



## BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Date: November 11, 2021

Time: 11:30 AM

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**PRESENT:**

David R. Breidinger, Presiding  
Richard Balukas, Ed.D.  
James Dancy via Zoom  
Broadus Davis, Ed.D. via Zoom  
Blake Eisenhart  
Elizabeth Fineburg  
Otto Grupp III via Zoom  
Thomas Jennings

William Maeglin via Zoom  
Linda Mannherz  
Carol Mignoni-Ferguson  
Carol Shelly via Zoom  
Philip Wursta  
Jeffrey Garton, Esq  
Felicia L. Ganther, J.D., Ph.D.

Absent: Frank Farry, Shams Huda

Mr. Breidinger called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM. He recognized the contribution of our veterans and thanked them for their service. Chair Breidinger acknowledge two veterans in attendance Trustee Broadus Davis and AVP Kevin Antoine.

Mr. Breidinger also thanked Rodney Altemose and his staff for hosting the meeting at the Upper Bucks Campus.

Upon motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Ms. Shelly, the board approved the minutes of the October 2021 meeting.

#### CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Breidinger expressed his thanks to Gene Epstein, a local philanthropist and strong supporter of the college, for his generosity. Mr. Epstein distributed gifts of \$100 cash, totaling \$30,000, during last week's Fresh Connect food distribution which is hosted at the Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks. Mr. Breidinger also extended an invitation to join us on campus for a number of exciting events planned in the coming weeks.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President began by noting that on this Veteran's Day we honor all veterans but in particular the 59 vets and their 27 spouses/dependents currently utilizing their veterans benefits at the college. Many vets have difficulty adjusting to civilian life and the President shared a story about one of our students. This current student veteran retired from the US Navy. She served in the fleet on ships in the Arctic and in Desert Storm. Her comments which follow give you some sense of the challenges she faced and how she was assisted in getting back on her feet.

“My passion and sacrifice to this country and those who have served is still on 100! To just tell you a little about why I have this passion: I was homeless for 4 months, car repossessed, broke, and hungry while working a 40 hour a week job. Part of the problem is I wasn't a good steward over my money, and I didn't plan for a rainy day. The VA and Salute2Service did help me, but I had to do the work to get back on my feet. I promised myself I will NEVER not have money another day in my life! So, if I can help another Veteran I will.”

On behalf of the entire college, the President thanked our student veterans for their service and committed to providing them the opportunity and the support to move forward and succeed in their lives. Next the audience viewed a photo depicting a Veterans Day flag tribute which Eric Andrews, Grounds Supervisor, and his crew created. Thanks to Eric and his team for creating this moving tribute and to Jeff Hirko from the Plant team for the photo.

Dr. Ganther shared the exciting news that the college was named one of 30 national finalists for the prestigious Bellwether Award. Bellwether Awards are widely regarded as one of the nation's most competitive and prestigious recognitions for community colleges. The college is a finalist in the Instructional Programs and Services category which recognizes programs and services that foster or support teaching and learning in the community college. The college was recognized for its efforts and success in promoting OERs – Open Educational Resources and other zero cost textbook options which eliminate the need for students to purchase textbooks. The finalists will undergo a rigorous second and final round of review at the 28th Annual Community College Futures Assembly in January in San Antonio. Congratulations and good luck to Learning Resources Dean Bill Hemmig and all who worked to make this recognition a reality!

The President thanked Admissions Director Joyce Wheatley and her staff for hosting two great events. On October 23 we returned to in-person, on campus Open House and it was a great success. Also well attended and well received was the Guidance Counselor Breakfast on November 5.

President Ganther reported that last weekend the Upper Bucks Campus hosted the *Hold on You Matter* Suicide Prevention Walk in cooperation with the County of Bucks. With 400 people participating it was very festive and included bands, high school dance teams and special guest Brutus, the Bucks mascot. All proceeds benefit suicide prevention and mental health awareness in the county. Thanks to Rodney Altemose and his Upper Bucks team for another great event.

The Epstein Campus will host the 1st Annual Future Ready Conference with Truman High School 11th grade students on Friday, November 19th from 10AM – 2PM. A collaboration between the Epstein Campus and Bristol Township School District, the day will bring together representatives from our college departments as well as outside organizations. Students will sign up for sessions which interest them and provide information about career areas to consider and explore. We thank our partners at Truman for working with us to provide this opportunity for our future students.

