MINUTES OF MEETING
COSSATOT COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS BOARD OF VISITORS
January 5, 2026

Chair Mike Cranford convened the regular meeting of the Board of Visitors at 12:17 p.m. in the UA Cossatot Lockesburg Middle School Community Room, following a meal and an invocation.

Present:	Barbara Dixon	Dori Gutierrez	Joe Martinez
	Tim Pinkerton	Brenda Tate	
	Dr. Glenn Lance	Mike Cranford	
Absent:	Barbara Horn		
	Angie Walker		

Staff Reports

Dr. Steve Cole presented the Chancellor's Report, emphasizing the importance of remaining in "exploration mode" as the College enters 2026. He highlighted the need for proactive pursuit of grants, partnerships, and collaborations to leverage limited resources. Dr. Cole reported recent meetings with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Performance Services, and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith to explore partnerships, shared services, and facility improvements. He announced receipt of a $49,000 Weyerhaeuser grant supporting the Industrial Maintenance program and noted continued success in cybersecurity training, workforce partnerships, and grant activity. Chancellor Cole also reported on meetings with Performance Services representatives to explore public-private partnership (P3) opportunities for future campus improvements and infrastructure needs. Discussions included creative approaches to capital projects that would minimize borrowing and maximize available resources. Dr. Cole reported the College's current Charlotte Meter rating at 7.0.

Vice Chancellor Charlotte Johnson presented the Financial Report. In the summary of Unrestricted & Auxiliary revenues at the end of November are at 5.6 million. The Expenditures are up from this time last year and stand at 5.9 million. Student accounts receivable balances have shown improvement compared to the prior year. The financial report also included updates on grants and investments. The College has been awarded approximately 6.3 million in grants, with over 1.6 million earned year-to-date, including multi-year awards. Cash balances currently total approximately $3.4 million, showing improvement from the previous year. Certificates of Deposits total approximately 1.1 million, pooled investments through the University of Arkansas system total approximately $567,000, and endowment funds have grown to approximately $256,000.

Dr. Ashley Aylett presented the Academic Services Report. She reported a total of 344 credit awards, including certificates, associate degrees, GEDs, and graduates from health programs. Dr. Aylett reviewed concurrent enrollment growth supported by Access 2 Acceleration (A2A) funds and provided Fall 2025 enrollment data by school district. She also presented proposed curriculum additions related to Artificial Intelligence, including a Certificate of Proficiency and a Technical

Certificate as part of the CyberLearn Network. Student success initiatives were highlighted, noting a significant improvement in probation and suspension outcomes. Of students placed on probation during the previous term, only one progressed to suspension. This improvement is attributed to increased academic intervention and individualized support from the Student Success Coach.

Tammy Coleman presented the Public Services and Workforce Development Report. Ms. Coleman reported that Career Pathways staff returned to work in November following a temporary furlough, and back pay was restored. During the furlough period, eligible students were temporarily supported through other funding sources. The YouthBuild program is currently in its follow-up phase, and a new grant proposal is being prepared. Two YouthBuild students recently participated in YouthBuild Global Youth Voice Day in Washington, D.C., reporting enhanced leadership and public speaking skills. Workforce initiatives continue to expand, including development of non-credit pathways aligned with cybersecurity and artificial intelligence programming.

Action Items:

No. 1 Approve Minutes of November 3, 2025, Board Meeting. Tim Pinkerton motioned for passage and Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0.

No. 2 Review College Policy 415: Instructional Staff. Barbara Dixon motioned for review and Tim Pinkerton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

No. 3 Review College Policy 447: Educational Assistance. Tim Pinkerton motioned for passage and Brenda Tate seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

No. 4 Review College Policy 640: Non-Traditional College Credit. Brenda Tate motioned for review. Joe Martinez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

No. 5 Review Academic Calendars for 2026-2027 Academic Year. Tim Pinkerton motioned for review and Dori Gutierrez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

With no further business, Chair Mike Cranford asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tim Pinkerton made the motion and with a second from Brenda Tate, Chair Mike Cranford adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Walker, Secretary

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