

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

Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 6 p.m.
Spoon River College, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B
Canton Campus, Canton, Illinois

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Canton Campus, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B, Canton, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Jerry Cremer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:

John Biernbaum
Jerry Cremer
Dave Maguire
Kevin Meade
Phillip Murphy
Kent Schleich – arrived at 6:09 p.m.
Savannah Smith-Coulter

Members Absent:

Linda Butler

Present: Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Brad O'Brien, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Colin Davis, Foundation Director; Andrea Thomson, Director, Human Resources; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations and Safety Officer; Chad Murphy, Director, Adult Education; Brian Dalpiaz, Mathematics Faculty; Evyn Way, Welding Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Jerry Cremer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Jerry Cremer welcomed those in attendance.

1.5 Public Comment

Jerry Cremer asked if any members of the audience wished to address the Board. There were no requests or public comments.

1.6 Approval of Minutes

1.6.1 July 26, 2023 Closed Session Minutes Review Committee Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 26, 2023 Closed Session Minutes Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

1.6.2 July 26, 2023 Board of Trustees Retreat Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 26, 2023 Board of Trustees Retreat Meeting Minutes.

1.6.3 July 26, 2023 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Dave Maguire, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 26, 2023 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.6.4 Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act 120, Section 2.06, paragraph (d) (1), having reviewed the minutes of all closed meetings of the Board of Trustees that have not been previously been made available for public inspection, the Board of Trustees has determined that the need for confidentiality still exists and are listed in agenda attachment 1.6.4.

Dave Maguire reported that the Closed Session Minutes Review Committee reviewed the minutes and did not have any recommendations for release.

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, seconded by Kevin Meade, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act 120, Section 2.06, paragraph (d) (1), having reviewed the minutes of all closed meetings of the Board of Trustees that have not been previously been made available for public inspection, the Board of Trustees has determined that the need for confidentiality still exists and are listed in agenda attachment 1.6.4.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Dave Maguire presented the following report:

This past weekend the ICCTA Executive Committee held its annual retreat and planning session at Joliet Junior College. One of the more enjoyable parts of having these meeting hosted by different colleges is having the opportunity to tour their facilities and hear about their programs. The most notable was Friday night when we toured the Joliet Junior College Culinary Arts Program. It is located in the Joliet Junior College City Center in downtown Joliet. A six story

modern building with multiple kitchens, two full size restaurants and facilities ranging from ice carving to pastries. It is a world renowned and award winning program .

Several items were covered as the Executive Committee was we laid out the plans for the coming year. The Association's strategic plan and goals were updated. They include expanding trustee engagement, sharing of information with trustees and opportunities for trustee training. Work will continue on support of dual credit/enrollment, pursuing additional federal grant opportunities and to continue moving the case forward for Community College Baccalaureate programs

The annual legislative agenda was discussed as well as the results of the past legislative session. The deadline has passed for final action by the Governor on legislation passed by the General Assembly. There appears to be 24 new pieces of legislation signed into law by the Governor that will have an effect on community colleges. They range from equitable-all-genders-restrooms, work job credits, electric vehicle charging to emergency contraception vending on campuses. Jessica Nardulli, ICCTA Legislative Counsel posted her August 21, 2023 legislative report on the ICCTA website which includes a list of these bills.

The Governor has issued six vetoes or amendatory vetoes that will be considered during the Fall Veto Session. The session is scheduled for October 24-26, and November 7-9.

We had a presentation by William Greenstone, the University of Chicago Intern who ran the trustee demographic survey. While the information was interesting and showed a change in some trends from the previous studies, the response rate was only 35% so it was hard to extract any definitive results.

We talked about the changes ICCTA made in the 2023 2025 Mandatory Trustee Training that all trustees are required to undergo on their 1st, 3rd and 5th year in office. This year the four hours of training has been put up on the ICCTA website and is divided into 7 separate sections. A person does not have to undergo the training in one setting. The sections can be spaced out over a period of time. The response has been positive though getting trustees to complete the training has been difficult at some colleges.

It was noted that Fritz Larson, Black Hawk College will be the new West Central Regional Chair. He will be planning the meeting of colleges in the area similar to the one we hosted earlier this year.

The next meeting of the Board of Representative will be September 8-9, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois.

Included with my report are a list of dates and meetings of interest.

Let me know if there are questions.

Kent Schleich arrived at 6:09 p.m.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Savannah Smith-Coulter presented the following report:

New Student Orientations were held last week in Macomb and Canton. Students had the opportunity to tour campus, receive information that detailed the student support resources available, and learn more about financial aid options. I participated, told a little bit about myself, and communicated to the new students my role as the student trustee and assisted with campus tours.

First and second-year nursing students also had three days of orientations with a Wizard of Oz theme.

The Athletic Department hosted their kickoff cookout/athletic orientation event on Saturday, August 19. Over 185 student-athletes and family members attended the event along with a number of SRC coaches and staff.

Volleyball kicked off the year going 2-2 at a tournament in Rockford. The first home game is September 6 versus Heartland.

The hallways were full as we began the fall semester Monday. Students were welcomed back with a number of events and activities at all four sites including the popular grab and go snacks.

Welcome Week Festivals were held yesterday in Macomb and today in Canton. Students learned about SRC campus resources, picked up a lot of freebies, enjoyed free lunch, and had a great time!

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Phillip Murphy presented the following report:

- Financials: Revenues: \$127,625.31
- The SRC Foundation Board met Wednesday, August 16 at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom with some present on campus.
- The Foundation Board approved a request to help fund special Dual Credit Scholarships to students at Cuba High School who are enrolled in their new dual credit welding certificate program. This scholarship will fund half of the tuition and fees for these students for this year as Cuba High School gets this program off the ground and looks to obtain other funding sources for the future.
- The Board also confirmed the Innovation Grant Application Evaluation Committee and funded an Innovation Grant request for an activity by our TRIO program for National First Generation College Day. More details will be forthcoming on that event later in the semester.
- Colin gave a final total for the 2023 golf outing, which was held at the end of July – while we were originally thinking we'd come up a little shy of our 2022 total, we were pleased that this year's outing brought in about \$23,300, a few hundred over our 2022 number. Thanks to everyone who played, sponsored, volunteered, or supported the outing in any way.

- The Board also selected the 2023 Outstanding Service Award recipient, which will be presented at the Alumni Awards Reception on November 4 at the Canton Campus. Other recipients will be announced in the next couple of weeks. Please plan to attend.
- We also recently received the good news that Fellheimer Scholarship funding has been renewed for this year, which means that we'll be able to offer special scholarships for students in McDonough County. The first of these opportunities for this year will be released in the next few weeks.
- The SRC Community Chorus presented *48 Hours: A Musical Revue* to two sold-out audiences on the Canton Campus last month. In completing this production, the Chorus finished funding the Craig M. Zilly Memorial Scholarship, the eighth endowed scholarship the Chorus has funded through its ticket sales. It will begin working on the next one with its production of the annual holiday concert, *The Wonder, Full World of Winter: An International Concert*. Concert dates are December 2 and 3, with Thursday evening rehearsals beginning September 14. Anyone with a love of music and singing is welcome to join; no auditions are required.
- We are also looking forward to a couple of upcoming events to support the Foundation, the Tom Zaborac Golf Outing on Sept. 9, and SRC week at Helping Hands Resale Shoppe, Sept. 9-12. For the latter, we'll ask the SRC community to donate new or gently used items for resale; shop at the store; and volunteer a couple hours at the store during that week. All proceeds will support the Foundation.

Colin Davis presented the following report:

- Annual Campaign – the fall appeal letter will go to print within the next week and should be in mailboxes in early September. At the same time, we're still working on our Annual Report which we plan to have out after the audit is completed and beginning work on our year-end appeal which will coincide with our #GivingSPOONday campaign. We're also negotiating our contract for 2023-24, as that expires soon, and we'll need to consider that in September.
- Likewise our contract with GiveCampus, our online giving portal. In our first year, we did about \$33,000 in online donations, with hopes to expand what we're doing there in the future. However, since GiveCampus was a new vendor to us last year, we did a trial basis to see how we liked it. It worked well for us, so we're negotiating a multi-year deal to stay with this system for the next few years before our contract expires at the end of next month. The Board will also consider this contract in September.
- The next meeting of the SRC Foundation is TBD, as a special meeting will likely be needed to consider contracts with Rescigno's for the annual campaign and GiveCampus for our online donation portal.

Phillip Murphy commented that for the concerts to be an endowed scholarship it has to be \$10,000 so they have raised \$80,000.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Dave Maguire mentioned that Kim Villanueva with ICCTA has been putting out some information on community colleges. Dave passed around a marketing piece that represents community colleges, and it is a statewide effort.

Kevin Meade commented on the way campuses looks and the impact on people. Kevin congratulated the maintenance staff on the efforts and improvements, and outlet covers, specifically, that make this a better place. John Biernbaum also commented on the mowing.

There were no additional comments from the Board Members.

2.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield thanked the faculty and staff involved in the welcome events for the start of the fall semester. The dedication of those involved make it successful, and he appreciates all of the efforts. Faculty also participated in get-to-know sessions and the students had many positive comments about that. Currently we are up about 3.5% compared to this point in time last year. Tenth day should be around a 2 to 3% increase, so those are strong numbers for us for the start of the semester. President Oldfield said the EDA grant work is underway in Votec, and Leander started work at the end of July. He thanked the faculty in the Votec building who have adjusted their routines due to this work. They have been very flexible and great to work with. The anticipated completion date is January 2024, so there should be minimal disruptions for the start of the spring semester.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of August 2023:

Payroll	\$543,922.52
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	683,236.75
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	2,511.58
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	167,842.20
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>31,896.78</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,429,409.83

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month of August 2023:

Payroll	\$543,922.52
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	683,236.75
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	2,511.58
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	-0-

Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	167,842.20
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>31,896.78</u>

TOTAL: \$1,429,409.83

- 2.2.2 Acceptance of bid for the purchase of two semi tractors for the Commercial Driver Training program pending EDA approval: Two (2) conventional chassis semi tractors with 5000MM (197 inch) wheelbase; high-roof aluminum conventional crew cab (4 door); ten speed manual transmission; 380 HP @ 2100RPM; 23,000# single rear axle; operation and maintenance manuals for all equipment provided.

President Oldfield reported that the bid was received for two 2024 semi tractors from Truck Centers, Inc., of Morton. We will also be bringing trailers for these two semis at a future board meeting. President Oldfield said the total cost of purchasing the two semi-tractors will be \$250,269.00. EDA will reimburse SRC \$150,161.40 for this purchase. The total cost to SRC for this purchase is \$100,107.60. President Oldfield reported that we as a college bonded that amount knowing we would have a matching requirement, so we already have those funds. The update from Sarah Gray at the Retreat reviewed the refinance that includes these funds. President Oldfield said this is pending EDA approval.

Dave Maguire asked the company. President Oldfield said Truck Centers, Morton, IL. Phillip Murphy said the trailers we have are short. Do we have one that is longer? President Oldfield said the nice thing with the short trailers is it is easier to teach backing. It won't be exact and works for the concepts. Dave asked the brand. Brad O'Brien said Freightliner. Jerry Cremer asked about the trailers and will they have to be new? President Oldfield said the bid is for new trailers. Jerry asked if that is necessary. President Oldfield said EDA is more comfortable with new due to durability. Phillip asked if we will sell what we have. President Oldfield said right now we will need all four trucks to keep up with program demand. We will keep those, and the newer ones will be used for the time for the majority of the driving but will have the current ones for program demands. Dave asked about color. Brad said it is a blue color.

Dave Maguire made the motion that the Board of Trustees approves acceptance, pending EDA approval, of the bid from Truck Centers, Inc., Morton, Illinois, for two, 2024 semi tractors. The College's cost for the purchase is \$100,107.60. Kevin Meade seconded the motion, and following a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved acceptance, pending EDA approval, of the bid from Truck Centers, Inc., Morton, Illinois, for two, 2024 semi tractors. The College's cost for the purchase is \$100,107.60.

- 2.2.3 Approve the Municipal Lease Agreement with Santander Bank for the lease of two (2), 24 passenger busses and one (1), 15 passenger bus,

starting September 25, 2023 with the final payment due July 25, 2025. Funds for this lease agreement are available in the Auxiliary Fund.

President Oldfield presented this item for the Board's consideration. Dave Maguire asked about the price, and President Oldfield said there is a monthly cost of \$3,975 through July 2025. He said that is the initial payment and then 35 cents per mile after 12,000 miles, for each bus.

Following a motion by Phillip Murphy, seconded by Savannah Smith-Coulter, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Municipal Lease Agreement with Santander Bank for the lease of two (2), 24 passenger busses and one (1), 15 passenger bus, starting September 25, 2023 with the final payment due July 25, 2025. Funds for this lease agreement are available in the Auxiliary Fund.

2.3 Institutional Planning

- Adult Education and Family Literacy Report – Chad Murphy

Chad Murphy presented the following report:

FY 2023 ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY

Report to the Spoon River College Board of Trustees

Staff

Chad Murphy
Director of Adult Education

Cyndi Johnston
ESL and Adult Volunteer Literacy
Coordinator

Natalie Orwig
Senior Office Assistant for Adult
Education

Melissa Koke

Adult Education Advisor

Molly Smith
Adult Education Advisor

Katey Davis
Accountant

Lindsey Larson
Adult Education Advisor

Instructional Staff

Pam Holtmeyer
Cathy Scarcliff
Kristy Boggs

Jo Pierson
Josh Pickel
Paul Wilson

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 post-secondary 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 52,187:

- 8,847 (16.9%) live in poverty
- 5,193 (9.9%) do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent
- 2,458 (4.7%) were classified as ESL adults and felt that they did not speak English well
- 10,757 (20.6%) receive some type of public assistance from the government

Funding Sources

The FY2023 operating budget of the Spoon River College Adult Education program was \$419,292. 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	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
ICCB State Basic	\$103,330	\$106,150	\$105,208	\$106,606	\$107,776
ICCB Federal	\$72,795	\$75,870	\$75,272	\$77,644	\$105,009
ICCB State Performance	\$57,590	\$61,910	\$59,805	\$68,720	\$70,875
Career Link	\$51,500	\$51,500	\$53,500	\$63,480	\$57,132
Adult Volunteer Literacy	\$50,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,500

Grant	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Dollar General	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$4,000
LWIB 14		\$17,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Total	\$343,215	\$374,430	\$370,785	\$398,450	\$419,292

Adult Education Enrollment Data

Instruction Type	Students Served				
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	184	132	124	135	91
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	32	31	26	30	88
English-as-a-Second-Language	33	35	19	13	37
Total	249	198	169	178	216
Individuals Earning GED®	29	39	34	36	43

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Head Count	249	198	169	178	216
Attendance Hours	17086	12113	10834	11869	15571
Enrollment Hours	24943	19463	15463	17674	21088
Persistence Rate	69%	62%	70%	67%	74%
Post-Test Rate	71%	67%	61%	63%	62%

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. The post-test rate is a new addition to this report. One of the performance indicators for adult education programs is to have a 65% post-test rate. This is a different way of looking at persistence.

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 FY2012 through FY2023.

In the fiscal years between 2011 and 2018, Spoon River College exceeded the NRS state target by an average of 14 percentage points. In those same years, Spoon River College averaged 43 individuals per year earning the Illinois High School Equivalency (HSE) credential. In fiscal year 2017, Spoon River College was recognized by the Illinois Community College Board for performing in the top 10% of programs in the State of Illinois, ranking 6th out of 81 programs.

In two of the last 5 years (2019 and 2022), the adult education program did not meet the state performance target. The staff has determined that the primary reason that the performance goal was not met in 2019 was due to a change from TABE 9/10 to TABE 11/12. The TABE test is the pre- and post-testing tool required by ICCB. In fiscal year 2022, COVID 19 (specifically the weekly COVID testing requirement) is believed to have been a major factor of not meeting the performance goal. Many students were frustrated by the testing requirement and chose not to remain in the program and did not meet the 40-hour minimum requirement for post-testing.

In FY2023, program staff implemented a new pre- and post-test known as CASAS Goals. It is a computer-based program that takes less time and is liked by students more than the TABE 11/12 testing option. The new test and strong efforts by staff and instructors have led to a strong year in performance indicators.

Measurable Skills Gains												
	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Target	42%	35%	36%	39%	40%	41%	43%	45%	46%	45%	45%	37%
SRC	47%	44%	51%	54%	55%	64%	58%	35%	45%	35%	21%	38%
Plus HSE									52%	45%	41%	50%

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 FY2023	
Total Adult Learners Served	82
Number of Volunteer Tutors	30
Instructional Hours by Tutors	1,738

Out of School Youth Program

The Spoon River College Adult Education Program, Career Link, and Western Illinois Works, Inc. 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 GED®

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. For those students in the Career Link program, an incentive to motivate the student to achieve increases in functioning level, students receive a cash payment of \$25 for a level gain, \$10 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.

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. While 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.

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
GED® Earners Taking Credit Classes	35	27	31	33	30	28
Credit Classes Taken by GED® Earners	132	95	99	152	161	116
Credit Hours Taken by GED® Earners	431.50	334.50	338.50	494	507.50	388.50
GED® Earners Completing Program of Study	17	14	15	16	14	13
GED® Earners with Degrees/Cert. Earned	16	14	15	15	13	12

The “GED Earners Completing a Program of Study” are individuals who have enough hours for a certificate/degree or actually have a certificate/degree. The “GED Earners with Degrees/Cert.” are individuals who have a certificate/degree.

Success Stories

Joy

Joy came to our program at Spoon River College shortly after moving to Illinois from South Carolina. Prior to that she was a resident of Jamaica, where she was born. Joy registered for our classes with the intention of simply completing her GED exams to obtain her IL High School Diploma. Little did she know; our program would be a resource for many areas in her life.

While enrolled in our program, Joy has continued to work on increasing literacy and vocabulary skills. Schooling in Jamaica was very different, according to Joy, and she has always expressed gratitude for her ability to earn her diploma in a non-traditional way. Additionally, we were able to help her study for her United State Citizenship test and her social studies GED test simultaneously. Joy officially became a US Citizen in the fall of 2022 after passing her test and interview. She continues to show appreciation to our instructors and volunteer tutors for helping her achieve this monumental goal.

Joy is now enrolled as an ICAPs student, completing her CNA certification while dually enrolled in GED classes at Spoon River College. She has found gainful employment in a local nursing home, where she plans to continue working after completing her CNA course and passing the CNA certification test. She continues to work hard to pass her GED exams to earn her diploma.

Delicia

Delicia is an immigrant from Mexico who works at a hog confinement which is approximately thirty minutes from Carthage, IL where she lives. She works ten to twelve hours a day, six days a week. Shortly after arriving in the United States she sought out ESL classes, first contacting a help line in Chicago and through sheer determination, and several phone calls later, she was connected with Spoon River College’s Adult Education Department.

Her pre-test scored her into the TABE reading test, an extremely difficult test for American ABE learners, more so for English language learners. She advanced three grade levels, from a GLE four to a GLE seven in four short months. Although exhausted, and cold after working outside, she made time, on her only day off to work in the advanced reading level books outside of class while rarely missing a night of her Google Meets classes. Sometimes when her job asked her to work over, she would attend the Google Meets class in her car during her drive home from work.

Delicia’s primary goal for the next few years is to advance her English language skills so that she can someday attend a university, possibly in California, to be a teacher. Her optimistic attitude, never once complaining about how difficult her job is, and bubbly, joyful personality has endeared her to her tutors and fellow students. She is grateful for the opportunity to live and work in a country where hard work and determination does pay off.

Chad shared the FY2022 Adult Education Data for SRC. The information includes employment related measures, credential measure, and MSG Measure. Chad also shared Employment Related Outcomes.

Phillip Murphy said sometimes people have a feeling that Adult Education students are not the brightest students but they really are and the public school system did not meet their needs. Chad said that a few years ago we gathered some data about the Adult Ed students who go on to SRC and how many need developmental ed as compared to high school grads, and the Adult Ed students had a much lower need for developmental ed classes. The one area lacking for Adult Ed is writing, but the students are very prepared.

Kevin Meade asked about the median earnings and if it is part time and full time. Chad said he doesn't have that information. Kevin asked if there is consideration to change the name from GED. Chad said at the State level it is the Illinois High School Diploma. President Oldfield said GED is a registered name from the College Board. Chad also shared that we have been working on and have improved with preparing students for more than just passing the test. We strongly push postsecondary education following completion. Its about preparing them for much more than just passing the exam. Savannah asked if he works with students on enrolling at SRC. Chad said yes, and we have the ICAP program where students can concurrently enroll in CNA as well as the GED classes. We have faculty come in and meet with students as well. We hold classes at our campus/center locations and the students feel more comfortable when moving on to the next step and enrolling at SRC.

The Trustees thanked Chad for his report.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There were no additional items for the Board.

- 4.0 CLOSED SESSION. In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2, Subsection c, 1). The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; (5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; (6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; and (11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probably or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

Jerry Cremer said there was not a call for Closed Session.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Dave Maguire, seconded by John Biernbaum, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, August 23, 2023, adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Jerry Cremer, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary