

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Phil Bettendorf
Mr. Kyle Brown
Mr. Tom Denny
Mr. Tony Ferguson
Judge Cheveda McCamy
Mayor Fred Perriman
Mr. Mike Sale
Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel
Dr. Reginald Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Fred Perriman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the September board meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Andrea Daniel thanked the board for allowing her to present her State of the College at the beginning of the board meeting. She must leave immediately after her presentation for President's Council in Callaway Gardens.

Dr. Daniel presented the State of the College PowerPoint presentation. Athens Technical College is the third oldest technical college in Georgia. It was founded in 1958. We were the first technical college to get accredited by SACSCOC. We offer 191 programs in three different areas. Our service area consists of eleven counties. We enroll students from 95 Georgia counties, twelve states and eleven nations.

We are working hard to get our enrollment back to where it was before Covid. For AY24 we have 5,566 students which is up from AY23 which was at 5,226 students. We have 53.6% students under the age of 21. Our job placement rate for AY24, which is still in progress, is 98.86%. We warranty our graduates, meaning that if one of our graduates should not demonstrate the knowledge and skills in their job then we will retrain them at no cost to the graduate or the employer.

Our graduation rate for AY24, which is still in progress, is at 1,701 students which is up from AY23 which was 1,694 students. Most of our programs have a 100% national board exam pass rate. Economic Development has provided contract training to 276 companies so far for AY24 which increased from 225 companies in AY23. Our training sectors vary from agriculture, manufacturing and industrial, government, education and medical.

Workforce development is the key to the future of Economic Development. Not all graduates are going to a research university. Higher education must demonstrate more graduates. And not all education is equal: S.T.E.M. She is excited that the Athens Tech Foundation raised \$151,000 from the Illuminate Gala in April. This will go toward scholarships for students.

Some of our Capital Outlay projects in the past consisted of \$10.2 million for our Agricultural Science Facility and Tom McCall Agricultural Arena on the Elbert County Campus. We also have \$18.75 million Industrial Technology Building which also houses Economic Development. We currently have a Capital Outlay project which is \$9.875 million for the Walton County Campus phase one renovation. We have spent \$44,225,000 on infrastructure and renovation improvements.

She is very excited to have the 2024 State GOAL winner, Nicholas Rucker. He has been an outstanding voice for Athens Technical College and for TCSG. He has represented Athens Technical College in so many great ways and is truly a wonderful person.

She would like to congratulate another one of our students. Jayden Davis won the Dual Achievement Program Student of the Year Award. He is Dr. Reginald Woods' grandson. She passed around photos from the awards ceremony last week during the Governor's Workforce Summit.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Perriman called for approval of the August 2024 minutes. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve the minutes and Judge Cheveda McCamy seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Kathryn Thomas presented the Financial Report as of August 31, 2024.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. She presented a termination request for approval. We would like to terminate the Barbering Diploma. There was a recent Federal guideline that determined our Barbering Diploma was too long. So, we added a new program called Master Barbering. There will be no students affected by the termination since they will transition to the new Master Barbering Program which is basically the same program only shorter.

Dr. Douglas asked for approval to terminate the Barbering Diploma. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve and Tony Ferguson seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. Termination of the Barbering Diploma was approved.

She has been working hard on articulation agreements with other colleges. We are currently working on some with Mercer University and LaGrange College. We are renewing our articulations agreements with Piedmont University. We are also working on a possible one with the University of North Georgia.

Faculty has been working very hard on the transition to Blackboard Ultra. We will transition to Blackboard Ultra Spring semester.

Dual achievement and dual enrollment will be moving to Building N soon. It will be nice to have everyone housed in one place. It will make it more convenient for students.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who were affected by the tragic shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder. We have three dual enrollment students from that high school and we have reached out to them to provide any sort of assistance or counseling they may need.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. He has run the seven-day enrollment report, which will show our enrollment after drop/add and no shows. For Fall semester we have 4,477 students and 33,735 credit hours. For Fall semester 2023 we had 4,170 students and 31,364 credit hours. We are up this Fall semester by 6.9% for the number of students and 7.1% for credit hours. We submitted a goal of 4,380 students to TCSG which we exceeded by 2.1%. He thanked everyone for all their hard work with enrollment.

We are also up in total graduates and awards. For this year we had 1,714 total graduates and 2,589 awards. For 2023 we had 1,694 total graduates and 2,225 awards.

We recently signed an agreement to provide the ASVAB test to military personnel. There are over 13,000 military personnel who have expressed interest in attending college. There are only three other technical colleges that provide this testing.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Fabersha Flynt gave an update on Adult Education. They have been approved to provide GED testing at the Athens-Clarke County Jail.

She is happy to announce that they are above the State in metrics. Our enrollment is at 41% and enrollment for the State is at 39%. Our integrated education training program is even with the State at 7%. Our measurable skills gains are at 19% and the State is at 14%. Our high school equivalencies within the program we are at 10% and the State is at 11%. Overall, with our testing centers we are at 16% and the State is at 11%.

We offer the Hope high school equivalency scholarship to students, so they do not have to pay out of pocket. We are currently at 26% and the State is at 10%.

We are excited to be helping the State achieve their goal of 9,000 HSEs by the end of FY 2025.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Antoine Boynton presented an update on Public Relations and the Athens Tech Foundation. He thanked Dr. Daniel and the interview committee for allowing him to come back to work at Athens Technical College.

They are looking at bringing marketing for social media back in house which will help with being more pro-active and help to save costs.

He is working on developing some short videos to promote the college. They have already done one with Marvin Nunnally on our apprenticeship program.

We have a platform called Agil PR which we use to scan the web for any stories about Athens Technical College. It also gives us the ability to reach out to the writers. We are able to find a reporter that specializes in a certain topic and send them an article about that topic.

He thanked Jen Welborn for her leadership with the Athens Tech Foundation during the transition period of when Josh Paine left until he was hired.

The Foundation will be getting the Role Model Board Award again this year at the Leadership Conference in Savannah.

He thanked Ruth Tellano-Daniel for helping on the grant work for the Jackson EMC grant we just received.

Sponsorships for the Foundation Illuminate Gala will open soon.

Foundation scholarships will open October 7th.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Perriman thanked all the board members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the board meetings each month. Phil Bettendorf asked that board members stay up to date on the funds being raised for the students in the Physical Therapy Assistant Program for their trip. He would like to help Nicholas Rucker and the other students with the trip.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair Perriman adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 9:55 a.m.

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President
Rebecca Allen
Executive Assistant
September 17, 2024

Next scheduled Board Meeting: October 15, 2024

** Denotes action items that require a vote for approval by the local board.*