

STATE BOARD FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION
MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

Via Zoom

11:00 A.M.

May 8, 2025

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING**
Stacey Moore, Vice-Chair
- II. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - Presidents' Council April 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Page 2)
- III. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - Legislative Agenda Committee Report
Galen DeHay, Chair
- IV. SC ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMMISSIONERS**
Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director
- V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
Stacey Moore, Vice-Chair
- VI. PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL OFFICER'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE**
 - Election of FY 2025-2026 Officers
- VII. SYSTEM PRESIDENT'S REPORT**
Tim Hardee, System President
- VIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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Council of Technical College Presidents' Meeting Minutes

Brookland Baptist Banquet & Conference Center

1066 Sunset Blvd

West Columbia, SC 29169

11:30 A.M..

April 10, 2025

PRESENT:

Hope Rivers, Chair, PTC
Forest Mahan, ATC
Kevin Pollock, CCTC
Keith Miller, GTC
Greg Little, MTC
Kyle Wagner, NETC
Walt Tobin, OCTC
Vicky Wood, TTC
Patty Lee, WTC
Stacey Moore, YTC

STAFF PRESENT:

Tim Hardee, System President
Amanda Richardson, Vice President of Apprenticeship Carolina
Brad Neese, Vice President of ReadySC
Kandy Peacock, Vice President of Human Resources
Warren Ganjehsani, Chief Legal Counsel
Kelly Steinhilper, Vice President of Communications
Khushru Tata, Vice President for Information Technology Services
AJ Newton, Vice President of Governmental Affairs
Randy Johnson, Vice President of Finance
Rosline Sumpter, Vice President of Academics, Student Affairs & Research

ABSENT:

Willie L. Todd, Jr., DTC
Jermaine Ford, FDTC
Marilyn Fore, HGTC
Michael Mikota, SCC
Rich Gough, TCL
Galen DeHay, TCTC

ABSENT:

GUESTS:

Dan Cooper, Chief of Staff, Tri-County Technical College
Debbie Cheek, VP of Finance and Administration, Florence-Darlington Technical College
Jennifer Wilbanks, EVP for Academic and Workforce Development, Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Nancy Webber, VP of Administrative Services, Technical College of the Lowcountry, *via Zoom*
Staci Obi, VP of Student and Community Advancement, Spartanburg Community College
A. Clifton Myles, Provost and EVP, Denmark Technical College
Jamie Cooper, EVP for Academic and Student Affairs, York Technical College
Jordan Desai, Deputy Director of Health Programs, South Carolina Department of Health, and Human Services
Lara Hewitt, Vice President, Workforce & Member Engagement, South Carolina Hospital Association
Ashley Jaillette, Executive Director, SCATCC
Daniel Boan, Cornerstone Government Affairs
Mark Harmon, Cornerstone Government Affairs
Brian White, President, Capital Strategies Group

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CALL TO ORDER – PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL – Hope Rivers, Chair

Chairperson Rivers called the Presidents' Council meeting to order and welcomed guests.

CONSENT AGENDA – Hope Rivers, Chairperson

Chairperson Rivers called for a motion to approve the Presidents' Council meeting minutes March 13, 2025. Dr. Moore moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Little seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CNA DISCUSSION- Lara Hewitt and Jordan Desai

Dr. Hardee introduced Ms. Lara Hewitt, Vice President of Workforce and Member Engagement for the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) and Ms. Jordan Desai, Deputy Director of Health Programs with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), both of whom have been involved in trying to resolve these concerns. The key issue discussed was the lack of a reliable testing mechanism, which undermines the value of CNA training if students cannot complete certification and enter the workforce. Dr. Hardee opened a meeting to address ongoing issues with CNA credentialing and testing across technical colleges in South Carolina. The current testing contract with Credentia is set to expire in May, and the state plans to extend it temporarily while designing a more functional, long-term solution. Ms. Desai emphasized the need for stronger contract terms and flexibility to adapt to real-world needs, including possibly changing how RN proctors are used.

