

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF SPOON RIVER COLLEGE

Wednesday, August 28, 2019
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spoon River College Conference Center, Canton Campus, Canton, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Mr. Kent Schleich, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:

- Mr. John Biernbaum
- Mrs. Linda Butler
- Mr. Jerry Cremer
- Mr. Dave Maguire
- Mr. Kevin Meade
- Mr. Phil Murphy
- Mr. Kent Schleich
- Ms. Molly Linder

Present were Mr. Curt Oldfield, President; Mr. Brett Stoller, Vice President; Ms. Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Mr. Brad O'Brien, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Ms. Holly Norton, Dean, Transfer Education; Mr. Colin Davis, Foundation Director; Mr. Chad Murphy, Director, Adult and Secondary Education; Ms. Sarah Dalpiaz, Mathematics Faculty; Ms. Bridgett Loftus, Chemistry Faculty; Ms. Becca Werland, Developmental Faculty; and Mrs. Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President/Recorder.

Also present: Mr. Jim Reed, Executive Director, Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

1.3 Invocation

Mr. Murphy gave the invocation.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Mr. Schleich welcomed the guests who were in attendance. President Oldfield introduced Mr. Jim Reed, Executive Director of the ICCTA and will be conducting the Board's self-evaluation at the end of tonight's meeting.

1.5 Public Comment

Mr. Schleich asked if anyone from the audience would like to address the Board. There were no requests.

1.6 Approval of Minutes

1.6.1 July 24, 2019 Board Retreat Minutes

Following a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Cremer, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 24, 2019 Board Retreat Minutes.

1.6.2 July 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mr. Dave Maguire presented the following report:

There has not been much in the way of activity since our last board meeting as most colleges are preparing for the start of the new school year. The exception would be the annual ICCTA Executive Committee Retreat. This was our first planning meeting with our new Executive Director, Jim Reed.

The retreat was held was hosted by John A. Logan College in their conference facilities located on their campus in Carterville. Their southern hospitality was exceptional, setting a new standard for future planning meetings. It is always good to visit other campuses to see how other colleges are working to meet the needs of their community.

The retreat involved all leaders of the community college system and in my view was one of the best we have had over the years. President Oldfield was also in attendance as he is serving as President of the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents this year. There was a good sharing of ideas and thoughts about where we are and where we need to be headed in the future.

Our current ICCTA President, Bob Thompson, Sauk Valley Community College, likes to use ten takeaways when he does a follow up report. These are his ten takeaways from the 2019 ICCTA Executive Committee Retreat.

1. Continue to implement a dues structure fair to all members while re-establishing a recommended reserve for the association.
2. Re-convening a Strategic Planning Committee to work with Executive Director Reed on a final product ready for implementation on or before next fiscal year.
3. Surveying out 40 new trustees and those who continue to commit on their goals for their respective institutions and our association as a whole.
4. Develop a social media presence like never before complete with a website makeover, new logo and more effective means of making meeting attendance more abundantly available by remote attendance.
5. Develop our plan by 2020 to initiate the celebration of our 50th year representing the best community college system in the nation.
6. Improve Trustee Education and Leadership with innovative topics and professional presenters.
7. Develop outside revenue in support of ICCTA.
8. Engage our new Executive Director in his goals and directives for taking ICCTA to the next level of association leadership.
9. Re-initiate an evaluation process for our executive director, complete with objective criteria to establish his success in earning our goals and expectations and well as re-

initiating our own board self-evaluation to determine how true we are to mission and our objectives.

10. Celebrate in style and in reverence all that ICCTA has meant to our member institutions and the students we have served for 50 years!

The next regular ICCTA meeting will take place September 13-14, 2019, at the President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Doubletree Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

List of upcoming dates and meetings of interest

Upcoming dates and meetings of interest:

SEPTEMBER 2019

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| September 10 | Illinois Board of Higher Education meeting, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove |
| September 11 – 13 | Illinois Council of Community College Presidents retreat and meetings, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield |
| September 12 | Illinois Student Assistance Commission meeting, Chicago |
| September 12 – 13 | State Universities Retirement System meetings, Chicago |
| September 13 – 14 | ICCTA Board of Representatives and committee meetings, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield |
| September 20 | Illinois Community College Board meetings, Harold Washington College, Chicago |

OCTOBER 2019

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|-----------------|---|
| October 16 – 19 | Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress, Hilton San Francisco Union Square, San Francisco |
| October 28 – 30 | Illinois General Assembly veto session, Springfield |

NOVEMBER 2019

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| November 7 – 8 | Illinois Council of Community College Presidents meetings, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Lisle |
| November 8 – 9 | ICCTA Board of Representatives and committee meetings, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Lisle |
| November 12 – 14 | Illinois General Assembly veto session, Springfield |

DECEMBER 2019

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|----------------|---|
| December 5 | Illinois Student Assistance Commission meeting, Chicago |
| December 5 – 6 | State Universities Retirement System meetings, Chicago |
| December 6 | Illinois Community College Board meetings, Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield |
| December 10 | Illinois Board of Higher Education meeting, DePaul University, Lincoln Park campus, Chicago |

FEBRUARY 2020

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| February 9-12 | Community College National Legislative Summit (sponsored by the Association of Community College Trustees and the American Association of Community Colleges), Washington, D.C. |
|---------------|---|

President Oldfield said one takeaway he appreciated is the future focus. The importance of utilizing technology is important as well. It was inspiring to have all of the Trustees agree on the importance of tools to be an effective trustee. Mr. Reed added that with the new administration he feels there will be a renewed focus on higher education. There will be opportunities in the Spring of 2020 for trustees to have a voice at hearings across the state. He encouraged the Trustees to be a part of those hearings and conversations. Mr. Schleich said he has seen a lot of messages from ICCTA recently and he asked if that is part of the efforts to get the information

out. Mr. Reed said a lot of that is because higher education is in the news more, and Kim Villanueva distributes those articles.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Ms. Molly Linder presented the following report:

The Athletic Department hosted their kickoff cookout/athletic orientation event on Saturday, August 17th. Close to 200 student-athletes and family members attended the event along with a number of SRC employees.

The fall semester started Monday, August 19 with a number of events and activities at all four sites including grab and go refreshments and drawings for academic planners.

Snapperpalooza events were held last Wednesday in Canton and Macomb where students enjoyed free lunch, prizes, and participated in a local business vendor fair. Students also had the opportunity to chat with faculty, staff, and campus club members from STAGE, HEAL, *Kaleidoscope*, Habitat for Humanity, TRiO, Speech and Debate Team, Student Government Association, Student Employment, PEEPS, and SRC Community Chorus.

The SRC volleyball season is underway. The team invites members of the Board of Trustees to attend a match. I have printed schedules for anyone who is interested.

Canton Student Government Association met for the first time today. New members were welcomed and each member introduced themselves to the group. The group were given basic requirements of SGA members and reviewed Robert's Rules of Order. Finally, members discussed upcoming scheduled activities and brainstormed a few more. SGA will vote on their executive board members at the next meeting.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Mr. Phillip Murphy presented the following report:

- Financial - Revenues: \$43,440.68
- The SRC Foundation Board met August 21 at 7:30 a.m., via IVS.
- The Foundation Board received an update on the SRC 60th Anniversary activities being planned and on the Athletic Campaign and voted to purchase scoreboards for the baseball and softball diamonds as part of the campaign's expenses.
- The Foundation received notifications for full funding for Fellheimer Scholarships for Macomb students and for West Central FS (agriculture) Scholarships for this academic year.
- The totals from the 2019 Golf Outing are in – the event raised \$25,184 from a record 30 teams. In terms of dollars, this ranks as a close second in the most profitable and successful outings the SRC Foundation has had. We're waiting to hear how the sale situation at Wee-Ma-Tuk resolves before planning next year's event, but it does sound more promising than it had previously sounded.
- The next meeting of the Foundation Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25 at 3:30 p.m., immediately preceding the Joint Meeting between the Foundation Board and the SRC Board of Trustees.

Mr. Colin Davis presented the following report:

- An update to the Foundation's by-laws was approved. This update establishes the Public Relations Committee as a permanent, standing committee that will be responsible for additional marketing of the Foundation's activities through traditional media and social media, promotional documents, and the creation of multimedia. This committee, when possible, will work in conjunction with the marketing department at SRC (but will utilize the skills of certain Foundation Board members).

- Mark your calendars – the SRC Alumni Awards Reception and Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner will be held Saturday, November 2 at the Canton Campus. The committee met in early August to select this year’s recipients:
 - **Distinguished Alumni Award** – **The Honorable Ray LaHood**, member of the U.S. House of Representatives and United States Secretary of Transportation.
 - **Alumni Achievement Awards** – **Amanda Atchley** (Multi-Purpose Building Coordinator at SRC; previously Executive Director of Canton Area Chamber of Commerce), **Karen Cotton** (External Affairs Manager for Illinois American Water), **Ramon Escapa** (Schuyler County State’s Attorney), **Karen Fisher** (recent President of the Illinois Association of School Boards), **Eric Phillips** (Car Chief for Denny Hamlin’s Daytona 500-winning #11 Toyota), and **Mike Walters** (local historian, author, and owner of Canton NAPA Automotive)
 - **Distinguished SRC Retiree Award** – the late **Patricia Russell**, SRC Librarian
 - **Outstanding Service Award** – to be announced. A posthumous selection was made, but we are ensuring approval from the selectee’s family before releasing.
 - **SRC Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee** – **Lance Zedric**
- We ask that you keep these selections as private as possible for a few more days; we’ll be releasing the recipients in early September.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comment

Mrs. Butler suggested that when the Trustee name cards are printed maybe we could have the names printed on both sides of the tents.

Mr. Schleich commented on his attendance at the recent volleyball games and what a seamless transition this has been. It is a credit to President Oldfield, Missy Wilkinson, Athletic Director Bassett, Coach Barker, and SRC employee volunteers. Coach Barker has a very nice team that presents itself very well. Kent said he was pleasantly surprised at the number of cars in the parking lot. Kudos to all involved, and it is a very exciting time for SRC.

2.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported on the VISTRA power plant closings. He attended both public meetings that were held in Canton and Havana. There is a lot of concern from those communities, especially from the employee perspective. From a property tax perspective, it is about a \$300,000 impact on Spoon River College. This is significant but we won’t realize it right away. However, we anticipate that they will want a new assessment of the property in 2020 so we will start to see reductions in 2021. Duck Creek has about 6,000 acres and the majority is zoned ag/recreational. We will have a significant impact in property taxes as we move forward, and the school districts in Havana and Canton will be significantly impacted as well. We will have a press conference on Friday to visit with the Peoria media outlets to spread this word. SRC is the only taxing bodies impacted by 2 plants closing. We want to share the story, and we are hoping to get all four communities together to approach the legislature about some type of property tax relief. President Oldfield said the goal is to try to have legislators who represent all four power plants here at SRC as well as all taxing bodies to have that statewide conversation as to where we can some type of relief or develop a plan to offset those expenses because of the dramatic impact. He has visited with Lincoln Land Community College, and they are also interested in supporting similar conversations as well as Illinois Valley Community College. President Oldfield is hoping because we are centrally located that we can host these discussions about property tax relief. We as educational leaders need to take the lead to help develop a strategy. He will keep the Trustees informed.

Congresswoman Bustos will be hosting an Economic Roundtable here on September 4 at 10 a.m. He reported that her office is coordinating the invitations and has asked him to participate as well.

Enrollment for the fall semester as of the end of the day yesterday shows we are up 1.26% in credit hours. We are happy with that increase, and that is a good number for us. Missy Wilkinson will have a full presentation at the September Board Meeting. Right now we are at a good spot and hope the enrollment stays strong. Mr. Biernbaum asked if there will be much melt between now and the 10th day. President Oldfield said no. He is anticipating it to stay pretty steady.

President Oldfield shared the following new hires or changes in titles:

April Coulter, Senior Office Assistant, Macomb Outreach Center
 Teri Schoonover, Office Assistant, Learning Resource Center
 Clayton Hughes, Maintenance Technician
 Jeanette Glover, Library Services Coordinator
 Micki Henderson, Senior Assistant, Auxiliary Services
 Curtis Bump, Technology Services Coordinator

Finally, President Oldfield reported that the DVD for Trustee Training has arrived, and we need to schedule the training with those Trustees who are required to complete the training. We will need each Trustee to complete the training, and we will coordinate this set making the rounds. Mr. Murphy asked about getting additional copies. Mr. Reed said additional sets are available. President Oldfield said to please let Julie know when you have completed the training, and that will be reflected on our website.

Mr. Maguire reported that the Robbins Schwartz printed trustee training has been posted to SharePoint in the Trustee Training folder.

Mrs. Butler commented on VISTRA power plant issue and said she read that the State would require them to provide agreements that they will provide the same amount of power as before the closure at the same rates. Litigation may also cause delays as well. Mr. Maguire asked about the timing of the meeting. President Oldfield said the hope is the end of September or the first of October. He is waiting for the go ahead from Senator Koehler. President Oldfield said he has talked with Montgomery County officials and is waiting to hear from Putnam County.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month August 2019:

Payroll	\$ 605,221.84
Accounts Payable (excluding Travel)	1,162,119.32
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	6,879.40
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	25.62
Electronic payments (Health/Life Insurance)	138,855.37
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	3,477.30
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>27,429.21</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,944,008.05

Following a motion by Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Biernbaum, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month August 2019:

Payroll	\$ 605,221.84
Accounts Payable (excluding Travel)	1,162,119.32
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	6,879.40
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TOTAL:	\$1,944,008.05

2.3 Institutional Planning

President Oldfield introduced Mr. Chad Murphy, Director, Adult Education, to present the Adult Education Annual Report.

- Adult Education and Family Literacy Update – Chad Murphy presented the following report:

FY 2019
ADULT EDUCATION
AND
FAMILY LITERACY



Report to the Spoon River College Board of Trustees

Spoon River College Adult Education and Family Literacy Program’s Promise

The Spoon River College Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) Program continues to build and expand opportunities for adult education students to transition into college and the workforce. Beyond preparation for the high school equivalency exam or improving English language skills, the AEFL program is dedicated to building on the pathways created to assist students to obtain or improve their employment options and successfully enroll and complete postsecondary education. Expanded bridge and transition programming, integrated models of instructional delivery, alignment of standards with the Common Core State Standards and College and Career Readiness Standards, technology, career development and awareness skills, evidence based models, and the use of data for decision making are all designed to make the promise a reality for many low skilled adults. The program staff will continue to work collaboratively toward fulfilling local, state, and federal goals and to build on past successes. This includes a focus on services that equip adult students with the skills necessary to compete and thrive in Illinois.

Purpose of Adult Education in Illinois

Spoon River College Adult Education programs provide adults ages 16 years and older (must be turning 17 within semester enrolled) who have less than a high school education or equivalent with opportunities to acquire the skills necessary to function more effectively in society and the workplace of the 21st century. Through these programs a student may accomplish the following goals:

- Acquire the basic reading, writing, and math skills necessary to obtain or advance in a job.
- Meet entrance requirements for vocational training programs.
- Study to pass the GED examination, a nationally recognized test for a certificate of high school equivalency.

- Attain high-level employment skills.
- Acquire the skills needed to be a functional, contributing member of society and a wiser consumer.
- Learn English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship skills.
- Enter the workforce or post-secondary education.

Critical Need for Adult Education

Each year, the Department of Economics and Finance at Southern Illinois University conducts a statewide demographic study to calculate the need for adult services in each college district. Branded by ICCB Adult Education as a district’s “Index of Need,” this statistical data is used to allocate grant funds to service providers.

Among the Spoon River College District’s adult (16 years of age or older) population of 56,368:

- 9,149 (16.2%) live in poverty
- 6,034 (10.7%) do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent
- 3,594 (6.3%) were classified as ESL adults and felt that they did not speak English well
- 10,236 (18.1%) receive some type of public assistance from the government

Funding Sources

The FY19 operating budget of the Spoon River College Adult Education program was \$343,215. The program is funded through a number of sources including grants from the Illinois Community College Board, Career Link, the Illinois Secretary of State’s Adult Volunteer Literacy Program, and Dollar General Corporation. In addition to those funding sources, in-kind services are provided by Spoon River College in the form of office and classroom space, utilities, computers, etc.

Grant	FY 14	FY 15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
ICCB Public Assistance	\$36,474	\$35,145				
ICCB State Basic	\$63,620	\$73,227	\$104,278	\$108,600	\$98,650	\$103,330
ICCB Federal	\$57,014	\$65,128	\$81,732	\$86,310	\$75,700	\$72,795
ICCB State Performance	\$71,102	\$79,312	\$84,690	\$74,825	\$64,210	\$57,590
Career Link	\$39,500	\$41,000	\$41,000	\$42,000	\$47,570	\$51,500
Adult Volunteer Literacy	\$40,000	\$45,260	\$41,965	\$0	\$33,350	\$50,000
Dollar General	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
LWIB 14				\$14,423	\$25,000	
Total	\$312,710	\$344,072	\$353,665	\$336,158	\$352,480	\$343,215

Adult Education Enrollment Data

Instruction Type	Students Served					
	FY14	FY15*	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	164	159	118	110	129	184
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	89	102	105	110	94	32
English-as-a-Second-Language	33	37	36	37	38	33
Total	286	298	259	257	261	249
Individuals Earning GED	79	16	31	30	42	29

* The number of people taking and completing the GED test declined significantly after a new, more difficult, computerized test was implemented in January 2014.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Head Count	286	292	259	257	261	249
Attendance Hours	17484	19228	18148	18693	16972	17086
Enrollment Hours	24207	26236	23902	25017	23596	24943
Persistence Rate	64%	70%	72%	73%	76%	69%

Persistence rate is calculated by dividing the attendance hours by the enrollment hours. Retention rates are important because they are an indicator of academic quality and student success.

Core Performance Indicators

The table below shows the Illinois target percentages and Spoon River College percentages of students who made a Measurable Skills Gain (MSG) for FY2014 through 2019. In FY15, FY17, and FY18 the program met or exceeded all state targets. The program was recognized by the Illinois Community College Board for performing in the top 10% of programs in the State of Illinois for 2017, ranking 6th out of 81 programs.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) has included additional performance outcomes for adult education programs that receive federal funding through this legislation. Those outcomes are: job attainment, job retainment, average earnings, secondary school and postsecondary credentials attainment, and effectiveness in serving employers. This is data that is collected by ICCB. ICCB is in the early stages of collecting the data on these new performance outcomes. As they become available, they will be shared in this report.

		ABE Beg Lit	ABE Beg	ABE Inter Low	ABE Inter High	ASE Low	ESL Beg Lit	ESL Low Beg	ESL High Beg	ESL Inter Low	ESL Inter High	ESL Adv	Overall Total
	GLE/Best Plus	NRS 1 0.0-1.9	NRS 2 2.0-3.9	NRS 3 4.0-5.9	NRS 4 6.0-8.9	NRS 5 9.0-10.0	ESL 1 < 400	ESL 2 401-417	ESL 3 418-438	ESL 4 439-472	ESL 5 473-506	ESL 6 507-540	
FY 14	IL Targets	42%	41%	37%	33%	37%	37%	39%	43%	38%	33%	20%	36%
	SRC %	67%	40%	47%	47%	34%	94%		100%	83%	100%	75%	51%
FY 15	IL Targets	45%	44%	37%	30%	33%	45%	49%	45%	40%	33%	23%	39%
	SRC %		45%	45%	45%	48%	82%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	54%
FY 16	IL Targets	47%	44%	37%	30%	34%	49%	45%	50%	39%	38%	22%	40%
	SRC %		33%	51%	47%	43%	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	55%
FY 17	IL Targets	54%	46%	42%	34%	37%	50%	45%	52%	44%	41%	24%	41%
	SRC %	100%	70%	63%	55%	52%	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	64%
FY 18	IL Targets		47%	43%	34%	37%	51%	48%	53%	44%	42%	25%	43%
	SRC %		78%	57%	44%	51%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	58%
FY 19	IL Targets	61%	50%	44%	37%	40%	55%	55%	59%	49%	45%	25%	45%
	SRC %	50%	37%	30%	16%	13%	100%	93%	100%	100%	88%	100%	35%

Career Link

The Spoon River College Adult Education Program and Career Link have a partnership designed to serve students ages 16-24 who have dropped out of high school, have a deficiency in literacy or numeracy, and are economically disadvantaged. Students become self-sufficient by receiving education and workforce preparation needed to succeed through achievement of three basic goals:

1. Increased literacy or numeracy achievement by at least one educational functioning level.
2. Obtain employment or attend post-secondary training after completion of the program.
3. Obtain a G.E.D.

Students receive intensive instruction in literacy, numeracy, career exploration, work readiness skills, and job search techniques. As students progress through the program, they are regularly tested in math and reading. As an incentive to motivate the student to achieve increases in functioning level, students receive a cash payment of \$25 for a level gain, \$40 for passing the GED practice tests, and \$25 upon successful passage of each section of the GED exam. In addition, for students meeting eligibility requirements, the registration fee for the GED practice test and exam are covered. Students also receive money for completing career exploration, attending career fairs, and learning work readiness skills. Students who pass the GED exam and obtain employment and/or enter post-secondary training also receive an additional \$50 incentive bonus paid in cash.

In FY 19, 12 new students were enrolled in the program and 8 returned from the previous year. Of those 20 students, 8 completed the GED exam, 7 have passed 75% of the sections of the GED exam, 2 have passed 50% of the GED exam, and 3 have passed 25% of the GED exam. Of the 8 who completed the GED exam, 1 student enrolled in a welding class at SRC and is working, 2 are going to college, and 5 are working.

Adult Volunteer Literacy Program

This program provides tutoring services, delivered by community volunteers, to adults with less than a ninth grade educational level. Tutors can meet with students during the Adult Education ESL and GED classes, outside of class, or both. With the help of trained volunteers, the program is centered upon improving the reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary, English as a Second Language, math, and basic computer literacy levels of each individual while understanding their unique needs and goals.

Adult Volunteer Literacy Program FY18	
Total Adult Learners Served	125
Number of Volunteer Tutors	62
Instructional Hours by Tutors	7,042

Impact of Adult Education on Spoon River College

Spoon River College, like community colleges throughout the nation, is at a crossroads: pressure is mounting to increase the number of students earning degrees and to improve student retention, and a growing movement seeks to fund colleges based on these performance measures. Meanwhile, enrollment has declined nationwide. Consequently, colleges need to find new pools of students from which to recruit. They also need to make sure that those students can succeed by persisting through college and successfully completing certificate and degree programs. This challenge takes place in the context of a high need for literacy and high school equivalency training among the adult populations.

For Spoon River College, the Adult Education program serves as a significant “feeder program” into credit and certificate programs. Nationally, in systems in which community colleges are responsible for adult education, the revenue-cost calculations show that it is worthwhile to invest in adult education transition. Costs to assist students to transition are approximately \$500 per student, while revenues,

including state reimbursements and tuition recouped from the increase in enrollment, are approximately \$970 per student.

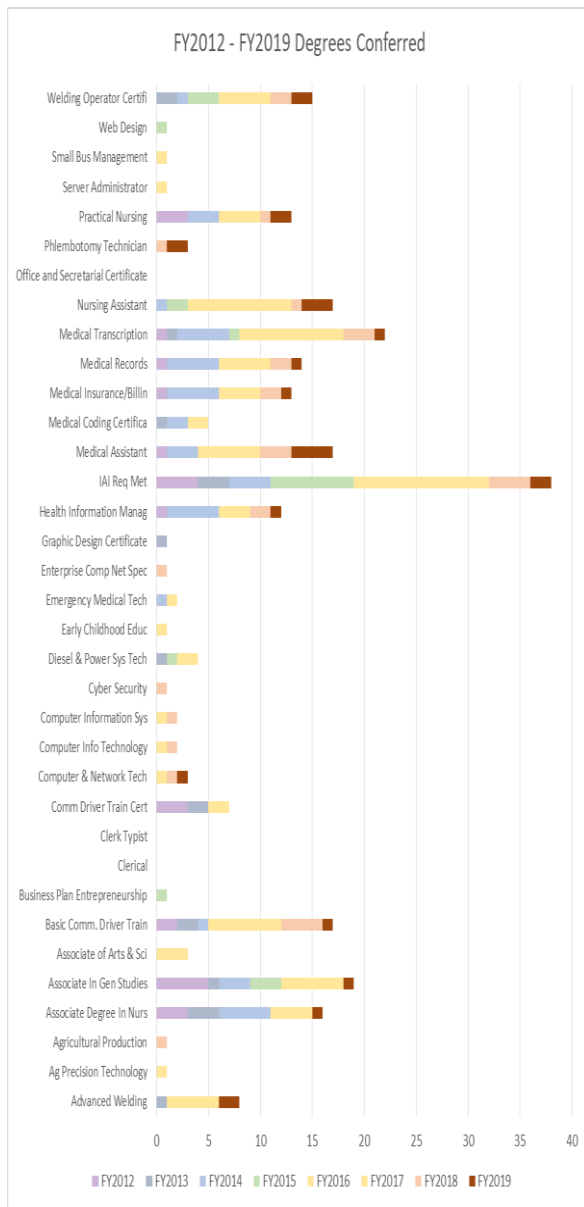
While incremental revenue is one reason to pursue transition programming, there are many reasons closer to the core of community college missions. First, these efforts will increase the diversity of life experiences students bring to their college classes. Partly through the inclusion of adult students, community colleges can offer an unmatched richness of thought and experience. Additionally, increasing the skill levels of adults is often a centerpiece of economic development for neighborhoods and communities. The only way this is ultimately possible is by engaging with those adults at their current skill levels and preparing them for college-level work.

The table below illustrates the impact adult education students (individuals who have obtained a GED/Illinois High School Equivalency) have had on Spoon River College enrollment. There has been a decline over the last four years. While it is hard to pinpoint a specific cause, it is believed the decline can be attributed to three things:

1. There was a shift in focus at ICCB from enrollment numbers to student level gains.
2. In January of 2014 a new and more difficult GED exam was implemented.
3. In years 2015-2018, enrollment in adult education programs throughout the state declined, and some believe it was due to the lack of a state budget and instability and concern over the possible suspension of adult education programs.

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY12-19
GED Earners Taking Credit Classes	308	310	265	215	237	178	142	123	1797
Credit Classes Taken by GED Earners	908	944	807	820	858	611	448	421	5844
Credit Hours Taken by GED Earners	2770	2788	2437.5	2530.5	2610	1906	1383.5	1358.5	17784
GED Earners Completing Program of Study	19	16	22	19	34	38	20	19	187

The chart below identifies the programs of study in which students who have obtained their GED have enrolled and the number of students completing each program.



Success Stories

Karen

Karen is an immigrant from Mexico who met her American husband while he was on vacation in her native city. His parents are both Mexican immigrants. Although her husband speaks fluent English, he only chooses to communicate to his wife in Spanish. Because she is so eager to improve her English, Karen finds her husband's lack of cooperation frustrating. This has made her English acquisition more challenging.

Karen has made remarkable progress in the Literacy project this year. Not only has she never missed a class but she was always eager and excited about any opportunities for her to work with tutors outside of class. Her bubbly, sweet, and exuberant personality, always grateful for anything that you do for her, has made her very popular with the program's ESL tutors and her fellow students. She wants to improve her English to the degree of being able to take college level classes in the medical field and also has goals of becoming a U.S. citizen.

Karen's primary goal this summer was to find employment. She wanted to contribute to her family's finances so she found a job at McDonald's where she has the opportunity to speak English. This job will help her build on what she has already learned and help her accomplish more. She was very nervous in

the beginning but as her English acquisition has improved, her confidence has soared. She is very grateful to the tutors for their help.

Jennifer an Adult Volunteer Tutor

One of the program's most effective tutors is a Macomb community tutor who is tutoring advanced ESL students for a total of six hours per week and numerous hours outside of class. She has great empathy, patience and compassion for this special population of students.

Jennifer has been tutoring for the last four years and has been a remarkable tutor, always going the extra mile to help someone. Her expertise is English so she is able to help students improve their writing skills while giving them a boost of confidence to not be so apprehensive and frightened of that subject. She also helps her students fill out college applications, whether they be attending Spoon River College or Western Illinois University.

As someone who home schooled her four children, Jennifer is exceedingly knowledgeable in all subject areas, particularly advanced reading and writing skills, which are needed in order for the ESL students to be successful. She always meets with students at the WIU library which is inspiring to students in itself. She is kind and encouraging to the students and extremely flexible and generous with her time given to the Adult Volunteer Literacy program. We are very fortunate to have her in our program.

Mr. Murphy commented that when public schools conducted the testing, they found the lower scores as well. He didn't know what the changes were but they eventually increased. Chad said he is confident with the new material and new focus. With two new teachers, Chad said we have the best group of faculty he has had in his 9 years. He is confident we will beat the targets for this year.

Mr. Schleich thanked Chad for his report and work in this important program, and he does a great job.

Mrs. Butler said if you can go to Rushville Sunday afternoon it is Africa Day on the square. It is a wonderful event and starts in the afternoon and goes into the evening hours.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There were no additional items for the Board.

4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Board of Trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for paragraph 1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity; 2). Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; 16). Self-evaluation, practices, and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.

Mr. Schleich said there would not be action following the Closed Session.

Mr. Maguire made a motion for the Board of Trustees to adjourn to Closed Session in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, paragraph 16). Self-evaluation, practices, and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member. Mrs. Butler seconded the motion, and following a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees adjourned to Closed Session, in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, paragraph 16). Self-evaluation, practices, and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member at 6:51 p.m.

The Spoon River College Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 8:21 p.m.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Meade, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, August 28, 2019 adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Mr. Kent Schleich, Chair

Date

Mr. Phillip Murphy, Secretary