

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

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 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, October 22, 2025, at 6 p.m., at the Canton Campus, Engle Conference Center, Rooms A and B, 23235 N. Co. 22, Canton, Illinois.

1.0 GENERAL FUNCTIONS

1.1 Call to Order

Kevin Meade, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

1.2 Roll Call

Members Present:	John Biernbaum
	Linda Butler
	Jerry Cremer
	Dave Maguire (by phone)
	Kevin Meade
	Phillip Murphy
	Kent Schleich
	Logan Booth

Present: Dr. Curt Oldfield, President; Holly Norton, Vice President of Educational and Student Services; Mike Strauman, Chief Operations and Safety Officer; Missy Wilkinson, Dean, Student Services; Melissa Miller, Dean, Career and Workforce Education; Hannah Neuendorf, Director, Human Resources; Sarah Gray, Chief Fiscal Officer; Raj Siddaraju, Chief Information Officer; Dusty Berg, Director, Foundation; Beth Van Tine, Education Faculty; Sarah Strode, Nursing Faculty; and Julie Hampton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees/Recorder.

Also present: Mark Bixler, WBYS.

Dave Maguire indicated he was attending by phone because he is in New Orleans attending the ACCT Conference.

1.3 Pledge of Allegiance

Kevin Meade led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4 Welcome of Guests

Kevin Meade welcomed those in attendance.

1.5 Public Comment

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

1.5.1 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Clean Energy Jobs Act Grant, Public Input Hearing

President Oldfield explained that as a part of the grant application process for CEJA Year 3, we are required to have a public input hearing for coal impacted communities. This is the third year of our eligibility for the grant following the closing of coal fired power plants. SRC had two such plants in our district. We intend to use the funds to finish our Advanced Manufacturing and HVAC labs and also a room for advanced learning opportunities for group based learning at the Macomb Campus. A grant requirement is to have a public hearing and provide an opportunity for input. No action is required. Trustee Meade asked if there were any comments. There were none. President Oldfield said we will continue to move forward, and the grant is due December 19. President Oldfield will keep the Board informed as this progresses.

1.6 Approval of Minutes

1.6.1 September 24, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Linda Butler, seconded by Jerry Cremer, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the September 24, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

1.7 Report – ICCTA Representative

Dave Maguire provided his report which President Oldfield read as follows:

There is little to report since our last meeting. The first half of the General Assembly Veto Session did not produce any action. The second half is scheduled for next week.

ICCTA staff and Illinois trustees, along with myself, are currently attending the ACCT Annual Leadership Congress. I will follow up with a report of items covered at the conference at next month's board meeting.

The next state-wide meeting of the ICCTA will be November 14-15 at the Chicago Marriott Naperville, which will be in conjunctions with an ACCT Governance Leadership session for college wishing to participate.

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

1.8 Report – Student Government Representative

Logan Booth provided the following report:

Canton Student Government Association had a meet and greet with the current members who also gave out donuts to students who stopped by.

Canton SGA also held their fall blood drive today with nearly every time slot filled with donors.

TRIO events for October include:

- First financial literacy of “College Meals on a Dime”
- FAFSA completion, and
- Midterm discussions with topics including avoiding burnout and finding motivation

Students for Environmental Action hosted a campus clean-up last week. The annual bonfire will be November 6th.

1.9 Report – Spoon River College Foundation

Dusty Berg presented the following report:

- Deposits since September 17th: \$39,320.15
- As part of the logo rollout we are going through and creating brochures and flyers to be used in donor acquisition and informing students of the resources we offer.
- Hardship Grants – We approved two hardship grants since last meeting.
- Operation Generosity – We continue to get applications and award the scholarship to qualified applicants on a first come first serve basis.
- Fellheimer fall deadline is October 24th.
- The main scholarship and spring dual credit applications opened October 1st. Dual Credit closes on November 21st and the main one closes March 1st.
- Michelle is working on the Alumni Awards Dinner. That is November 8th.
- Foundation Staff and Vickie met with Rescigno's to plan out fundraising appeals for the rest of the fiscal year.
- Michelle and I attended the tri state fundraising summit in Quincy last week. The main topic was AI in fundraising.

