

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 2026, 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 11, 2026, 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 Reverend Roosevelt Williams III, St. John's AME Church, Montgomery, Alabama, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On roll call, the following Board members were present:

Ms. Valerie Gray  
Mr. Jeb Shell (via phone)  
Mr. John Mitchell  
Mr. Britton Lightsey (via phone)  
Mr. Goodrich Rogers  
Mr. Ron Houston  
Mr. Llevelyn Rhone  
Mr. Tim McCartney (via phone)  
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. Rogers, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2026, meeting as presented without discussion.

**SECTION VI  
(PUBLIC COMMENT)**

None.

Mr. Keith Phillips, Deputy Chancellor of Workforce & Economic Development, spoke briefly about a major economic development involving Gadsden State Community College. Minth Group Ltd. of Taiwan, the world's largest EV battery housing supplier with 78 plants worldwide, has chosen to invest \$430 million in a new manufacturing facility in Gadsden, Alabama. This facility will supply Hyundai in Montgomery, AL, and Kia in West Point, GA. Plans are to start operations in November 2026 with starting wages at \$25 per hour. This million sq. ft. facility will be located at the site of a former 430-acre steel mill and will be the largest Minth facility globally. It is expected to create 1,300 new jobs.

Mr. Phillips next introduced a short video regarding this development. In the video, Senator Katie Britt stated that Minth chose Gadsden because of the people, the preparation, and the customers. The company spent two years evaluating sites across five states, looking for a community ready to support a world-class manufacturer. The advanced manufacturing programs at Gadsden State was a major reason for Minth's choice to build in Gadsden.

## **SECTION VII**

### **COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT – BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

President Joel Hagood of Bevill State Community College briefly spoke on accomplishments at the college. Per Dr. Hagood, Bevill covers 4,600 sq. miles in the counties of Walker, Fayette, Marion, and Pickens. The college's economic impact to the service area is \$341.2 million. Bevill's motto is "Building Futures," with three components to accomplish this: Connect, Complete, and Contribute.

Per Dr. Hagood, the last five academic years have shown an increase in credit hour production to almost 80,000. He added that for every five tradespersons who retire, there are only two replacements, leaving a significant skills gap which is a national security issue. To help close this gap, Bevill State is focused on dual enrollment. Over the last five academic years, dual enrollment has increased. Bevill serves fourteen different school systems in their area, including Jasper City Schools, Walker County Schools, Jefferson County Schools, the Pickens County College and Career Center, and the Heman Drummond Center of Innovation (HDCI). Bevill has also offered Marion County some underutilized space at its Hamilton Campus to develop a Marion County Career Academy.

Dr. Hagood next introduced a video spotlighting one particular student, Mr. Landen Scott, who received an Associate's degree at the same time he graduated from high school. Per Mr. Scott, he was recruited from his high school by the Pickens County College and Career Center, and he received a dual enrollment scholarship to Bevill. Mr. Scott stated that dual enrollment at Bevill helped him get a head start in his new career in the welding and electrical fields.

**SECTION VIII**  
**(EXECUTIVE, LEGAL, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION)**

**SNEAD STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees approved the current Mission Statement of Snead State Community College.

**Fiscal Consideration: None**

**LURLEEN B. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees approved the current Mission Statement of Lurleen B. Wallace Community College.

**Fiscal Consideration: None**

**CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Rhone, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees approved the current Mission Statement of Chattahoochee Valley Community College.

**Fiscal Consideration: None**

**WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE**  
**PURCHASE OF TOUR BUS**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized the President of Wallace State Community College - Hanceville to expend \$720,687 for the purchase of a 56-passenger Prevost Tour bus.

**Fiscal Consideration: \$720,687 Unexpended Plant Funds**

**CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**NAMING OF KELLEY GYMNASIUM BASKETBALL COURT**

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On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized the President of Calhoun Community College to name the Kelley Gymnasium Basketball Court as the Bobby Shuttleworth Court and to add appropriate signage.

**Fiscal Consideration: None**

**CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**NAMING OF SOFTBALL FIELD**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized the President of Calhoun Community College to name the Softball Field as the Myra B. King Field and to add appropriate signage.

**Fiscal Consideration: None**

**ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**  
**BOOKSTORE OPERATION SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH ACCS INSTITUTIONS**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Mitchell, the Board of Trustees authorized the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System to approve amendments to existing agreements between Alabama Community College System Institutions and providers of bookstore operation services.

