

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13, 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, August 13, 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: MS. VALERIE GRAY, CHAIR

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gray.

The invocation was delivered by Pastor Todd Russell of Mountain Hill Baptist Church in Lapine, Alabama, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Ms. Valerie Gray
Mr. Jeb Shell
Mr. Britton Lightsey
Mr. Goodrich Rogers
Mr. Ron Houston (via telephone)
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone
Mr. Tim McCartney
Dr. Yvette Richardson

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add Item VIII.A.1.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2025, meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI
(PUBLIC COMMENT)**

None.

SECTION VII
COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT – CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Jacqueline Screws, President of Chattahoochee Valley Community College, began by recounting some of the college's accomplishments, such as the Health Sciences programs with student certification pass rates consistently exceeding the State and National averages; the new Career Training and Workforce programs in Electrical Technology and Truck Driving beginning this Fall; the great community partnerships like the one with East Alabama Medical Center in Auburn to train practical nurses; and Abel Ministries in Seale, Alabama, to provide adult education to all their clients; the newly renovated welding lab; and the rural community college's grant to help reach students throughout the college's footprint.

President Screws next introduced a video on the Lady Pirates' Basketball team, which she described as a modern-day Cinderella story. Despite beginning the season with 12 players and ending with just 7 players, due to injuries and unforeseen circumstances, the team remained focused and resilient. The team achieved a conference record of 12-0 and an overall record of 22-8 and ranked first in conference and are the ACCC Division 2 State champions. They also won the Gulf South District Championship and vied for the National Championship for the first time in the college's 30-year history. Seven players were named to the Fall Commissioner's honor roll, six players earned spots on the Spring Commissioner's honor roll, two players were named to the NJCAA All-Academic third team, and six of the team members have signed to four-year institutions, while two will remain at Chattahoochee Valley.

President Screws introduced two of the team members who attended in person, Cameron Decosta and Jada Landers. She also introduced Head Lady Pirates' Coach, Jonathan Richardson, who was recognized as the ACCC Division 2 Women's Basketball Coach of the Year; Assistant Coaches LaTonya Jackson and John Steel; and Athletic Director, Ashley Landy, who was recognized as Athletic Director of the Year.

SECTION VIII
(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)

The Board asked Dr. Tammy Briggs to speak on Dr. James Mitchell's retirement and his contribution to the Alabama Community College System. Per Dr. Briggs, President Mitchell was always about the students and what could be done to help them. The college has served over 5,400 dual-enrollment students to date. He was also committed to innovation and providing access to non-traditional students. Due to his leadership, the college was able to offer LPN dual-enrollment to high school students in 2011. He also offered LPN night programs, online mobility RN programs, and in 2004, the college launched its online-learning program. To date, the college has served over 17,000 online students. She added that Dr. Mitchell is very serious about results and is committed to excellence, but also has a big heart and has paid tuition for

students out of his own pocket. Dr. Briggs further added that when Dr. Mitchell took over Wallace Community College, the college was failing financially, most of the buildings were in bad shape, enrollment was declining, and the community did not have any confidence in the college. Dr. Mitchell took on the challenge, and in 25 years, gave the college a complete face-lift, creating a student-first culture, and changing the community's view of the college. Today, all of the college's long-term debt has been erased, and all the college's buildings have been renovated, with three new multi-complex buildings and acquired two new offsite campuses in West Alabama, all paid in full. Enrollment has had a 32% increase, and today 34,000 students have been served at Wallace Community College, and more than 7,200 certificates and degrees have been awarded.

Dr. Briggs concluded by introducing a short video in Dr. Mitchell's honor, and by stating that his favorite quote is: "Measure me not from the heights I have risen, but from the depths from which I have climbed."

Dr. Mitchell briefly addressed the Board and stated that he has been able to live his dream. He said Wallace Community College was often the only beacon of hope for students of West Alabama, and he thanked Chancellor Baker and the Board for the opportunity to lead the college. He stated it was the greatest job of his life.

Board Chair Valerie Gray introduced Mr. David O'Brien, who read a proposed resolution honoring Dr. Mitchell. Per the resolution, the Student Center at George Corley Wallace State Community College will be renamed the Dr. James M. Mitchell Student Center.

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the resolution.

Chancellor Baker added that Dr. Mitchell's experience greatly helped him in his early years with the ACCS. He added that when he first visited the Wallace Selma campus after many years, he was amazed at how the campus appearance had improved. He wished Dr. Mitchell the best.

SECTION IX

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

SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE INCREASE IN RESIDENCE HALL FEES

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Southern Union State Community College to increase the rental fee for the College's residence hall. The fee increase will take effect Fall Semester 2025.

Fiscal Consideration: \$86,000 Additional Auxiliary Revenue Annually

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
IMPLEMENTATION OF COURSE FEE

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace State Community College-Hanceville to implement a \$25 course fee to CIS149 Digital Literacy. The course fee would be effective Fall Semester 2025.

Fiscal Consideration: None.

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System to expend approximately \$1,200,000 to purchase six heavy equipment training simulators with software, three trailers, and various other support services and peripheral equipment to support the Innovation Center's Dunn University Training Initiative.

Fiscal Consideration: Approximately \$1,200,000

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INCREASE IN CREDIT HOUR FEE FOR BARNES & NOBLE FIRST DAY COMPLETE

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Jefferson State 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 \$25 per credit hour. The increase will take effect Spring Semester 2026.

Fiscal Consideration: None.

ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INCREASE IN TEXTBOOK RENTAL FEE

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Enterprise State Community College to increase the College's credit hour fee for textbooks through the

BBA All-In Program from \$25 per credit hour to \$26 per credit hour. The increase will take effect Fall Semester 2025.

Fiscal Consideration: None.

BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MAIN CAMPUS PURCHASE OF YORK PROPERTY

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Bishop State Community College to proceed with the project named Main Campus Purchase of York Property. Closing shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$12,000

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADDITION OF AVIATION TRAINING HANGAR

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Coastal Alabama Community College to proceed with the project named Addition of Aviation Training Hanger at Brookley Field Campus. Construction contract shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$6,100,380

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FAIRHOPE CAMPUS BELL MUSEUM RENOVATION

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Coastal Alabama Community College to proceed with the project named Fairhope Campus Bell Museum Renovation. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$569,486

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS TENNIS COURTS REFURBISHMENT

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Lawson State Community College to proceed with the project named Birmingham Campus Tennis Courts Refurbishment (Phase I – Demolition & Early Release Electrical Equipment Purchase Package). Construction contract shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$199,163

SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FREDD CAMPUS BUILDING RENOVATIONS

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Shelton State Community College to proceed with the project named Fredd Campus Building Renovations (AV Installation Bid Package). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: AV Installation Cost \$97,586

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

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rhone, 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 (Building Installation Bid Package). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Building Installation Cost \$3,235,000

BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JASPER INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY CAMPUS STATUTORY WARRANTY DEED OF GIFT
TO WALKER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

On motion by Mr. Lightsey, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Bevill State Community College to proceed with the project named Jasper Campus Statutory Warranty Deed of Gift to Walker County Board of Education. Closing shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: None.

CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DECATUR CAMPUS PURCHASE OF 219 2ND AVENUE SE PROPERTY

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Calhoun Community College to proceed with the project named Decatur Campus Purchase of 219 2nd Ave SE Property. Closing shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$1,176,500

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JEFFERSON CAMPUS PURCHASE OF 4550 PINSON VALLEY PARKWAY PROPERTY
FOR CDL TRUCK DRIVING PROGRAM

On motion by Mr. Shell, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board of Trustees authorized Jefferson State Community College to proceed with the project named Jefferson Campus Purchase of 4550 Pinson Valley Parkway Property for CDL Truck Driving Program. Closing shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$1,235,000

NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Shell, the Board of Trustees authorized Northeast Alabama Community College to proceed with the project named Classroom Technology Upgrades. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$983,451

WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SELMA
CAREER TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION MODULAR TRAINER TEACHING EQUIPMENT

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. McCartney, the Board of Trustees authorized Wallace Community College Selma to proceed with the project named Career Technology Education Modular Trainer Teaching Equipment. Contracts shall be executed no later than November 1, 2025, or this authorization shall expire.

Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$755,538

SECTION X **PERSONNEL**

Chancellor Baker introduced Dr. Chris Cox, Deputy Chancellor for Instruction, Research, and Development, who announced the upcoming retirement of Ms. Patricia “Trish” Jones. Per Dr. Cox, Ms. Jones started in 1985. He stated that throughout her career, she has influenced all areas - up, down, and across the organization. People who know her describe her as a friend, confident, loyal, fun, and a person who loves to celebrate.

Ms. Jones briefly stated that when she started in 1985, she never envisioned her retirement. She stated she has no big plans at the moment. She began her career at Wallace Selma and graduated from there. She added that she will miss everyone and will still be the biggest cheerleader for the Alabama Community College System.

Changing topics, Chancellor Baker asked David O’Brien to read a biography on Dr. Donitha Griffin, the proposed new President of Wallace Community College – Selma.

Chancellor Baker made a recommendation to the Board to hire Dr. Griffin as the new President of Wallace – Selma. On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Lightsey, the Board unanimously approved Dr. Griffin as the new President of Wallace Community College – Selma.

Dr. Griffin briefly thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as President. She thanked Dr. Mitchell for his legacy and added that she will continue to move the college forward. She stated that her goal is to improve the quality of life for all that she can for as long as she can.

SECTION XI **CHANCELLOR’S REPORT**

Chancellor Baker asked Dr. Neil Scott, Vice Chancellor for Student Success, to speak on enrollment numbers. Per Dr. Scott, ACCS colleges had an overall enrollment increase for the fourth year in a row. Fall 2024 showed a 7% increase in head count over Fall 2023; Spring 2025 had a 7.8% increase in head count over Spring 2024; and Summer 2025 increased 9.8% in head count over Summer 2024. Credit hour production also increased. Unduplicated head count for the 2024-2025 school year totaled 131,612 students, a 6.8% increase over 2023-2024. Dr. Scott added that 2024-2025 head count is the highest the ACCS has seen since 2011-2012. Fall 2025 enrollment so far shows an increase of 11.8% over Fall 2024, with a 10.9% increase in credit hours.

Next, Ms. Susan Price, Chief of Staff, introduced a video regarding a new ACCS partnership with James Spann and the Alabama Weather Network. This is a 24/7 state-wide weather service with real-time weather updates, which launched on August 11th. Per Ms. Price, on launch day, this became the most downloaded weather app in the country. Through this partnership, the

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ACCS will be featured on broadcasts, digital platforms, and community outreach. Mr. Spann and his team will visit all 24 colleges to learn about and share success stories.

SECTION XII
COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

SECTION XIII
(DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING)

The next Board meeting will be held in Montgomery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2025. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Chairman

Chancellor