The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 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:  
Mrs. Gayle Strode Blodgett  
Mrs. Linda Butler  
Mr. Jerry Cremer  
Mr. Dave Maguire  
Mr. Kevin Meade  
Mr. Phil Murphy  
Mr. Kent Schleich  
Ms. Parris Grace

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; Mr. Todd Thompson, Diesel Tech Faculty; Ms. Sarah Dalpiaz, Mathematics Faculty; Ms. Bridgett Loftus, Chemistry Faculty, Ms. Amy Rutledge, Biology Faculty; and Mrs. Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President/Recorder.

Also present: Mr. Larry Eskridge, Canton Daily Ledger.

1.3 Invocation

Mrs. Blodgett gave the invocation.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Mr. Schleich welcomed the guests who were in attendance.

1.5 Public Comment

Mr. Schleich asked if anyone from the audience would like to address the Board. Todd Thompson said it is nice to be back for the fall semester!

1.6 Approval of Minutes

1.6.1 July 25, 2018 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 25, 2018 Board Retreat Minutes.

1.6.2 July 25, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 25, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes.

1.6.3 July 25, 2018 Closed Session Minutes Review Committee Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 25, 2018 Closed Session Minutes Review Committee Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Mrs. Blodgett presented the following report:

Gayle said there is not a whole lot going on right now. She said there are changes to the MAP grant legislation as signed by the Governor as well as the AIM High program. The hope is to keep students in Illinois for school.

Gayle said we are working with folks at the Canton Campus as well as the other facilities to set up some voter registration drives so students can register on campus and online. We can also check to see if students are registered. Mr. Schleich asked who is doing that. Gayle said she is working with a group of volunteers, and we are working with SRC’s Student Government.

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Ms. Parris Grace 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.

The Athletic Department hosted their kickoff cookout/athletic orientation event on Saturday, August 18th. About 150 student-athletes and family members attended the event along with a number of SRC employees. The day concluded with a painting fundraiser. 43 people participated in the event, and photos can be viewed on the Spoon River College Athletics Facebook page.

The fall semester started on Monday with a number of events and activities at all four sites. Snapperpalooza events were held today in Canton and Macomb where students enjoyed a free lunch, games, 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, Kaleidoscope, Habitat for Humanity, TRiO, Speech and Debate Team, Student Government Association, and Student Nurses Association.
Upcoming event-September 12 and 13: **Promote the Vote** sponsored by the Student Government Association—students will be able to register to vote and also be educated on the importance of voting.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Mr. Phil Murphy presented the following report:

- **Financial**: Revenues $14,653
- The SRC Foundation Board met Wednesday, August 15 at 7:30 a.m.
- An update of the Foundation Policies and Procedures Scholarship Policy was made that tied up a minor loophole that was found while reviewing/updating the College’s Policies and Procedures.
- The Outstanding Service Award Recipient is Thomas Dunne. This award is given by the Foundation Board to an alumnus/alumna who has dedicated significant time to his or her community both personally and professionally – OR a member of the local community who has given significant service to SRC.
- The Golf Outing was a big success with $23,600 raised. Thanks to all who helped with the outing, securing donations, and playing. Phil also thanked WeeMaTuk.
- Alumni Awards and Athletic Hall of Fame nominations committee met last week and made the selections for 2018 and announcements will come soon. Those who were nominated but not selected are kept in a pool and revisited each year. The banquet is scheduled for November 3.
- The Joint Board meeting with the Board of Trustees and Foundation Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26. The Foundation will meet at 3:30 followed by a meeting with the Board of Trustees at 4 p.m. in the Engle Hall Conference Center.

Mr. Murphy also commented on occupancy at The Villas and said that about half are athletes.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comment

Mr. Murphy said he has noticed a lot of newspaper and Facebook coverage.

Mr. Schleich said he ran in to our new basketball coach who is pretty excited! Kent said Coach Lowe said he feels Phase II of the Villas will be needed soon!

2.0 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield reported that classes started Monday, and it is great to have faculty and students back on campus. We have had great support from Holly, Brad, and Missy for our start. It has been great, and the faculty were together last Thursday for Professional Development Day, and there was a lot of positive energy.

President Oldfield reported that we have hired Erin Johnson for the Online Coordinator, a professional support staff position. She starts at the end of August, and her areas of responsibility include the website. She replaces Adam Dalton. Erin’s bio and resume are available in SharePoint.

