

**Athens Technical College**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2023  
9:00 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Phil Bettendorf  
Mr. Tom Denny  
Judge Cheveda McCamy  
Mr. Mike Sale  
Mrs. Ruth Tellano-Daniel  
Dr. Reginald Woods

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Kyle Brown  
Mayor Fred Perriman

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Vice Chair Woods called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the October board meeting. Chair Perriman could not attend the meeting today.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Tia Benn, Executive Director for Secondary Initiatives/Athens Technical College Academy, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Secondary Initiatives at Athens Technical College. She oversees the Dual Enrollment Program and Dual Achievement Programs at the college.

The Dual Enrollment Program is available to high school students in grades 10 – 12 and is available during all semesters. Students must speak to their high school counselor before enrolling at the college and can enroll full or part time. Expenses are covered up to 30 credit hours, however, some fees including lab fees, supply fees, uniforms, welding shields, and cosmetology kits are not covered and must be paid by students.

HOPE Career Grant can be applied to technical certificates and diploma programs. Students can choose an accelerated career in which they earn a high school diploma and college degree in a specific pathway. We have close to 1,000 students enrolled for Fall semester.

We are a pilot college for the Dual Achievement Program. This program was established by Senate Bill 204 for students who have officially withdrawn from high school. Athens Technical College Academy is within Athens Technical College and students can take high school and college courses at the academy. Students must be between the ages of 16 – 21 to enroll.

The Dual Achievement Program is accredited by Cognia. Students in the program are considered transfer students and not high school drop outs. A variety of high school courses are available through the academy including English and literature, math, science, social studies, and health/PE. High school courses are offered online and college courses are offered in person with the possibility for online depending on the program. We have 58 students for Fall semester.

There will be a Fall graduation ceremony on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the auditorium. There will be three graduates and Dr. Reginald Woods will be the ceremony speaker. Ms. Benn thanked Dr. Woods for being the speaker. They are looking at having twenty graduates for Spring 2024.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Woods called for approval of the September 2023 minutes. Ruth Tellano-Daniel 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 Budget Amendments. There are two budget amendments this month, which include two Adult Education grants. Ms. Thomas asked for approval of the budget amendments. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve and Tom Denny seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The budget amendments were approved.

Kathryn Thomas presented the Financial Report as of September 30, 2023.

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Dr. Kristen Douglas presented an update on Academic Affairs. The college had its SACSCOC Reaffirmation visit last week. It went very well.

We are continuing to work on our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

They are preparing for an accreditation visit by the Bar Association for our Paralegal Program in November.

We are working on an apprenticeship partnership with Rivian.

We are working on articulation agreements with Clayton State University and the University of North Georgia.

They are continuing to work on the strategic plan.

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. They are working on end of the year items.

He has a meeting tomorrow at the Classic Center to discuss our 2024 graduation.

They are preparing for a Veteran's Day celebration in November and a Fall Festival.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Al McCall gave an update on Economic Development. They are providing crane and rigging training to some granite companies in Elberton.

They are doing forklift training for the Clarke County School District.

Several different kind of training is taking place at Whitworth Women's facility in Hartwell including OSHA and welding.

They have issued 101 digital badges since September 15<sup>th</sup>. They have 48 badges pending.

A CNA cohort began on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

They have a Serve Safe open enrollment class with fifteen students.

They have open enrollment for numerous computer classes.

They are providing leadership training for employees at Bubba Burgers and Purina.

Their numbers are up this quarter compared to the same quarter last year. They have trained over 1,400 individuals this quarter, which is up 37%. They are up 46% in revenue. Year to date they are up 62% in the number of companies they have provided training to.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Fabersha Flynt provided an update on Adult Education. They are working on two projects to meet their GED/HSE goals. The projects include a math blitz and social studies blitz. These are four days of intense classes and then a day of testing. The math blitz is November 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and testing on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The social studies blitz will be December 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> and testing on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

They are working on reaching their goal with the State of 9,000.

Other numbers include IETs at 17, HSE at 26 and total enrollment at 446.

They are working with the Clarke County Correctional Facility to provide GEDs. They brought in six inmates to test for their GED and all six passed.

They are providing testing on Saturdays to accommodate people who cannot come in during the week.

## **COLLEGE UPDATES**

Josh Paine provided an update on the Athens Tech Foundation and Public Relations. He has been running dual achievement ads to promote the program as well as ads for programs that will be housed in the new Industrial Systems Building.

He is working on launching the new Georgia Match Program that was recently announced by the Governor. This program will allow students to apply to the college for free.

He is also promoting Apply to College Month, which is in November.

The Athens Tech Foundation has created a new giving program called the Parliament Society. This will allow donors to contribute at different levels. The Athens Tech Foundation general fund name has changed to the Athena Fund, which is the name of our mascot.

The Athens Tech Foundation has launched the faculty/staff campaign.

Scholarships will open for Spring semester on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Daniel presented the President's Report. She gave a huge thank you to everyone for all of their hard work on our SACSCOC Reaffirmation visit last week. She thanked Mayor Fred Perriman and Dr. Reginald Woods for meeting with the committee members. The visit went good with no findings or recommendations. Dr. Flora Tydings sent her a big congratulations when she found out. The result of the visit will not be officially announced until June 2024 when it is voted on by the committee members.

We are working on our final QEP document that will need to be submitted to SACSCOC.

She hopes to be able to show board members our new Industrial Systems Building at the next board meeting. It is coming along very well. They hope to have students in the building in January.

Our capital outlay project is number one on the list for TCSG. It has been presented to the Governor. The project will be phase one of the Walton County Campus renovation.

We are working on getting letters out to students for the Governor's Georgia Match Program. Students who enroll will automatically be accepted to the college.

She is happy to announce that we have the most increase in graduates than any technical college. We had an increase of 31.4% in graduates.

She is also happy to announce that we have a 9.8% increase in enrollment.

She congratulated the three new board members on completing their certification. We will receive our 100% certification award at the Leadership Conference in Savannah next week for the 15<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

She also congratulated the Athens Tech Foundation who will again be receiving the Role Model Board Award.

She recognized the Institutional Effectiveness Office for receiving the OWL Award this year at our Fall faculty/staff meeting. Dr. Douglas introduced Dr. Laurie McDowell and Cindy James. Chris Thaxton is also in their office but he could not make it today.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Vice Chair Woods asked if anyone had anything to share. Mike Sale mentioned that he attended a workforce development summit earlier this month with around 25 - 30 CEOs from around the State. The Governor asked that they have a roundtable discussion regarding the workforce needs in their areas. There was a lot of discussion about different needs and technical colleges being the ones to meet those needs.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Dr. Andrea Daniel, President  
Rebecca Allen  
Executive Assistant  
October 17, 2023

*Next scheduled Board Meeting: November 14, 2023*

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