Ms. Hewitt noted that CNA roles are foundational in healthcare and feed into other critical fields like nursing and allied health. She and Mr. Brad Neese have explored models used by other states and highlighted that some allow technical colleges to conduct in-house testing under regulatory oversight, which could reduce costs and increase access. Several of the Presidents proposed similar models for South Carolina, especially since many colleges already handle other standardized testing for other credentials. There was broad agreement that any future solution should accommodate the vast majority (around 95–98%) of in-state CNA candidates, while also offering options for out-of-state reciprocity.

Concerns were raised about testing delays impacting student job placement, with some students leaving the healthcare pathway altogether due to the inability to test quickly. The group provided ideas such as provisional licensing, embedding skills assessments into training programs, or piloting new models at a few colleges. Ms. Desai was receptive to exploring these options and committed to involving stakeholders in designing the new procurement process, though formal evaluation would remain internal. She also invited the colleges to submit their projected testing needs for the summer and emphasized the goal of having a stable testing system in place by the fall semester. The discussion ended with a shared understanding that immediate fixes are needed to support students and colleges while longer-term solutions are developed.

APPRENTICESHIP CAROLINA UPDATE: Amanda Richardson, VP of Apprenticeship Carolina

Ms. Amanda Richardson provided an update on behalf of Apprenticeship Carolina, highlighting ongoing developments and the program's continued growth. She noted that South Carolina's success in expanding registered apprenticeships is partly due to its integration within the state's technical college system, allowing for strong collaboration between colleges and the apprenticeship division. Currently, there are

about 7,000 active apprentices across the state, with approximately 75% of those programs involving technical colleges in some capacity. Ms. Richardson emphasized the importance of maintaining strong local connections between college staff and Apprenticeship Carolina's team, encouraging colleges to reach out if additional communication is needed.

She also shared that Apprenticeship Carolina is actively working to ensure continued access to grant funding, especially for registered and pre-apprenticeships, and urged colleges to prioritize Youth & Small Business Grant funds, when applicable. On a national level, she acknowledged that the future of apprenticeship policy remains uncertain under the current federal administration, but her team is closely monitoring any changes from the U.S. Department of Labor. She also discussed South Carolina's distinctive approach to apprenticeships, which extends beyond traditional trades like plumbing and electrical work. The state has successfully expanded into sectors such as healthcare, IT, hospitality, and most notably, education. One emerging area is teacher education apprenticeships, where school districts employ apprentices while they pursue their bachelor's degrees through four-year institutions. This model is gaining momentum across the state and helping address vacancies in education, particularly in early childhood programs.

Lastly, Dr. Hardee noted that Ms. Richardson was recognized for her leadership and was recently invited to Washington, D.C., to share South Carolina's apprenticeship model with other states struggling to implement similar programs. The recognition emphasizes South Carolina's national leadership in apprenticeship innovation, and Amanda closed by inviting continued collaboration and questions from the group.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Legislative Committee Report- Galen DeHay, Chair

Legislative Update: Mr. Newton provided an update to the Council. The legislature is wrapping up the thirteenth week of the legislative session. The BEA met the morning of April 10th. They did not make any changes for the current year forecast for the fiscal year 2025-26. They are scheduled to meet again on May 20, 2025. The Senate budget has been published.

The Senate budget for the Technical College System is as follows:

- \$10M Recurring for Instructional and Workforce Development Programs (House \$8M)
- \$3M Recurring for Dual Enrollment Initiative (House \$2M)
- \$74.9M Non-Recurring for Capital and Maintenance Needs (House \$68,831,995)
- \$4M Non-Recurring for ReadySC (House \$5M Lottery)
- \$89,999,999 between Non-recurring and Lottery for SCWINS (House \$90M Lottery)

Lottery Technical College System Items:

- \$56.1M for Lottery Tuition Assistance Programs (House \$52,994,528)
- \$80M for Need-Based Grants (Same in House version, portion to SCTCS)
- \$10M for Nursing Initiative (Same in House version, portion to SCTCS)
- \$8M for Technology Funding (\$0 in House version, portion to SCTCS)

The Senate Finance concurred with the same plan as the House on salary increases. They used the pay band study to update the pay bands:

- State agency employees that would fall below the minimum of their new pay-band would have their salary increased to the minimum.
- All college employees (unless HEPA adopts the changes) and all other agency employees would receive a 2% increase.

