

Athens Technical College
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2025
9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Philip Bettendorf
Mr. Tom Denny
Mr. Tony Ferguson
Judge Cheveda McCamy
Mayor Fred Perriman
Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel
Dr. Reginald Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Kyle Brown
Mr. Mike Sale

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Lenzy Reid introduced the 2025 Athens Technical College GOAL Winner, Rainna Tate. Ms. Tate is in the Paralegal Studies Program and is currently during her internship. She will complete the program in a few weeks. Ms. Tate told her story and how Athens Technical College and the Technical College System of Georgia has changed her life.

Dr. Kristen Douglas introduced the 2025 Athens Technical College Rick Perkins Award Winner, Mr. Don Pruitt. Mr. Pruitt is the program chair for the Paramedicine and EMS Programs. He has been with the college since 2011 and has been the program chair since 2018. Mr. Pruitt told his story of how he became a paramedic and how he began teaching at Athens Technical College.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Perriman called for approval of the November 2024 minutes. Judge Cheveda McCamy made a motion to approve the minutes and Tony Ferguson 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 December 31, 2024.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. She is happy to announce that TCSG State Board has approved all of the probe responses submitted which are curriculum changes. She will be meeting with the deans and faculty soon to implement the changes and help with notification to students regarding the changes.

She thanked the Athens Tech Foundation for their generous donation of \$18,000 for the purchase of equipment for the Cosmetology Program at the Elbert County Campus.

We are holding an Explore Walton event in February that will focus on high school seniors.

We are hosting a healthcare dialogue as part of TCSG's Listening Sessions. It will be held on February 17th in the auditorium.

There will be a Women in Trade event held on the Athens Campus in February which will focus on high school girls who are interested in going into a trade. They will be provided a tour of the Industrial Systems Technology Building.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Mr. Reid recognized Kye Haymore who is our Program Chair for the Paralegal Studies Program and who also nominated Rainna Tate for GOAL.

Spring semester began last Monday. Last Spring semester we had 3,856 students with 30,150 credit hours. This Spring we have 4,178 students with 31,267 credit hours.

Graduation this year will be on May 6th in the new Akins Arena at the Classic Center.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Al McCall presented an update on Economic Development. They are continuing to provide forklift, OSHA 10 and CPR training to a variety of companies.

We hosted the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Roundtable recently.

We also hosted LEAD Athens recently and provided them with a tour of the Athens Campus.

He is happy to announce that enrollment at the Elbert County Campus is up 33% this semester.

There will be a dairy cow show on the Elbert County Campus on February 1st.

Ruth Tellano-Daniel thanked Mr. McCall and his team for providing her with some CPR training that was necessary for her degree she is seeking.

ADULT EDUCATION

Dr. Fabersha Flynt presented an update on Adult Education. There will be a three-day HSE Accelerated Academy being held January 23rd – 25th.

They are continuing to help Georgians obtain their HSEs. There are over 800,000 Georgia who do not have HSEs.

She recently had a student who only needed Math to get his HSE. He was determined and traveled to several of our service counties to obtain the necessary classes to pass the Math part. She is happy to announce that he passed Math right before the Christmas holidays.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Antoine Boynton presented an update on Public Relations and the Athens Tech Foundation. We have implemented a content calendar which will contain everything ATC for social media purposes.

They are working on the Meet ATC Campaign which features short clips of ATC employees. The first one featured Ellie King who is Lenzy Reid's Administrative Assistant.

They are going to soon start working on a student social media take over which will feature a day in the life of an ATC student.

The Athens Tech Foundation started advertising for the Illuminate Gala in April. He thanked Tony Ferguson for the sponsorship by Georgia Power.

The Athens Tech Foundation was happy to help provide a donation to the Cosmetology Program at the Elbert County Campus for much needed equipment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Andrea Daniel presented the President's Report. All Athens Technical College campuses will be closing at Noon today in anticipation of winter weather.

She thanked Katie Archer who volunteered to be our Rick Perkins Coordinator this year.

She thanked Stuart Frew who volunteered to be our GOAL Coordinator this year.

She received a text from the Governor on how he was excited that the Georgia Match Program is working so good for students. Recently a student from Jasper was accepted to Athens Technical College along with several other colleges through the Georgia Match Program.

She thanked the Governor for the best budget we have received since she became President in 2016. Our budget has a large increase mainly due to our enrollment increase. She is happy about our enrollment which is getting back to where it was before Covid.

President's Council has been moved to virtual this week due to the incoming winter weather.

She thanked Don Pruitt for all of his hard work for the Paramedicine accreditation visit in December.

She shared a student success story with the board members. She was recently at the Walton County Campus and met a CDL student. He had just obtained his degree and was in need of a job. She asked him to prepare his resume and send it to her and she would check with Coca Cola who was looking for drivers. The student completed his resume and dropped it off to Dr. Daniel the next day. She forwarded that resume to Fred Butler at Coca Cola. The student got a job interview and was immediately hired by Coca Cola. This all happened within a four-day period. This was a chance meeting that ended up being a success story.

She will be participating with TCSG in a Harvard Podcast on Saturday.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Chair Perriman thanked all the board members for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the board meetings each month and thanked them for always arriving on time for the meetings.

Chair Perriman asked Dr. Daniel if the board could send a thank you letter to the Governor for his generous budget. Dr. Daniel said that would be good and she appreciated the board doing so.

Tom Denny thanked the Athens Tech Foundation for their donation to the Cosmetology Program on the Elbert County Campus. He also thanked Becky Allen for her email this morning regarding the board meeting.

Tony Ferguson mentioned that Georgia Power was ready for the incoming winter weather.

Dr. Reginald Woods mentioned that he liked the idea of the Women in Trade event. He asked if the board members could receive information so they could help promote the event.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Chair Perriman adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 9:50 a.m.

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President
Rebecca Allen
Executive Assistant
January 21, 2025

Next scheduled Board Meeting: February 18, 2025

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