

**Athens Technical College**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Elbert County Campus  
January 17, 2023  
9:00 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Kyle Brown  
Mrs. Rebecca Dally  
Mr. Tom Denny  
Mayor Fred Perriman  
Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel  
Dr. Reginald Woods

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Steve Hollis  
Judge Robert Motley  
Judge Lawton Stephens

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chair Rebecca Dally called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the January board meeting at the Elbert County Campus.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Andrea Daniel introduced Alexia Goodman, Program Chair for the Conservation Law Enforcement Program. Ms. Goodman showed a PowerPoint presentation regarding her program. We need conservation professionals for several reasons including natural resource trafficking and poaching, infectious disease threats to game species, decrease in hunters, and changes in outdoor recreation activities. The program was developed in response to Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needing game wardens and the low number of qualified applicants to the Game Warden Academy.

Conservation Law Enforcement is a combination of fisheries and wildlife management and criminal justice. Some goals of the program consist of building relationships between the college and Georgia DNR, preparing students for successful careers as game wardens, park rangers, conservation technicians and more. The program also helps to increase the awareness of conservation issues in our service area.

Students in the program are participating in ride-alongs with game wardens and guided field trips to local WMA's. Students are working on a pond evaluation on the campus and will create a report describing what types of species are living in the pond.

Enrollment is looking good for the program. It started with one student when the program was created in November 2021. That student will graduate this May. The program now has seventeen students.

Dr. Daniel introduced Dr. Chris Morgan, Program Chair for the Agriculture Program. Dr. Morgan presented a PowerPoint regarding his program. Agriculture is Georgia's leading industry with farm gate values in 2020 being \$12.2 billion with an impact on Georgia's economy at \$69.4 billion. Some of the farm gate value of top crops include: poultry - \$3.26 billion; row crops -

\$2.33 billion; horticulture - \$3.15 billion and livestock - \$1.39 billion. In our service area, Madison County is the top agriculture county with Hart County following close behind. In Georgia, Madison County is at the top or near the top agriculture county in the state.

The Agriculture Program at Athens Technical College began in 2014 with the establishment of the Broad River College and Career Academy in Madison County. There was a need in our service area since there were no agricultural science programs in TCSG. Students in the program can earn an Associates of Applied Science Degree with a specialization in one area including poultry science, horticulture and animal science. Students can also earn Technical Certificates of Credit (TCCs).

He has currently has 25 students in the program. Graduates of the program are able to work in a variety of businesses including the family farm, USDA, Centurion Poultry, Country Charm Eggs, and Pilgrims/JBS Foods. The program has received good support from the community including monetary donations as well as equipment donations. The program began on the Athens Campus until we received funding for our new building on the Elbert County Campus, which includes five laboratories, one classroom, an arena, and a greenhouse.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Dally called for approval of the November 2022 minutes. Tom Denny made a motion to approve the minutes and Mayor Fred Perriman 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, 2022.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs. There was a Faculty Forum on January 5<sup>th</sup> called "Building on our Strengths." It was a good event with all of the full time faculty and staff from Academic Affairs attending.

The Dual Achieve Program is doing very well. There are ten students in the program this semester.

Dual enrollment at the college is also doing well with 800 students in the program.

There will be a meeting this week with Dr. Silver regarding our strategic plan. She hopes to have the plan from him in the next few weeks.

There will be a Walton County Campus Program Expo on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. The expo will feature programs on the Walton County Campus as well as some programs on the Athens Campus.

The Heath Information Management Technology Program (HIMT) will be having their accreditation visit in March. It will be a virtual visit.

They are working on our SACSCOC Reaffirmation Visit information that is due March 1<sup>st</sup>. Our on-site visit will be in October.

She is also working on our Perkins accreditation information that is due on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

We now have a QEP topic and the staff member who came up with the topic will be doing a full proposal on that topic.

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Mr. Reid presented a PowerPoint presentation. The college recognizes a student each year to participate in the GOAL program. Each college has one student they select to represent them. This student will go on to participate in regional and state competitions.

There will be a GOAL/Rick Perkins/EAGLE Announcement Ceremony on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am in the auditorium. He invited board members to attend.

He is very happy to announce that our enrollment is up 2% from last Spring semester. We are currently at 3,536 students.

He invited board members to attend the Walton County Campus Program Expo on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We had Welcome Week for the students last week with hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn and other treats for their first week back.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

John Usry gave an update on Economic Development. Al McCall is attending a conference for Dr. Daniel in California.

During the holiday break, they provided CPR, First Aid and AED training to employees at Caterpillar. Training started at 4:00 am.

They have provided OSHA 10 training at Whitworth Women's Facility in Hartwell. They are also setting up monthly OSHA 10 and self-serve training for them.

The November Driver's Education class is finishing up with ten students. The next class will begin on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

They have been providing CPR training to our Early Childhood and Education Program.

There will be a CNA orientation on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There will be an open enrollment basic forklift class starting soon on the Athens Campus.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Fabersha Flynt gave the board an update on Adult Education. They will be having a monitoring visit on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

We received a good progress report. We have awarded 52 GEDs and currently have 516 students taking twelve hours or more. We have awarded a total of 89 GEDs at all of our testing sites.

She is looking to hire instructors in Wilkes, Madison and Walton Counties.

There will be a Coffee & Connections event in March in Taliaferro.

## **COLLEGE UPDATES**

Josh Paine provided an update on the Athens Tech Foundation and Public Relations. He thanked board members for their participation in the Give a Hoot Campaign.

The Athens Tech Foundation is currently processing Spring scholarships.

The Foundation is planning a 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Georgia Club. Tickets will go on sale February 1<sup>st</sup>. They have an intern from the Social Work Assistant Program that is assisting with the event.

The college launched their new website about a month ago.

He has a new podcast featuring our Cosmetology Program.

There will be a ceremony on January 25<sup>th</sup> announcing our winners for GOAL, Rick Perkins Instructor of the Year, Adult Education Instructor and Student of the Year.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Daniel presented the President's Report. She presented Ruth Tellano-Daniel with her board certification certificate from TCDA.

She passed out a list of students who made the President's List and Dean's List last semester.

Al McCall and Dean Christina Wolfe are attending a conference in California regarding a grant.

Our 25-year agreement with Greene County regarding our Greene County Campus expires in June. The county has not been keeping up the building and moved it to the Greene County Development Authority. She and Lenzy Reid went to a meeting regarding the building and it was decided that we will not continue to occupy the building after the agreement is up. She contacted the Greene County Superintendent Houston Gaines and was able to establish an agreement with the school district to have some office space and classroom space at the Greene Career Academy.

She thanked everyone who worked very hard to get an increase in enrollment.

The Governor released his proposed budget, which includes a \$2,000 raise for state employees.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chair Dally asked board members if they had anything to comment. Tom Denny welcomed everyone to Elberton.

Chair Dally read the college's mission statement.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair Dally adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 10:15 a.m. with a tour of the Elbert County Campus immediately following.

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Dr. Andrea Daniel, President  
Rebecca Allen  
Executive Assistant  
January 18, 2023

*Next scheduled Board Meeting: February 21, 2023*

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