No health insurance premium increases on employees (House version increased employee premium by approximately \$36 per month)

Provisos of Note:

- Deleted EMS Proviso
- Deleted Proviso that allowed tuition increase for new students
- Added Proviso to prevent auto-enrollment in Dual Enrollment Courses
- Added Proviso to have Department of Admin to implement a pilot program using a third party centralized software system to integrate and analyze financial data from the sixteen colleges.
- Added a Proviso to receive the new Dual Enrollment funding; each college shall certify to the State Board there shall be no cost to students for dual enrollment if they are enrolled in a minimum of six hours per semester.

Mr. Newton also noted that his office was tracking over one hundred bills, and he highlighted a few bills of note. S.62 (k-12 private lottery scholarships), H.3927 (DEI Bill) and H. 4216 (Income tax reduction) Mr. Newton provided an update on each of the three bills and answered questions from the Council.

Future Dates:

April 22-24: Full Senate Budget Deliberations

First Week of May: House 2 Budget

May 8: Sine Die (last day of session)

May 20: BEA update

Late May or June: Budget conference report, etc.

Subcommittee Update:

Dr. Walt Tobin presented the recommendations of the Presidents' Council Dual Enrollment Subcommittee. The subcommittee consists of Dr. Tobin (Chair), Dr. DeHay, Dr. Mikota, Dr. Rivers, and Mr. Brian White (Ex-Officio). Dr. Tobin explained that the subcommittee was charged with developing policy recommendations to position the Technical College System as a leader in Dual Enrollment (DE).

Through their discussions, the subcommittee identified a need for greater consistency in how DE is implemented across the sixteen colleges in the system. While regional differences are both expected and appropriate, there was strong consensus on the importance of establishing a shared set of core principles and practices.

The overarching goal is to maintain leadership in both the quality and quantity of DE offerings. In formulating the recommendations, the subcommittee considered several key factors, including the intended purpose of DE funding, appropriate usage guidelines, and what constitutes a fair distribution of these funds.

Dr. Tobin presented the following four policy recommendations:

Recommendation 1: 2025–2026 Academic Year Goal

- **Internal Goal:** Increase dual enrollment participation by 10% for the 2025–2026 academic year, with a specific focus on low-income students.
- **External Goal:** Increase college and career readiness among high school seniors, particularly low-income students—by enabling them to complete at least six credit hours of college-level coursework, or an industry-recognized credential that leads to family-sustaining wages or serves as a pathway to such programs.

Dr. Pollock moved to accept and approve Recommendation 1. Dr. Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation 2: DE Policy, Procedure, and Compliance Framework

Dual Enrollment at each college must adhere to the established DE Policy, Procedure, and Compliance Framework. The Council agrees that, at a minimum, no deviations from these documents will be permitted.

To be eligible for state-allocated DE enrollment funds:

- Colleges must maintain documentation demonstrating annual compliance.
- If there is evidence of noncompliance, colleges will have 30 days to respond to the System Office.
- The System Office will determine compliance status.
- Colleges found to be out of compliance will be ineligible for state DE funds in the subsequent budget cycle.

Dr. Pollock moved to accept and approve Recommendation 2. Dr. Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation 3: State-Level Policy Recommendations

- Submit a policy recommendation to the State Department of Education to redefine “College and Career Readiness” on the SC Report Card.
- Submit a request to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) to adopt the SCTCS Dual Enrollment Policy and Procedure for all higher education institutions in the state.

Dr. Pollock moved to accept and approve Recommendation 3. Dr. Lee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation 4: State-Allocated DE Fund Distribution

State-allocated DE funds will be distributed based on a three-year average of dual enrollment FTE. Initial fund allocation—based on whether instruction is delivered by high school or college faculty—will be referred to the CAO Peer Group for a recommendation, which will be reviewed by the Presidents at the PC Retreat in June.

The IE Peer Group will also convene to assess the capacity and capability to collect and accurately report the required data.

After extensive discussion, Dr. Pollock moved to accept and approve Recommendation 4. Dr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Dr. Wagner opposing.

