

**FLORENCE-DARLINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION
FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
March 26, 2024
4:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ershela Sims
Leroy Robinson
Clint Moore
Meredith Taylor
Missy Jay
Wanda James
Kevin Etheridge

ABSENT:

William Fleming
Paul Seward
Hood Temple

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Jermaine Ford
Terry Dingle
Travis Gleaton
Debbie Cheek
Karen Lee
Andrew Golden
Kim Lutz
Sheryl Love
Lauren Holland
Lexus Brown
Payton Floyd, Student
Bob Sloan, Morning News

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Florence-Darlington County Commission for Technical Education was called to order at 4:30 p.m., by Dr. Ershela Sims, Chairperson, who stated the media had been notified. Dr. Sims presided through WebEx. Chairman Sims welcomed Bob Sloan from the Morning News and other guests.

II. INVOCATION

Mr. Terry Dingle delivered the Invocation.

III. SPECIAL THANK YOU AND RECOGNITION

Chairwoman Sims asked for a moment of silence for Mr. Bob Jay, spouse of Missy Jay and member of the FDTC family, who recently passed away. Bob served as the Area Director for Ready SC until his retirement. Please keep Missy and her family in your prayers.

Chairwoman Sims recognized Dr. Ford for a special recognition of our Outstanding College Award Recipients. Dr. Ford introduced our award recipients: Mrs. Anna Baker, Outstanding College Administrator, Mrs. Elizabeth Crow, Outstanding College Faculty, and Mr. Bernard Williams, Outstanding College Staff. Following pictures were made with Commission Secretary Dr. Meredith Taylor.

Dr. Ford recognized our Pre-Nursing Youth Apprenticeship Program student recipient and Corporate Workforce Staff to explain how the benefits of the program for the students. Dr. Ford introduced Dr. Lauren Holland, AVP of Corporate Workforce Development, Ms. Lexxus Brown, Program Director, and Ms. Payton Floyd. Dr. Ford recognized Ms. Floyd to tell her journey as a pre-nursing youth apprentice. Ms. Floyd stated that she began in the Fall of 2023, and since completed a CNA Course while working getting real-life experiences at MUSC, Black River Hospital. She has taken her certification exam and is now working full-time at McLeod Health while still in high school. Ms. Floyd will now be able to get her BSN in two years instead of four years. She will attend FMU in the Fall.

Ms. Brown stated that we currently have submitted 49 youth apprenticeship applications to three participating hospitals: McLeod Health, MUSC Florence, and Carolina Pines Hospital.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Moore that the minutes of January 30, 2024, be approved. The motion carried.

V. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Dr. Robinson

A. Action

None

B. Information

1. Financial Report as of February 29, 2024

Chairwoman Sims recognized Dr. Debbie Cheek, Vice President Finance, who referred the Commissioners to their finance sheets. Dr. Cheek stated that revenues and expenses are on target. This year, 86% revenue has been collected compared to last year of 86.9%. Expenses are at 60.7% compared to last year's expenses of 61.6%. She noted that on the balance sheet that we have in cash a little over \$30M and after the reducing of the restricted funds, we have approximately 7 months of cash reserve. Dr. Cheek stated that the budget process has begun for the next fiscal year. Dr. Cheek spoke to the upward trend of the budget by doing a five-year comparison after close of year. Her findings showed that revenues were trending upward since year 2020-2021 with expenditures staying the same. Some savings were due to unfilled positions with benefits. Also, the HERF of \$11.5M contributed to the upward trend by covering personnel, technology, and lost revenue.

Chairwomen Sims asked that the minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting be re-approved for clarification that it was the January 30, 2024 minutes and not November 7 2023. A motion was made by Dr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Moore that the January 30, 2024 minutes be approved. The motion carried.

VI. FOUNDATION UPDATE – Sheryl Love

Dr. Sims, Chairwoman, recognized Ms. Sheryl Love, Foundation Executive Director, for an update. Ms. Love stated that the Foundation is growing. The revenues 22-23 are up 172% over 21-22 and revenues are up 25% over last year to date. Total assets between all accounts are \$2666,976.50. Ms. Love reported that the FY 2023 Audit Report was clean with no findings. She stated that the Foundation has recently changed financial advisors from Wells Fargo to Crescent Advisors. Ms. Love reviewed the Foundations highlights and future events, including to “Save the Date” for the Legacy Ball scheduled for November 21, 2024.

VI. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

A. Action

1. None

B. Information

Dr. Ford gave a brief update on FDTC’s enrollment numbers for Summer and Fall. Since there was an early start, there are no comparisons. To date, the Summer 2024 headcount is 826 and FTE is 403. The Fall 2024 headcount is 576 and the FTE is 344.

Dr. Ford state that FDTC has partnered with SC Governor’s School for Science and Mathematic of a summer camp “GO SCITECH” beginning in June on the FDTC campus.

Dr. Ford announced the signing of a 2x2 Transfer Agreement with Lander College in the Early Childhood and Education. Dr, Crow has been very success reaching out to the four-year colleges and developing these partnerships with her program.

Dr. Ford acknowledged our Marketing Team led by Andrew Golden and congratulated his team on receiving the 2024 S.C. State Library Award for the Early College Pathways Booklet that Ms. Rachel Howell, graphic designer, created for the Early College.

Dr. Ford attended the ACCT 2024 Community College National Legislative Summit in February and met with members of our federal legislative delegation. He noted that the 2024 Community College National Summit will be held November 9-12, 2024. A copy of the current Trustee Magazine was provided to the Commissioners.

Dr. Ford noted that Commissioners should have received a brief survey in relation to the Area Commission Board Retreat and looked forward to hearing from each Commissioner on their thoughts and expectations of the retreat.

Dr. Ford reviewed some of the activities that are upcoming: Honors Night, Thursday April 18th at 6 pm; Area Commission Retreat, Friday, April 19th, at 8:30 am; and Commencement on Thursday, May 9th at 6:00 pm with the reception at Osbornes following.

VII. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- A. Action
1. None

B. Information

1. Dr. Sims reminded all to complete the surveys they received and that the Area Commission Retreat is scheduled for Friday, April 19th, at the SiMT Executive Board Room and looked forward to seeing them. Dr. Steve Head, ACCT Consultant, will be our facilitator for the retreat.

2. Dr. Sims noted that the Building and Long-range Planning Committee will be scheduled to meet soon. Dr. Ford has received the report from the architects referencing the new Hartsville Campus site.

3. Dr. Sims stated that it was time for the Agency Head Survey to be done for the President's Evaluation by the Commissioners and they would be receiving the survey soon. And please complete as soon as possible.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

There being no further business, Dr. Sims requested a motion for adjournment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Seward seconded by Dr. Taylor, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, Dr. Meredith Taylor

Date Approved