

**Athens Technical College**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2026  
9:00 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Phil Bettendorf  
Mr. Tom Denny  
Mr. Tony Ferguson  
Ms. Jean Mullis  
Mr. Mike Sale  
Ms. Ruth Tellano-Daniel  
Dr. Reginald Woods

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Kyle Brown  
Judge Cheveda McCamy

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chair Dr. Reginald Woods called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. welcoming everyone to the February board meeting.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Fabersha Flynt introduced the 2026 Athens Technical College EAGLE winner, Gloria Neely. Ms. Neely spoke to the board members about her journey to getting her GED.

Dr. Flynt introduced the 2026 Athens Technical College Adult Education Instructor of the Year Award winner, Victoria Martin. Ms. Martin is an Adult Education instructor in Hart County. She spoke to the board members about being an instructor and the importance of her students.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Woods called for approval of the January 2026 minutes. Tom Denny 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 Budget Amendments. There are two budget amendments which include additional Perkins Carryover funds and DFACS Regional Training Contract funds. Ms. Thomas asked for approval of the budget amendments. Phil Bettendorf made a motion to approve and Mike Sale seconded the motion with the remainder of the board in agreement. The budget amendments were approved.

Ms. Thomas presented the Financial Report as of January 31, 2026.

## **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS/INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**

Dr. Douglas provided an update for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness. We recently added O'Reilly for Higher Education to our library which provides digital resources for our faculty. It includes books, e-books, videos and other critical resources that our faculty need in their classrooms. The resources are helpful in several programs including Accounting, Marketing, and Economics. She thanked Beth Thornton for her work in getting this for the library.

The Athens Community Career Academy is undergoing re-certification. Dean Shawana Stanford and Tia Stroud are helping out with that process.

Our Wonders of Work event will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> where eighth graders will be coming to campus to learn about our programs. There will be around 800 students coming. We are partnering with Athens Achieves on the event.

She is pleased to announce a recent articulation agreement with Mercer University. This agreement is with all technical colleges. She thanked Governor Kemp and Commissioner Dozier for all of their support.

Brenau University recently reached out to us about an articulation agreement in Health Information Management Technology. We already have an Interior Design articulation agreement with them.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Lenzy Reid gave the board an update on Student Affairs. Enrollment for Spring 2026 is 4,148 students which is a 2.2% increase from Spring 2025 which was at 4,060 students.

Spring Fling will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Honor's Day is April 17<sup>th</sup>.

We will have our regional judging for GOAL, Rick Perkins and EAGLE on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at Lanier Technical College in Gainesville. He thanked Phil Bettendorf for agreeing to be a judge.

We are working on offering more workforce certificates for students.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Al McCall provided an update on Economic Development. They have a six-week Electrical Apprenticeship Program with Athens Achieves that started on February 2<sup>nd</sup> with eight students. The program will include a job fair and a graduation ceremony.

They provided a CPR class to the Early Childhood Program.

They also provided a Spanish CPR class for employees at Benson Bakery in Athens.

Students enrolling in the CDL program were having trouble passing the CDL learner's license. They are working on a test preparation course that will help the students to pass the exam.

There are eight students in the current Driver's Education class.

They are working with Athens-Clarke County Government to meet their clean energy workforce training needs.

They will be providing an AI security class soon.

People in his department have been attending local Chamber dinners.

LEAD Athens will be on campus this Thursday. We will provide them with a tour.

We are hosting an FFA dairy cow show in the arena on the Elbert County Campus on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

Dr. Fabersha Flynt gave the board an update on Adult Education. The next Accelerated Academy will be March 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> on the Athens Campus. This will allow students to obtain their GED in three days. Thirty-nine students have confirmed that they will attend. These students will need to take the GED ready test to proceed on to the regular GED test.

All EAGLE and Adult Education Instructors of the Year winners will be celebrated at an event in Atlanta March 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **COLLEGE UPDATES**

Antoine Boynton presented an update on External Affairs and the Athens Tech Foundation. We are excited to have received a grant from the Lumina Foundation. We are one of six colleges in the United States to have received this grant.

Scholarships opened last Friday. We have fifty applicants.

He and Charlyene Botley will be speaking to students in FSSE classes to inform them of available scholarships.

The Athens Tech Foundation Illuminate event will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Classic Center. He is happy to announce that Thomas Dickerson, a former student, will be the keynote speaker. Mr. Dickerson was in the Automotive Collision Repair Program and has built two vehicles that have gone on to participate in SEMA. He will be asking Mr. Dickerson if he can bring one of his cars to the event.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Andrea Daniel presented the President's Report. Graduation will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Alvetta Thomas will be the keynote speaker at our academic graduation. Judge Cheveda McCamy will be the keynote speaker at the Adult Education graduation.

While at President's County the system presented an employment turnover rate presentation. The system's employment turnover rate is 13.5%. We are the fourth lowest college.

Governor Kemp has added an additional \$48 million in MR&R funds to our budget for the technical colleges. We usually have \$1 million in funds. These funds will be used for end-of-life projects.

She passed out information on milestones for TCSG which are all record highs for our system. She also passed out information that included snap shots of numbers for items including number of graduates, total placement rate, Quick Start training hours and Economic Development training hours.

She is happy to announce that our PAR review went very well. We had no findings or issues. We received an accommodation for how well our documents were organized. She thanked Dr. Kristen Douglas and Kathryn Thomas for all of their hard work on the visit.

Scott Anderson will be presenting a facilities update at the March board meeting. It will include an update on the Walton renovation project.

We are getting close to scheduling a groundbreaking ceremony for the Walton renovation project.

She would like to thank Bill Cowser and Frank Ginn for their support of Senate Bill 432 which is very important to our college. It deals with strategic reserves which is our savings account and roll over funds.

She has been working diligently on the Dual Achieve Program which is important for our college and to workforce development. The program got caught up in other non-related bills last year and changes were made to the program that would end it. She has been working hard to get the program back to where it was. Without the program we will lose hundreds of graduates. Funding is still needed for the bill to be established. She will send the bill to the board members once it has been established.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Chair Woods thanked the board members for attending the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Chair Woods adjourned the meeting with appropriate motion and second at 9:57 a.m.

---

Dr. Andrea Daniel, President  
Rebecca Allen  
Executive Assistant  
February 17, 2026

*Next scheduled Board Meeting: March 17, 2026*

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