

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 2025, 10:00 A.M.**

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees (also referred to herein as the Board) held a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, in the Board Room of the Alabama Community College System building in Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called in accordance with Act No. 2015-125.

PRESIDING: MR. GOODRICH ROGERS, CHAIRMAN

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rogers.

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Luke Finkelstein of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Ramer, Alabama, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Mr. Goodrich Rogers
Mr. John Mitchell
Mr. Britton Lightsey
Mr. Tim McCartney
Mr. Ron Houston
Ms. Valerie Gray
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone
Mr. Jeb Shell
Dr. Yvette Richardson

Also present was Mr. Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. Absent was Governor Kay Ivey.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. McCartney, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Ms. Gray, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025 meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI
PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

SECTION VII

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT – ENTERPRISE STATE

President Danny Long of Enterprise State gave a brief presentation on the college's accomplishments before focusing on the Alabama Aviation College. President Long stated that Enterprise State has seen an enrollment increase this past fall of 21%, the highest since they merged with the Alabama Aviation College in 2002. Almost 500 students are currently enrolled at the Alabama Aviation College, much of this due to the college advancing its curriculum and expanding its offerings. Enterprise State has introduced welding, automotive technology, cosmetology, and nursing. The college is also working with the State Apiary Lab and Auburn University to investigate honeybee diseases.

Per President Long, Enterprise has offered over 5,000 certificates through its mechatronics program and will soon host the largest NC3 training ever held next month on the Ozark campus. Last year, the college trained 1,400 students and 366 high school students through Skills for Success. The college will also be opening a new Performing Arts Center and a new Workforce Center soon. The oldest instructional site on the Ozark campus, the Brown Building, was also renovated in 2023. Enterprise State will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

President Long shifted the focus to the Alabama Aviation College, stating that this is the sixth largest aviation maintenance training facility in the country. Fort Novosel employs almost 3,500 mechanics and is the largest employer south of Montgomery. President Long further stated that since 2018, the college has added eight different locations for dual enrollment with 200 high school students involved in aviation maintenance and fourteen different classes around the wiregrass. The FAA certified the Andalusia campus as a standalone site last year, which now allows the college to teach the entire airframe curriculum. The FAA also changed its rules in 2022 to allow a shift from a time-based program to a proficiency-based program. By teaching a "hybrid" model, students can now complete that program in sixteen months rather than twenty-four.

President Long introduced Colonel Stan Smith, Director of the Alabama Aviation College. Per President Long, enrollment has tripled since the addition of Colonel Smith in 2018. President Long also introduced Ms. Brittany McFadden, the college's first national student of the year. Ms. McFadden has a 4.0 GPA and completed 3 of 11 classes with a 100% average. She also scored 99% on her comprehensive exam, which prepared her to score in the 90's on her FAA exam. She volunteers her time to further her aviation maintenance technician skills and promote the college and the aviation industry. She volunteered for three months with a local non-profit, Friends of Army Aviation, to inspire young people to consider a career in aviation. Pratt Whitney, a manufacturer in Columbus, GA, selected three students, including Brittany, to intern

at their facility. She was offered a full-time position after only three months, while still a full-time student.

Ms. McFadden briefly explained how she became interested in the Aviation College by becoming intrigued by the helicopters parked outside. She thanked everyone for providing her such a great opportunity.

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ADOPTED

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees adopted the attached Legislative Agenda for the Alabama Community College System for the 2025 Alabama Legislative Session(s).” It further authorized the Chancellor to form position statements and issue directives as necessary during such legislative session(s) to further the interests of the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees and the Alabama Community College System.

Fiscal Consideration: None

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
PROFESSIONAL LEGAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees approved and ratified the purchase of professional legal liability insurance as described below.” It is further directed “That each college and the Alabama Technology Network be directed to pay a portion of the cost of the professional legal liability insurance in such amount as may be determined by the Chancellor for the coverage period March 1, 2025, to March 1, 2026.

Fiscal Consideration: \$348,190 – Current Unrestricted Funds

DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE
APPROVAL OF BOOKSTORE SERVICES AGREEMENT

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized the President of Drake State Community & Technical College (“Drake State”) to execute an online Bookstore Operation Agreement with A Book Company LLC d/b/a eCampus.com (“eCampus”).

Fiscal Consideration: Drake State shall receive 7% of course material gross product sales collected revenue, 10% of online apparel and merchandise, and 10% of book buybacks online or 20% if onsite book buyback is self-run by Drake State or a third-party vendor.

CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REVIEW OF REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Ms. Gray, the Board of Trustees approved the revised Mission Statement of Central Alabama Community College.

Fiscal Consideration: None

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REVIEW OF REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Ms. Gray, the Board of Trustees approved the revised Mission Statement of Lawson State Community College.

Fiscal Consideration: None

REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
REVIEW OF REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Ms. Gray, the Board of Trustees approved the revised Mission Statement of Reid State Technical College.

