closed Session: Senator William Stanley, Richard Hall, Delegate Wren Williams, Eric Jones, Huber Harris, Rebecca Horner, and Cameron Patterson.

Richard Hall made a motion to come out of closed session at 4:00 pm certifying that the “Board convened today in a Closed Meeting pursuant to a recorded vote on the motion above and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires the Board certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was

convened were heard, discussed or considered. Any member who believes there was a departure from these requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place. The statement of the departure will be recorded in the minutes.” The certification motion was seconded by Cameron Patterson. Roll call vote in the affirmative by the following: Senator William Stanley, Richard Hall, Hubert Harris, Eric Jones, Cameron Patterson, and Rebecca Horner (Delegate Wren Williams had to leave the meeting at 3:31 pm).

Christina Reed called the roll and it was established that we had a quorum.

Richard Hall asked for comments from the board on the Business Plan that the Governor requested. He established a deadline of March 10 for the comments to be sent to Joe.

Olivia Garrett shared an update on community feedback.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Cameron Patterson motioned to end the board meeting, seconded by Rebecca Horner. All were in favor.

Board meeting adjourned – 4:06pm