**Fiscal Consideration: None**

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

**SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**NEW OFF CAMPUS INSTRUCTIONAL SITE FOR AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY (AMT) PROGRAM**

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees approved Southern Union State Community College's application for a new off-campus instructional site in support of their Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT) program, to be implemented Fall Semester 2026.

**Fiscal Consideration: The annual operation cost proposed herein is within the budget of the college.**

**BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL NEW CLASSROOM AND OFFICE BUILDING**

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Bishop State Community College to proceed with the project named Truck Driving School New Classroom and Office Building. Construction contracts for the project shall be executed no later than June 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$1,913,104**

**REID STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**RENOVATION OF BLACK ANGUS PROPERTY FOR COLLEGE FOOD SERVICE**  
**SOLUTION**

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Reid State Community College to proceed with the project named Renovation of Black Angus Property for College Food Service Solution. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than June 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$2,872,365**

**TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**EXECUTIVE PARK RENOVATION FOR HEALTHCARE AND CULINARY**

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized the FF&E budget of Trenholm State Community College for the project named Executive Park Campus Renovation for Healthcare and Culinary. Contracts shall be executed no later than August 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$54,820,395**

**TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**PATTERSON CAMPUS BUILDING F RENOVATION**

On motion by Ms. Gray, second by Mr. Mitchell, the Board of Trustees authorized Trenholm State Community College to proceed with the project named Patterson Campus Building F Renovation. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than June 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$1,552,270**

**J.F. DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
**BUILDING 200 RENOVATION RESOLUTION**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing and directing the Chancellor, in accordance with applicable Alabama laws, rules and guidelines, to immediately commence negotiations of the final terms and conditions of the construction contract for Phase 2 of the above identified project and upon completion of negotiations to award and execute final construction contract to commence the project in accordance and compliance with Alabama Law.

**Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$4,085,129**

**CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**ADAMS HALL RENOVATION (SITE IMPROVEMENTS BID)**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Chattahoochee Valley Community College to proceed with the project named Adams Hall Renovation (Site Improvements Bid Package). Construction contracts shall be executed no later than June 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: Site Improvements Cost \$577,758**

**GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**VALLEY CAMPUS PRATER HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Rhone, the Board of Trustees authorized Gadsden State Community College to proceed with the project named Valley Campus Prater Hall Roof Replacement. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than June 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$833,022**

**CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**PRATTVILLE CAMPUS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

On motion by Mr. Houston, second by Mr. Rogers, the Board of Trustees authorized Central Alabama Community College to proceed with the project named Prattville Campus Workforce Development Center. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than June 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$24,764,168**

**ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**OZARK AVIATION COLLEGE STORAGE BUILDING**

On motion by Mr. Mitchell, second by Mr. Houston, the Board of Trustees authorized Enterprise State Community College to proceed with the project named Ozark Aviation College Storage Building. Construction contracts shall be executed no later than June 1, 2026, or this authorization shall expire.

**Fiscal Consideration: Total Project Cost \$621,495**

**SECTION X**  
**PERSONNEL**

None.

**SECTION XI**  
**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Patricia Sims, President of J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College, briefly spoke on representing the ACCS at the U.S. House Appropriation Committee. She provided testimony on Labor, Health and Human Services Education. Per Dr. Sims, Alabama was well-represented in the room. She highlighted the impact of our colleges and the essential role we play in economic and community development and the critical need for continued investment in our colleges, Pell grant programs, and Workforce training programs. She also thanked them for Workforce Pell. She stated that the mission of our system aligns strongly with the priorities of the committee in developing U.S. policy. Dr. Sims added that she was honored to represent the ACCS on a national level.

Dr. Neil Scott, Vice Chancellor of Student Success, spoke on current enrollment. As of March 2026, colleges have enrolled 90,420 students in for-credit courses. This is a 7.6% increase over Spring 2025. Credit-hour production also shows a 6.8% increase over Spring 2025, with 23 colleges showing credit-hour increases.

Dr. Chris Cox, Deputy Chancellor for Instruction, Research, and Development, spoke on Workforce Pell grants. Per Dr. Cox, we have worked with the Federal Government and Governor's Office to offer better training than anyone in the country. He added that Pell requires 70% of people trained to be employed 180 days afterward. The max award for Workforce Pell is \$7,395. Dr. Cox further added that this training will likely be permanent. Career Technical Education will be a major portion of the training because it has to articulate into a job.

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**SECTION XII**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

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

The next Board meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, in the Board Room of the Alabama Community College System. A work session will follow at 10:20 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Mr. Rogers, second by Mr. Houston, the Board meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

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Chancellor