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PRIORITY INITIATIVE FUNDS- UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE (CCLA) – Dr. Rosline Sumpter

Dr. Sumpter presented a brief overview of the Community College Leadership Alliance (CCLA), a partnership with the University of South Carolina College of Education. A request was made to utilize Priority Initiative funds to support the next cohort set to begin in January 2026. The funds would be used to cover the application fee and the first course of the 18-month Certificate of Graduate Study in Higher Education Leadership. Dr. Rivers called for a motion to approve the request. Dr. Little made a motion to approve the request to fund the application fee and first course for each participant. Dr. Mahan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SC ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL COLLEGE COMMISSIONERS – Ashley Jaillette

Ashley Jaillette of the South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) announced that the upcoming new trustee orientation sessions have been scheduled for September 16, 2025, and April 21, 2026. These orientation dates will replace the annual Day of Learning and will be held at the system office. Additionally, she informed the council that the next SCATCC Board meeting will take place at the system office on June 4, 2025. Ms. Jaillette also introduced the new SCATCC officers: Dr. Yvonne Barnes, Chair (Trident Technical College); James Bowen, Vice Chair (Denmark Technical College); George Piersol, Treasurer (Piedmont Technical College); Tommy Branyon, Secretary (Horry-Georgetown Technical College); and Keyatta Priester, Past Chair (Aiken Technical College). She encouraged the presidents to contact her directly with any questions or concerns.

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT- Hope Rivers, Chair

Chairperson Rivers thanked the presidents for their participation in the Phi Theta Kappa event. She announced the appointment of a nominating committee for the FY 2025-26 Officers. Drs. Lee, Tobin, and Mahan volunteered to serve on the committee and will present their nominations at the next Council meeting. Dr. Rivers also reminded the Council that the deadline to reserve a hotel room for the June 11–13 Presidents' Council Planning Retreat is May 12 by the close of business. Additionally, she discussed the topics and presentations that she and Dr. Hardee have been preparing for the upcoming retreat.

SYSTEM PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Tim Hardee, System President

Dr. Hardee turned the floor over to Dr. Wagner to provide the Presidents' Council Treasurer's Report. Dr. Wagner reviewed the expenditures over the last three years. He made a motion that the College be billed for \$500 to cover immediate expenses through the end of FY 2024-25 and to increase the yearly dues to \$3,000 from the current \$1,000 for FY 2025-26. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hardee also shared that about a year ago, a reporter from *The Post and Courier* published a story about declining enrollment in the technical college system. That article was based on data from the CHE website, which is typically two to three years old. The analysis focused on the ten years leading up to 2021. Dr. Hardee provided a more accurate picture of the enrollment. He stated that since fall 2020, our fall enrollment has increased by 10,000 students, a 14% increase over four years. From spring 2021 to spring 2025, we are up to 11,000 students. So, the message is clear that enrollment is not in decline. In fact, it is growing significantly.

Dr. Hardee also shared that Representative Chris Huff, who serves on the Ways and Means Committee, asked both two- and four-year institutions to provide data on the percentage of in-state students that each institution serves. There has been growing concern for the legislators that four-year institutions are

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enrolling large numbers of out-of-state students. In contrast, the technical college system has 96% of our students are in-state.

He asked if any college is planning a tuition increase, whether for the summer or fall semester to reach out to him and let him know each plan. He noted that he often receives questions from legislators about what tuition is going to look like across the state. If we are receiving \$8–10 million in new recurring funds, those questions will only increase. He wants to avoid generalizing or suggesting that every college is increasing tuition, and the only way he can do that is by having accurate information—whether it is from Greenville, Aiken, or Northeastern.

He wanted to make it clear there has not been an official ultimatum from the Governor or General Assembly saying, “do not raise tuition.” He does believe each college needs to be cautious. If we receive the \$8–10 million in recurring funds, plus an additional \$3 million for dual enrollment—that is \$13 million being invested into the system. It is difficult to justify tuition increases when some colleges are also holding significant fund balances. That way, when questions arise, I will be able to respond with accurate and specific information.

OTHER BUSINESS-

No additional business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT –

There being no other matters for consideration or discussion, Chairperson Rivers moved to adjourn. Dr. Lee seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Hope Rivers, Chair

Date Approved by Presidents' Council

Date Reviewed by State Board