Fiscal Consideration: None

GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REVIEW OF REVISED MISSION STATEMENT

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Ms. Gray, the Board of Trustees approved the revised Mission Statement of Gadsden State Community College.

Fiscal Consideration: None

SECTION IX
(INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ADULT EDUCATION, FACILITIES,
FISCAL, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT)

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REVISION OF SPECIAL BUILDING FEE

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Coastal Alabama Community College to increase the Special Building Fee from \$10 per credit hour to \$20 per credit hour beginning with the Fall 2025 term and continue until all authorized revenue bonds are retired.

Fiscal Consideration: The College's current outstanding long-term bond debt is approximately \$11,712,000 with annual debt service payments of approximately \$1,268,000. An increase in the Special Building Fee would generate approximately \$1,475,000 in additional revenue annually for the College.

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MONROEVILLE CAMPUS GYMNASIUM REROOFING

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Coastal Alabama Community College to proceed with the project named Monroeville Campus Gymnasium Reroofing.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$934,276

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE
LOVELACE HALL DORMITORY RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Marion Military Institute to proceed with the project named Lovelace Hall Dormitory Renovation.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$571,400

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE
REROOFING OF NATATORIUM AND ATHLETIC / HEALTH CENTER

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On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Marion Military Institute to proceed with the project named Campus Reroofing of Natatorium and Athletic/Health Center.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$2,208,705

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE
DORMITORY RENOVATIONS OF RANE HALL AND TRUSTEES HALL

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Marion Military Institute to proceed with the project named Dormitory Renovations of Rane Hall and Trustees Hall.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$5,310,446

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MARTIN CAMPUS 2ND FLOOR RENOVATIONS

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Shelton State Community College to proceed with the project named Martin Campus 2nd Floor Renovations (General Works, Electrical, and Mechanical Bid Packages).

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$19,345,679

TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BUILDING G RENOVATION FOR WELDING

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Trenholm State Community College to proceed with the project named Trenholm Campus Building G Renovation.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$2,321,986

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MORGAN COUNTY RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARK FOR HEALTHCARE

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with the project named Morgan County Rural Development Park for Healthcare.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$4,411,124

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DECATUR CAMPUS KELLY GYMNASIUM RESTROOM RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with construction of the project named Decatur Campus Kelly Gymnasium Restroom Renovation.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$801,223

NORTHWEST SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHIL CAMPBELL CAMPUS RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Northwest Shoals Community College to proceed with the project named Phil Campbell Campus Renovation (Low Voltage Cabling Bid).

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$38,737,246

ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENTERPRISE CAMPUS PURCHASE OF CROSSROADS PROPERTY

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Enterprise State Community College to proceed with the project named Enterprise Campus Purchase of Crossroads Property.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$61,000

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JEFFERSON CAMPUS GEORGE WALLACE HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Ms. Gray, the Board of Trustees authorized Jefferson State Community College to proceed with the project named Jefferson Campus George Wallace Hall Roof Replacement.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$498,690.00

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HANCEVILLE CAMPUS NEW STEM GATEWAY BUILDING

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace State Community College to proceed with the construction project named Hanceville Campus New STEM Gateway Building (Pre-purchase Electrical Equipment Package).

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$3,178,261

CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALEXANDER CITY CAMPUS THEATER RENOVATION AT HEALTH EDUCATION AND ARTS (HEA) FACILITY

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Central Alabama Community College to proceed with the renovation bid package for the project named Alexander City Campus Theater Renovation at Health Education and Arts (HEA) Facility.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$5,623,906

REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
PURCHASE OF RED ROOF INN PROPERTY

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Reid State Technical College to proceed with the project named Purchase of Red Roof Inn Property.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$1,194,708

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HANCEVILLE CAMPUS NEW AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace State Community College to proceed with the construction project named Hanceville Campus New Automotive Technology Building (Early Purchase of Major Electrical/Mechanical Equipment).

Fiscal Consideration: TBD

SECTION X

PERSONNEL

Charlene Finkelstein, HR Generalist, introduced the following new employees:

- Madison Hadley – Economic Development Data Analyst
- Adela Johnson – Creative Media Specialist (Innovation Center)

SECTION XI

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Dr. Neil Scott, Vice Chancellor of Student Success, gave an update on enrollment numbers. As of yesterday, our colleges have enrolled 84,799 students in for-credit courses. This is an 8.76% increase over Spring 2024, and 21 colleges are ahead in Spring enrollment. Currently, students are enrolled in over 704,000 credit hours, which is a 7.96% increase over final Spring 2024, and 23 colleges are showing increases in credit-hour production.

Fall 2025 enrollment numbers indicate that 20 colleges are up in application count, with 41,498 applications, a 9.66% increase in applications YTD. Early indications show increases in first-time freshmen and accelerated students, who are high school students taking courses, not for dual-credit, but to get a head start on college.

