

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

**Wednesday, August 24, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Spoon River College was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Spoon River College Conference Center, Rooms A and B, Canton Campus, Canton, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Mr. Kevin Meade, Vice 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
	Ms. Zoey Lane
	Mr. Kent Schleich

Members Present:	Mr. Jerry Cremer
	Mr. Kent Schleich

Present were Mr. Curt Oldfield, 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. Andrea Thomson, Director, Human Resources; Ms. Sarah Gray, Director, Business and Auxiliary Services; Ms. Bridget Loftus, Chemistry Faculty; Ms. Amy Rutledge, Biology Faculty; and Mrs. Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President/Recorder.

Also present: Mark Bixler, WBYS; Mr. John Froehling, Fulton Democrat.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Meade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Mr. Meade welcomed the guests who were in attendance.

1.5 Public Comment

Mr. Meade asked if there were any comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.

1.6 Approval of Minutes

1.6.1 May 25, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the May 25, 2022 Closed Session Meeting Minutes

#### 1.6.2 July 27, 2022 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 27, 2022 Closed Session Minutes Review Committee Minutes.

#### 1.6.3 July 27, 2022 Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

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 July 27, 2022 Board Retreat Meeting Minute.

#### 1.6.4 July 27, 2022 Board Retreat Closed Session Meeting 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 27, 2022 Board Retreat Closed Session Meeting Minutes.

#### 1.6.5 July 27, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the July 27, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

#### 1.6.6 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 attachment 1.6.6 of the agenda.

Mr. Maguire said that is a total of 53 sets of minutes, and we are working to get that number down. Mr. Murphy thanked Linda and Dave for serving on that committee.

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, 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 attachment 1.6.6 of the agenda.

#### 1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

While there have not been regular meetings of ICCTA recently, the Executive Committee met last weekend at the College of DuPage for their annual planning session. I attended as chairman of the dues structure committee and as a past president of the Association.

Dr. Maureen Dunne, trustee from College of DuPage and this year's ICCTA President, presented her vision, goals and potential action steps for the coming year.

Goal 1: Community colleges + economic development organizations = progress

Goal 2: Elevate perception of community colleges

Goal 3: Broaden DEI efforts (including neurodiversity and student success)

Goal 4: Expanded ICCTA technology offerings

Goal 5: Community college consortiums targeting federal grant funded projects

During the planning session there were presentations and discussion on the community college's involvement in economic development in line with President Dunne's goals. Tom Schmidt the former president of Carl Sandburg College facilitated the discussion with a general direction being agreed upon.

At different times during the planning session we had the opportunity to meet with State Representative Terra Costa Howard (R) and Representative Deb Conroy (D). They are both from the DuPage County area and had differing perspectives on the next legislative year and agenda.

Legislative counsel Jessica Nardulli provided an update on State legislative and public policy issues. She noted the hyper-partisan atmosphere in the political arena and recommended that ICCTA not adopt its legislative agenda until after the November 2022 election. She also encouraged trustees to invite legislative candidates on campus so that they can become familiar with community colleges.

POSSIBLE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES FOR 2023 Trustees discussed several possible legislative initiatives for 2023, including: 1) prohibiting for-profit colleges from receiving Monetary Award Program grants, and 2) expanding local boards' ability to hold remote meetings.

ICCTA Executive Director Jim Reed announced that ICCTA is partnering with the Association of Community College Trustees to sponsor a Governance Leadership Institute on December 1-2 at Triton College in River Grove. Attendance will be limited to Illinois trustees and presidents. Possible session topics include the role of the board chair, onboarding of new board members, succession planning for the board, and board/CEO relationships.

Rev Lee Johnson, trustee from Carl Sandburg who serves as our ICCTA Regional Chair, suggested that we invite the new President and Provost from Western Illinois University to next regional meeting. The five colleges in the region are major providers of transfer students to Western and have direct involvement with numerous programs. Rev. Johnson asked if Spoon River would be willing to host the meeting. The date and time will be set once we have agreement on schedules which will be coordinated by Carl Sandburg College.

The next meeting of the ICCTA will be at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield on September 9-10, 2022. This will include a seminar presentation, committee meetings and the regular Board of Representatives session.

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

Mr. Maguire also reported that the College of DuPage is a unique college. For the next year they will be hosting an Andy Warhol exhibit on their campus. They were also the host for the planning meeting, and it is a very large campus. Mrs. Butler asked about the succession planning session and asked if that was for the institution. Dave said yes, it will be handled by ACCT and only for community colleges and hosted by Triton College.

### **Upcoming dates and meetings of interest:**

#### **AUGUST 2022**

August 19-20 ICCTA Executive Committee Retreat, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL

#### **SEPTEMBER 2022**

September 9-10 ICCTA Board of Representatives Meeting – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield

September 15-16 ICCB Retreat & Meeting, John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL

#### **OCTOBER 2022**

October 26-29 ACCT Annual Leadership Congress, Marriott Marquis, New York, NY

#### **NOVEMBER 2022**

November 8 Illinois General Election

November 11-12 ICCTA Board of Representatives Meeting – Location to be determined

November 15-17 Illinois General Assembly Veto Session

LAST DATE 12PT ENTIRE LAST ROW: 12PT AFTER SPACING

#### **DECEMBER 2022**

December 1 Illinois General Assembly Veto Session

December 1-2 ACCT Governance Leadership Institute, Chicago

December 2 ICCB Meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield

December 12-19 Filing period for nominating petitions for the April 2023 consolidated election (including community college trustees)

#### **JANUARY 2023**

January 27 ICCB Meeting, Harry L. Crisp II Community College Center, Springfield

#### **FEBRUARY 2023**

February 5-8 [Community College National Legislative Summit](#), Washington, D.C.

#### **MARCH 2023**

March 10-11 ICCTA Board of Representatives Meeting – Location to be determined

March 24 ICCB Meeting, Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby

#### **APRIL 2023**

April 1-4 AACC Annual Conference, Denver, CO

April 4 Illinois Consolidated Election (including community college trustee elections)

April 27 Phi Theta Kappa Banquet, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield

## **JUNE 2023**

June 2-3

ICCTA Annual Convention - Location to be determined

### 1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

New Student Orientations were held last week in Macomb and Canton. Zoey helped with those and also served on a student panel. 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.

The Athletic Department hosted their kickoff cookout/athletic orientation event on Saturday, August 20. Over 130 student-athletes and family members attended the event along with a number of SRC coaches and staff.

Volleyball season is underway. According to Coach Cheatham, the team is small in height and numbers but are fighters! Home opener is tonight against Lake Land College.

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 grab and go refreshments.

Welcome week festivals were held yesterday in Macomb and today in Canton. Students enjoyed free lunch and prizes. Students also had the opportunity to chat with a number of club advisors

### 1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

- Financials: Revenues: \$43,069.60
- The SRC Foundation Board met Wednesday, August 17 at 7:30 a.m., remotely with a few members present in person.
- The Foundation Board members were joined by Stacey Mallo from Rescigno’s Fundraising Professionals, the Foundation’s consultant and producer for the annual campaign the past two years. Stacey gave a quick overview of what has been accomplished so far as well as an overview of the contract proposal for the next year of the annual campaign.
  - In addition to three full mail appeals and a fourth to lagging previous donors at year-end and analyses of each mailing, the new contract includes a re-analysis and revamping of the current mailing list (including another purchased mailing list). Also included are a printed “impact report” to be mailed to current donors and a more-detailed “annual report” in a digital format.
  - Foundation Board members asked questions of both Stacey and Colin regarding past accomplishments and future goals with the annual campaign and ultimately unanimously voted to engage with Rescigno’s in another one-year contract for September 2022-August 2023.
  - The final mail appeal of the current contract is in production currently and will be mailed before the end of the month. It features a first-person letter from Shyler White, a student from Havana who has received emergency hardship grants to help him with transportation costs and a new alternator in his car. The letter highlights the struggles that many SRC students face in times of higher gas prices and increased costs of goods and services – something donors and prospective donors should be able to relate to.
- The Alumni Awards Reception and Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner will take place in the evening of Saturday, Nov. 5 here at the Canton Campus, and all are invited to attend. The award recipients were chosen by the committee a few days ago, but because not everyone has been contacted yet, we’re holding off on a formal announcement. We look forward to bringing that news to you at the September meeting and hope you can join us on Nov. 5.
  - The Foundation Board also voted to appropriate funds for a new display to commemorate the names of all the Alumni Award recipients dating back to 1983. Final edits are being made to the design before production begins in the next couple of weeks,

with the plan being to have this display up in the Multi-Purpose Building by the November event. We had explored options for a display for the Athletic Hall of Fame, as well, but we've pushed that back to design to get something we were happier with for the price point, so it will not be ready for this November's event.

- The totals from the 2022 golf outing are in, and with the help of sponsors and golfers, the event raised over \$23,000 for the Foundation. We appreciate everyone who helped make the day possible and are already making some early preparations for next year's event, which will be the 30<sup>th</sup> outing.
- Finally, Dr. Oldfield and I have decided that, because we're still likely to be waiting for some additional information about the Macomb project and other potential projects, for the sake of being respectful of everyone's time, we will be pushing back the Joint Meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Directors until later in the academic year. Because there is no otherwise scheduled meeting for the Foundation in September, the next meeting of the SRC Foundation is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 a.m. via video conference. Committees may meet and business may be conducted by email before then if necessary.

#### 1.10 Report – Board Member Comment

Mr. Maguire reported on two TIF meetings in Macomb. The Joint Review Board Meeting is September 1 at 11 a.m. Dave said he plans to attend that meeting. Dr. Oldfield said he is not able to attend. September 27 is the second meeting for the public hearing on the new north east TIF district which would impact us.

#### 1.11 Appoint designees of Board Secretary Phillip Murphy to handle the details of the Board of Trustees election to be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Petitions will be delivered to the Canton Campus.

President Oldfield asked the Trustees to appoint Andrea Thomson and Heather Myers as designees to handle the details of the Tuesday, April 4, 2023 election. He stated that we have three trustees eligible for reelection with three openings on the ballot. Those Trustees are Mr. Maguire, Mr. Meade, and Mr. Murphy.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees appointed Andrea Thomson and Heather Myers as designees of Board Secretary Phillip Murphy to handle the details of the Board of Trustees election to be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Petitions will be delivered to the Canton Campus

## 2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 2.1 Communications

Dr. Oldfield thanked the Trustees for their support. He said he took his first class of his doctoral program in the fall of 2006 or 07 and finally finished. All that matters is the finish. He said he did receive his transcripts today, and it is official. He thanked the Board for the support and patience.

Dr. Oldfield said the school year has started off well, and he thanked the Deans and staff for a smooth launch for the start. We had a hiccup with technology but that has been resolved. It is always fun to get the school year started, and President Oldfield said he is receiving positive feedback and is looking forward to getting students engaged and reengaged.

Dr. Oldfield reported that it has been decided to move back the joint board meeting with the Foundation. Most of that conversation needs to center around the Macomb Project, and we will be meeting at the end of August and anticipate more of a February or March meeting timeframe for a joint meeting. Dr. Oldfield said we may need to do some calendar adjustments to get that meeting scheduled once we are more solid on numbers and know the plan for the need of the Foundation to finish that project. President Oldfield said he will continue to keep the Trustees informed about those conversations. The upcoming meeting surrounds classrooms and furnishings. Drawing details are being finalized, and he will have a better idea of where we are after that August 31st meeting.

President Oldfield said if Board members are able to stay tonight, he knows the volleyball players would appreciate the attendance of the Trustees.

Dr. Oldfield reported that he has met with all direct reports regarding the reorganization based on Brett Stoller's departure. President Oldfield said he is getting a better grasp of needs and is formulating future plans. He will have a finalized report at the September Board Meeting. President Oldfield said he will review with President's Cabinet before it is finalized as well before bringing to the Trustees. It has been very fruitful to hear the leadership and faculty member ideas both for now and in the future

## 2.2 Business and Finance Report

### 2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month August 2022:

Payroll (3 pays)	\$ 604,152.25
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	745,643.82
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	14,968.70
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	- 0 -
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	140,751.37
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	- 0 -
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>5,997.36</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,511,513.50</b>

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 authorized the following payments for the month August 2022:

Payroll (3 pays)	\$ 604,152.25
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	745,643.82
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	14,968.70
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	- 0 -
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	140,751.37
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	- 0 -
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	<u>5,997.36</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,511,513.50</b>

### 2.2.2 OPENING OF THE 2022-2023 BUDGET HEARING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees opened the 2022-2023 Budget Hearing.

Mr. Meade asked for any comments. Dr. Oldfield said the July Retreat presentation is in this month's folder in SharePoint for review. Overall, the budget is a balanced budget that is proposed, and Sarah Gray is here for any specific questions.

#### 2.2.3 CLOSING OF THE 2022-2023 BUDGET HEARING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees closed the 2022-2023 Budget Hearing.

#### 2.2.4 Approve the Resolution for Approval of the 2022-2023 Budget.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the Resolution for Approval of the 2022-2023 Budget.

President Oldfield reminded the Trustees that, following the meeting, we will need each signature of the Trustees for the budget approval.

#### 2.2.5 Appointment of College Treasurer

President Oldfield asked the Board to consider the appointment of Sarah Gray, Director, Business and Auxiliary Services, to the position of College Treasurer.

Mrs. Butler said this is the interim appointment and will be addressed again at a later date. President Oldfield said yes, and in the meantime, Sarah is well versed. Linda said by law no Trustee can serve as Treasurer. President Oldfield agreed.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Sarah Gray, Director, Business and Auxiliary Services as College Treasurer.

### 2.3 Institutional Planning

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

**FY 2022  
ADULT EDUCATION  
AND  
FAMILY LITERACY**

**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 52,948:

- 8,662 (16.4%) live in poverty
- 5,582 (10.5%) do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent
- 3,093 (5.8%) were classified as ESL adults and felt that they did not speak English well
- 10,757 (20.3%) receive some type of public assistance from the government

**Funding Sources**

The FY2022 operating budget of the Spoon River College Adult Education program was \$398,450. 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	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
ICCB State Basic	\$98,650	\$103,330	\$106,150	\$105,208	\$106,606
ICCB Federal	\$75,700	\$72,795	\$75,870	\$75,272	\$77,644
ICCB State Performance	\$64,210	\$57,590	\$61,910	\$59,805	\$68,720
Career Link	\$47,570	\$51,500	\$51,500	\$53,500	\$63,480
Adult Volunteer Literacy	\$33,350	\$50,000	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,000
Dollar General	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
LWIB 14	\$25,000		\$17,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$352,480</b>	<b>\$343,215</b>	<b>\$374,430</b>	<b>\$370,785</b>	<b>\$398,450</b>

**Adult Education Enrollment Data**

Instruction Type	Students Served				
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	129	184	132	124	135

Instruction Type	Students Served				
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	94	32	31	26	30
English-as-a-Second-Language	38	33	35	19	13
Total	261	249	198	169	178
Individuals Earning GED®	42	29	39	34	36

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Head Count	261	249	198	169	178
Attendance Hours	16972	17086	12113	10834	11869
Enrollment Hours	23596	24943	19463	15463	17674
Persistence Rate	72%	69%	62%	70%	67%
Post-Test Rate	72%	71%	67%	61%	63%

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 FY2011 through FY2022.

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. The Spoon River College program has performed well for many years.

In two of the last 4 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 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.

For FY2023, program staff will be implementing a new pre- and post-test known as CASAS Goals. It has been recommended by other programs throughout the state. It is a computer-based program that appears to take less time and is showing better measurable skill gains.

### **Measurable Skills Gains**

	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Target	40%	42%	35%	36%	39%	40%	41%	43%	45%	46%	45%	45%
SRC	40%	47%	44%	51%	54%	55%	64%	58%	35%	45%	35%	21%
Plus HSE										52%	45%	41%

### **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 FY2022

ITEM	COUNT
Total Adult Learners Served	81
Number of Volunteer Tutors	32
Instructional Hours by Tutors	1,612

### **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, \$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.

### **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.

EARNERS	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY18-22
GED® Earners Taking Credit Classes	86	83	86	65	66	<b>386</b>
Credit Classes Taken by GED® Earners	355	364	372	305	289	<b>1685</b>
Credit Hours Taken by GED® Earners	1151	1205	1197.5	972.5	917	<b>5443</b>
GED® Earners Completing Program of Study	43	47	40	32	24	<b>186</b>
GED® Earners with Degrees/Cert. Earned	40	42	33	25	18	<b>158</b>

### Success Stories

#### Kailey

Kailey worked hard to complete the High School Equivalency in 11 weeks. She attended classes twice each week totaling 6 hours and worked outside of class. Kailey experienced major medical problems during this process and she passed her final test the day before she had a kidney transplant. While attending classes, Kailey was also diagnosed with cancer and the doctors weren't able to treat the cancer until she had a kidney transplant. Her dream is to become a nurse. In a follow up conversation, Kailey indicates that she has recovered well from the kidney transplant and doing well with cancer treatments. She is feeling better and is looking forward to enrolling in nursing classes in the fall.

In September 2021, Graham Health System partnered with Spoon River College and the SRC Foundation to launch a scholarship program, aiming to support SRC students -- who intend to enter certain fields, including but not limited to medical occupations, industrial maintenance, and computer information systems -- with a scholarship and guaranteed employment upon graduation. The scholarship can cover the full cost of a student's education at SRC, and in exchange, the student agrees to work for Graham Health System for a period of time correlating to the amount of scholarship awarded. As long as the student remains in good standing with the scholarship program and completes the work requirement, the scholarship is not intended to be paid back.

Kailey, with guidance and support from adult education staff, is exploring this scholarship program and is excited about the prospect of completing a degree program with no debt.

#### 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 hours a day, sometimes eleven or twelve, 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.

Mr. Murphy asked if you think employment is up if some of these people are taking jobs rather than enrolling. Chad said traditionally as unemployment drops so does our enrollment. He thinks COVID is what has kept students away.

President Oldfield thanked Chad and the instructors for doing such a good job, and this is a wonderful resource. We are the sole provider for this opportunity for individuals in our district. It is interesting to see how the stigma of getting a GED is melting away quickly and is becoming more and more respected as people realize the challenge of completing the GED. Chad said the Governor just signed that it is now a high school diploma and no longer an equivalency. President Oldfield said it is important to recognize the staff and the emphasis to strengthen the bridge to move from the GED graduation to enrolling with us.

2.3.1 Approve acceptance of the resignation of Brett Stoller, Vice President, effective September 16, 2022.

President Oldfield presented this item for the Board's consideration. Brett is unable to be here tonight but his work email is still in place. Dr. Oldfield said Brett is in the process of a move to Tennessee and has a lot of changes. He was not able to attend this evening but would probably welcome notes.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved acceptance of the resignation of Brett Stoller, Vice President, effective September 16, 2022.

3.0 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

There were no additional items for the Board's consideration.

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.

Mr. Meade said there was not a call for Closed Session this evening.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by Mr. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Biernbaum, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, August 24, 2022 adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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Mr. Jerry Cremer, Chair

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Date

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Mr. Phillip Murphy, Secretary