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January 14, 2026. Meeting of the Governing Board.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: All right. Let's call to order. It's 5:30.

Let's go ahead and get started.

All those who are able, if you would please rise to join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: All right. Let's move on to 1.3, the roll call. Board Member Randall.

>> MS. KRISTEN RANDALL: Present.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Board Member Riel.

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: Here.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Board Member Barraza.

>> DR. NICOLE BARRAZA: Present.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Vice Chair Bernal Morales has another engagement, but she's going to join us I think virtually or maybe in person here shortly. And I'm here, as well.

Moving on to 1.4, our land acknowledgement.

Pima Community College acknowledges that we are gathered on the traditional lands of the Tohono O'Odham and Pascua Yaqui peoples, who have stewarded this land since time and memorial.

We recognize their enduring presence and contributions to this region. As we honor this history, we commit to learning from indigenous communities and supporting their sovereignty, culture, and rights.

Section 1.5, call to the audience. I know we don't have anyone that signed up online, but looks like we have one in person.

McKayla [sic] Hays.

>> MAKYLA HAYS: Good evening, board members, Chancellor Nasse, colleagues, and guests. I'm Makyla Hays, PCCEA president, math faculty, and AERC co-chair.

It's a privilege to be able -- just kidding. This is not the right one. That is great.

I had the privilege yesterday of presenting at All Faculty Day -
and that completely threw me off. I apologize for that.

Let's see. I have the right one somewhere.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: While you're finding it, I said McKayla and not Makyla. I'm sorry. Holiday cobwebs. I just realized that.

>> MAKYLA HAYS: That's okay. I'll forgive you.

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: I was at a Christmas party, and there was
a McKayla there, and I called her Makyla. People kept correcting me.
It was weird. (Laughter.)

>> MAKYLA HAYS: I get secret joy out of that. Maybe it's not
so secret.

I'm going to have to wing it, because I don't know where the comment is that I typed. So that's always fun.

I had the joy yesterday of presenting at All Faculty Day on behalf of PCCEA, and we were able to present survey results from the faculty from last fall.

One of the things that I was super excited to discover as I went through this was that both the responses for faculty morale, as well as the responses for faculty perception of meaningful input into college-wide decisions, both of those had doubled or slightly more than doubled for the, I'll say, the nonnegative responses. So the positives and the neutrals. I'm going to count the neutrals as positive on this case.

That was huge for me. So since I became president in 2021 for PCCEA, we've really pushed shared governance and structures for faculty voice and making sure that things make sense systematically, and one of the things that we have asked the board consistently is for your support for shared governance and your support for the faculty voice.

I wanted to make sure that you also heard those results and to say thank you for your support over the last several years. It obviously makes a difference when the board is supporting the faculty voice.

There is always room for improvement, always things that we might need to work on, and there are results that we found within the survey of where we can look to see how to improve further, but things are going in the right direction, and I wanted to say thank you on behalf of faculty.

Speaking of those survey results, we will be sending your way basically the longer summary of all of the survey results along with summary of comments. We're going to do the same thing for the administration sometime in the next week, making sure that we send

that forward to you, and if you have any further questions on it, we're happy to provide more information.

With that being said, you know, one of the things that faculty have noted is that the supplemental pay rate for faculty has remained the same or very close to the same. I think when I was hired it was \$31 an hour. It is now \$33 an hour as of last year, which is great, but I was hired almost 15, 16 years ago, and it has gone up by \$2. And I think it went up by \$1 right before that, and it had been that for many, many years.

So we're talking 20-plus years probably or more of that being at that value. And with minimum wage rising, that supplemental work, a lot of it is used to pay leadership to do extra work and do high-level things, so we would like to make sure that we explore that. In order to do that and work with our budget, you know, that requires more resources. And I know that we have a tight situation with the federal government, the local government, and we have staff also needing things.

So I'm just asking that you keep that in mind as you go forward in this budget cycle, and how we can make sure that we resource to make sure that we continue to grow and do the good things we're doing.

So thank you so much. I apologize for the chaotic, nothing working well for me. But I made it in time despite traffic. Thank you so much.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: You did great.

Just checking to make sure that was the only one who had signed up. I don't see any more over there. I think we're good. All right.

Let's move on to 1.6, summary of current events by Governing Board members.

Board Member Randall, is there anything you want to share?

>> MS. KRISTEN RANDALL: I just wanted to welcome back faculty, staff, administrators, students, everyone else. Here's to a wonderful semester.

I'm grateful that I was included in a strategic planning meeting.

I spoke with the chair, and we have maybe not a plan about where we're going to go, but we do want to provide some direction for the vision statement that seems to have been tying us up a little bit too much.

I think it's important to acknowledge a current shifting cultural

landscape and amidst current events. All I want to say on that is in community, we will find our strength, and in solidarity, we will find our solace.

Thank you.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Board Member Riel?

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: I would just like to say I hope everybody had a wonderful break from school and work, if you had that opportunity. Those of you who didn't have that opportunity, I'd say take a little bit of time for yourselves. Self-care is hugely important.

You are your best when you're feeling good about everything, so, you know, stay close to your friends and your loved ones.

Here's to a wonderful semester. To the students, I hope you have

a fabulous semester. Remember, your faculty and the staff that are here to help you, they want you to succeed.

And so you also, if you need that little extra bit of support, ask them, reach out, and make sure everybody's successful this semester. Have a wonderful year.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Thank you. Board Member Barraza.

>> DR. NICOLE BARRAZA: Happy New Year to everyone. I was able to attend the Arizona Chamber's Legislative Luncheon preview on Friday with the chancellor and staff.

The governor was there. Leadership from both the House and the Senate also gave us a glimpse of what this session will look like that just started this Monday.

I encourage everyone in the community, at the college, students, faculty, staff, to continue to advocate for our funding. As you all know, Pima Community College and Maricopa Community College, we don't get operational funding. And while we need to manage expectations, especially with the budget outlook, we need to continue our advocacy and continue to let our leadership know that we need funding to do all the great things that we're doing.

So with that, that's all, Mr. Chair.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: All right. Thank you so much.

I'll skip mine for today, and let's just move into Pima's Mission

Moment. Dr. Conover? Are you going to introduce our group today?

>> AUBREY CONOVER: Good evening, board members, Chancellor Nasse, colleagues and guests. We're really excited tonight to do a brief connection with our student athletes.

Over the years, we have talked about their amazing success on the field, in the classroom, but tonight we really want to highlight their work in the community, how they give back to so many of the great organizations in town.

With that, I'd like to invite our athletic director, Ken Jacome, to come up to share some stories and a short video.

>> Good evening, Chair Taylor, members of the board, Chancellor Nasse, and colleagues. I'm Ken Jacome. I'm the athletic director.

Tonight we just wanted to showcase a little bit, like Aubrey said, about what we do, what our student athletes do off of the field and off of the courts.

We have a great group, over 300 athletes, who again had above a 3.0 this semester as a group, so we're proud and excited about that. But we spend a lot of time giving back to the community and spend a lot of hours, all of our teams, and so what we wanted to do tonight is we wanted to talk about some of the things and show a video of what we do.

First, I'd like one of our softball players, Amerika Lopez-Bedoy,

who is Tucsonan, Sunnyside High School graduate, and I'd like her to come and talk a little bit about, you know, her experience as a

student athlete and some of the things she's done off of the softball field before we show the video.

Amerika?

>> Good evening. My name is Amerika Lopez-Bedoy. I'm a sophomore catcher for Pima softball, and I'm honored to be here and representing Pima Community College athletics.

I'm a home-grown Tucson athlete, I grew up here, went to Sunnyside High School, and this community played a huge role in shaping up who I am.

At Sunnyside I competed in softball and wrestling, and being a part of a strong athletic culture taught me discipline, accountability, and pride in representing where you come from.

Because of that background, staying home and continuing my athletic career here at Pima Community College means a lot to me. Choosing Pima allowed me to represent my city while continuing to compete at a high level and pursuing my education. It gave me the opportunity to grow without losing my connection to the community that supported me from the start.

Being part of Pima athletics has pushed me in every area of my life. The balance between academics and athletics requires commitment of early mornings, long practices, traveling, and late-night studying. What makes Pima so special is the support system. Our coaches, our professors, and our athletic staff work together to make sure student athletes are challenged, supported, and set up for success.

Pima athletics also emphasizes giving back to the community that

supports us. Through community service opportunities like working the Garmin Marathon and the Tour de Tucson, we are able to step outside of our competition and serve the city we represent. Volunteering at these events has allowed us to interact with the Tucson community and support athletes of all ages and of all backgrounds and be part of events that bring the city together.

It was a rewarding experience that reminded us that being a Pima athlete means more than just performing on the field. It means showing up for our community.

Pima athletics creates a culture where excellence is expected and earned. It develops disciplined resilient athletes who are prepared for what comes next, whether that's transferring and continuing to play at the next level, entering the workforce, or being leaders in our community. Being part of this program has strengthened my work ethic and confidence in ways I will carry with me long after athletics.

Representing Tucson as an elite athlete is something I take great pride in. This is my home. When I compete wearing "Pima" cross my chest, I'm representing my family, my schools, and my community as well as the college with a strong athletic tradition. Staying home to play softball at Pima has allowed me to give back to the city that gave me my start both on and off the field.

Pima Community College athletics represents opportunity, pride, and tradition, and I'm proud to be part of that tradition and grateful for the chance to represent both Pima and Tucson.

Thank you to the Pima Community College board members, Coach Bekah and Coach Jacome, for allowing me the opportunity to speak today, and thank you for your support, for Pima athletics, and continuing to invest in student athletes like me. It is truly very, very appreciated. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Video begins.)

>> Today we're just setting up cones, setting up signs, just blocking off the roads so the bikers have a safe lane of travel.

>> So every year it's a team thing. Our whole team comes out and just helps set up for the tournament, and then a lot more guys tomorrow helping get the tournament started.

>> My little bits and pieces, if it can help the community, I'm glad to do it. Veterans, they sacrificed a lot to give me my freedom, so the little bits I came to do to help them have a little bit of fun and feel like they're engaged in something, it means the world to me.

>> I just think it's important for all of our student athletes at Pima to be able to come out in the community and support. Something like this, to be able to learn a little bit about, you know, the adaptive athletes, these guys and girls have to work extremely hard, but they're athletes. They want to be involved.

So it's just so nice for us to come out and just do what we can to help support.

>> It's awesome to be able to get out here and help the

community, and we're blessed to be able to do it.

(Video ends.)

>> AUBREY CONOVER: So thank you so much. We really appreciate it. We'd like to do a quick picture if that's okay. We have baseball and softball with us. It's a lot of students, so might do softball first and then baseball, just fit everyone together, so if you wouldn't mind making your way up front and we'll take a quick picture.

(Photo op.)

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: All right. For all of you that just joined us, you of course are welcome to stay, but you do not have to, and if I were you, I wouldn't. I'm sure there are far more exciting things you could be doing this evening (smiling).

All right. Let's move on to section 2, the annual meeting
action

items. So the first one is the election of the Arizona Association of Community College Trustees representative.

I think, Board Member Riel, you have been doing that for the
last

year, haven't you? If you're interested in continuing, I'd be happy to nominate you for that, but you don't have to do that.

The other thing that I wanted to throw out there for us to consider is I know last year we were doing this as one-year sort of appointments. There is no rule that says they have to be one year. So the other thing we can consider, for example, if you wanted to do it for the next two years or something, just so we don't have to go through this every year, we can certainly do that.

I also don't mean to force you into doing it if you're not interested in doing it. But I think you have been doing a great job, and if you're interested, I'm happy to nominate you to continue unless someone else is interested too.

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: Thank you. I'd like for you to nominate me. We are actually working on our bylaws and our vision and mission and purpose and all that.

I mean, we just got started, so I would like to be able to see a little bit more of that through unless somebody else wants to jump in.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Would you be willing to consider it for two years if I make a motion to appoint you for two years into that role?

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: Sure.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: If there's a second?

>> DR. NICOLE BARRAZA: I'll second that.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

(Ayes.)

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: That is unanimous, 4-0.

2.2, the election of advisory committee board representatives. We only have one advisory committee, which is finance and audit. Same thing. Doesn't have to be a year. If we wanted to push this a little further as we continue to serve -- oh, gosh, was it Board Member Barraza, are you on it now, and Randall?

Are you interested in continuing? Have you found it to be rewarding or trying to get out of it? Either is fine.

Would you be open to me making a motion for two years on the audit and finance? Someone has to second it.

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: I will second that.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any discussion?

All those in favor, say aye.

(Ayes.)

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: 4-0, two year appointments for our two finance and audit advisory members, Board Members Randall and Barraza. Thank you, all three of you, for your service on those committees.

All right. Let's move on to section 3, 3.1, administrative reports. I think, Dr. Bea, that's you.

>> DR. DAVID BEA: Good evening, Chairperson Taylor, members of the board, Chancellor Nasse, colleagues and guests. It's my pleasure to give a brief summary of the annual financial report that ends the year June 30, 2025.

As you all know, it was published in December and sent directly to you. I'm going to do a quick recap of it. We get into a bit more detail with finance/audit committee as well and have a bit more time set aside for that as well.

Just as an aside, when you asked the question of whether they found it rewarding to be on that committee, I was, like, oh, no, please say yes (smiling). It is a good committee that the two board members and then members of the community serve on that committee.

It serves to get in a bit more detail, talk a little more

comprehensively with the auditor general's office, and then go over other financial information, a little bit more detail than we're able to in our regular board meeting.

So thank you for your interest. I was about to be depressed there (smiling).

Anyway, okay, let's do our quick summary and hit the highlights for you. So overall, revenues were up pretty significantly year over year. The revenues were up about \$17 million to \$254 million for the year.

In terms of where those revenues were up, a little bit in tuition

as a result of tuition increase and enrollment increases, so a little bit up there. A larger increase in terms of property tax revenues. That's primarily related to the property tax levy increase and the growth in new property. Again, this is between 2024 and 2025.

And then additionally, there is a pretty significant increase in federal grants. That is mostly related to financial aid, so on the revenue side of these annual financial reports, financial aid as well as other grants that we get, title grants, other federal grants we get, the revenue comes in on the revenue side, and then when it's financial aid that goes to students, it shows up in the expense side. So I'm going to show you where that increase is on the expense side for financial aid.

So looking at the expenses, they also went up pretty significantly year over year with the largest increases being in instruction. It's actually kind of across the, kind of spread out

more. That's because a lot of the increases are related to personnel, budgeted personnel increases. Institutional support is up a little bit higher due to software licenses and contracts. So that's a little bit of the increase in institutional support. Other than that, mostly it's the personnel increases that the board approved as part of the budget.

You can see, I mentioned that financial aid is up significantly on the expense side, so that's as a result of enrollment increases. It would also reflect the tuition increases, because if tuition goes up, students would then potentially get more in the Pell Grant related to the tuition, and then it would show up in that.

It's up a little bit higher than what our enrollment increase is and our tuition increase was, which would indicate that students on average were borrowing -- not borrowing, it could be borrowing or were qualifying, a larger number were qualifying. To get into any more detail on that, I know the board had a question related to that. I'd be happy to provide that information. I don't have it tonight, though, in terms of why exactly it was up a little bit, why it is higher, but generally speaking, it's because enrollment was up. That's the general reason.

Okay. Moving on to expenses by type, as I pointed out, compensation was a large part of the increase, and then financial aid, as I mentioned. Contractual services, I already mentioned also with the software licenses, that's the large majority of that.

And then in other expenses, that is a function of a change from

the county in terms of some booked liabilities that we have to have on hand for some changes that were happening related to Pima County and some of the revenues that we received through Pima County.

Let's see. Then lastly, to look at the net position, so all of those three charts that I just talked about were our operating performance. Net position is more like how do things look at long term over time. Again, it's a snapshot as of June, but these are the big picture. So what were our operating revenues, operating expenses, but it also then factors in the -- oh, sorry, this is the summary of the overall operating performance. So overall, it was very similar to the year prior.

It's a net decrease, which means that we're overall spending
down

some of our reserve balances. That's a function of the fact that we were planning to spend reserve balances for our capital projects, as we discussed many times with the board. And now, to get to net position, which I got ahead of myself on talking about, where you can see that is spending down reserve balances. Our short- and long-term investments are down.

There is a little bit more that has shifted from those investments to cash and cash equivalents. That's just more readily available funds. Again, that's showing that a lot of those expenses that were happening during the year were paying for these capital projects and that we're spending down reserves to get there.

That should slow down dramatically in the upcoming, next January when we have this conversation. Some of that reserve balance

spending will slow down significantly from what the past two years have looked like.

Other than that, you can see the overall net position again went down a little bit, but showing this line, the amount that's invested in capital assets went up significantly. So as we're spending more money, we built and did the renovations, that shows up on the capital side of the amount that the college has invested in capital assets, it shows up there.

Then this is the one that we talk about in terms of the budget every year. This is what the board's policy is related to our reserve balances and how much we have on hand in terms of our annual sort of daily operating expenditures, and again, our low threshold is 180 days to have in reserves, and you can see that over time we built up as we issued revenue bonds and we had financial performance, positive financial performance for a number of years.

Then you can see when we started decreasing is when those big capital expenditures started happening to build the buildings, advanced manufacturing, the allied health renovations, et cetera.

That's the number we want to keep track of. As you can see, we're getting closer to our low threshold, but we are still above it, and we will be talking more about that when we talk about the budget development.

But again, these were all planned, planned to spend down. Now we're getting to the point where it's like, okay, let's not spend down reserve balance anymore, but we're finishing up those projects.

Overall, then getting back to what this represents, is that this is the annual financial statement. It is published and follows the completion of the financial report audit by the auditor general's office.

One of the pieces in that report is that it indicates that this is an unmodified financial opinion. That's good news. That means that for all intents and purposes, the auditor general is attesting that it accurately reflects the college's financial performance and status as of June.

Then getting to the things that I have already talked about, there were increases overall, revenues and expenses. The net position changed about the same as it had the prior year where it went down. And that that is something that it will slow down over time going forward.

With that, I will ask if the board has any specific questions or any questions that they'd like follow-up on related to the financials.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any questions? Board Member Riel?

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: So on one of the lines, it said net pension

and OPEB. What is OPEB? Or you can just let me know.

>> DR. DAVID BEA: I'll tell you what it means. I don't know if I can tell you what OPEB is, because I call it OPEB as well.

>> Other Post-Employment Benefits.

>> DR. DAVID BEA: There you go.

So that is a liability that we have to track that is related to,

mostly it's related to retirement liability that we have, so it tracks the employees that we have on hand and whether the state retirement plans, whether it's the Public Safety Retirement or the Arizona State Retirement System, it tracks on the liability of those employees compared to what their overall benefit is as of that time.

We make an adjustment on that every year to make sure we are properly accounting for what that long-term liability is for those future retirees.

Now, that doesn't play out in a direct impact on the college,
for

all intense and purposes. It's more important for an organization that has its own retirement plan, because what you want to do is make sure that it's fully funded or funded at a certain level, appropriate to handle your liability should the employees retire. Because we're reflecting what is going on with the state's retirement plan, it's a little bit -- we have to reflect it. It's the law. In terms of financial standards, it's what we are required to do.

But why I'm saying it would be more important if you had a stand-alone retirement system, you guys would be wanting to monitor that and watch it very carefully, because if it gets too far out of whack -- now, the state does that essentially for us, particularly for the Arizona State Retirement System.

For the Public Safety, we have a bit more responsibility for that, and that's why we have had those more conversations and board action items related to what our target goal is to funded, for funded liability, et cetera, et cetera. And we are doing well with -- by

the way, both are pretty well funded in terms of how these overall pension plans are funded.

That was a long answer and got into the weeds a lot probably.

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: So just a yes or no, you don't need to explain this next one to me, because I want to do more research, but the contributions for the different plans, are they all the same percentage or do they vary based on which plan you're in?

>> DR. DAVID BEA: For Arizona State Retirement System and the Optional Retirement Plan, they are the same, and that's by statute. They are structured to be the same. Public Safety is different, and it's based on what the benefit structure is for that and the liabilities that are attuned to it. That's also why we have had, at times, and we put additional contribution to fund that up more.

And because the benefit, the Public Safety Retirement System, is based on the -- I'm oversimplifying it, but you attain full retirement earlier. So you have to fund it up faster, essentially. So that retirement -- the contribution rates are different.

It's also different for employees and the employer for the Public

Safety Retirement System, but for Arizona State Retirement System and the Optional Retirement Plan, they are the same. So the college puts the same amount in as the employee does on their own.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: That was the longest yes-or-no ever.

>> DR. DAVID BEA: Yeah, good point. Yeah, I totally failed. Total failure.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any other questions for Dave?

>> MS. KRISTEN RANDALL: Dr. Bea, as you were sitting there nervous that we were going to say something, I was also sitting here very worried that you would jump up out of your seat and say, no, no, I want a different board member (smiling).

It's been a pleasure serving on the committee. Is it two more years or two years --

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Two more.

>> MS. KRISTEN RANDALL: Two more years, at least. I just thank you for doing this. Thank you for the committee. It's amazingly informative.

I don't want to speak for Board Member Barraza, but I know we enjoy it. So thank you.

>> DR. DAVID BEA: Thank you.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any other questions?

>> DR. NICOLE BARRAZA: I don't have a question. I have a comment.

Ditto to everything that Board Member Randall said. And I also want to congratulate you and your team for getting the Financial Achievement -- I'm going to read the name. It's the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 33rd consecutive year.

So we appreciate all your work. I know we have a lot of challenges ahead, but we're in good hands. Thank you.

>> DR. DAVID BEA: Thank you. And I will make sure that the team, Andy Min, he's the AVC for finance, so he and I will make sure

the rest of the team hears the positive feedback from the board.
They'll appreciate it, for sure.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Thank you. Any other questions? No?

Let's move on to 3.2, our first report by representatives to the board. We have your written reports, but if there is anything you'd like to add or if there are any questions from the board after, we will start with our student report, Hector Castillo.

Is Hector here? No? All right.

>> That's me.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Sorry. No worries. Do you have anything beyond the written report that you want to add?

>> No, I don't.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any questions for Hector?

Thank you so much. We appreciate it.

Our faculty report, Sarah Kirchoff.

>> Good evening. We don't have anything to add, either.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any questions? No?

Thank you for putting that together.

Sean Mendoza, no report for January. Sorry, I ought to read my notes before I get to people's names.

Don Harp, staff report. Doesn't have a report this month.
Present virtually. No report from the staff side this month.

That moves on to 3.3, our chancellor's report

>> CHANCELLOR JEFFREY NASSE: Thank you. Thank you, Chair Taylor. Good evening, everyone. Good to see everyone.

I know she's not here, but want to thank Vice Chair Bernal Morales, Board Member Riel, Board Member Dr. Barraza, and Board Member Randall. Happy New Year to you all. It's really good to be together again in person, and always a privilege to begin the new year at Pima Community College with each of you.

We did hold a special virtual meeting in December, but we have not convened in person since November. So tonight I want to provide a focused update on several priority areas. Enrollment, high school engagement, public safety workforce needs, adult basic education, and just touch on a little bit on what Dr. Bea so deftly reported in his report and some of the challenges and opportunities ahead as we get into preparing the budget for next year.

top You know, I'll begin with enrollment, which continues to be a institutional priority. As you know, the chancellor's Goal No. 1 is to grow enrollment by expanding access to Pima's programs and strengthening our connection to the community.

Around enrollment, this work includes several coordinated efforts. One is enhancing, and this goes back to my first year at the college, enhancing our high school recruitment strategies, and we are doing that. I want to give a shout-out to James Palacios, who has a small but mighty team and really working on deepening that engagement.

if We're also implementing our no-wrong-door intake model so that you're coming to the college for credit, for transfer, workforce, adult education, they're all served through a unified

student-centered process.

Later this semester, we will be launching a new admissions application, and we are also restructuring our workforce and continuing education web presence to better reflect how learners navigate through the college.

Our goal here is straightforward, to ensure that Pima Community College is the education and training provider of choice for our community.

So as of today, I asked our team -- thank you, Dr. Richmond and team -- to do a special poll. We are still one full day before classes officially begin, so students will be registering right up through that, but right now, as we sit here, certainly at 2:30 p.m., we have enrolled 17,224 students compared to 17,154, and that was for all of last spring. So we are ahead of where we were last year.

This will mark, I believe, our 12th consecutive semester of enrollment growth. So 70 more students right now before we start classes, and we still have lots of additional opportunities ahead.

We have courses that start later in January, 14-week courses, and we also have 8-week courses that begin in March and others. The trajectory remains positive as that work continues.

Part of enrollment is that high school engagement piece that we have been focusing on. As we know, and I say this often, historically, as we look at Pima County as a whole, less than half of our graduating seniors go to any postsecondary education or training. So I'm always thinking about that 50-plus percent who are not going

to any postsecondary, how can we connect them with Pima.

So just in the first few weeks since we have been back here in January, members of my team and I have met with superintendents and their leadership teams from Sunnyside, Sahuarita, Tanque Verde, Nogales, and Marana School Districts. We have meetings with Amphitheater and Tucson Unified School Districts which are scheduled later this month.

These conversations are really focused on building and strengthening pathways to the college, particularly we also talk around dual enrollment. As the board knows, dual enrollment continues to be an important area of growth and comes with some expense, and so we will be bringing forward proposals to ensure that the long-term sustainability of dual enrollment and the quality of these programs is informed directly by our high school partners. We are working with them on that.

I also wanted to highlight the progress we are making through new data-sharing agreements with school districts. There are several, I believe, on the agenda this evening, and we have had them previously in other board meetings. These agreements really are keys allowing us to better connect with students and families earlier and more effectively, and we are already seeing positive results, so that is great.

Another area of growing demand I want to touch upon this evening with the board is public safety. So programs such as emergency medical technician, fire science, justice professions, paramedic is a

big one, Pima FastTrack, EMS continue to experience strong demand as our community works to address workforce shortages in public safety.

In particular, the paramedic program is really opportunity to expand capacity in the training for paramedics. Just talking about community alignment, in November, I participated in the Southern Arizona Leadership Council's annual retreat, and the community sentiment survey results identified public safety as the top issue affecting quality of life here in our region.

So I think that feedback is important, because it directly aligns

with what we are seeing and the work already underway at Pima. To be clear, our vision is to develop a first responder center of excellence at our East Campus. It is intended to bring together local public safety agencies and Pima's academic programs to expand training, capacity, and strengthen workforce pipelines. I'm also pleased to note just recently we have hired our first dean of public safety, Todd Canale, to help us lead this effort.

And so as we continue conversations with the board about a potential community investment through a General Obligation bond and capital improvements, addressing this public safety need will remain a critical priority.

Adult basic education, I want to provide an update on where we are there. To better serve, you remember last year our adult learners, and to improve our operational efficiencies, we have successfully, and I want to give again praise to all the teams involved in this campus operations, facilities certainly, of course the adult basic education team, information technology, but we have

successfully integrated adult education programs onto our Downtown and Desert Vista Campuses in a pretty short timeline last year.

I was with them there this week. They are starting classes. This transition required strong collaboration among the teams, as I mentioned, as well as the board.

Vice Chair Bernal Morales is not here, but she really took the lead, was out there meeting with students, and she's committed to following up with them as they enjoy their new spaces.

They were, as you know, in the El Pueblo and El Rio Centers, so they've moved out. This move supports student success by increasing access to campus resources for those students, but it also maximizes space utilization across the college. It is our continued commitment to serving all learners.

Today I had the opportunity to participate in the Photonics Day, which was sponsored by our friends at the Arizona Tech Council and was hosted by our partners, the University of Arizona, and I'm excited to share with the board that in just a few short weeks, Pima Community College will begin offering Southern Arizona's first optics technician marketable skills achievement credential.

So this is exciting for that industry. This program is really a direct result of industry partnership and market-driven curriculum in action. We talk about that idea of market-driven curriculum. Really, this is a great example of that.

Again, credit to our team. I see Amanda is there in the audience, Dean Wilson under the leadership of Dr. Roark, our friends at Optics Valley, our colleagues from the Southwest Center For Optics, our faculty and staff involved in that. But they reviewed

local labor market data, talked about what the needs were, discussed workforce needs, really looked in detail at course outlines and the curriculum, and that collaboration has allowed us to move quickly and intentionally as a testament to the responsiveness of our faculty and staff. This program will launch in April, so we are really excited about that.

So when we consider enrollment is growing at the college, we're deepening high school engagement in those pipelines, sustaining and building those dual enrollment programs, we're building out market-driven programs like public safety and optics technician, sustaining adult education programs, I just want to preview for the board, we have some very real resource challenges we face here at Pima Community College.

As we saw in Dr. Bea's presentation, last year, revenues, our expenses were 262 million compared to 254 million in total revenue. That kind of gap, we can get into the details, really underscores the financial pressures we are facing, and at the same time we have those expenses, we have this kind of growth.

So our goal to reduce expenses by 4 million is so important, right? We are approximately, I want to tell the board, about halfway there on that goal. We have more than 2 million in reductions already identified.

We will continue to make that effort, but efforts like consolidating adult ed onto the programs, exploring the location of teams from these buildings, the ones in the front, Broadway Buildings A and B, back onto campuses are part of a broader strategy to improve

efficiency and reduce long-term costs.

On the revenue side -- so we want to look for efficiencies, but on the revenue side, we continue to advocate at both the state and federal levels. In November, I joined the other community college CEOs in meeting directly with the governor and her staff to outline legislative priorities, including of course restoring some level of funding to Pima and Maricopa as well as adult basic education. We know that that is a program that we are trying to protect.

And on the other side of the aisle, we met with our local senator, Vince Leach, and talked to him, and he was able to advocate for us last year for some one-offs in some key areas, and we are going to have to work hard, as Dr. Barraza said, we hear what's happening in Phoenix this year, we are going to have to scratch and claw to protect what we got last year. But I think we have local representation that is aligned with us in that effort.

But looking ahead, I want to be clear that we'll need to work closely with the board to explore both cost containment strategies for sure and potential revenue options. We have rising healthcare costs, inflationary pressures, and workforce demands require thoughtful planning. These conversations may include tuition alignment, differential tuition for high-cost programs, and property tax levy considerations from the board.

Obviously no decisions are before you tonight, but I did want to say early at this first meeting it is important to begin framing the landscape and preparing for collaborative discussions in the months ahead.

In closing, I deeply am grateful and appreciate the board's

leadership and partnership as we continue this work together. Enrollment growth, workforce alignment, financial stewardship, and student success remain deeply interconnected, and I look forward to continued collaboration as we navigate the year ahead.

Thank you.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: All right. Thank you.

Any questions for the chancellor? No? All right.

Section 4 is information items in the agenda, so we'll just go past that and move into section 5, the consent agenda.

Is there a motion to approve the consent agenda?

>> DR. NICOLE BARRAZA: So moved.

>> MS. KRISTEN RANDALL: Second.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: All of those in favor, say aye, please.

(Ayes.)

6, >> MR. GREG TAYLOR: That passes. So let's move on to section action items. 6.1 is the Higher Learning Commission program change to change a program name and CIP code for the Bachelor of Arts education program.

I don't think anyone was going to talk to us about that, right? Was there somebody planning to talk?

>> CHANCELLOR JEFFREY NASSE: We didn't schedule anyone, but Dr. Roark can certainly speak to the change from HLC.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Do you want to give a quick summary of what it is? I know we have all read through the documents, but maybe for our viewers and others who want to know what it is.

>> DR. IAN ROARK: My description may not be much longer, in fact

may be shorter than what is posted.

Governing Board, Chair Taylor, Governing Board members, Chancellor, and guests. This is the result of feedback from the two individuals who were a part of our Higher Learning Commission visiting team before the break with respect to our submission of our first Bachelor's degree in Education to the Higher Learning Commission.

The individuals highly recommended that we clarify that the degree is not a dual degree, that it's leading to potential dual certification. Because it's not the college that issues the certification; it's the State of Arizona. And they just felt that it would be cleaner if we change the Classification of Instructional Program, which is CIP number, from the special education number to the general education number and the title accordingly.

It does nothing to impact what we will actually be launching in the fall of '26. It is the same credential of value leading to the same eligibility for certification in both elementary education and special education for the State of Arizona.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any questions? No?

I will make the motion then to proceed as stated to make the changes outlined in the agenda item.

Is there a second?

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: Second.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: All those in favor?

(Ayes.)

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: I'm aye as well, so it passes unanimously.

6.2, donation of real property to Pima Community College.

I think there was someone that was going to explain -- Jeff, is that you?

>> MR. JEFF SILVYN: Yeah, I can give a quick explanation.

Can we put up the West Campus parcel map? Perfect. Thank you.

So the Elks is actually a national umbrella philanthropic organization. They have affiliates all over the country locally based. One of the local affiliates acquired this really small piece of property out by West Campus about 10 years ago.

I don't actually know how it got to them, but someone gave them this piece of property. If you look at the red arrow, and you look at that little tiny shape above it, that's the piece of property.

It's not even half an acre in size, and if you look at the tan sort of rectangle shape near it and the boundaries of that, you will see that little tiny piece of property is completely inside the boundary of West Campus. So it doesn't have a whole lot of value to the Elks.

So we were approached a while ago about whether we would be interested in accepting title to this property, so the Elks are just basically gifting it to the college. We have gone through a due diligence process. We wanted to make sure there were no issues with the title of the property, there were no environmental concerns, any of those sort of things, so we did our due diligence, and the question before the board tonight is whether the board would accept this piece of property. It doesn't really have any impacts on West Campus other than it does give us a fully contiguous piece of

property.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Any questions for Jeff? No?

Motions?

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: I move we accept this donation to increase the property that we own around the West Campus.

>> MS. KRISTEN RANDALL: I will second, and I will just convey my gratitude to the Elks.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Absolutely. All those in favor?

(Ayes.)

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: I'm aye as well.

Are That moves on to section 7, request for future agenda items.

there any requests for future agenda items?

>> MS. THERESA RIEL: I think we still need to work on the verbiage about shared governance. There is no statement, and I know that people are working on the board policy, the AP surrounding that.

But I think that, you know, the sooner we get that done, the better. Thank you.

>> MR. GREG TAYLOR: Great. Shared governance.

Any other future agenda items? No?

All right. Not hearing any, we have reached the end of the agenda, and I will adjourn. Thank you.

(Adjournment.)

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