Dr. Scott further added that the nationwide trend appears that we are growing at a more rapid rate. More definitive numbers will be forthcoming.

Boone Kinard, Executive Director of External Affairs, spoke on the Legislative Session, which is almost halfway through. Mr. Kinard introduced a video created by the ACCS Communications team. The video emphasized that the Alabama Community College System is driven by one goal – to make life better for Alabamians. Per the video, the ACCS is available to everyone and it has become the largest training entity in the State. The Innovation Center is booming, and we recently assisted the Alabama Department of Corrections in graduating its largest academy in over a decade, over 96, through the Activate program. Starting in 2025, the ACCS will collaborate with the Alabama League of Municipalities to create the Alabama Municipal Official Training program.

Per Mr. Kinard, HB102 is a priority bill which will allow anyone in the state, regardless of zip code, to take advantage of dual enrollment courses. This bill has received final passage last week and is now awaiting the Governor's signature this week. Mr. Kinard further added that we have been involved with the "Reach Act," a bill filed by former Trustee and Representative Matt Woods. Per this bill, a student who has dropped out of school can come back and receive credit to earn a high school diploma from the school where they dropped out. This bill has also passed the House and Senate Committee and is awaiting one more step.

Mr. Kinard added that the Legislature will resume the first week of April, after Spring break, to consider the Education Budget.

Chancellor Baker next introduced President Coretta Boykin who announced that Reid State will be recommended to the June Board Meeting of the SACSCOC for full accreditation. The process has taken 2-3 years. She thanked Chancellor Baker for his patience and support during this process. She further added that having SACSCOC accreditation will allow students to transfer credits to other institutions, whereas they could not in the past.

Barry May, Chief Workforce Development Officer, next presented the findings from an economic impact study conducted by Lightcast for the 2023 and 2024 academic and fiscal year. This study measures the impact of the ACCS on the State's economy. Per Mr. May, the findings of the study reaffirm the vital role that the ACCS plays in Alabama's economic growth and in workforce development. Mr. May stated that Lightcast was chosen for their expertise in labor market analytics and economic impact studies. The study consists of two key evaluations: economic impact analysis and investment analysis. The economic impact analysis measures the income ACCS generates through its operations. This analysis addresses the question of how economic activity would change in Alabama if the colleges and their students didn't exist. The investment analysis assesses the combined impact and return on investment for the students, taxpayers, and society.

Per Mr. May, the gross State product in Alabama is \$274.9 billion with over 2.9 million jobs across all industries. The ACCS is a major employer in Alabama. Per the study, the spending of those employees resulted in an added state income of \$537.4 million which is the equivalent of supporting 9,816 jobs in Alabama. The ACCS has also seen a significant increase in its investment facilities, including modernizing facilities and expanding programs. This has resulted in \$91.6 million added state income, or the equivalent of 1,272 jobs. Mr. May added that ATN has helped businesses grow by more than 3,000 jobs and assisted generating \$383.8 billion in added income, equivalent to over 3,624 jobs. Per the study, the ACCS retains students who might have left Alabama. These students spend money on housing, food, transportation, and retail. This spending contributed \$170.3 million to the economy. The largest contributor to the total impact is the alumni, which resulted in \$6.9 billion, or the equivalent of 96,200 jobs. This is the result of ACCS graduates earning more and boosting businesses' productivity. ACCS has a total impact of \$8.1 billion, which is 3% of the State's gross product. This is the equivalent of 114,043 jobs, which means that one in every 26 jobs in Alabama exists because of the ACCS.

Mr. May added that the study shows the ACCS is a high value investment for Alabama. ACCS students collectively invested \$560.7 million in tuition fees and foregone wages to pursue their education. In return, they will receive \$3.1 billion in higher future earnings, equivalent to a 5.6 benefit cost ratio or 23% rate of return. Additionally, the State invested \$965.7 million into the ACCS. In return, taxpayers will receive \$1.1 billion in added tax revenue and public sector savings – a 1.2 benefit cost ratio. This means the State receives back \$1.20 in tax revenues and

savings, so the ACCS is generating a surplus to the State. The bottom line of the study is that the ACCS is not just an educational system, but an economic engine, essential to Alabama's future economic success. Further information can be viewed at www.accs.edu/impact.

Ed Lawrence, Sr. Vice Chancellor/Chief Information Officer, next spoke on the Finance department. Per Mr. Lawrence, he has put together an educational program, along with the State Examiner's office and a small group of Presidents. This program will provide some education to college Presidents, college finance teams, and our own System Office on topics such as public works, Title 39 and for dual enrollment, appropriation, and internal controls.

SECTION XII

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Jeb Shell, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that he met with Ed Lawrence and Sara Calhoun to discuss the budget and long-term planning. Plans are to schedule further meetings throughout the year.

SECTION XIII

(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at Jefferson State Community College, Shelby Hoover Campus. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor