

Minutes of the September 16, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535

The 813th meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was conducted on September 16, 2025 at the Des Plaines campus of Oakton College, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois.

Closed Session - Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Burns called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. in room 1502. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Martha Burns	Chair	Present
Trustee Theresa Bashiri-Remetio	Vice Chair	Present
Trustee William Stafford	Secretary	Present
Trustee Micah Eimer		Absent
Trustee Benjamin Salzberg		Present
Trustee Marie Lynn Toussaint		Present
Trustee Wendy Yanow		Present
Trustee Chris AbiNader	Student Trustee	Present

Also present in room 1502 were Dr. Joianne Smith, President; Johanna Fine, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Bernard Little, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Ileo Lott, Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Michele Roberts, Vice President for Administrative Affairs.

Chair Burns asked for a motion to go into closed session under the exceptions to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, with the purpose of reviewing closed session minutes of August 19, 2025; and considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, collective negotiating matters, and pending litigation.

Trustee Salzberg made the motion, seconded by Bashiri-Remetio. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Salzberg	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye
Trustee AbiNader	Aye

At 6:02 p.m., Trustee Yanow made a motion to adjourn the closed session meeting which was seconded by Trustee Salzberg. A voice vote was called and the closed session was adjourned.

Open Session - Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Burns called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:11 p.m. in room 1506.

Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Martha Burns	Chair	Present
Trustee Theresa Bashiri-Remetio	Vice Chair	Present
Trustee William Stafford	Secretary	Present
Trustee Micah Eimer		Absent
Trustee Benjamin Salzberg		Present
Trustee Marie Lynn Toussaint		Present
Trustee Wendy Yanow		Present
Trustee Chris AbiNader	Student Trustee	Present

Also present in room 1506:

<u>Leadership</u>: Dr. Joianne Smith, President; Johanna Fine, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Bernard Little, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Ileo Lott, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Michele Roberts, Vice President for Administrative Affairs; and Katherine Sawyer, Chief Advancement Officer.

Administrators: Marc Battista, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Matthew Boutilier, Director of Online Curriculum and Instruction; Steve Butera, Director of Communication and External Relations; Dr. Sebastian Contreras Jr., Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Leana Cuellar, Dean of Access, Equity and Diversity; Dr. Rick Daniels, Director of Institutional Equity and Inclusion; Thomas Hicks Jr., Director of Student Success and Academic Interventions; Matt Huber, Dean of Enrollment Management; Jake Jeremiah, Dean of Library; Dr. Mark Kiel, Dean of Counseling, Health and Wellness Services; Dr. Ashley Knight, Interim Dean of Liberal Arts; Dr. Andrea Lehmacher, Director of Marketing; Dr. Kanchana Mendes, Dean of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Nathan Norman, Senior Director of Workforce Development; Dr. James Rabchuk, Dean of STEM; Dr. Emmanuel Sarris, Interim Dean of Business and Career Technologies; Jeff Spidle, Interim Director of IT Infrastructure; John Wade, Chief Information Officer; Dan Weber, Registrar and Director of Registrar Services; Ella Whitehead, Director of Admission and Equity Outreach; and Andy Williams, Controller

<u>Union Leaders</u>: Jennifer Crowley, Classified Staff Association; Mary Hope Griffin, Adjunct Faculty Association; and Patrick O'Donnell, Full-Time Faculty Association.

<u>Faculty</u>: Linda Berendsen, English; Barbara Cohen, English; Louis Martinez, Law Enforcement; Mohammed Mehdi, Humanities and Philosophy; Mary Obernesser, Biology; Philip Prale, Education; Adriana Raicu, Health Information Technology; Daniel Roth, English; Ahalya Satkunaratnam, Humanities; Debbie Schiltz, Nursing; Katherine Schuster, Education; Leslie Van Wolvelear, Accounting; and Ruth Whitney, Library.

<u>Staff</u>: Giacomo Cirrincione, Learning Center; John Donoghue, Facilities; Ernest Gest, Facilities; Joseph Hanafee, Advising and Transitions; Ewa Lyczewska, Marketing and Communications; Teresa O'Sullivan, Access and Disability Resource Center; Kushal Patel, Information Technology; Beatriz Sparks, Office of the President; and Tamara Trejo, ANDALE.

Students: Miranda Escalera.

Pledge of Allegiance – Trustee Burns led the pledge.

Land Acknowledgment – Trustee Stafford read the Land Acknowledgment.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Burns asked a motion for the approval of the minutes of the August 19, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Yanow made the motion. Trustee Salzberg seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Statement by the President

Condolences

• To Tracy Fulce, Faculty Associate Dean of Business and Career Technologies and Distinguished Professor of Business on the loss of her father, Clarence Fulce, a pillar of the Evanston community.

Congratulations

- To TRIO Advisor, Luz Trejo Camarillo and her husband who welcomed Baby Sinai on August 17.
- Distinguished Alumni: Broderick Hollins, Sr., Dr. Monica Makarath, Scott Sophier and Dorothy Wiesnewski. We honored them at a ceremony on Sept. 11. They have each excelled professionally and provide inspirational service to their community.

Employee Recognitions

- Chair and Distinguished Professor of Accounting, Leslie Van Wolvelear received the Illinois CPA Society Distinguished Service Award for 2025 for her work with high school accounting students.
- These faculty members have been promoted to Oakton's highest academic rank. Distinguished professors have served a minimum of 10 years at Oakton as full-time faculty, hold the rank of professor, and have earned a minimum of 250 points on the Distinguished Professor Rubric: Ragaa Abdallah,

- Danielle Aquiline, Mario Borha, Stacy Cameron, Melodie Graber, Bob Gynn, Chad Landrie, Paula Luszcz, Michael Mauritzen. Kristin McCartney. Kritika Pershad. Erick Rohn, Phil Sloan, and Boguslaw Zapal.
- Long-time adjunct in Engineering, Dr. Anne Lucietto, received the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Distinguished Engineering Educator Award. This award honors an individual who identifies as a woman, who has made significant contributions for at least twenty (20) years

Happenings

- On Sept. 8, Oakton's Ray Hartstein campus hosted a Feed6 meal packing event sponsored by Brinshore Development in Evanston, an affordable housing developer. Brinshore covered the cost of all mealpacking ingredients, while members of Oakton's Student Government Association (SGA) and other Oakton students volunteered alongside Brinshore staff to prepare the meals. Special thanks to Oakton Trustees Benjamin Salzberg for helping to facilitate the event.
- The Wellness Center is hosting Suicide Prevention Month activities. We will be running awareness campaigns the week of September 15 in Skokie and September 22 in Des Plaines. In addition, Mobile Crisis Support Units from community agencies will be parked on our campuses from 11 a.m. 2 p.m. on September 17 in Skokie, and September 23 in Des Plaines. These vehicles are designed to provide crisis support and educational outreach.
- Yesterday was the start of Latinx Heritage Month and this afternoon, we kicked off our month of
 programming with a celebrating our roots event in the Student Center. There are events planned that run
 through mid-October.
- On Sept. 22, the Office of Access, Equity and Diversity will be hosting a virtual Know your Rights Workshop in partnership with the HANA center.
- AANAPISI Week takes place September 22–28, 2025 and celebrates the vital role of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) — a federal designation created by Congress on September 27, 2007 and is a designation that Oakton is proud to have.
- The Opening Night Reception for Oakton's Annual WGSS Art Show, "Feminist Responses in a Tumultuous Time" takes place on September 30, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Educational Foundation Liaison Report

Two months into the new fiscal year, the Foundation has raised just over \$300,000 to date.

Nearly all board members, liaisons and committee members have pledged support to the annual Leadership Giving Appeal adding over \$28,000 to the Oakton Annual Fund thus far.

Notable commitments received since the last update to the Trustees include:

- A \$50,000 gift from an anonymous donor to support a designated scholarship fund.
- Sponsorship commitments totaling \$21,000 have been received from Robbins Schwartz, Forward Space, Cray Kaiser, SEI, Northwestern University, and Carl and Debbie Costanza to support the Foundation's annual Donor Appreciation Brunch in November.

The Foundation Board approved an update to their bylaws during their quarterly meeting on September 3. The Foundation Board and College's Board of Trustees held their annual joint meeting this afternoon. The Foundation Board is meeting for a retreat this Friday on the Skokie campus, and their next quarterly meeting will take place on December 3.

Founders Wall Liaison Report

The Founders' Wall will be a permanent exhibit honoring Oakton's 49 founders – trustees, faculty and administrators. Trustees approved a purchase in June for the College to secure the services of a firm with expertise in museum type exhibits to help design, fabricate and install this wall.

Since the last update to Trustees, the committee met twice to provide input on the content and design for the space.

The consultants have provided one option that has been refined with group input. They have been asked to provide two more distinct options with different materials for consideration. The committee will meet once more to review additional options and finalize preferences.

The schedule for fabrication and installation will become clearer once the design preference is finalized.

Student Trustee Report

The Student Government Association Executive Team will be traveling to Washington D.C. for the American Student Government Association's National SG Summit Oct. 9 - 12.

The SGA has started rebuilding the social media presence. Over the summer they worked with Marketing and Communications on a short video that was released on Oakton's page and their Instagram account. You can find them on Instagram @oakton sga.

The SGA was pleased to be a part of Oakton College's partnership with Feed6 the Brinshore Meal Packaging event on September 8. They packaged 25,000 meals. 4 boxes of the packaged lunches were given to Oakton's Caring closet.

Fall Fest activities on both campuses had a great turnout. Other events include Latinx Heritage Month and AAPI Cultural Conversations.

Student Spotlight

Miranda Escalera started her journey at Oakton three and a half years ago. She came to Oakton because she wanted to save money, and she finalized her decisions when she heard about ANDALE at a Ponte Pilas Summit during her senior year of high school. She found it difficult to attend ANDALE meetings due to her schedule as a softball athlete, but she came long after she left the softball team in order to lighten her workload. Her first ANDALE event was the *Mercado de Cultura Latine* where she represented the dance team.

Miranda wanted to attend the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI), but her GPA wasn't strong enough. However, former ANDALE coordinator Gabriel Chacon encouraged her to get her grades up, and her application to attend USHLI was approved. Miranda described the USHLI event as full of impactful speakers, and that she learned that she can allow herself to let her passion drive her in many directions. USHLI was a unique experience for career and networking opportunities. She is excited to attend again next year to take advantage of the career fair as a new marketing major.

Miranda shared that in ANDALE she met people who supported one another as a community. Miranda says that strong Latino/a voices are needed now more than ever, and she decided to be more involved. She said ANDALE is home to many, and she hopes that the program will continue to grow.

Chair/Trustee Comments

Trustee Burns shared that she attended the Distinguished Alumni Awards. She also shared that the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Educational Foundation had a joint meeting, and thanked the Foundation for all they do to support students.

Trustee Salzberg shared that he participated in the September 8 Brinshore event where more than 25,000 meals were packed in collaboration with Feed6. He thanked the Oakton community for this collective effort.

Public Participation

Mary Hope Griffin, President of the Adjunct Faculty Association had comments about the new contract that will be approved and signed by the Board of Trustees tonight.

Board Report: Global Studies Program at Oakton

Distinguished Professor of Education and Global Studies Coordinator, Dr. Katherine Schuster.

Oakton College's Vision states, in part, "through exemplary teaching that relies on innovation and collaboration with our community partners, our students learn to think critically, solve problems, and to be ethical global citizens who shape the world. We are committed to diversity, cultural competence, and achieving equity in student outcomes."

Toward these ends, the Global Studies Program at Oakton College strives to advance justice and equity through establishing and growing global competencies in our student body and faculty. Global competency exists when an

individual is able to understand the interconnectedness of peoples and systems, to have a general knowledge of history and world events, to understand and accept the existence of different cultural values and attitudes and, indeed, to celebrate the richness and benefits of this diversity.

The Global Studies program:

- Promotes and facilitates study abroad opportunities among Oakton students.
- Promotes and facilitates professional development opportunities for teaching, conducting research, international exchanges, and study abroad for Oakton faculty, administrators, and staff.
- Creates and facilitates the establishment of short-term study abroad and study away opportunities for Oakton students, faculty, administrators, and staff.
- Leverages technology to create and facilitate virtual study abroad, virtual international faculty and student collaboration, and access to 360 GLE - an extensive database of international video content.
- Promotes and facilitates the integration of international, intercultural, and global content in the curriculum.
- Provides and supports international, intercultural, global programming for the college and surrounding community served by the college.
- Promotes awareness of the environmental impact of new technologies on a global scale.
- Hosts international guests and visiting faculty and facilitates faculty exchanges.
- Partners with other programs, committees, and individuals on campus who are working to grow and sustain:
- Uses data-informed decision-making to ensure equitable access and outcomes for all participants in global studies programming.
- Works with the Global Studies Advisory Committee to establish measurable, attainable objectives to meet the above goals based on a five-year plan.





Study Abroad

With our partner EDU Africa, offered virtual study abroad courses in Ghana:

- Globalization and climate change in Ghana: Impact and Solutions (2022 & 2023)
- Sankofa Connections: History and Modern Culture in Ghana (2024 & 2025)
- 3-week, 6-7 sessions during May interim

With our partner Campus Connections, a new program for October 2025:

Global 360 – Global Citizenship & Career-Ready Skills Program: 5-week co-curricular online journey takes participants through Costa Rica, Ghana, Italy, and Japan with live expert-led sessions and immersive 360° explorations. The program culminates in International Education Week and helps students build in-demand Global Career-Ready Skills to thrive across cultures, careers, and communities. Students also receive a package of benefits designed to promote lifelong global learning and continued engagement beyond the program, including a Digital Badge & Certificate of Completion.

Other study abroad semester programs: Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, England, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Spain.

NEW BUSINESS

9/25-1a Approval of Consent Agenda

Trustee Salzberg offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves adoption of the Consent Agenda."

Trustee Yanow seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

9/25-1b Approval of Consent Agenda Items 9/25-2 through 9/25-5

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the following items 9/25-2 through 9/25-5 as listed in the Consent Agenda."

9/25-2 Ratification of Payment of Bills for July 2025

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby ratifies expenditures and release of checks by the Treasurer of Community College District 535 in the amount of \$7,035,434.09 for all check amounts as listed and for all purposes as appearing on a report dated July 2025."

9/25-3 Acceptance of Treasurer's Report for July 2025

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 receives for filing as a part of the College's official records, the report of the Treasurer for the month of July 2025."

9/25-4 Ratification of Payment of Professional Personnel – Fall 2025

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 ratifies the payment of salaries for teaching on a part-time basis during the fall 2025 semester; the total payment amount is \$2,699,061.27."

"Be if further resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 ratifies the payment of salaries for teaching on an overload basis during the fall 2025 semester; the total payment amount is \$558,697.10."

9/25-5 Approval of Clinical Practice Agreements

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the following cooperative agreement:

Pharmacy Technician (1)."

Trustee Yanow seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Salzberg	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

9/25-6 Reaffirmation of Mission, Vision, and Values

Trustee Toussaint offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby reaffirms the Mission, Vision, and Values Statement attached hereto."

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio Aye

Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Salzberg	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

9/25-7 Authorization to Approve September Purchases

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the approval of the attached resolutions, as stipulated in the following agenda items, for the purchase of the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Description</u>	Vendor / Location	<u>Amount</u>
9/25-7a	1	Cisco Network Switches for the Des Plaines Learning Commons	JensenIT, Inc. Des Plaines, IL	\$34,738.44
9/25-7b	2	Additional Customer Relations Management Software Licenses	TargetX.com, LLC Conshohocken, PA	\$570,600.00
			Salesforce, Inc. San Francisco, CA	\$247,782.00
			FormAssembly, Inc Bloomington, IN	\$39,200.00
			Contingency	\$34,990.00
9/25-7c	1	CrowdStrike Cybersecurity Software/Services Subscriptions – One-Year Renewal	JensenIT, Inc. Des Plaines, IL	\$119,135.00
9/25-7d	1	Consulting Services for IT Support	Moran Technology Consulting Naperville, IL	\$250,000.00
9/25-7e	2	Insurance Plans (ICCRMC) – One- Year Renewal	Illinois Community College Risk Management Consortium, c/o Nugent Consulting Group Northbrook, IL	\$1,040,780.00
9/25-7f	1	Nikon Microscopes	Nikon Instruments, Inc. Melville, NY	\$26,281.00
9/25-7g	1	Laparoscopic Equipment for the Health Careers Education Center	SOMA Tech Int'l, Inc. Bloomfield, CT	\$32,770.00
			GRAND TOTAL	\$2,396,276.44."

Trustee Salzberg seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Salzberg	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

9/25-8 Authorization to Enter into Space Rental Agreement for Commencement

Trustee Toussaint offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the Administration to enter into a one-year license agreement with the Rosemont Theatre, Village of Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont, Illinois 60018, for a contract sum of \$49,500.00 plus a contingency of \$3,500.00 to be held by the College and used in the best interests of the College, for a total expenditure not to exceed \$53,000.00."

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Salzberg	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

9/25-9 Preview and Initial Discussion of Upcoming Purchases

The following purchases will be presented for approval at an upcoming Board of Trustees meeting:

- a. High-Fidelity Training Mannequin
- b. Pyris MedStation
- c. Design Services for Partnership Hall/TenHoeve Wing
- d. Asana Project Management Solution Service Contract Renewal
- e. Parking Lot Security Cameras
- f. Cisco Industrial Ethernet Switch for Exterior Lighting Project

9/25-10 Resolution to Transfer Funds for Restricted O&M Construction Costs

Trustee Yanow offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby approves the following transfers effective for Fiscal Year 2025: a total of \$11.1 million, comprised of \$9.6 million from the Education Fund and \$1.5 million from the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Fund to the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Restricted Fund, for the future payment of approved Master Plan construction projects."

Trustee Stafford seconded the motion and called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Salzberg	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

9/25-11 Authorization to Approve Tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Oakton College Board of Trustees and the Oakton College Adjunct Faculty Association (OCC-AFA)

Trustee Toussaint offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the tentative agreement with the Oakton Community College Adjunct Faculty Association (OCC-AFA), effective for the period from August 11, 2025 until the day before the start of the Fall 2029 academic term."

Trustee Salzberg seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Salzberg	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

9/25-12 Approval of Policy Revisions

Trustee Stafford offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the proposed revisions to policies 3003 and 4005, attached hereto."

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Salzberg	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

9/25-13 Notification of Award of Grants

Funding has been made available to Oakton College:

a.	IBHE Cooperative Work-Study Grant (ICWS) FY26	\$50,000.00
	Manager: Dr. Shannon McKenzie / Administrator: Dr. Emmanuel Sarris	
b.	ICCB Carl D. Perkins CTE Grant	\$225,565.00
	Manager: Dr. Shannon McKenzie / Administrator: Dr. Emmanuel Sarris	
	TOTAL ·	\$275 565 00

Adjournment

Chair Burns announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Oakton Community College, District 535, will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at the Des Plaines Campus.

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Trustee Salzberg. A voice vote was called and the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Martha Burns, Chair

William Staffórd, Secretary

Minutes recorded by: Beatriz Sparks 9/2025