

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY MAY 14, 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, May 14, 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 Reverend Tillford Thomas of Eternal Fountain Church in Montgomery, AL, 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. Ron Houston
Ms. Valerie Gray
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone
Mr. Jeb Shell
Dr. Yvette Richardson (via phone)

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Lightsey, 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 April 9, 2025 meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI
(NEW BUSINESS)**

A. Election of Board Officers

Minutes
Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees
May 14, 2025
Page 2

Chairman

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board nominated Ms. Valerie Gray as Board Chair.

On motion by Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board unanimously approved closing the nominations and voted to elect Ms. Valerie Gray as the new Board Chair.

Chairman Rogers officially passed the gavel to new Chair Valerie Gray.

Vice Chairman

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board nominated Mr. Jeb Shell as Vice Chairman.

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board unanimously approved closing the nominations for Vice Chairman.

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Jeb Shell as the new Board Vice Chairman.

SECTION VII
PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SECTION VIII

PRESENTATION – ALABAMA BUILDS GIANTS

Chancellor Baker introduced Ms. Jennifer Hall, ACCS Regional Workforce Director, and Mr. Greg Reed, Secretary of the Department of Workforce.

Ms. Hall introduced Lindsay Cline, Southeastern Regional Director of the Maritime Industrial Base; Gene Miller, Chief Operating Officer for Austal USA; and Kristin Parsons, Vice President of Human Resources for Austal USA. Ms. Hall stated that May is the very first Maritime Month in Alabama. She honored this event with a proclamation signed by Governor Ivey.

Ms. Lindsay Cline showed a video on the shipbuilding industry and the Maritime Industrial Base Program, which was launched in 2024. Ms. Cline stated that she was a high school dropout who began her career through Gadsden State Community College. She has worked with NASCAR and is now with the Navy working with the Maritime Industrial Base.

Ms. Cline stated that Alabama has been chosen to take the lead in training about 10,000 full-time employees over the next 10 years from the Gulf Coast to Muscle Shoals in order to grow the supplier base for the maritime industry. A goal of this program is to help grow the U.S. Navy's surface fleet by 85 ships and 66 new attack submarines. The highest demand occupations are currently structural fitters, pipe fitters, pipe welders, and structural welders.

Per Ms. Cline, the ACCS, working with Barry May and Jennifer Hall, has developed a maritime consortium comprised of four ACCS colleges: Reid State Technical College, Lurleen B. Wallace – Opp Campus, Coastal Alabama Community College and Bishop State Community College. The Navy has authorized non-profit agency Blue Forge Alliance to initiate a \$30 million investment in those colleges. This investment will set up training for these high-demand jobs. Buildsubmarines.com is a website designed to attract students into these programs.

Mr. Gene Miller, Chief Operating Officer for Austal USA, presented a video showcasing shipbuilder Austal USA. Mr. Miller gave a brief history of Austal and stated that the company is adding steel ship construction. Submarines are also a significant area of growth. Austal employs over 3,000 people and expects to grow to over 5,000.

Ms. Kristin Parsons, Vice President for Human Resources for Austal USA, stated that it is vitally important to grow their workforce to 5,000 by 2029. To accomplish this, they will need to pursue new workforce development opportunities. This will include internal training and partnerships with the ACCS, AIDT, and private and public schools. They are working closely with Bishop State in Mobile to launch their first designer apprenticeship program, a two-year accredited program that will result in an Associate's degree. They will also launch a new ship fitter program, a paid training opportunity. Students will train through Bishop State and be paid by Austal. She thanked the ACCS for partnering with them in this effort.

Ms. Jennifer Hall also commented on the Set Sail program, a partnership between Austal USA, Bishop State, and the ACCS, to create a pipeline of entry-level welders trained specifically to maritime standards. A Set Sail hiring event held at Bishop State's Advanced Manufacturing Center was very successful, with over 500 people attending on a rainy Saturday morning. Ms. Hall added that pipe welding and pipe fitting programs will be added to all of the consortium colleges. On the non-credit side, structural fitting will be added.

Secretary Greg Reed briefly spoke and commended the work that is being accomplished with the ACCS and Austal USA. He stated that he is very excited about the opportunities ahead.

Mr. Neal Wade, Consultant, spoke briefly and stated that the ACCS is the premier workforce organization agency in the state of Alabama, touching 95% of the state. Mr. Wade added that he has been asked to focus on community engagement. This will begin with an 18-month project to review community engagement efforts in the 24 ACCS colleges. He added that there will be 40% turnover in local elections within the next six months that will require new relationships to be built. In 2026, state and legislative elections will also bring in new people. Mr. Wade added

that beginning in June, he will start holding meetings with all 24 of the ACCS college presidents to review their community engagement status. Each college will then draft its own individual plan to develop community engagement in its region.

