Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

Update for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
By John D. Gossett, A-B Tech President
May 4, 2021
About Us

Purpose

Founded in 1959, A-B Tech is the largest higher education institution in Western North Carolina, providing academic, continuing education and workforce training to more than 23,000 students a year in Buncombe and Madison counties.

One of 58 community colleges in the NC Community College System, A-B Tech offers more than 125 degrees, diplomas and certificates, as well as a wide range of workforce training and continuing education programs. A-B Tech alumni work in virtually every industry in the region, generating the largest economic impact of any college in WNC.

A-B Tech locations:
• Main campus on Victoria Road
• A-B Tech Enka (home of the A-B Tech Small Business Center and Business Incubation Program, Craft Beverage Institute of the Southeast and N.C. BioNetwork)
• A-B Tech Madison
• A-B Tech South A-B Tech Woodfin (Emergency Services campus)
• Goodwill Center in West Asheville
About Us

Board of Trustees Members
Appointed by Buncombe County:

- Nian Avery
- Himanshu Karvir
- Matt Kern
- Max Queen
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Board of Trustees Members
Appointed by the Governor:

• Dr. Theresa Banks (Madison)
• Joe Brumit
• David King
• Libby Kyles
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Board of Trustees Members
Appointed by the Asheville City and Buncombe County Boards of Education:

- Dr. John Parham, Jr., Chair
- Dr. Roger Metcalf, Vice Chair
- Judy Lewis
- Vacant position
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Board of Trustees Members
Appointed by Madison County:

• Wayne Brigman
• Frances Ramsey

Student Government Association President
• Vacant
Dates and Accomplishments

I. Financial Meetings
- Dr. Gossett will be presenting an update to the Commissioners on May 4
- Budget request for FY 2021-22 will be presented to Commissioners on May 11

II. A-B Tech Enka – TCC Building Conditions Assessment and Plan
- Study, funded by Article 46, was launched August 2020
- Determined that the renovation costs of $28M would be less than that required for a new facility
- The results were presented at a Commissioners briefing on April 6
- Design contract for the TSS roof replacements is out to bid
- Plans for a comprehensive Enka master plan to include the Haynes Building are being developed

III. Joint Article 46 Capital Advisory Committee
- Met October 2020 and February 2021 to review continuing and anticipated projects
Activities

• Overview of work completed since last update
  • Shifted to 95% online instruction in two weeks in March 2020
  • Dr. Gossett became A-B Tech’s 7th president on July 1, 2020
  • Currently developing a five-year strategic plan to guide college
  • Preparing for a return to in-person instruction in Fall Semester
  • Developing training center and programming with Pratt & Whitney
  • Seeking a new location for A-B Tech South and improvements for A-B Tech Enka

• Legislative updates
  • Asking NC General Assembly to hold community colleges harmless for 2020-21 enrollment declines due to COVID-19
  • Seeking substantial salary increase for community college employees
Activities

• COVID-19 Partnership with Buncombe County
  • Hosted COVID testing site and Vaccine Clinic on Asheville campus
  • Hosted Mexican Consulate
  • Designated Clint Gorman to serve on Emergency Management Task Force
  • Trained First Responders in-person and via videos developed by A-B Tech EMS department
  • Donated PPE to county
  • Partnered to make hand sanitizer at A-B Tech Enka
  • Volunteered Nursing students to help administer vaccines
  • Served on several county COVID committees
Financial Update

• Scheduled to present FY22 budget proposal on May 11