The President shared information the First-Generation College Student Day program which was held on November 8. Almost half of current Bucks students are first gen, meaning their parents did not earn a college degree. Foundation staff member Christine Harvie led a panel discussion on navigating college as a first-gen student. The panel consisted of alumni, students, and employees, who are (or were) first in their family to earn a degree.

To support our first-gen students, the Foundation's fall Annual Fund Appeal will raise funds to establish additional scholarship opportunities. Please check your email for updates as the Foundation will be announcing a special matching gift this week - donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000.

Dr. Ganther noted the following events are scheduled on campus, providing a great opportunity to engage

- Nicole Steinberg, the new 2021 Bucks County Poet Laureate, will read from her works Sunday, Nov. 14, on the Newtown Campus in Tyler Hall at 1 PM. Steinberg, a published poet who works in marketing, was chosen the winner from dozens of entrants in the 45th annual contest, which is sponsored by the Bucks County Commissioners. Thanks to Dr. Ethel Rackin for her continued work in administering this program for the college. The Poet Laureate program is the longest-running such program in Pennsylvania and is another way that Bucks County Community College contributes to the cultural heritage of the region.
- On November 18 at 12:30 in the Gallagher Room Gloria Lopez Esq will speak in honor of Native American Heritage month.
- On November 30 at 12:30 in the Zlock Auditorium Pennsylvania State Senators Santarsiero & Saval will present on their work to protect LGBTQ+ Rights in PA.
- Student Jazz Orchestra Concerts on December 7 and Student Percussion Ensemble on December 14 both in the Zlock Auditorium at 7 PM will showcase the talents of our outstanding music students.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### STUDENT AFFAIRS & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Broadus Davis, Chair

Dr. Rodney Altemose, Campus Dean Upper Bucks Campus, presented a report tracing the origins of the Perkasi campus from its early days to the present. The doors opened on the campus in Fall 1999 in a renovated bank building and the campus grew in 2009 with the addition of a new wing. A celebration on October 2019 marked the 20 year anniversary of the campus. Dr. Altemose highlighted two individuals in his presentation. Brenda Price has been a part-time faculty member since the doors opened and was recently recognized as one of the outstanding part-time faculty for the year. Another success story is Dan Emr, an alum who is the founder and executive director of his own non-profit dedicated to ending human trafficking.

Today the campus is a center for community activity, hosting events such as the annual 5K run to benefit scholarships for firefighters and the Perkasie Fire Department as well as the walk to benefit and increase awareness of suicide prevention in the county. Networking with area high schools is also a priority and strong relationships exist with Palisades, Quakertown and Pennridge high schools as well as the Upper Bucks County Technical School.

Students have access to a full range of services either virtual or in person. Student engagement is high and includes activities such as ZUMBA night, Spring Fling and a Habitat for Humanity Club. Staff are currently exploring options to increase course offerings and programs on the campus to ensure that the campus is achieving its mission of maximizing its service to the residents of the surrounding communities.

CONSENT AGENDA – Linda Mannherz, Finance Committee Chair

Mr. Breidinger announced that all action items would be considered on the Consent Agenda. Trustees were advised that if discussion were requested on any item, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

**Upon motion by Ms. Mannherz and second by Mr. Maeglin, the Board of Trustees approved the following:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Other Contracts**

- **Furnishings for CAT building Part 1 to Educational Furniture Systems for \$138,702.73**
- **Furnishings for CAT building Part 2 to Corporate Environments for \$218,996.31**
- **IT network switch to Phillycom, Inc. for \$128,085.00**

**Bid Awards**

- **Translation Services for Public Safety training contracts to YM Translators for \$100,000 maximum over one year**
- **Workday Ecommerce Integration Solution to Transact (CashNet) for \$46,000 implementation and \$38,000 annually**

**Academic Affairs & Workforce Development Committee:**

- **Course fees as presented effective Fall 2022 semester**

**BOARD COMMENT**

There were no Board comments.

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ADJOURN

Upon the motion to adjourn being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at the Newtown Campus on December 11, 2021 at 11:30 AM.

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Carol Mignoni Ferguson, Secretary