

## MINUTES

### WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

January 20, 2022

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, Robert Brown, Clinton Burch, Christina Cameron, Michael Graney, Andrew Payne, Steve Roberts, and John Sorrenti. Absent: Kenneth Boggs, Tracy Miller, and Harry Keith White. Also in attendance were Chancellor Tucker, Council staff, community and technical college presidents, faculty, staff, students, and guests.

#### Call to Order

Christina Cameron, Chairman, called the meeting to order, and noted that a quorum was present.

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sorrenti moved the adoption of minutes from the December 9, 2021, and December 20, 2021, meetings of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education.

Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 2. Resolution Honoring the Late Charles Puckett, Advisory Council of Faculty Chairman

Mr. Sorrenti moved the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett served with distinction as an assistant professor of biology for twenty-two years at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett was a valued and loyal member of the Advisory Council of Faculty (ACF) for a decade; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett served the ACF as secretary and vice chair, and held the position of chair this last year; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett worked on the ACF legislative committee and was active in coordinating the annual ACF legislative brochure; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett was a member of the Faculty Senate and numerous committees and workgroups at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett was a proponent for the study of science across the state, having most recently served as treasurer for the West Virginia Academy of Science; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett was dedicated to his community as exemplified through his service as a past president of the Logan Lions Club;

WHEREAS, Mr. Puckett, whose name was synonymous with Southern, was loved by both students and faculty;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education expresses its sincere gratitude to Mr. Charles “Chuck” Puckett for his commitment to educating students of southern West Virginia, advancing the mission of postsecondary education, and maintaining a deep loyalty to fellow colleagues and the community he served.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED,

That this resolution be inscribed upon the Council minutes of January 20, 2022.

Mr. Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **3. Return on Investment Report for the West Virginia Invests Grant**

Christopher Treadway, Vice Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education, introduced Dr. John Deskins, Director of the West Virginia University Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER), who presented findings from a preliminary economic impact analysis of the West Virginia Invests grant program. Dr. Deskins noted that because West Virginia Invests is a relatively new program, data are not presently available for a full economic impact study, but that early data point toward an overall positive impact on enrollment and future earnings for program graduates. The economic impact report found that when students move from having only a high school diploma to earning a certificate or an associate degree, their wage earnings increase and the probability that they’ll stay in West Virginia to work is much higher. A typical individual with an associate degree earns nearly \$14,000 more annually than those with only a high school diploma two years after graduation. For the same timeframe, 70 percent of associate degree graduates remain in West Virginia for their careers, compared to 49.7 percent of high school graduates.

The full economic impact report is available at: <https://wvctcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Economic-Impact-of-2019-Senate-Bill-1.pdf>

### **4. Program Reviews**

Nikki Bryant, Director of Academic Programming, presented the 2020-2021 program reviews of the Community and Technical College Institutions.

**5. Campus Development Plan Update for Mountwest Community and Technical College**

Rich Donovan, Senior Director of Facilities stated that questions were raised at the Council's October 9, 2021, meeting regarding the Campus Development Plan at Mountwest Community and Technical College (MCTC). As a result, MCTC's plan has been revised, per Council request, to include: 1) A solution to provide ADA complaint restrooms at the Tri-State Fire Training Academy, where MCTC leases space for its Maritime Academy; 2) Additional information regarding MCTC's partnership with Marshall University in the Aviation Maintenance Technology Program; and 3) Inclusion of Cabell Hall in the plan. Cabell Hall is a building Mountwest owns in downtown Huntington but does not currently occupy, however, because it is owned, it has been added to the plan.

**6. Report on Textbook Affordability**

Randall Brumfield, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, reported that Open Learning West Virginia grants is a program in which faculty are provided with \$1,000 grants to create or adopt OER in their courses. Faculty receive the \$1,000 grant upon implementation of the OER in their course. Eighty-nine faculty have converted 104 courses to OER, as of January 2022.

In Spring 2021, Summer 2021, and Fall 2021, 104 courses were converted to OER. In those courses, nearly 3,000 students were impacted, and on average, saved \$152 each. Based on Spring 2021, Summer 2021, and Fall 2021 course enrollments and the cost of course materials before OER implementation, students experienced an aggregate savings of nearly \$450,000 dollars. This savings comes with only 89 faculty creating or adopting OER in 104 separate courses in three semesters.

Spending a one-time \$104,000 on faculty grants generated nearly \$450,000 in savings that will be sustained. And the savings will grow every semester, as almost 93% of faculty members agree that they plan to convert additional courses to OER in the future. 96% of the faculty who adopted OER strongly agree or agree that switching to OER was worthwhile, and 95% strongly agree or agree that the OER they used was high-quality.

Work will continue with this initiative across the state, though it should be noted that there are other faculty across the state also developing OER independent of the Open Learning West Virginia program.

**7. West Virginia Distance Learning Network**

Randall Brumfield, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, reported that the U.S. Department of Agricultural Rural Development has recently awarded the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission a grant in the amount of \$744,328 to establish the West Virginia Distance Learning Network. Funds from the grant will be used to establish an inaugural distance learning network among designated public secondary and postsecondary education partners, with a vision toward eventually building a statewide distance learning network.

The origin of this distance learning project stems from the need to resolve the challenges associated with high-density rural communities that maintain high rates of socioeconomically disadvantaged populations, significant learning gaps in high school, poor health deficiencies, and elevated instances of drug-overdose fatalities.

## **8. Update on US Economic Development Authority's CDL Grant**

Chris Treadway, Vice Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education, discussed a grant opportunity through the United States Economic Development Administration's Good Jobs Challenge. CTCS staff are preparing an application for funding to expand and modernize commercial driver's license (CDL) training programs across the state within both the Community and Technical College System and the Career and Technical Education system through the West Virginia Department of Education. If awarded, the grant will fund a statewide team of college navigators tasked with recruiting students and providing support and guidance on the college-going process. It will also pay for support services, modern CDL simulator technology, equipment, fuel and other related costs. For those CTCs that do not offer CDL programs, funds may be used to support other programs related to supply chain and logistics. Notification of grant awards is expected in September 2022.

## **9. Funding Formula Update**

Chris Treadway, Vice Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education, delivered an update on the development of a new outcomes-based higher education funding formula. The proposed model was drafted in response to a legislative mandate through an ongoing collaboration between the central office and institutional leaders from both the two- and four-year systems. Should the model be adopted by the Legislature, future appropriations requests will be based on such factors as progress toward degree completion, certificate and degree completion, transfers to a four-year institution, workforce development, and productivity. Safeguards are built into the proposed formula to provide stability and protect against large annual swings in funding. These safeguards include the use of a three-year rolling average for all metrics and a hold-harmless provision to prevent any institution's outcomes-based funding from decreasing by more than 5 percent from one year to the next. Commission and Council staff continue to work with institutional leaders to finalize the funding formula proposal.

## **Additional Board Action and Comments**

Chancellor Tucker stated that the expectation, if the legislative bill involving the new funding formula is passed, is that the Council will be directed to create a new funding formula rule which would involve quickly adopting an emergency rule while the permanent rule goes through the promulgation process for the 2023 legislative session.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

## Upcoming Meeting

Location: Advanced Technology Center  
South Charleston, WV  
Date: April 21, 2022  
Time: 9:30 am



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Christina Cameron, Chairman



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Steve Roberts, Secretary