President Oldfield asked Dusty if he will have a packet of information for Trustees for GivingSpoonDay for them to use. Dusty said he has that information and will be sending it to the Trustees.

1.10 Report – Board Member Comments

Kevin Meade asked if there were any Board Member Comments. There were no comments from Trustees.

1.11 Board Policy Revision

1.11.1 POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE TITLE IX

This Board Policy revision incorporates personnel updates as well as policy changes.

President Oldfield presented this and said as part of Title IX there are new laws that have been written, and Missy Wilkinson has been working on this along with Robbins Schwartz. She will review the highlights of these changes which takes us back to what we had in 2020.

Missy reported that the U.S. Department of Education issued final Title IX regulations (which once again enforces the 2020 Title IX regulations) governing sex discrimination complaints involving educational institutions. The big picture of the 2020 regulations include:

Narrow definition of sexual harassment.

Jurisdictional limitations-alleged misconduct must occur in college's program or activity with the college having substantial control over the respondent and the context of incident.

Single investigator model is now prohibited-the investigator and decision maker cannot be the same person.

Greater due process protections for accused parties.

Missy said this is a complete rewrite and brand new policy, and she has worked with Robbins Schwartz College counsel to update our Title IX policy. We will begin training our Title IX team members. We will also provide training on the new regulations to all employees, students, and board members soon. Julie has provided you with the policy updated by Robbins and Schwartz's attorneys, which we recommend you adopt as board policy.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS; POLICY TITLE: TITLE IX.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Communications

President Oldfield shared that Dusty mentioned the Alumni Awards dinner on November 8, and President Oldfield said it is a great evening to recognize alums and hopes the Trustees can attend. The November Board Meeting is a week earlier than normal because of Thanksgiving, scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, and the December Board Meeting is the third Wednesday (December 17) as well. November we will be in Canton and in Macomb in December.

President Oldfield that Adam Mason, who is currently a part of our maintenance staff, is moving to IT starting October 27 taking the position held by Riley Powell. Catherine Calvert accepted the Assistant Director, LRC position that was previously held by Jeanette Glover. We have the Student Success coach position open at this time. Mike Strauman will be reviewing the maintenance vacancy.

President Oldfield shared that registration is open for spring and summer, so if you have questions, please let people know it is open.

2.2 Business and Finance Report

2.2.1 Authorize the following payments for the month of October, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$577,827.51
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	1,021,380.85
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	22,227.85
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	1,847.61
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	213,570.45
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	612,866.80

TOTAL: \$2,449,721.07

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized the following payments for the month of October, 2025:

Item	Amount
Payroll	\$577,827.51
Accounts Payable (excluding travel)	1,021,380.85
Accounts Payable Travel Expenses	22,227.85
Accounts Payable BOT Travel Expenses	1,847.61
Electronic Payments (Health/Life Insurance)	213,570.45
Student Refunds – Accounts Payable	-0-
Student Refunds – Nelnet (electronic)	612,866.80
TOTAL:	\$2,449,721.07

- 2.2.2 Resource Allocation and Management Plan (RAMP) Project. Authorize submission of the capital budget request for the Drama Auditorium/Theater addition to the Multipurpose Facility at the Canton Campus. The total cost of the project is \$13,519,800 of which \$10,139,850 is being requested. A local match of \$3,379,950 is required.

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that the RAMP project is submitted on an annual basis to ICCB. This submission for SRC would be for the Drama Auditorium/Theater on the Canton Campus. He explained that this is collected on an annual basis, and we have no indication on a capital bill in this next session. We have to submit a project in order to be considered. We have submitted this project for the last few years, and the last two years have had no escalators, so these figures are out of range of the actual project. Mike Strauman receives those communications and indicated there are no escalators.

Following a motion by Linda Butler, seconded by Jerry Cremer, and a roll call vote of unanimous approval, it was,

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees authorized submission of the capital budget request for the Drama Auditorium/Theater addition to the Multipurpose Facility at the Canton Campus. The total cost of the project is \$13,519,800 of which \$10,139,850 is being requested. A local match of \$3,379,950 is required.

