

**EAST CENRAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Monday, January 27, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Board President Ann Hartley. Other Board members present for all, or parts of the meeting were Joseph Stroetker, Eric Park, Cookie Hays, Audrey Freitag, and J.T. Hardy. Also present were President of the College Jon Bauer; Administrators – Vice President of Academic Affairs Robyn Walter, and Vice President of External Relations Joel Doepker; Faculty – Faculty Association President Tracy Mowery, ECC-NEA President Reg Brigham, and Precision Machining Program Coordinator Blake Poertner, Other Staff – Human Resources Director Carrie Myers, Director of Communications & Marketing Gregg Jones, Professional Staff Association President Todd Tracy, Classified Staff Association President Denise Walker, Project Manager – Strengthening Community College Training Karen Hayes, Director Rolla Campus Christina Ayres, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness Michelle Smith, Director of Online Learning and Educational Technology Chad Baldwin, Director of Facilities and Grounds Tot Pratt, and Executive Assistant to the President Stacy Langan.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Chris Parker from the *Missourian*; Officer Todd Schlitt from the Union Police Department; ECC student Nathaniel Harbath; Jake Henne from Lightcast; Amy Miller, Ryan Wilson, and Chrissy Rogers from NAVIGATE Building Solutions; David Wolff from ARCTURIS; and community members Ray Krame, Paul Gross, and Dean Gross were also in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Each item on the consent agenda shall be deemed to have been duly approved with the same validity as if each action were separately moved, seconded, and adopted.

Motion: To **approve** the agenda for January 27, 2025, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Motion by Cookie Hays; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board approved the minutes of the December 2, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL REPORT: College President Jon Bauer reviewed the financial statements as of December 31, 2024. He noted the pledge securities are in process of transition to IntraFi and the effects will be seen over the next several months.

Motion: To **approve** the treasurer’s report, the financial report, and the payment of bills subject to the annual audit.

Motion by Eric Park; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried Unanimously

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY: Jake Henne from Lightcast presented a study on the economic impact of East Central College. Lightcast has worked with educational institutions for decades, conducting over 3,000 economic studies. For this analysis, they collaborated with Institutional Research, Enrollment, Community and Workforce Development, and industry partners to assess the overall value ECC provides to the community. A similar study was also conducted for Rolla.

The study examined ECC’s impact on taxpayers and the regional workforce. The analysis was divided into two main areas: economic impact and investment. Lightcast highlighted key factors

such as average earnings by educational level, operations spending, student spending, and alumni impact. One major takeaway was that alumni contributions add \$90.5 million in regional income, with one out of every 26 jobs in the area supported by ECC's economic impact.

The investment analysis considered perspectives from students, taxpayers, and society as a whole. For students, the benefit comes from future earnings. From a taxpayer perspective, the return is measured in future tax revenue and government savings. The social perspective looks at overall benefits to society but does not provide a rate of return since the benefactors are different. The study found ECC's total annual economic impact to be \$110.9 million.

The investment analysis primarily focuses on total gross revenues. While it would be possible to break that out separately, a better estimate would be to look at alumni impact. One group not included in the study is retired ECC employees who continue to contribute to the local economy, which would likely increase the overall benefit. Another point of discussion was the A+ program. Although A+ funding is reimbursed by the state, it is categorized as tuition rather than state appropriations.

The study measured the impact for a single year, while the investment analysis considers lifetime returns. Now that the Board has seen the results, the next step is to present this information to the public. While much of what was reported aligns with what we intuitively know—that many ECC students stay in the region—this study provides concrete data to support those insights.

RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM UPDATE: East Central College received a federal grant to fully fund the establishment of a respiratory care program. Vice President Walter reminded the Board that the program was approved in June 2024. It is part of the Missouri Health Professions Consortium (MHPC), which includes ECC, Mineral Area Community College, State Fair Community College, North Central Missouri College, and Three Rivers College. The consortium's mission is to expand healthcare career opportunities for rural students, providing a pathway to employment with a living wage.

The grant covers personnel and benefits for faculty and staff, travel expenses for statewide instruction, and equipment for two clinical training labs, with over \$762,000 allocated for lab equipment and supplies. Additional funding supports renovations, accreditation costs, architectural design, and a \$60,000 statewide recruitment campaign. Indirect costs total approximately \$1 million over the grant period. Renovations will begin in March, with a site visit scheduled for June. The program is actively recruiting students, expecting an initial cohort of 20 in the fall, with 14 already in the pipeline.

The grant supports faculty and administrative positions across all five schools. Labs will be located in Union and Columbia, with a single, full-day session limiting student travel. Lectures will be live-streamed, allowing students to attend from their home campuses. Faculty will rotate among sites, ensuring consistent instruction.

This consortium is critical for rural Missouri, where enrollment challenges make collaboration essential. By combining student numbers from each institution, the program remains viable. The training grant offsets startup costs, creating a strong foundation without financial strain on the colleges.

Ryan Wilson of NAVIGATE Building Solutions, ECC's owner's representative, and the ARCTURIS design team updated the Board on project design, costs, and timelines. Planning

meetings identified needs for Union and Columbia. David Wolff of ARCTURIS outlined the lab designs, which include six-bed hospital-style stations in Union with a teaching station, storage, and electrical access. Columbia's space, though smaller, will feature five-bed stations, an instructional area, an office, and storage. Renderings and blueprints were presented to illustrate the project's progress.

Vice President Walter provided a budget update and outlined next steps: construction documents, bidding, contractor selection, Board approval, and construction. The same schedule will be followed for Union and Columbia.

TAX LEVY: In December, the Board approved placing Proposition ECC on the ballot. Today, they will adopt the resolution to be certified with the six counties in the taxing district. The proposal includes a 9.9-cent increase to the operating levy while reducing the debt service levy by the same amount, ensuring no overall levy change. This year's ballot language clarifies that point.

Funds from the levy transfer will support maintenance, repairs, renovations, and new construction, including roads, parking lots, roof replacements, HVAC updates, a new welding center, a central storage building, asbestos abatement, elevator replacements, restroom and sewer repairs, fitness trail improvements, lighting, and reclaimed space projects. The estimated total is \$12.2 million, with a projected \$15 million to account for timing, inflation, and scope.

The welding center will meet industry demand and free space for other CTE program growth. Storage remains a challenge—off-site leasing is inefficient, and there is no dedicated space for supplies and materials. Renovations include asbestos removal in Shook, and the college will seek a grant for fitness trail upgrades. Moving funds into operations ensures ongoing maintenance and provides approximately \$800,000 for operational expenses.

A traditional bond issue, like the 2006 one for the Hansen Hall expansion, would cover capital projects but not operational or maintenance costs. Over time, state adjustments have reduced the original 55-cent levy to 34 cents. While the campus appears in good shape, critical needs like HVAC systems, roads, and roofs often go unnoticed. Some improvements, such as baseball field upgrades and the bridge between Buescher Hall and Shook, were funded through grants and state money.

Buescher Hall was renovated 15 years ago, but its boilers recently needed replacement. Facilities staff work hard to extend system life, but urgent maintenance is constant. Roof leaks worsen with heavy rains, forcing the college to react rather than stay ahead of repairs.

More than 50 years ago, voters chose to establish ECC. Today, six elected Board members support this tax levy issue to ensure smart, strategic spending. The College competes to attract and retain students, and this investment will help sustain ECC's future.

Motion: To **adopt** a resolution calling for an election on April 8, 2025 in the Junior College District of East Central Missouri, for the purpose of seeking voter approval of a transfer of the debt service levy to the operating levy, with no increase in the overall tax rate.

Motion by Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried Unanimously

EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES: President Bauer informed the Board of an emergency HVAC repair in Buescher Hall. The issue escalated just before Christmas. Spare parts were secured, but due to long lead times, the order was placed before Board approval to avoid delays heading into winter. Multiple providers were contacted, and Bindler Heating & Cooling, LLC was recommended for the \$86K project. Installation is set for early February. Since Christmas, the system has been reset seven times to keep it running during the extreme cold. Emergency expenditures are allowed under policy, and the college will seek a 50% reimbursement from the state.

BIDS: Vice President Walter noted the equipment for the new Respiratory Care program will provide students hands on experiential learning within the lab setting prior to entering clinical sites.

Motion: To **approve** the purchase of a ventilator and all-in-one multiple therapy equipment packages from Hamilton Medical, a sole source provider, for \$81,104.56, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor training grant for the new Respiratory Care program.

Motion by Audrey Freitag; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried Unanimously

Precision Machining Coordinator Blake noted the equipment will upgrade the machining lab and help ECC current with industry advancements and help us stand out from other institutions.

Motion: To **approve** the purchase of a HAAS 5-Axis CNC Vertical Machine for the Precision Machining program in the amount of \$99,734.90 from the HAAS Factory Outlet, a sole source provider, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor's award to the MOSEPWork apprenticeship consortium.

Motion by Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried Unanimously

Online Learning and Educational Technology Director Baldwin noted this purchase is phase two of a federal earmark for instructional technology. Firms were reviewed, but ultimately the decision was made to purchase the equipment and install it in-house with the help of contracted work. This purchase will allow for technology in 20 classrooms and mobile stations.

Motion: To **approve** the purchase of Phase II Instructional Technology equipment from Midwest Computer Products, Inc. for \$150,581.65 based on the Omnia cooperative bid contract funded by allocated federal money earmarked for this project.

Motion by Audrey Freitag; Seconded by Cookie Hays; Carried Unanimously

GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION: President Bauer noted that the fitness trail is heavily used by the community. A federal grant will open for applications soon, requiring an in-kind match. The ECC Foundation has expressed interest in assisting with matching funds if awarded. We pursue grants whenever possible for campus projects.

Motion: To **approve** a resolution authorizing East Central College to apply for federal assistance from the Recreational Trails program for the purpose of East Central College Fitness Trail.

Motion by Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Audrey Freitag; Carried Unanimously

***PERSONNEL:** The Board **approved** the reclassification of the Head Baseball Coach, from part-time to full-time professional staff level 204 effective February 1, 2025 with Luke Miller as the Head Baseball Coach with an annual salary of \$49,920. The Board **accepted** the resignation of Dana Riegel, Research Analyst, effective February 14, 2025 and Kami Hancock, English Instructor, effective January 10, 2025. The Board also **approved** the roster of adjunct faculty for the Spring 2025 semester as listed in the attached memorandum.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Board President had no report.

REPORTS:

A. FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPORT: Faculty Association President had no report.

B. ECC-NEA: ECC-NEA President has no report.

C. PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT: Association President Todd Tracy noted that the required Financial Value Transparency and Gainful Employment reporting was submitted ahead of schedule with minimal errors, all quickly corrected. This reporting will be required annually, and the strong foundation built this year will streamline future submissions attributed to the collaboration of several departments.

The Center for Workforce Development has enrolled its first apprentices and pre-apprentices through the Apprenticeship Building America (ABA2) Program with the MoSEP Work consortium. Fourteen individuals, four apprentices and ten pre-apprentices, have started careers in Manufacturing and Health Care. The program will expand to Teacher Education this summer.

D. CLASSIFIED STAFF ASSOCIATION REPORT: Association President Denise Walker shared that CSA raised \$107.50 for the Union Food Pantry and \$20 for Russel House in Rolla from their recent Denim Day, with an anonymous donor matching both amounts. In 2024, CSA raised a total of \$1,655—\$1,405 at Union and \$250 at Rolla. Elections will be held for the vacant Vice President position, and next month, CSA will begin preparations for the Spring Spotlight Award and a spring fundraiser.

E. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION: SGA is excited for the new semester and focused on student engagement and building community. SGA and Phi Theta Kappa met to organize the new student space and discuss adding resources like a bookshelf. They are collaborating with the Art Club on a student-centered mural, with plans to continue work through February as more students provide input.

A Spring Fling will be held this semester, which is similar to Falcon Fest in the fall, this event will give new and returning students another chance to connect with clubs, organizations, and community partners.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: President Bauer noted that ice and snow shut down operations for one week. Ice created challenges for everyone. By Thursday afternoon, campus was ready to reopen, but more snow arrived. Many employees continued meetings via Zoom. Some storm remnants remain. Ice on flat roofs is melting, but blocked drains are causing leaks in multiple buildings. Removing the ice without damage is difficult. He mentioned the weather also impacted dual credit enrollment. On the first day, headcount was down 6.2% due to dual credit delays. Now, headcount is up 0.7%, and credit hours are up 1.6%. Nearly all dual credit schools have reported. Summer enrollment is currently up 8.2% in headcount and 16.5% in credit hours.

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A detailed update on the Rolla project will be provided in March. Design work is underway, with adjustments to match funding. Renovation plans will be finalized before bringing in faculty and staff for input. The project is expected to go out for bid this summer, with construction beginning in the fall and a projected 2027 opening. Federal and state funds are available, and efforts are being made to align funding with project needs.

State revenue for the new fiscal year will be tight. The Missouri state budget projects a 1.6% increase, but the current year is down 0.6%. President Bauer met with Governor Kehoe, who is planning a lean budget. The State of the State address is tomorrow, followed by the budget process in the House and Senate. More details will be available soon.

Several executive orders signed during the Trump administration could impact higher education. Specific guidance from federal departments is pending. Some changes may indirectly affect grant contracts, while others could have a more direct impact due to federal financial aid participation.

President Bauer will attend the Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., next month. A key issue to watch is how Pell Grants may be affected by current tax policies.

Tom Dill, retired ECC faculty member, baseball coach, and Trustee, passed away this month. He was a dedicated advocate for ECC. His service was a fitting tribute to his legacy.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: To **adjourn** the January 27, 2025, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees and enter executive session per RSMo2004, Section 610.021 (2) Real Estate at 7:33 p.m.

Motion by Joseph Stroetker; Seconded by Audrey Freitag

The following roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

<u>Yes</u> A. Hartley	<u>Yes</u> E. Park	<u>Yes</u> A. Freitag
<u>Yes</u> J. Stroetker	<u>Yes</u> C. Hays	<u>Yes</u> J.T. Hardy

President, Board of Trustees

Secretary, Board of Trustees