

MINUTES

WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

October 17, 2024

A meeting of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education was held via Zoom beginning at 9:30 am. Council members present were: Bill Baker, Bob Brown, Clinton Burch, Christina Cameron, Michael Graney, Tracy Miller, Traci Nelson, Andrew Payne, and Steve Roberts. Also in attendance were Council staff, community and technical college presidents, faculty, staff, and guests.

Call to Order

Chairman Cameron called the meeting to order noting a quorum was present.

1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Brown moved the adoption of the minutes from the August 15, 2024, meeting of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

Mr. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Appointment to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board

Mr. Roberts moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education approves the appointment of Alicia Frey to the Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board for a three-year term.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. Report on Micro-credentialing Conference *Credential WV Summit 2024: A New Paradigm for Affordable and Accessible Learning*

Dr. Corley Dennison, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs reported that on October 9-11, 2024, a conference was held that brought together teams from public institutions, including both four-year and two-year colleges. The conference featured distinguished speakers from various states who are leaders in micro-credentialing, as well as professionals providing a national perspective on the topic.

Dr. Dennison stated that the staff is currently focused on developing an approval process and reporting structure, in addition to identifying key industry partners. He outlined that the implementation of micro-credentials will be executed over a three-year timeline:

Year One: This phase will involve identifying existing campus resources, developing a comprehensive micro-credential framework, and reaching out to potential industry partners.

Year Two: During this year, we will expand our offerings, assess the need for Student Information System software, and align industry credentials for academic credit.

Year Three: This final phase will focus on implementing the aligned industry credentials, finalizing the necessary infrastructure, and establishing a standardized Credit for Prior Learning process.

Dr. Dennison concluded that staff are committed to ensuring that this initiative meets the needs of our students and industry partners effectively.

4. Update on the Apprenticeship in Motion (AIM) Grant Program

Dr. Travis Miller, Project Director of the Apprenticeship in Motion (AIM) grant program, provided an update on the initiative. AIM is designed to connect businesses and colleges, facilitating an "earn as you learn" experience for students and current employees.

Dr. Miller reported that the program received a \$4 million Scaling Apprenticeships grant from the U.S. Department of Labor in 2019. Following a one-year extension, the grant concluded in July 2024. During its implementation, the AIM grant successfully prepared 1,142 students and 675 incumbent workers for middle to high-skilled occupations in the information technology (IT) sector. Over the five-year duration, 430 businesses participated by providing apprenticeship opportunities.

5. Division of Student Affairs and CFWV Outreach Updates

Jason Luyster, Senior Director of Student Affairs, provided an update on recent activities within the division. Mr. Luyster announced the launch of a new CFWV web portal, now available at CFWV.com. Previously managed by an external provider, the portal is now operated in-house, enhancing its accessibility and functionality. The revamped portal includes new features such as short videos and infographics designed for career exploration. Additionally, the My Climb Guide enables students to digitally download a portfolio that educators can utilize to assist students with college planning, financial aid, and career objectives.

The Student Affairs division supports initiatives such as the Gear-Up and Upward Bound grants, in addition to providing student services and financial aid outreach across the state. They host multiple college fairs and student success summits, while also managing various projects, including the Text for Success Campaign, which effectively engages students who prefer text communication.

The CFWV Champions annual event recognizes 40 high schools that have achieved Champion status by hosting College Application Exploration Week, meeting FAFSA completion goals, and celebrating College Decision Day for students who have committed to attend college. The Student Affairs division continues to explore innovative strategies to encourage and support students with the college enrollment process.

6. Additional Comments/Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Sarah Tucker provided an update on the Council's recent activities, noting that the staff has been exceptionally busy. She announced the launch of a new FastTrack Grant Management System, designed to streamline the electronic submission of grant applications for Technical Program Development, West Virginia Advance, and Learn and Earn grant programs. In addition to simplifying the application process, the system will also aid in tracking and meeting reporting requirements.

Dr. Tucker also reported on the conclusion of the West Virginia Legislature's Special Session, where it was determined that the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education will receive two additional funding allocations. The first, a \$17 million fund, will be distributed across community colleges to support the third year of the nursing expansion

project. The second allocation is \$5 million, designated for continued EMS training. The distribution of these funds will be finalized in the coming weeks.

Additionally, Chancellor Tucker recognized Council member Clinton Burch. She stated that the Council and the Department of Education continue to collaborate closely to ensure students have clear educational pathways. Current efforts are focused on increasing the college-going rate and supporting students with FAFSA completion.


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Council Meeting: December 5, 2024
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Zoom



Christina Cameron, Chairman



Tracy Miller, Secretary