- 2.2.3 Approve the upgrade of the on premises Microsoft Exchange 2019 system to Exchange Online in the amount of \$28, 125 from Sentinel Technologies, Inc., Downers Grove, IL. Funds for this upgrade are available in the IT Ed Fund.

President Oldfield presented this item and explained that we are asking the Board to consider the move to a cloud environment which provides more flexibility, storage space, and reliability. Raj Siddaraju has done the research on this and recommends the Board consider this service. Phillip Murphy asked if this is a one-time or annual cost. Raj said this is a one-time cost.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees approved the upgrade of the on premises Microsoft Exchange 2019 system to Exchange Online in the amount of \$28, 125 from Sentinel Technologies, Inc., Downers Grove, IL. Funds for this upgrade are available in the IT Ed Fund.

- 2.2.4 Adopt a Resolution of Intent to levy an Additional Tax. This tax is authorized under Illinois Statutes and notification has been received from ICCB of Spoon River College's eligibility to impose the levy. The Resolution is included in attachment 2.2.4.

President Oldfield presented his item and said this the first step the Board takes with the additional tax that is triggered when the college qualifies for an Equalization Grant. The Equalization Grant is designed for community college districts that have fewer vertical assets and is based off of a per pupil spending. When you qualify, your tax levy is compared to others across the State. The Board needs to first take this action and public its intent to do this tax. We would collect any responses, and the Board will then take action in December.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees adopted a Resolution of Intent to levy an Additional Tax. This tax is authorized under Illinois Statutes and notification has been received from ICCB of Spoon River College's eligibility to impose the levy.

2.3 Institutional Planning

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

President Oldfield thanked Chad Murphy for presenting the Adult Education and Family Literacy report.

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

The Spoon River College Adult Education and Family Literacy (AEFL) Program is committed to creating clear pathways for adults to move forward in education and employment. Our work goes beyond preparing students for the high school equivalency exam or improving English language skills. We focus on helping adults gain the skills and confidence they need to enter the workforce, pursue better job opportunities, or continue their education at the college level.

To support these goals, the program offers bridge and transition programming, integrated models of instruction, and curriculum aligned with College and Career Readiness Standards. Technology, career awareness, and evidence-based teaching models are also central to our approach. Staff use data to guide decisions and continually improve the student experience.

We are dedicated to working together at the local, state, and federal levels to meet shared goals and build on past successes. At its core, the program strives to equip adult learners with the skills they need to compete, contribute, and thrive in Illinois.

Purpose of Adult Education in Illinois

Spoon River College Adult Education programs serve individuals age 16 and older (students must be turning 17 within the semester they enroll) who have not yet earned a high school diploma or equivalent. These programs give adults the chance to gain the skills needed to succeed in today's society and workplace.

Through participation, students can:

- Strengthen reading, writing, and math skills to qualify for new or better jobs
- Meet entrance requirements for vocational or technical training
- Prepare for and pass the GED® exam, earning an Illinois high school diploma
- Develop higher-level employment skills
- Build the knowledge needed to be active, informed community members and consumers
- Learn English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship skills
- Transition into the workforce or continue on to post-secondary education

Critical Need for Adult Education

Each year, the Department of Economics and Finance at Southern Illinois University conducts a demographic study to measure the need for adult education in every community college district. This “Index of Need,” used by the Illinois Community College Board to distribute grant funding, highlights the challenges facing adults in the Spoon River College district.

Out of an adult population of 51,444:

- **8,123 (16%)** live in poverty
- **4,706 (9%)** lack a high school diploma or equivalent
- **2,038 (3.9%)** report limited English proficiency
- **9,991 (19.4%)** receive public assistance

These numbers reflect a significant population of adults who face barriers to education, employment, and self-sufficiency. The AEFL program exists to meet these needs by helping individuals gain the skills and credentials necessary to improve their lives and strengthen the communities of West Central Illinois.

Funding Sources

The FY2025 operating budget for the Spoon River College Adult Education program was **\$413,166**. Funding comes from a mix of state and federal grants, community partners, and private support, including:

- Illinois Community College Board (state and federal grants)
- Career Link
- Illinois Secretary of State’s Adult Volunteer Literacy Program
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation

In addition, Spoon River College provides significant in-kind support through office and classroom space, utilities, technology, and administrative services.

This combination of external funding and institutional support ensures that adult learners have access to quality instruction, tutoring, and transition services while keeping the program sustainable for the college.

Grant	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
ICCB State Basic	\$105,208	\$106,606	\$107,776	\$104,437	\$96,588
ICCB Federal	\$75,272	\$77,644	\$105,009	\$92,717	\$73,036
ICCB State Performance	\$59,805	\$68,720	\$70,875	\$68,855	\$63,645
Career Link	\$53,500	\$63,480	\$57,132	\$57,132	\$80,000
Adult Volunteer Literacy	\$54,000	\$54,000	\$54,500	\$57,626	\$58,976
Dollar General	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$8,000
LWIB 14	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Digital Instruction Grant				\$34,379	\$32,921
Total	\$370,785	\$398,450	\$419,292	\$415,146	\$413,166

Adult Education Enrollment Data

Instruction Type	Students Served				
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Adult Basic Education (ABE)	130	140	91	99	108
Adult Secondary Education (ASE)	27	31	88	83	98
English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL)	19	13	37	32	40
Total	176	184	216	214	246
Individuals Earning IL High School Diploma	34	36	43	50	64

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Head Count	176	184	216	214	246
Attendance Hours	10,834	11,869	15,571	14,413	15,843
Enrollment Hours	15,463	17,674	21,088	20,199	23,110
Persistence Rate	70%	67%	74%	71%	69%
Post-Test Rate	60%	62%	49%	55%	45%

The persistence rate is calculated by dividing attendance hours by enrollment hours. This measure reflects how consistently students attend class compared to the hours for which they are enrolled, and it serves as an indicator of both academic quality and student engagement.

Core Performance Indicators

Each year, adult education programs are measured on measurable skill gains (MSGs), which reflect student progress in reading, math, English, and other academic areas. The table below compares Illinois performance targets with Spoon River College outcomes for FY2021 through FY2025.

Between 2021 and 2025, an average of 45 students per year earned their Illinois High School Diploma through the program. In FY2022, performance was affected by COVID-19 restrictions, particularly the requirement for weekly testing. Many students chose not

to remain enrolled, and as a result, did not reach the 40-hour minimum needed for post-testing.

Spoon River College students have consistently outperformed the state target for MSGs since FY2023, climbing to 57 percent in FY2025 compared to a statewide goal of 41 percent. This positive trend demonstrates the effectiveness of program adjustments and the persistence of students.

Measurable Skills Gains					
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
State Target	45%	45%	37%	37%	41%
SRC	45%	41%	50%	52%	57%

Adult Volunteer Literacy Program

The Adult Volunteer Literacy Program extends the reach of adult education by connecting learners with trained community volunteers. The program serves adults whose educational skills are below the ninth-grade level and who benefit from individualized support.

Tutors work with students in a variety of settings, including during ESL and GED® classes, outside of class, or a combination of both, depending on what best meets the learner’s needs. Instruction is focused on building essential skills such as reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary, math, English as a Second Language, and basic computer literacy.

What makes this program especially effective is its flexibility and personal approach. Volunteers tailor their tutoring to each learner’s goals, whether that means improving daily literacy, preparing for employment, or gaining confidence to pursue further education. By doing so, the program not only strengthens academic skills but also builds confidence and community connections.

Adult Volunteer Literacy Program FY2025	
Total Adult Learners Served	77
Number of Volunteer Tutors	20
Instructional Hours by Tutors	592

Out of School Youth Program

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. Earn an Illinois High School Diploma

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, as 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 GED® Ready practice tests, and \$25 upon successful passage of each section of the GED® exam. In addition, for students meeting eligibility requirements, the registration fees for the GED® Ready 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 across the nation, is at a crossroads. Colleges are under increasing pressure to raise student retention and completion rates, while at the same time a growing share of state and federal funding is being tied to these outcomes. Compounding this challenge, overall enrollment in higher education has declined nationwide, leaving institutions to search for new ways to reach students and expand their pipelines.

At the same time, the need for adult education has never been greater. Many adults in West Central Illinois lack a high school diploma, struggle with literacy or numeracy, or face economic barriers that limit their options. For these individuals, adult education provides an entry point, not only to education, but also to improved employment, stability, and civic participation.

For Spoon River College, Adult Education serves as a significant “feeder program” into credit-bearing and certificate programs. Students who earn their Illinois High School Diploma through SRC often continue on to college-level courses, adding to enrollment at a time when it is most needed. While revenue is one benefit of this transition, the impact extends much deeper into the mission of the college.

The program also broadens the diversity of student experiences represented in SRC classrooms, enriching learning for all. It helps adult learners gain the academic and career skills they need to succeed, which directly supports institutional goals for persistence and completion. Just as important, these efforts strengthen the regional workforce by preparing residents for jobs in industries that depend on skilled employees, fueling economic development across West Central Illinois.

Looking ahead, the role of Adult Education will only grow in importance. Demographic shifts, workforce demands, and changing educational expectations mean that more adults will be seeking opportunities to reenter the classroom. By maintaining strong Adult Education programs, SRC positions itself to meet performance goals while also ensuring that West Central Illinois remains competitive in attracting and retaining businesses that depend on a skilled workforce. In this way, Adult Education is both a bridge to higher education and a cornerstone of regional vitality.

The only way to realize these outcomes is to meet adult learners where they are, provide instruction at their current skill levels, and support them in making the transition to college-level work. In doing so, the Adult Education program not only changes individual lives but also plays a vital role in sustaining SRC’s mission and strengthening the communities it serves.

The table below illustrates the important role SRC’s Adult Education program has played over the past six years in building pathways into higher education. These numbers show not only the immediate impact of Adult Education in helping students transition successfully into college-level coursework, but also the long-term outcomes as they persist toward certificates and degrees. While enrollment patterns naturally fluctuate

from year to year, the data demonstrates that Adult Education consistently provides Spoon River College with students who contribute to both enrollment strength and program completions.

	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
GED® Earners Taking Credit Classes	31	33	30	28	22	28
Credit Classes Taken by GED® Earners	99	152	161	116	119	123
Credit Hours Taken by GED® Earners	338.50	494	507.50	388.50	379	417
GED® Earners Completing Program of Study	15	16	14	13	9	16
GED® Earners with Degrees/Cert. Earned	15	15	13	12	6	15

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.

The next table highlights how Adult Education compares to traditional feeder schools for the 2024–25 academic year. While high schools like Canton and Macomb continue to be major contributors to overall enrollment, Adult Education stands out as a unique and reliable source of students who might not otherwise have access to college. With 28 students moving into SRC programs in this year alone, Adult Education ranks among the top pipelines for the institution.

Academic Year 2024-25 SRC Enrollment Source	
School	Students
Canton	54
Adult Education SRC	28
Macomb	19
Havana	17
Lewistown	12
Cuba	8
Rushville-Industry	8
Astoria	7
Farmington	6
Spoon River Valley	5
VIT	5
Abingdon-Avon	
BPC	
West Prairie	
TOTALS	169

Success Stories

Florida

In June 2024, Florida moved to Rushville, Illinois, from Benin, bringing with her a deep passion for learning and helping others. Prior to relocating to the U.S., Florida lived in Belgium from 2019 to 2023, where she earned a Master's degree in Human Resources and worked both in the restaurant industry and for CELPS, an organization that supports African students with resources and guidance.

Once in Rushville, Florida enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the Spoon River College Rushville Center. Encouraged by her husband Fawaz, an English language student himself and a U.S. resident for 12 years, Florida began her journey toward improving her English proficiency and integrating into her new community.

Her progress has been remarkable. In just a few short months, Florida significantly improved her English skills and was recently hired at DOT Foods. During her interview, the hiring team was impressed by her communication abilities, and Florida proudly shared that she learned English at Spoon River College. She now works at DOT Foods, performing a range of duties and supporting her coworkers.

Florida is a standout student in and out of the classroom. She maintains excellent attendance, regularly works on BurlingtonEnglish outside of class, and has become a mentor to her peers—offering guidance and encouragement, especially when it comes to using technology-based learning tools. Her instructor describes her as a leader and a positive influence who lifts up those around her.

A lifelong learner with a heart for service, Florida plans to become a Certified Nursing Assistant after completing her English language studies. Her determination, leadership, and commitment to both personal and professional growth make her a shining example of the impact adult education can have on individuals and their communities.

Kevin

Kevin first enrolled in the Spoon River College Adult Education program in 2009. Like many students, his path was not a straight line. There were pauses along the way, but he never gave up on his goal. In 2021, he gained momentum and passed three of the four GED® exams. Math was the final hurdle and the subject he found most difficult.

Instead of letting the challenge stop him, Kevin pushed forward. He came to class regularly, put in extra study time, and committed himself to learning the tough math concepts. His persistence paid off, and today Kevin has earned his Illinois High School Diploma.

With his GED® complete, Kevin is already planning his next step. He has enrolled in the welding program at Spoon River College, which will help him secure a stable job and provide for his family. Through it all, Kevin's wife and children were his strongest cheerleaders, encouraging him every step of the way.

Chad also provided the following Fund Analysis and Index of Need Explanation:

ICCB Funding Summary and Program Performance

Funding Overview (FY23-FY26)

FY23: \$283,660 - highest allocation in the last 20 years

FY24: \$266,009

FY25: \$233,269

FY26: \$217,605 - represents a 23% decline from FY23 peak

Despite short-term increases in previous years, overall ICCB funding has not kept pace with inflation. The recent decline from FY23 to FY26 represents a significant reduction in resources for Adult Education.

Year	State	Public Assist.	Federal	Performance	Total Allocation
2005	\$76,746	\$71,842	\$80,358	\$55,853	\$284,799
2006	\$71,283	\$71,842	\$74,374	\$44,820	\$262,319
2007	\$66,486	\$71,326	\$68,812	\$70,153	\$276,777
2008	\$60,785	\$71,640	\$63,868	\$78,272	\$274,565
2009	\$57,733	\$85,000	\$57,273	\$84,635	\$284,641
2010	\$57,226	\$63,156	\$52,288	\$75,331	\$248,001
2011	\$62,305	\$56,439	\$59,826	\$71,944	\$250,514
2012	\$47,245	\$56,804	\$45,951	\$69,056	\$219,056
2013	\$61,565	\$42,866	\$59,073	\$71,633	\$235,137
2014	\$63,620	\$36,474	\$57,014	\$71,102	\$228,210
2015	\$73,227	\$35,145	\$65,128	\$79,312	\$252,812
2016	\$104,278		\$81,732	\$84,690	\$270,700
2017	\$108,600		\$86,310	\$74,825	\$269,735
2018	\$98,650		\$75,700	\$64,210	\$238,560
2019	\$103,330		\$72,795	\$57,590	\$233,715
2020	\$106,150		\$75,870	\$61,910	\$243,930
2021	\$105,208		\$75,272	\$59,805	\$240,285
2022	\$106,606		\$77,644	\$68,720	\$252,970
2023	\$107,776		\$105,009	\$70,875	\$283,660
2024	\$104,437		\$92,717	\$68,855	\$266,009
2025	\$96,588		\$73,036	\$63,645	\$233,269
2026	\$95,799		\$73,461	\$48,345	\$217,605

Performance Highlights

Even with decreased funding, Spoon River College Adult Education continues to exceed state performance targets:

Measurable Skills Gains					
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Target	45%	45%	37%	37%	41%
SRC	45%	41%	50%	52%	57%

Quarter 2 Employment					
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Target	28%	28%	27%	27%	
SRC	46%	59%	65%	63%	

Quarter 2 Median Earnings					
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Target	\$4,650	\$4,651	\$4,925	\$4,926	
SRC	\$2,927	\$3,166	\$4,657	\$5,374	

Quarter 4 Employment					
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Target	28%	28%	28%	28%	
SRC	54%	48%	56%	69%	

Credential Attainment					
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Target	27%	27%	31%	31%	
SRC	62%	60%	48%	68%	

Key Takeaways

- The program is achieving strong results with fewer resources than in the past.
- Funding reductions do not reflect the program's success or student outcomes.
- Continued investment is critical to maintain momentum and expand opportunities for adult learners.

Conclusion

Spoon River College Adult Education demonstrates that even in a challenging funding environment, students are succeeding and outcomes are improving. Restoring or increasing funding could allow the program to reach even more students and sustain its positive impact.

Index of Need – Four Components

The Index of Need is calculated using the following four components:

1. The first component is a *weighted sum* of the estimated number of adults, ages 16 and over, with no high school diploma (or equivalent). This figure is calculated using the values in Table 4 for less than nine grades of formal education and those with at least nine grades but no high school diploma. When calculating the weighted sum, the number of residents with less than nine grades is weighted by 1.5, and the number with at least nine grades but no high school diploma is weighted by 1.0.
2. The second component is a *weighted sum* of the estimated number of adults, ages 16 and over, who speak a language other than English while at home. When calculating the weighted sum, the number of adult residents who are reported as speaking English “not well” or “not at all” (DNSEW) is weighted by 1.5, while the remaining number of adults who speak a language other than English (“very well” or “well”) while at home (SEW) is weighted by 1.0.
3. The third component is the estimated number of adults in households with incomes below the poverty threshold.
4. The fourth component is the estimated number of adult residents who are unemployed.

The first component is given a weight of 45%, the second a weight of 25%, the third a weight of 25%, and the fourth a weight of 5%. After calculating the 39 APC's Index values, the 39 values are normalized so that they sum to one.

Year	Index	Total Pop.	Pop. 16+	Public Assistance	< than HSD	ESL	Live in Poverty	Unemp	Unemp Rate
2010	0.005	70,179	58,278	6,621	11,527	2,841	10,145		
2011	0.0051	71,697	59,353	6,820	11,550	3,072	10,148		11.55%
2012	0.0049	71,430	59,097	6,863	8,224	3,316	10,582		9.59%
2013	0.0049	71,005	58,740	6,960	7,711	3,500	10,501		9.11%
2014	0.005	70,613	58,458	8,320	7,255	3,763	10,439		9.99%
2015	0.0049	69,625	57,693	9,110	7,158	3,674	10,632		8.21%
2016	0.0046	68,585	57,010	8,766	6,310	3,834	9,175		7.31%
2017	0.0048	68,009	56,460	8,807	6,356	3,675	9,665	2,182	7.15%
2018	0.0047	67,680	56,368	10,236	6,034	3,594	9,149	1,742	5.85%
2019	0.0047	66,648	55,487	9,408	5,697	3,664	8,669	1,749	5.92%
2020	0.0048	65,750	54,777	9,802	5,582	3,130	8,662	1,582	5.35%
2021	0.0047	63,403	52,948	10,757	5,472	3,093	8,662	2,295	8.13%
2022	0.0045	62,579	52,187	10,757	5,193	2,458	8,847	1,527	5.46%
2023	0.0042	62,278	51,884	12,549	4,575	2,116	8,831	1,323	4.70%
2024	0.0042	61,684	51,444	9,991	4,706	2,038	8,123	1,468	5.20%

Phillip Murphy commented that we have less funding from the State, and the Adult Ed funding was less than 2005, and the cost of living was up over 40% in that 20 period. It is great to keep the program going. Chad Murphy said we are at a point that we may see some reduction in classes or services because of the funding decline. Chad said we have a waiting list because of the increased interest in the classes as well. Kevin Meade asked over the year if Chad sees a difference in the mix of students. Chad said the majority of his time that mix has stayed the same but since COVID, we see an uptick of those in the 16-22 year age range. Chad said we are also hearing with the SNAP benefit issue that we will receive more calls because they may be required to pursue education in order to receive services.

The Board 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 (c), the Board of Trustees will adjourn to Closed Session for the purposes of paragraph 1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body; 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) 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.

Kevin Meade said there was not a call for Closed Session.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion by John Biernbaum, seconded by Linda Butler, and unanimous approval, the Regular Meeting of the Spoon River College Board of Trustees, October 22, 2025, adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Kevin Meade, Chair

Date

Linda Butler, Secretary