

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Phil Bettendorf
Mr. Kyle Brown
Mr. Tom Denny
Judge Cheveda McCamy
Mr. Tony Ferguson
Mr. Mike Sale
Ms. Ruth Tellano-Daniel

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Jean Mullis

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Philip Bettendorf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the August board meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Andrea Daniel recognized Mr. Lenzy Reid on his retirement from Athens Technical College. Mr. Reid has been at the college over twenty-five years and has worked for the State of Georgia over thirty years. Dr. Daniel presented him with a resolution and an Athens Technical College watch. Mr. Reid spoke to the board about his career at the college and thanked everyone for their support.

Al McCall presented a PowerPoint presentation on Economic Development Services (EDS). EDS provides customized contract and continuing education training for businesses, industries, schools, government agencies, churches, and the communities we serve in our eleven-county service area. They also provide non-credit workforce development programs.

He presented the FY2026 training numbers. They trained a total of 70,113 hours with 5,853 individuals and 289 unique companies. They provided training in a variety of sectors including manufacturing, industrial, medical, government, education and agriculture. Some examples of training provided were heavy equipment for Caterpillar and Kubota, food manufacturing for Nestle and Purina, Aerospace manufacturing for Accurus Aerospace and pharmaceutical and biotech training for Boehringer and Ingelheim.

EDS has provided contract training to Bubba Burgers, Chick-fil-A, the City of Washington and Oconee County Government. They served a variety of companies including Rivian, Caterpillar, Dole, Striplings, Pilgrims, and CertainTeed. EDS provides non-credit short-term training including forklift, OSHA, ServSafe, driver's education, and CDL Class A learner's license prep. EDS also provides continuing education and computer workshops including artificial intelligence for small businesses and ServSafe manager training.

EDS training is shaped around each company's needs with training being very flexible and provided during the day or at nighttime. EDS has a certification warranty in which they guarantee that individuals who complete courses will be able to demonstrate skills and competencies as defined in course descriptions or they will be retrained at no charge to the company.

The Manufacturing Foundations Program is a partnership with Athens Chamber, Athens Achieves, and Athens Boys & Girls Club. It consists of a six-week pathway integrating safety, technical skills, and soft skills. The Manufacturing Assembly Skills Trainer MAST Truck teaches individuals about assembly lines.

EDS partners with Adult Education and High Schools to provide training. Testing services are also available through EDS including Georgia pest control exams, Georgia Department of Transportation, academic exam proctoring, ACT WorkKeys, and Pearson VUE testing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Bettendorf called for approval of the April 2026 minutes. Tom Denny made a motion to approve the minutes and Mike Sale seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The minutes were approved.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Kathryn Thomas presented the FY2027 Annual Operating Budget. Ms. Thomas asked for approval of the FY2027 Annual Operating Budget. Tony Ferguson made a motion to approve and Ruth Tellano-Daniel seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The FY2027 Annual Operating Budget was approved.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas provided an update for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. There will be an Interior Design Open House in which board members are welcome to attend on September 4th at 10:00 am. She thanked Dr. Daniel for all of her support of the Interior Design Program.

They have an upcoming meeting with all dual enrollment partners including Morgan County Career Academy, Broad River Career Academy, Hart Career Academy and Green Career Academy.

They are working on a new project called Ad Astra. This platform will be used for academic scheduling and keeping up with data about students. It will help us to better provide what students need.

Academic Affairs and EDS partner on numerous occasions for projects. They worked together to provide necessary training for students who went to work for Rivian. They are currently working together on a Caterpillar grant.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Daniel introduced Susan Fyffe the new Vice President of Student Affairs. She passed out an Athens Banner-Herald article about Ms. Fyffe. Ms. Fyffe gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Student Support Services is working with TCSG in collaboration with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation to have a counselor on campus a few days a month.

We currently have 4,537 students for Fall semester which is a 1.3% increase from last Fall. We have 35,718 credit hours which is a 5.5% increase from last Fall.

Financial Aid is working on a new scholarship called Georgia Dreams which will help provide students in need with benefits up to \$3,000.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall provided an update on Economic Development. They will be providing CDL test prep September 14th – 15th. Another test will be given at the beginning of October.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Fabersha Flynt gave the board an update on Adult Education. Their HSE numbers are good with 154 within the program. They are ranked number three in the state.

They will be holding another accelerated academy for students in October where they can get their GED in three days.

There will be a math bootcamp held September 14th – 17th.

She thanked Tony Ferguson, Dr. Douglas and Dr. Daniel for their support of the Broad Acres Adult Education site.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Antoine Boynton gave the board an update on Public Relations and the Athens Tech Foundation. The college has a new website that went live recently.

He is finalizing "Our Vision" videos which will premier September 1st on several social media sites.

Mark Thomas is leading the "My ATC" videos. The first person interviewed was a student in the Paralegal Studies Program.

Please mark your calendars for the 2027 Athens Tech Foundation Illuminate event which will be held on April 13, 2027.

The Foundation worked with the college on student retention grants for Summer semester. The Foundation pledged \$56,000 which equates to 210 students. The new process allows students to extend their payment deadline.

The Foundation awarded \$56,000 in scholarships to forty-eight students for Fall semester.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Andrea Daniel presented the President's Report. At the college wide meeting last Friday, John Usry, Jennifer Shea and the Business Office staff were presented with OWL Awards for their service to the college.

A new system called Workday was implemented by the state recently. There have been many challenges and issues with the new system.

She is contracting with Centegix for additional security for the college. She is hoping to have it in place sometime in October or November. We are also working on providing some active shooter training for faculty and staff.

She thanked Christy Terrell for agreeing to be a GOAL regional judge in March.

She thanked Fred Butler at Coca Cola for providing drinks at our college wide meeting and the Athens Tech Foundation for providing Chick-fil-A for lunch.

The Walton Campus renovation has begun.

She thanked Dr. Douglas for her work on the centerpiece for the TCSG Gala. She also thanked the Athens Tech Foundation for donating a diamond ring for the auction.

She passed out a letter from ACEN who is our Nursing Program accreditation thanking Dr. Andraa Perrin for being a peer evaluator.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Bettendorf thanked the board members for their service on the board. He congratulated Mr. Lenzy Reid on his retirement. He also thanked Dr. Daniel, and all the faculty and staff for everything they do for the college.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair Bettendorf adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 10:10 a.m.

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President
Rebecca Allen
Executive Assistant
August 18, 2026

Next scheduled Board Meeting: September 15, 2026

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