

MINUTES
WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR
COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

October 30, 2025

A meeting of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education was held at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center in Charleston, WV, beginning at 2:00 p.m. Council members present were: Bob Brown, Christine Davies, Michael Farrell, Elizabeth Manuel, Tracy Miller, Joseph Oliverio, and Steve Roberts. Absent were: Bill Baker, Clinton Burch, Christina Cameron, and Traci Nelson. Also in attendance were Council staff, community and technical college presidents, faculty, staff, students, and guests.

Call to Order

Chairman Steve Roberts called the meeting to order, noting a quorum was present.

1. Administration of Oath of Office for New Council Member

Christine Davies, an ex-officio voting member representing the West Virginia Development Office, was sworn in as a member of the Council.

2. Update on Governance, Finances, and Related Matters at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

Since the Council's intervention and the appointment of Dr. Corley Dennison as interim president, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College has made notable progress in addressing governance and operational issues that prompted both the Council's action and the Higher Learning Commission's planned focused visit in 2025. Significant improvements have resulted from the collaborative efforts of the interim president, Board of Governors, and campus community.

New appointments to the Board of Governors, new leadership under Chair Sonya Porter, and extensive governance training provided by Carolyn Long have strengthened board operations and accountability. The institution is also focusing on financial sustainability and aligning academic programs with regional workforce needs. Dr. Dennison and his team continue to guide Southern toward institutional stability and the eventual restoration of the board's authority to employ the president.

Dr. Dennison provided the Council with a comprehensive update on these efforts and an opportunity to discuss next steps as the institution continues its path toward stability and restoration of the board's authority to employ the president.

Ms. Sonya Dingess Porter, Chair of the Southern WV Community and Technical College Board of Governors, spoke on behalf of the board and thanked Dr. Dennison for his guidance and leadership. She reported to the Council about the training that the board has received from Ms. Carolyn Long and thanked the Council for its continued support.

Executive Session

It was noted for the record that the Council elected to remain in open session for the following item:

3. Interim Presidential Contract Extension at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College

Ms. Miller moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education hereby approves the employment contract for Dr. Corley Dennison as presented by the Vice Chancellor.

Mr. Oliverio seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Advisory Council of Students Annual Presentation

Colin Street, ACS Chairman, and Connor Waller, ACS Vice Chairman, addressed the Council regarding the following items:

- Returning the vote to students who serve on institutional boards of governors
 - Developing West Virginia's leaders by utilizing experiential learning as a conceptual framework to understand the state-level legislative process
- Statewide Month of Service
 - Students across the state are fostering connection by making a concerted effort to send letters to nursing home residents and hospital patients in their area.
 - Meeting the needs of others by participating in canned food drives and serving in their local soup kitchens.
- Building healthy communities by contributing to local projects and participating in blood drives.

5. Advisory Council of Faculty Annual Presentation

Joel Farkas, ACF Chairman, provided an update to the Council, beginning with a background on the creation of the ACF, its purpose, membership, and structure.

Mr. Farkas reported that the faculty are having ongoing discussions regarding Early College. Although it is very popular and financially beneficial for students, faculty are concerned about instructor credentials and the lack of student assessment.

Another item of focus for the faculty is artificial intelligence (AI). AI provides increased faculty and student resources; however, policies must be created to guard against cheating and establish best practices in teaching and assessment.

The faculty support online teaching, which removes student barriers related to scheduling and location, fosters competition between schools, and ensures fair student assessments.

6. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Oliverio moved the adoption of the minutes from the August 14, 2025, meeting of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Technical Program Development Grant

Ms. Miller moved the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education approves the Technical Program Development Grant award, LPN/Paramedic to RN Bridge Program for Pierpont Community and Technical College, as proposed.

Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Division of Student Affairs Update

Jason Luyster, Senior Director of Student Affairs, provided an update highlighting continued progress in grant awards, outreach, and national engagement. Both the West Virginia GEAR UP and Upward Bound Math and Science programs received federal funding for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, and West Virginia ranked 15th nationally in FAFSA completion. Staff were recognized with the Chancellor's Award of Excellence for their efforts to increase completions. The division also awarded \$125,000 each in First-Generation Student Support and First-Year Campus Engagement grants and continues preparing for the launch of a Middle School Campus Visit grant program.

Outreach and engagement efforts continue to expand through initiatives such as TXT-4-Success, which now includes 17 partnering colleges and universities, and enhanced family engagement through webinars, advisory councils, and direct communications. Over 200 schools received toolkits for College Application and Exploration Week, and every public two- and four-year institution registered for the upcoming First-Generation Celebration. The division also recognized outstanding contributions through the 2025 West Virginia Higher Education Action and Impact Awards and announced plans for major events in the coming year, including GEAR UP and CFWV statewide college access activities.

9. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Sarah Tucker congratulated and thanked the staff for their efforts toward the 2025 Board of Governors Summit held on October 29 and 30.

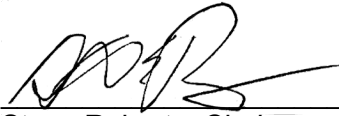
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Council Meeting: December 4, 2025

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Location: Zoom



Steve Roberts, Chairman



Bob Brown, Secretary