Dr. Neil Scott, Vice Chancellor of Student Success, provided an enrollment update, stating that over 84,000 students are enrolled in for-credit courses for Spring 2025. This is a 7.82% increase over last Spring. Credit hour production shows a 6.71% increase over last Spring. Dr. Scott added that traditional students show a 3.8% increase over Spring 2024 and dual-enrollment students have increased by 16.7% over Spring 2024.

Dr. Scott added that 48,861 students are enrolled in for-credit courses for Summer 2025, a 10.61% increase over Summer 2024. Credit-hour production shows an 11.86% increase YTD over Summer 2024. Early numbers for Fall 2025 show an increase in applications as well.

Clinton Bourgeois, Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications, briefly stated that there has been an increase in focus on marketing over the last year. He added that although we have done in-house commercials, we have never done advertising with an outside production company. The ACCS reached out to an outside company to promote the ACCS and our impact across the state. Television ads are currently airing, with more in the works. APTV has also partnered with the ACCS to create a new program called “Higher Education Matters,” which premiered last week.

SECTION IX
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

ADOPTED

CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INCREASE IN CREDIT HOUR FEE FOR BARNES & NOBLE FIRST DAY COMPLETE

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Central Alabama Community College to increase the College’s credit hour fee for textbooks through the Barnes & Noble First Day Complete Program from \$24 per credit hour to \$24.50 per credit hour. The increase will take effect Fall Semester 2025.

Fiscal Consideration: None

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INCREASE IN CREDIT HOUR FEE FOR BARNES & NOBLE FIRST DAY COMPLETE

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Chattahoochee Valley Community College to increase the College’s credit hour fee for textbooks

through the Barnes & Noble First Day Complete Program from \$26 per credit hour to \$26.50 per credit hour. The increase will take effect Fall Semester 2025.

Fiscal Consideration: None

**REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
INCREASE IN SPECIAL BUILDING FEE**

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Reid State Technical College to increase its Special Building Fee from \$15 to \$20 per credit hour. The increased fee will take effect Fall Semester 2025.

Fiscal Consideration: \$306,981 Estimated additional revenue annually

**REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING FEE**

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Reid State Community College to implement an application fee and housing fee rates for its student housing. The housing fee rates and application fee will take effect Fall Semester 2025.

Fiscal Consideration: \$690,600 estimated additional annual revenue

**BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO SELL CARL ELLIOTT HOUSE**

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized the Alabama Community College System on behalf of Bevill State Community College ("Bevill State") to proceed with the sale of the Carl Elliott House.

Fiscal Consideration: Market Value Estimate \$154,100

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

**SNEAD STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE AND CERTIFICATE IN ADDITIVE
MANUFACTURING AND DRAFTING DESIGN**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees approved Snead State Community College's application for an Associate in Applied Science and Certificate in Additive Manufacturing and Drafting Design, to be implemented Fall Semester 2025.

Fiscal Consideration:

Sources of Funds Required to Support Program:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	TOTAL
Faculty	\$80,058	\$80,058	\$80,058	\$80,058	\$80,058	\$80,058	\$80,058	\$560,406
Equipment	\$915,120	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$915,120
Other	\$2,000	\$500	\$500	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Total	\$997,178	\$80,558	\$80,558	\$81,058	\$0,058	\$80,058	\$80,058	\$1,479,526

Sources of Funds Available to Support Program:

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	TOTAL
Reallocations	\$10,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$28,000
Extramural	\$1,000,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,030,000
Tuition	\$24,231	\$128,838	\$105,789	\$129,429	\$151,887	\$172,572	\$177,300	\$890,046
Total	\$1,034,231	\$136,838	\$113,789	\$137,429	\$159,887	\$180,572	\$185,300	\$1,948,046

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BREWTON CAMPUS MULTI BUILDING REROOFING REPAIR

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Coastal Alabama Community College to proceed with Phase II of the project named Brewton Campus Multi Building Reroofing and Repair (Auditorium Contract Change Order #1).

Fiscal Consideration: CHANGE ORDER #1 COST \$374,659

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BESSEMER CAMPUS BUILDING "A" REROOFING

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Lawson State Community College to proceed with the project named Bessemer Campus Building "A" Reroofing. Construction contract shall be executed no later than July 31, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$3,386,936

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MATH AND SCIENCE BUILDING

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Marion Military Institute to proceed with the project named New Math and Science Facility. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than August 31, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$29,899,815

REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
REPURPOSE OF RED ROOF INN FOR CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING SOLUTION

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Reid State Technical College to proceed with the project named Repurpose Red Roof Inn for Campus Student Housing Solution (construction bid package). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than July 15, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$3,711,630

NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
REPURPOSE OF TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY BUILDING FOR RURAL
HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Northeast Alabama Community College to proceed with the project named Repurpose Technology Laboratory Building for Rural Healthcare Program. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than August 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$1,509,163

NORTHWEST SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHIL CAMPBELL CAMPUS RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Northwest-Shoals Community College to proceed with the project named Phil Campbell Campus Renovation (Demolition Bid Package). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than September 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: COST FOR DEMO BUILDINGS 302, 303, 304 - \$1,175,674
TOTAL PROJECT COST \$38,737,246**

NORTHWEST SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHIL CAMPBELL CAMPUS SITE DRAINAGE AND EROSION IMPROVEMENTS

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Northwest Shoals Community College to proceed with the project named Phil Campbell Site Drainage and Erosion Improvements. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than September 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$2,963,805

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 Center (construction bid). Construction contracts for the project shall be executed no later than September 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$10,295,430

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HANCEVILLE CAMPUS NEW STEM GATEWAY BUILDING

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace State Community College to proceed with the construction project named Hanceville Campus New STEM Gateway Building (Construction Bid Package). Construction contracts for the project shall be executed no later than September 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST \$31,408,056

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BASEBALL FIELD SLOPE REPAIR

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Chattahoochee Valley Community College to proceed with the project named Baseball Field Slope Repair. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than September 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: TOTAL PROJECT COST (PHASE I) \$1,214,964.00

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JEFFERSON CAMPUS GWH ROOF REPLACEMENT – CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Jefferson State Community College to proceed with the project named Jefferson Campus George Wallace Hall Roof Replacement (change order #1).

Fiscal Consideration: CHANGE ORDER #1 COST \$95,720.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST \$610,960.00

BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JASPER CAMPUS HVAC TRAINING CENTER ADDITION FOR ENERGY SERVICES
INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING CENTER

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Bevill State Community College to proceed with the project named Jasper Campus HVAC Training Center Addition for Energy Services Infrastructure Training Center (Site Work Bid Package). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than September 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: SITE WORK BID \$685,561
TOTAL PROJECT COST \$8,436,013

SECTION XI
PERSONNEL

David O'Brien, Sr. Associate Counsel, read a short biography on Dr. Kathy Murphy.

Chancellor Baker recommended Dr. Murphy to the Board as President of Wallace Community College in Dothan, Alabama. On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of

Trustees unanimously approved Dr. Kathy Murphy as the new President of Wallace Community College in Dothan, effective June 1, 2025.

Dr. Murphy briefly addressed the Board. She praised the staff at Gadsden State for their accomplishments during her tenure there. She stated she looks forward to serving at Wallace Community College.

Chancellor Baker introduced Mr. Alan Smith, Vice President at Gadsden State, who will serve as Interim President until a new President is hired.

SECTION XII **CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Chancellor Baker stated he is encouraged at the new things that are happening with the ACCS, particularly in workforce development.

Dr. Neil Scott spoke briefly on enrollment marketing. As an extension of last year's efforts to promote the ACCS to potential students, Dr. Chris Cox, Deputy Chancellor, suggested the idea of giving a T-shirt to every high school senior in the state. A plan has been launched to accomplish this by segmenting the state's high school students into three groups: those who have applied for admission to a community college, students who have participated in dual-enrollment but not applied as yet, and finally, students who have not engaged at all. Separate communication campaigns have been targeted at each group (e-mail, texts, surveys, and print to the non-engaged group). Potential students must claim their T-shirt by showing interest in one of the ACCS colleges. Each college has its own unique T-shirt design displaying the college logo. Potential students also receive an ACCS branded bag with a postcard specific to the college from which they requested information. Per Dr. Scott, over 4,100 students have requested T-shirts so far.

Dr. Scott thanked everyone who has been involved with this marketing initiative.

SECTION XIII **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

SECTION XIV **(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)**

The next Board meeting will be held at Snead State Community College in Boaz, Alabama, at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2025. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

Minutes
Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees
May 14, 2025
Page 11

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor