

North Idaho College Trustee Zone 3

	Rick Durbin	William J. Lyons
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>My name is Rick Durbin, and I am running for zone 3 North Idaho College Trustee position. The reason why I am running for the position is because I have a passion for education and NIC is near to my heart. As an NIC alumni and business owner in the community I felt a calling to step up and assist in the process of serving the students, faculty, and community with a servant's heart. I feel that the past disfunction of the board has placed NIC's accreditation at risk and we need strong leadership, a focus on teamwork, serving students, faculty, and the community to ensure that NIC's legacy will continue for generations to come.</p>	<p>William Lyons</p> <p>North Idaho College Trustee, Zone 3</p>
<p>2. How could North Idaho College be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p>I see very little need for NIC to improve, however, I believe the board of trustees is where the current challenge lies. With that said, the following areas represent the greatest opportunity in my opinion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cohesive and respectable communication between the board members, with NIC staff, and the community. 2) Fiscal responsibility of taxpayer dollars. 3) Fiduciary responsibility of placing the needs of NIC and community first. 	<p>Continuation of the Trade/Craft programs (KTEC) in addition to maintaining a fully usable course schedule.</p> <p>Provide and add additional effort in the Career & Technical Education program.</p>
<p>3. What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?</p>	<p>Well, that's a great question, and I can tell you that has changes over the years. When I started in college I went there to wrestle and found that education was not my priority. As I matured through seasons in life, I gained wisdom through experience and recognized that education was much more important than I had ever imagined. I went back to school taking classes to further my career advancement and later realized that through education I could have gained the wisdom through someone else's experiences. With that said I have and associates degree through NIC, a bachelor's degree through the U of I, and a master's degree in organizational learning and leadership through the U of I. I believe that that sharing in my testimony weather elected or not with other members of the community, parents and youth, they will recognize the importance of education and pursue the opportunity.</p>	<p>Keep high standards on successfully providing education to all students w/o drifting into areas not aligned with the program specific course curriculum, or specific training.</p> <p>Keep focused on basic education.</p>

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4. Do you support “Critical Race Theory,” why or why not?	I do not support critical race theory. Although racism is obviously a part of our history, I believe we should be able to get beyond and allow for everyone to have an equal opportunity for success based on the efforts. I do not believe in enabling and believe that we should empower everyone regardless.	NO. Race identification and judgement has no place, and only leads to division between races.
5. If faced with a budget deficit, would you support cutting spending or increasing student fees or tuition? What would be your reasons for this decision?	I think the logical approach would be to analyze current spending and to discern what expenses could be cut and if the financial impact would be sufficient. It would be fiscally responsible to reduce spending over increasing student fees or tuition, that would be a worst-case scenario and would not solve the current deficit!	It has been my experience that the raising of tuition and/fees to better the College only is a temporary solution to the monetary deficits experienced. A more constructive path would be to become a better steward, and review where better spending can be achieved.
6. Do you support the ability for employee unions to automatically deduct money from their members’ paychecks to finance political activities, why or why not?	No, I do not support unions to automatically deduct money from their members paychecks to finance political activities. I believe that unfortunately there could be an underlying bias that could benefit the union and may not be in the best interest of the employee.	NO, I do not support any forced or mandatory rulings on employee deductions for political activities. Everybody should have their own choice as to who the contribute to.
7. Do you believe that maintaining accreditation is one of the top priorities for North Idaho College? Why or why not?	Absolutely! This is the very reason why I am running for the position! We have a great community college that is an irreplaceable asset/resource and a pillar in our community. From providing support to our local business community through education and workforce to a positive economic impact.	I fully agree that we make every effort in maintaining NIC's accreditation. If we lose the accreditation, we will be at the mercy of the Boise politicians and possible takeover by University of Idaho staff.
8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	I oppose! I believe that it opens the door for predatory behavior and feel strongly that it should not be allowed.	I do not support the alteration of assigned current bathroom policies. Legal, safety and emotional issues may arise. I support keeping bathrooms assigned to students who are genetically male and female only.
9. Should North Idaho College have a staff member tasked with implementing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies? Why or why not?	I guess I am very naive in this area and not sure I can accurately answer this question. I believe that every staff member should be focused on the mission of NIC and commit to student success, educational excellence, community engagement and lifelong learning. If we can all focus on the mission and appreciate everyone's contribution, success is inevitable.	No, DEI is a political viewpoint only making people achieve according to their race or beliefs, not according to their abilities.

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10. In what ways can North Idaho College help local high school students prepare for a college education or for a trade school?	I believe through the dual enrollment program NIC is already doing a great job in preparing high school students for college. In addition to the opportunity to continue through Parker Technical Education Center and the Work Force Training Center.	I feel that the current practices which are in place are sufficient. Maybe a better and closer relationship with local High Schools and a more frequent visitation by NIC staff at high schools would be advised.
11. What is your opinion regarding freedom of choice for parents for the education of their children (School choice)?	This is a tough question! Although I appreciate the freedom it provides, there could be unintended consequences for the children.	I come from the belief that parents should support and guide their children in deciding the school they wish. But when the education system takes second place to liberal policies and political ideology, parents should take the position of leadership and heavily suggest removal of their children from that college/institution.
12. What does the term "education" mean to you?	A priceless resource that allows everyone the opportunity to learn and gain wisdom from someone else's experiences. Everyone has the choice to learn their own lessons and gain personal wisdom through life's experiences or obtain the education and learn from someone else's experiences/mistakes. Education is much more efficient and considerably more cost effective!	Teach core and necessary subject matters relating to increasing knowledge and the skills needed to become successful contributors to society. Guide and teach students on how to independently think for themselves and become, themselves, leaders.
13. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I oppose! I believe the negative impact on our local economy and the wellbeing of our community would be negatively impacted by that decision.	I have never indulged in marijuana use. I have seen to many people succumb to this "Gateway" drug and get addicted to greater and dangerous drugs. Medical use of CBD is a little different and still needs to be selected carefully by a physician.
14. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I have spent most of my life in North Idaho, am a conservative individual, and I believe that I have a servant's heart in addition to the education and business experience to serve as a trustee. I have been a financial advisor/planner for 16 years, prior to that I was the director of membership services for the Better Business Bureau for 9 years, I have a master's degree in organizational learning and leadership, I am Certified Financial Planner, have been a member of Real Life Ministries for 24 years and currently serve as a Life/Home group leader. Simply put, I am here to serve the students, faculty, and community in any way that best preserves the integrity and continuation of the college.	As a retired sales manager with an engineering background, I have always been successful by solving problems foremost, and the customer sales would follow. I came up from the Community College Education system and can fully understand the tools and studies the students need to graduate and becoming successful in their desired field. You look for the needs and situations hampering growth, look for solutions to them and successful results will follow. Education first, then the financial needs of the college.