President Oldfield reported that the men’s basketball coach, Chance Jones, has accepted the position, and his duties will start pretty quickly. Men’s and Women’s basketball will start in the fall of 2020, so recruitment begins very soon.
President Oldfield also reported that we have received positive feedback from the Macomb Chamber about today’s Snapperpalooza. Sheldon was also a very popular presence today.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month August 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>$ 615,884.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable (excluding Travel)</td>
<td>1,605,712.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable Travel Expenses</td>
<td>5,520.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Refunds – Accounts Payable</td>
<td>-0-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)</td>
<td>31,327.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** $2,258,445.14

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month August 2018:

<table>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL:** $2,258,445.14

2.2.2 OPENING OF THE 2018-2019 BUDGET HEARING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees opened the 2018-2019 Budget Hearing.

President Oldfield said Brett provided the Trustees with the budget information at the July Retreat, and nothing has changed. He asked if the Board had any questions.

There were no questions.

2.2.3 CLOSING OF THE 2018-2019 BUDGET HEARING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees closed the 2018-2019 Budget Hearing.

2.2.4 Approve the Resolution for Approval of the 2018-2019 Budget.

President Oldfield said the budget was on display for the appropriate time. Mrs. Butler noted that this is a balanced budget.
Following a motion by Mrs. Butler, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Resolution for Approval of the 2018-2019 Budget.

2.3 Institutional Planning

- Enrollment Management Team – Missy Wilkinson presented the following report:

  Missy reported that we will have 10th day numbers in September. The good news is we have more part-time students than we did last year, but we have fewer full-time as of this point. Our headcount is 1,403 students. Credit hours were down at 12,774 – a little over a 4% decline from last year. We are hoping this improves for 10th day. Dual credit is showing an increase. We are seeing more online and face to face options for dual credit students. The Fulton Democrat has a number of articles on the College this week. The Math dual credit was highlighted in the paper as well. We also have an increase in our returning students. The two areas of decrease are first time freshmen and transfer students (from another institution). Missy said she will have more information at the September Board meeting.

  Missy distributed Open House fliers to the Trustees. The spring open house was a success, so we are also doing an open house in Macomb, and we have moved this to a fall event. She encouraged everyone to attend! We are doing direct mailings to high school juniors and seniors. We are also promoting with radio and newspaper spots. Gayle asked Missy for extra fliers.

  President Oldfield recognized the Daily Ledger for their coverage of our orientations. We had front page coverage for our nursing and new student orientations, and we certainly appreciate the partnership.

  Missy also shared our new commercial with the Trustees.

- Facilities Update – Brett Stoller presented the following report:

  Brett reviewed the following projects that were completed over the summer:
  - Replaced 2/3 of Votec Roof
  - Tuck pointed brick on Canton Campus
  - New Water Tower – Canton Campus
  - New lab construction and renovations
  - Replaced projectors and speakers with 75 inch TVs and sound bars
  - Canton HVAC Replacement, Phase I is complete for Taylor Hall – Brett shared pictures of the renovations.
  - Taylor Hall office renovations – include new carpeting and furniture
  - Taylor Hall Biology Storage upgrade
  - Taylor Hall Chemistry Storage upgrade
  - Taylor Hall Classroom
  - IVS system upgrade

  Brett reported on the Canton HVAC project and reviewed what is next:
  - Summer 2019 Phase II Engle Hall Building (may add a floor or two of Centers)
  - Summer 2020 Phase III Centers

  Brett shared with the Trustees the Potential Facilities Project list that was reviewed at the July Retreat. Brett reviewed that list and funding sources again with the Trustees. He
reported that he received a request from ICCB for emergency requests. State Special funds has been reduced to $100,000.

President Oldfield asked if this addresses the Board’s questions from the Retreat. Mr. Murphy said yes. President Oldfield said some of the projects are vital to operations. He said that we continue to work with our legislators for the Macomb East renovations. President Oldfield said the conversation is regarding the comfort level of the Trustees to use the funds from the gym to pursue the baseball and softball fields and proceed with bids to see if that is possible. Mr. Schleich asked if there is anyone opposed to going out for bid for the fields. Mrs. Butler said she is not opposed. Mr. Murphy said the money has to be used for capital projects in Canton. President Oldfield said yes, and CDB may say it has to be associated with the Multipurpose building. Mr. Maguire asked about the timeframe. President Oldfield said we are past the optimum timeframe but dirt work could be done soon. The grass infield of a baseball diamond may not take until spring, summer, or fall next year, depending on the weather. Softball is a little different. President Oldfield said Kevin Meade had a recommendation of checking other contractors, and Brett has a number. Brett said we will get some dirt work done now with the majority of the work in the spring. If a contractor can get a job now to get on the books for March, that would be great. Linda said she likes this list of projects, and she would like to see this every six months with new projects, even without funding sources. President Oldfield said this will be beneficial at the January and July Board Retreats. Brett can have this information available for those Retreats. Brett said the bond schedules are also available to the Trustees on SharePoint.

Mr. Maguire commented on Macomb East and said the concept has changed. Is it plausible to start thinking about completing that building in segments as we identify partnerships for training? We also need to be able to go out to those people as we develop career and technical education we could partner for building completion in phases. Brett said the hard part is keeping the end game in mind because we can’t finish any of the unfinished section without the plan for geothermal. There is no conditioning at this point. President Oldfield said the most expensive part is the first phase for the completion of the infrastructure. Dave said that is why he raises the question now because we will be working towards that.

Mr. Murphy thanked Brett for that information. President Oldfield asked if the Board is comfortable with the College going out for bid for the baseball and softball diamonds. The Board said yes.

President Oldfield recognized Brett Stoller, Bob Haile, and the College Maintenance staff for their hard work this summer. They supported all of the projects in Canton and Macomb, and President Oldfield said he can’t say enough about how hard they worked and how well they did with the entire project. We were ready to go for Day 1 of the Fall Semester. He hopes the Board will take the time to recognize those individuals. President Oldfield thanked Brett and Bob Haile for their leadership and supporting the faculty and staff. He also thanked the faculty and IT staff for their support in this process as well.

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

Chad thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the Adult Education and Family Literacy report. He recognized the staff and instructional staff. He also extended his congratulations to Thelma Webb for her retirement.

**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 56,460:

- 9,665 (17.1%) live in poverty
- 1,416 (2.5%) have less than 9 grades of formal education
- 4,232 (7.5%) have attained 9 or more grades of formal education but do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent
- 3,675 (6.5%) were classified as ESL adults and felt that they did not speak English well
- 8,807 (15.6%) receive some type of public assistance from the government

Funding Sources

The FY18 operating budget of the Spoon River College Adult Education program was $352,480. 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.
### Adult Education Enrollment Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instruction Type</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15*</th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Basic Education (ABE)</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Secondary Education (ASE)</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English-as-a-Second-Language</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals Earning GED</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head Count</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Hours</td>
<td>20517</td>
<td>17484</td>
<td>19228</td>
<td>18148</td>
<td>18693</td>
<td>16972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment Hours</td>
<td>29273</td>
<td>24207</td>
<td>26236</td>
<td>23902</td>
<td>25017</td>
<td>23596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persistence Rate</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Persistance rate is calculated by dividing the attendance hours by the enrollment hours. The primary reason that retention rates are important is that retention rates are perceived as indicators of academic quality and student success.

**Core Performance Indicators**

The table below shows the Illinois target percentages and Spoon River College percentages for FY2013 through 2018. In FY15, FY17, and FY18 the program met or exceeded all state targets. In April of this year, 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.
In 2012, ICCB announced four other core performance indicators, in addition to NRS level gains, that will be used to measure program performance. The table below indicates the SRC and State of Illinois percentages, as well as the federal target percentage. FY15 data is the most recent available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>FY 12 Entered Employment</th>
<th>FY 12 Retained Employment</th>
<th>FY 12 Attained GED</th>
<th>FY 13 Entered Employment</th>
<th>FY 13 Retained Employment</th>
<th>FY 13 Attained GED</th>
<th>FY 14 Entered Employment</th>
<th>FY 14 Retained Employment</th>
<th>FY 14 Attained GED</th>
<th>FY 15 Entered Employment</th>
<th>FY 15 Retained Employment</th>
<th>FY 15 Attained GED</th>
<th>FY 15 Entered Post-Secondary</th>
<th>Entered Post-Secondary %</th>
<th>Retained Employment %</th>
<th>Attained GED %</th>
<th>Entered Post-Secondary %</th>
<th>Retained Employment %</th>
<th>Attained GED %</th>
<th>Entered Post-Secondary %</th>
<th>Retained Employment %</th>
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<th>Attained GED %</th>
<th>Entered Post-Secondary %</th>
<th>Retained Employment %</th>
<th>Attained GED %</th>
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<th>Retained Employment %</th>
<th>Attained GED %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 13</td>
<td>Entered Employment</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>Retained Employment</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>Attained GED</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Entered Post-Secondary</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>Entered Employment</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>Retained Employment</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>Attained GED</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 progresses 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 FY18, 12 new students were enrolled in the program and two returned from the previous year. Of those 14 students, 7 have completed the GED exam, 3 students have passed 75% sections of the GED exam, 2 have passed 50% of the GED exam, and 2 have passed 25% of the GED exam. Of the 7 who have completed the GED exam, 1 has enrolled and completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program at SRC, 4 plan to attend SRC in 2018, and 2 plan to join the United States Army.

**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. For FY18, Adult Education Staff have partnered with the staff at the Department of Human Services Treatment and Detention Facility in Rushville. Cyndi Johnston trained three DHS staff members who then train facility residents to tutor lower level residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Volunteer Literacy Program FY18</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Adult Learners Served</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Volunteer Tutors</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Hours by Tutors</td>
<td>8129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Impact of Adult Education on Spoon River College**

Spoons 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: 5,648 (10%) district residents without a high school diploma and 3,675 (6.5%) classified as ESL adults.

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. For the last four years, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY12</th>
<th>FY13</th>
<th>FY14</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
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<tr>
<td>GED Earners Taking Credit Classes</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>142</td>
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<td>Credit Classes Taken by GED Earners</td>
<td>908</td>
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<td>807</td>
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<td>611</td>
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<td>Credit Hours Taken by GED Earners</td>
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<td>2788</td>
<td>2437.5</td>
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<td>2610</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>1383.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>GED Earners Completing Program of Study</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

“Juan”
After 15 years of living in Baltimore, Maryland, 44 year old Mengsi “Juan” Wang wanted to be closer to his brother, an established business owner in Canton. “I like it much better here,” said Wang. “It feels like a safe place to raise my sons and to have a better quality of life.”

The degree Wang already has, from his native country China, is not recognized in the US, which led him to the GED program at Spoon River College. Wang moved swiftly through the sections, starting with math and scoring 180 on the test. Program Advisor Melissa Koke says “that’s the highest score I’ve seen anyone get.” Wang did it with little effort, and says “language is my biggest challenge.”

Wang would like to continue with college and also thinks it’s important to acquire “hands-on” skills because “they help make a person more self-sufficient.” For now, he’s the main care-giver for his two sons, ages 4 and 9. “Juan is determined to succeed, motivated by his desire to set a good example for his sons,” said Koke. “He’ll do what he sets his mind to do.”

Wang is quick to smile and lives by this philosophy: “God decides if you make it, but you have to make good decisions and you have to prepare yourself first.”
Kim

Kim Kenney, 34 years old, wanted to obtain her high school equivalency for two reasons: she wanted better employment options, and she wanted her children to understand the importance of education. “I know all too well that without a high school diploma, low paying and often dead-end jobs are what you have to choose from,” said Kenney, who is interested in taking business courses and dreams of owning her own business.

The GED prep program consists of four sections (social studies, math, science, and language arts), and can be completed at each individual’s own pace. The program is supplemented with online curriculum, an option that Kenney appreciated. “If I had an extra 20 minutes at home, I was jumping on the computer to do a lesson. At the same time, I knew I would receive assistance from instructors in class,” said Kenney. “I completed all the sections and passed the final test in December,” said Kenney. “It was a great feeling and my kids were so proud of me. That meant a lot.”

Melissa Koke, program advisor, says Kenney is a great example for others who need to obtain their GED. “She worked full-time, took care of three kids and a husband, and still managed to find time to attend class and work on it at home.”

Kenney’s philosophy is that “if it’s important enough to you, you’ll find the time to make it happen.”

Mr. Schleich thanked Chad for the report. President Oldfield asked how many volunteers support the programs. Chad said we have 77 volunteer tutors. President Oldfield said this is an important community aspect as well. Chad said we always need more volunteers in Havana and Canton. President Oldfield thanked Chad for his leadership in the program.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There were no additional items presented to 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; and 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.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Murphy, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, August 22, 2018 adjourned at 7:07 p.m.