

1 VIRGINIA TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION
2 2023 SPRING FULL COMMISSION TWO-DAY MEETING
3 SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER
4 ABINGDON, VA
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10 EDUCATION COMMITTEE
11 MAY 17, 2023
12 1:00 P.M.
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18 MARSHA SELF, CERT
19 Appalachian Court Reporting
20 P.O. Box 833
21 Abingdon, Virginia 24212
22 ID 54-1495140
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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Honorable Delegate Kathy Byron, Chairman

3 Ms. Gretchen Clark

4 Amanda Cox

5 Joel Cummingham, Jr.

6 Richard Hite (remotely)

7 Sandy Ratliff

8 Honorable Senator Frank Ruff

9 Gary Walker (remotely)

10 Honorable Delegate William Wampler

11 ABSENT:

12 Honorable Senator Louise Lucas, Vice Chair

13 COMMISSION STAFF:

14 Honorable James Campos, Acting Executive Director and
15 Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade

16 Andrew Sorrell, Deputy Director

17 Stephanie Kim, Finance Director

18 Vicki Humphreys, Grants Director

19 Sarah Capps, Southern Regional Director

20 Sara Williams, Southwest Regional Director

21 Jordan Butler, Public Relations Director & TROF Program Manager

22 Emily Van Pelt, Grants Assistant

23 Joyce Knight, Meeting Coordinator

24 Hannah Franke-Fuller, Special Assistant

25 COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION

Elizabeth Myers, Office of the Attorney General

1 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is
2 Delegate Byron. I am going to call this meeting of the
3 Education Committee to order. And I would ask Mr. Campos if he
4 would call the roll, please.

5 MR. CAMPOS: Thank you, Delegate Byron.

6 (CALLS THE ROLL.) (THOSE PRESENT ARE CHAIRMAN BYRON.
7 GRETCHEN CLARK. AMANDA COX. JOEL CUNINGHAM. SANDY RATLIFF.
8 SENATOR FRANK RUFF. GARY WALKER. DELEGATE WILLIAM WAMPLER.)

9 MR. CAMPOS: We have a quorum.

10 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Great. Okay. Do we need to do the online
11 thing first?

12 MR. SORRELL: Yes. Why don't we go ahead do the motion for
13 remote participation?

14 SENATOR RUFF: Chairman Byron, I move the approval of the
15 Commissioners Richard Hite and Gary Walker requesting to
16 participate remotely in this meeting and in conformance with the
17 Commission to adopt the Electronic Policy and voices remotely
18 participating members can be heard by all persons at the primary
19 meeting location.

20 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. Everyone hear the motion. All in
21 favor say aye.

22 (ALL AFFIRM.)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Any opposed?

25 (NO RESPONSE.)

1 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. Do we have those on their phone?

2 MR. SORRELL: I think we forgot to call Mr. Hite.

3 Mr. Hite, is he on the line?

4 UNKNOWN: We have Mr. Walker, but I have not yet heard from
5 Mr. Hite.

6 DELEGATE. MARSHALL: Okay. He might join us in a minute.

7 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. So, we'll get started. We have two
8 sets of minutes. The one's not on there, but I'm sure you've
9 probably already read the minutes from October and are probably
10 thinking about them in the back of your mind. Does anyone have
11 any questions, or do we have a motion to approve those?

12 DELEGATE WAMPLER: Move to approve the minutes.

13 CHAIRMAN BYRON: From October?

14 DELEGATE WAMPLERS: October 2022.

15 CHAIRMAN BYRON: October 2022. Second?

16 MS. CLARK: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. All in favor say aye.

18 (ALL AFFIRM.)

19 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Any opposed?

20 (NO RESPONSE.)

21 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Gretchen Clark was the second. Okay. And
22 how about the -- we have also the minutes from right before
23 session, January 4th of this year. Any changes on those?

24 (NO RESPONSE.)

25 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Any motion to approve those?

1 MS. RATLIFF: I'll make a motion.

2 MR. SORRELL: Madam Chair, that was December 14th. It was
3 the virtual meeting that you had.

4 CHAIRMAN BYRON: What was the 4th?

5 MR. SORRELL: You ended up not having an Education
6 Committee meeting on the 4th because you had had the December 14th
7 meeting so these minutes would be from the December 14th meeting.

8 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. So, the agenda just got a mistake
9 on it.

10 MR. SORRELL: I think you might be on the Incentives.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Oh yeah. I'm sorry. I had Danny's pages
12 on that. All right. Sorry about that. Okay. Do we have a
13 motion on those minutes from December?

14 MS. RATLIFF: So, moved.

15 MS. COX: Second

16 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. Do we have both of those names?

17 CHAIRMAN BYRON: All in favor say aye.

18 (ALL AFFIRM.)

19 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Any oppose?

20 (NO RESPONSE.)

21 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. So, Andy, would you give the
22 cadaver here -- do you want to talk about that and just let them
23 know what's going on with that?

24 MR. SORRELL: Yes. We've had a little bit of a scheduling
25 change. We're going to do a tour of the virtual cadaver lab at

1 the conclusion of this meeting. There was a -- the person that
2 would be able to demonstrate that for us has scheduling
3 conflicts. So, we're going to just go ahead and continue on
4 with the regular part of our meeting and at the conclusion of
5 this for those that are interested and available, we'll do a
6 tour of the cadaver lab first...cadaver lab and actually that will
7 be a demonstration, and it's within walking distance of this
8 room so it's pretty close by.

9 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. All right. Did anybody sign up for
10 public comment?

11 MR. SORRELL: I don't believe so. Do you have any? I see
12 no public comment.

13 MR. SORRELL: Anybody online?

14 (NO RESPONSE.)

15 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Great. Seeing none, we will move on with
16 the agenda. We have the 2023-24 workforce applications. Vicki,
17 are you, our presenter?

18 MS. HUMPHREYS: I am. Really quickly, we had the budget
19 for Workforce Financial Aid for fiscal year '23 was \$2.2
20 million. And we requested that institutions apply for their
21 needs based on two tier levels. Tier I requests were community
22 colleges where the majority of the student population is from
23 the tobacco footprint, they can apply for up to \$240,000.

24 These institutions included the following community
25 colleges: Central Virginia, Danville, Mountain Empire, Patrick

1 & Henry, Southside Virginia, Southwest Virginia, Virginia
2 Highlands, and Wytheville. Our Tier II requests were geared
3 toward community colleges without a majority of tobacco regional
4 localities in their footprint and higher education centers in
5 the region. And those community colleges included Brightpoint,
6 New River Virginia Western. And the higher education centers
7 were New College Institute, Southern Virginia Higher Education
8 Center, and Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center.

9 Staff received 11 applications totaling nearly \$2.2 million
10 of the allotted budget. \$1.1 million came from Southern
11 Virginia and about a million dollars of requests from Southwest.
12 And applicants were instructed to align their requests with our
13 four funding priority areas. So, from here, unless there are
14 any questions, I'm going to just jump right to the individual
15 school requests.

16 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Are there any questions from anybody?

17 (NO RESPONSE.)

18 MS. HUMPHREYS: I supplied everyone with a list of
19 definitions of the types of awards that students can receive
20 from these institutions so hopefully that will be of help to you
21 all.

22 I'm going to start with Brightpoint Community College
23 Foundation (formerly John Tyler Community College Foundation).
24 They're requesting \$77,020. They are pledging \$319,336 in
25 matching funds from other state and federal financial sources.

1 Their dual-enrollment programs include Industrial Electricity
2 Career Studies Certificate, a Basic Precision Machining Career
3 Studies Certificate, and a Welding Career Studies Certificate.

4 All of the required information was provided by the school.
5 The dual-enrollment tuition assistance is populated under
6 Priority 2, which is the non-G3 eligible programs, and that's
7 pledged in at \$35,680.

8 Advanced Manufacturing from current programs is offered to
9 Amelia, Dinwiddie, and Sussex County high school students at
10 Brightpoint's campus in Chester. Staff recommend a \$77,020
11 grant award.

12 Next, we have Central Virginia Community College
13 Educational Foundation. They have requested \$240,000 to serve
14 107 students. They are pledging \$240,000 in matching funds.

15 Their dual-enrollment programs include Computer and
16 Electronics Technology Fundamentals, Cyber Security
17 Fundamentals, Electrical Technology Fundamentals, HVAC
18 Fundamentals, Industrial Maintenance/Electrician/Mechanical
19 Fundamentals, Information Systems, Machine Technology,
20 Mechatronics, and Welding. These are all career studies
21 certificates.

22 Staff requested and received a revised list of programs to
23 be supported under each category because the original submittal
24 was based on last year's guidelines. Dual enrollment will be
25 offered in partnership with high schools in the region for

1 students attending the Career Technical Center on the community
2 college's main campus. Staff recommends this \$240,000 grant
3 award be made.

4 Next is Danville Community College Educational Foundation.

5 CHAIRMAN BYRON: I have a question.

6 MS. HUMPHREYS: Oh, yes.

7 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Is anyone here from the Central Virginia
8 Community College? Could you come up a minute? I have a
9 question for you. You're from my backyard.

10 I was just wondering about dual-enrollment because I had a
11 bill trying to get the community college system to look at ways
12 that we could utilize dual-enrollment more.

13 Are you sharing -- in your dual-enrollment, is that
14 students that are enrolled with community college and enrolled
15 in school or do you share your professors at the school? What
16 is a part of your dual enrollment, just briefly?

17 MS. GILLETTE: So, I'm going to answer the questions to the
18 best of my ability. I'm still new in my position and so I
19 apologize that some of the details are still a little bit beyond
20 me. But, in that capacity, those dual-enrollment programs are
21 at CVCC on our campus and part of our CTE program.

22 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. That's good enough. Thank you.

23 MR. SORRELL: Madam Chair, could she introduce herself just
24 for the record.

25 MS. GILLETTE: Oh, I'm sorry. I'm Jodi Gillette, and I am

1 the Executive Director of Institutional Advancement and the
2 Educational Foundation.

3 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Thank you.

4 MS. HUMPHREYS: Okay. I just want to note that our
5 policies state that dual enrollment funding is limited to
6 regional high school program offerings at community college
7 facilities and they're limited to advanced manufacturing and
8 information technology career programs.

9 Okay. So, we'll move on to Danville. They've also made a
10 \$240,000 request to serve 126 students. The college is pledging
11 \$240,000 in matching funds. They do not have any dual-
12 enrollment programs currently. All required information was
13 provided with the application and the staff is recommending a
14 \$240,000 grant award.

15 Next, Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation. They
16 are requesting \$240,000 to serve 174 students. The college
17 is pledging \$357,654 in matching funds. Their dual-enrollment
18 programs include Precision Machining, Welding, and Mechatronics.

19 They also specified two high demand occupations, a General
20 Studies Specialization and Teacher Education Preparation. And
21 that is an associate degree program. Dual-enrollment tuition
22 assistance is populated under Priority 3 and budgeted at
23 \$53,807. And the dual-enrollment programs are offered in
24 partnership with area high schools and are held at the Patrick &
25 Henry Community College Manufacturing Engineering and Technology

1 Complex. Staff recommend a \$240,000 award.

2 Okay. On page 17, we are looking at Southside Virginia
3 Community College Foundation which has requested \$240,000 to
4 serve 136 students. The college is pledging \$240,000 in
5 matching funds. And their dual-enrollment programs include
6 Welding, Information Technology, HVAC, Electricity and Precision
7 Machining. They also included Administration of Justice and
8 Emergency Medical Services but those do not qualify under our
9 dual-enrollment limitations. The high-demand occupations
10 specified by Southside Virginia Community College are
11 Administration of Justice associate degree and a Criminal
12 Justice Career Studies Certificate.

13 Dual enrollment is populated under Priority 2 and budgeted
14 at \$114,500. And again, it meets the limitations of our policy
15 to Advanced Manufacturing and Information Technology career
16 programs. Let's see, an occupational demand analysis was
17 provided by the community college to support their high-demand
18 occupations for criminal justice careers under the fourth
19 category of high-demand occupations. And staff recommends a
20 \$240,000 grant award.

21 Virginia Western Community College Educational Foundation
22 on page 18, are requesting \$100,000 to serve 87 students. The
23 college is pledging \$140,581 in matching funds from other state
24 and federal financial aid sources. There are no dual-enrollment
25 programs yet. Their high-demand occupations are identified as

1 Culinary Arts associate degree and a Management associate
2 degree. And the staff recommends a \$100,000 grant award.

3 Okay. And to the Southwest Virginia schools. Mountain
4 Empire Community College requests \$240,000 to serve 185
5 students. The college is pledging almost \$3.3 million in
6 matching funds. The estimates provided for the use of matching
7 funds are substantially larger compared to the other
8 applications, but this is likely the result of Mountain Empire
9 pulling a match from a much broader population of students. But
10 there is no question that they'll meet matching requirements.

11 There are no dual-enrollment programs and the high-demand
12 occupations listed include Police & Corrections Science Career
13 Pathways listed in the report and Education Career Pathways.
14 Staff recommends a \$240,000 grant award.

15 On page 20, we have New River Community College Educational
16 Foundation, which is requesting \$100,000 to serve 50 students.
17 The college is pledging \$100,000 in matching funds. There are
18 no dual-enrollment programs specified. There are two high-
19 demand occupation areas specified. One is Law Enforcement
20 Career Pathway, which includes Forensic Science, Police Science
21 and Criminal Justice. And Business Management/Administration,
22 three different types of programs here, the associate degree,
23 career studies certificate, and a certificate.

24 One thing that staff wants to note is that although it
25 appears the college offers several programs which could be

1 supported under Priority 1 Workforce Credentials, the New River
2 Community College has chosen not to allocate funds for this use.
3 For many years, they have chosen to use the Commission's WFA
4 support to serve only new high school graduates from Floyd
5 County.

6 And many of these students are enrolled in transfer
7 programs and may not be participating in the shorter-term
8 training opportunities. Staff note this award could be used to
9 serve any eligible student from Floyd County such as adult
10 learners who may be interested in pursuing educational and
11 training opportunities through New River Community College.
12 Staff recommend a \$100,000 grant award.

13 Southwest Virginia Community College is requesting \$240,000
14 to serve 144 students. The college is pledging \$240,000 in
15 matching funds. There are no dual-enrollment programs specified
16 nor high-demand occupations.

17 Last year, Southwest Virginia Community College allocated a
18 large portion of the Workforce Financial Aid grant to serve
19 students in Priority 4 programs. Priority 4 programs, which is
20 high-demand occupations for education. The current application
21 does not allocate any funding for this use.

22 Instead, the largest allocation of funding is under
23 Priority 1, Workforce Credentials. In a follow-up discussion
24 with the applicant, the staff were assured that the application
25

1 does reflect the college's projections for enrollment and
2 financial need. Staff recommend a \$240,000 award.

3 Virginia Highlands Community College Educational Foundation
4 requests \$240,000 to serve 240 students. The college is
5 pledging \$240,000 in matching funds. No dual-enrollment
6 programs were specified. There are two high-demand occupational
7 areas specified. One, being Administration of Justice; the
8 other, Law Enforcement Career Pathway with associate degrees in
9 education and educational Specialization in Teacher Prep.

10 During review, staff did request additional information
11 describing the programs to be served with Commission funds.
12 There was particular concern that no funds had been allocated
13 for Priority 2, which was non-G3 eligible programs in STEM-H and
14 Advanced Manufacturing. So, that supports programs that are
15 eligible for Commission funds but not eligible for G3 funding.
16 There are at least eight of these programs offered at Virginia
17 Highlands. In response, the college provided a revised program
18 list and associated outcomes chart reflecting the allocation of
19 \$94,000 to serve 60 students under Priority 2, which is
20 reflected in the chart that you see. The staff is recommending
21 a \$240,000 grant award.

22 Lastly, we have Wytheville Community College which is
23 requesting \$240,000 to serve 160 students. The college is
24 pledging \$300,000 in matching funds. There are no dual-
25 enrollment programs specified but two areas for high-demand

1 occupations. One, being an associate degree in education; the
2 other being Law Enforcement Career Pathways with a focus on
3 Administration of Justice and Corrections Science. Staff
4 recommends a \$240,000 grant award.

5 I'll take this time to see if there are any additional
6 questions or comments?

7 SENATOR RUFF: Madam Chairman?

8 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Yes, Chairman Ruff.

9 SENATOR RUFF: Vicki, on the dual enrollment you said that
10 Administration of Justice did not qualify for Southside. What's
11 the difference between the Administration of Justice and police
12 service that we're doing?

13 MS. HUMPHREYS: I think you are -- well, the difference is
14 probably not much. I would have to get to one of the colleges
15 to describe that. So, I did not get into the specificities of
16 that. But it doesn't -- again, because we limit dual-enrollment
17 to STEM-H and Advanced Manufacturing careers that would not
18 apply for support under dual-enrollment.

19 SENATOR RUFF: Madam Chairman, of course you could say
20 emergency medical services would.

21 MS. HUMPHREYS: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah. It would have to be
22 Information Technology or a STEM-H Advanced Manufacturing
23 category.

24 SENATOR RUFF: That's fine. Thank you. I appreciate it.

25 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. This goes to some of my questions

1 that I was trying to find out previously. So, Workforce
2 Credentials, does the college give you information on those
3 areas of certificates that they're getting, and do we track it
4 at all?

5 MS. HUMPHREYS: We do get a listing of the programs they
6 plan to serve under Workforce Credentials. We do not track that
7 at the individual student level within a system. We do receive
8 the raw data with requests for payment vouchers, but we do not
9 track that on an individual basis. And we found that that's
10 done on the SCHEV level.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Well, I heard that might be questionable,
12 too.

13 MS. HUMPHREYS: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN BYRON: And I think we'll be finding that out
15 soon. The new bill that just passed that Senator Ruff and I
16 both carried that reforms the statewide workforce system is
17 going to try and get all that under one roof so we can, you
18 know, make sure that data is all coordinated, and we can make
19 sure that we're efficiently spending the money.

20 But I think one of the most important investments we can
21 make is what we're doing here so I have totally supported
22 workforce training and filling the worker pipeline. But I also
23 think it's very important to be able to track it and know what
24 we're training for and who we're sending out and whether they're
25 staying in the Tobacco Region or any of the above. And we kind

1 of come in and it's great to approve two million dollars but we
2 don't know to what effect they have, you know. And I think that
3 whether its community colleges telling us or it's us tracking it
4 but somebody's got to be able to track this and I know we're
5 only a piece of it.

6 And, the career studies certificates were something new
7 that I was just learning about. And you have a definition of
8 not less than nine nor more than 29 semester credit hours. And
9 there's quite a few of them that have career studies
10 certificates and I don't know -- okay, so what are they studying
11 for that qualifies as a certificate. You had down there Medical
12 Coding so it would be interesting to know does it only requires
13 -- okay, a minimum of nine -- so ten hours to do medical coding
14 and that is what they're all doing so we're filling the gap for
15 Medical Coding.

16 MS. HUMPHREYS: That was just one example. There are many,
17 many career studies certificates. I just gave that as one
18 example. The career studies certificates are very career
19 specific and don't include the general education requirements
20 like English and history and all of those things that an
21 associate degree or perhaps a certificate program would require.
22 So, it's a very technically oriented, less than one year program
23 for a specific career.

24 CHAIRMAN BYRON: For a specific career, that's the point
25 I'm trying to make.

1 MS. HUMPHREYS: As a medical coder, a welder, those types
2 of things.

3 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Right. The point is I still, as a
4 Commission member, think that we would like to know what we're
5 training people for. Does anybody else want to know that or is
6 it just me?

7 UNKNOWN: High growth. High demand.

8 CHAIRMAN BYRON: If I'm the only one that's fine, but I
9 think if anybody else wants to know, too. And I'm not being
10 critical here.

11 MS. HUMPHREYS: Oh, no. No.

12 CHAIRMAN BYRON: I'm just saying we want more information.

13 MS. HUMPHREYS: You want more information. Yes.

14 Absolutely. I understand.

15 CHAIRMAN BYRON: You look at a sheet of paper and approve
16 something, you know, and two million dollars goes out and where
17 are all these people, you know. I want to be happy that they're
18 helping an employer and getting a paycheck and they're, you
19 know, helping in the community. But we've got to find a way
20 that cuts down your workload or whatever and puts it in some
21 kind of form and gets it to us.

22 MS. HUMPHREYS: We can certainly have a conversation with
23 our participating community colleges and find out where this
24 information can be tracked and if it's not being tracked how we
25 can do that in a way that's efficient.

1 UNKNOWN: Madam Chairman, I think most of them are tracked.

2 MR. HODGES: Yeah, we already track it, Madam Chair.

3 UNKNOWN: So, there could easily be a report generated so
4 that we could see, especially high growth, high demand
5 occupations, what we're funding and where the output is.

6 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Can you come up so I can ask you a
7 question?

8 MR. HODGES: Certainly. I'm Greg Hodges. President of
9 Patrick & Henry Community College. We have already tracked that
10 and would be happy to provide that to you. There are some
11 challenges. We need to be transparent. Many of us live on
12 border counties, border communities, and so sometimes students
13 will cross borders into Tennessee, North Carolina in our case.
14 And as you may well know Richmond and Raleigh don't always play
15 in the same sandbox well together and so we have difficulty
16 tracking those metrics. But if they remain in Virginia, if they
17 remain in the Tobacco Region, we can easily provide that
18 information for you.

19 CHAIRMAN BYRON: And does that get sent into SCHEV, too?

20 MR. HODGES: Yes, ma'am.

21 CHAIRMAN BYRON: So, this is all a part of theirs?

22 MR. HODGES: Yes, Ma'am.

23 CHAIRMAN BYRON: But it doesn't indicate that we're
24 helping, you're helping and somebody else is helping, right? It
25 just goes into one aggregate.

1 MR. HODGES: Correct. Yes, ma'am.

2 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. And then this says, "anticipated."
3 So, is this -- what about dropouts? Is there an anticipated
4 dropout rate or are they completing this or what's happening?

5 MR. HODGES: I can allow my other -- here you want to speak
6 to it -- other colleges as well because I don't want to dominate
7 the conversation. We anticipate dropouts but we can never
8 accurately always anticipate exactly what that number will be.
9 But we certainly do anticipate dropouts in the program. I'm
10 sure you're familiar with the third, third, third so we build
11 that formula into our work that we submit.

12 MR. HUGHES: Perry Hughes, Vice President of Workforce and
13 Occupational Programs at Wytheville. And I can tell you our
14 success rate on these Fast-forward programs, which is some of
15 the programs that you're looking at, we are about 98 percent on
16 a consistent basis of completion and credential rates. So,
17 dropouts pretty much don't happen on our side. The career
18 studies certificates and things, you know, that you see, those
19 are on the academic side so, you know, those life challenges do
20 happen from time to time. But we do work with all the entities
21 that are out there to help alleviate those life challenges
22 whether it be vehicle, gas, housing, whatever a student might
23 need. We do everything we can to help that student cross that
24 finish line. So as these monies are being applied, you know, we
25

1 do try to make sure that those students do get what they start
2 to achieve and hopefully more than that from that point forward.

3 UNKNOWN: Madam Chair, I think it would be good if at the
4 end of each budget cycle, or this grant at the end of each year
5 that we're giving them funding, is to know the impact of what
6 we're investing in and how many of those that completed the
7 certificates and have been able to go to better paying jobs.

8 CHAIRMAN BYRON: I think that's what we all are looking
9 forward to seeing is results. So, in the front end, you can't
10 expect those results, but you can later.

11 MR. HODGES: That's already submitted. We provide that
12 annually.

13 CHAIRMAN BYRON: To us?

14 MR. HODGES: Sorry. We provide that annually. We forgot
15 to request that. It is submitted.

16 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay.

17 MS. HUMPHREYS: We can certainly look at revising our
18 reporting requirements just to be able to hone in on the
19 information that you're looking for.

20 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Sure. Anybody else?

21 UNKNOWN: Madam Chairman, as the workforce legislation went
22 through, the end line will not be getting a certificate. The
23 end line will be, are they working six months, a year later. So
24 that thing is the kind of information that's more important than
25 just - while I've got the mic, I'll ask this question. And I

1 know you're going to tell me it's done in truth, but every
2 community college, everyone understands that we have to pull
3 down the Pell Grant money first.

4 MS. HUMPHREYS: Yeah, our last dollar.

5 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Anybody else, questions?

6 (NO RESPONSE.)

7 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. So, we have all those grants. Do
8 you want to take them up in a block or does anybody need to pull
9 anything out? Do you want to do those in a block, or do you
10 want to do them in Southern Virginia and Southwest Virginia,
11 does it matter?

12 SENATOR RUFF: It can be done in block.

13 CHAIRMAN BYRON: All right. Do you want to make that
14 motion?

15 SENATOR RUFF: Yes.

16 DELEGATE WAMPLER: Second.

17 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Oh, okay. Sorry. Okay, so we have a
18 motion from Senator Ruff to approve \$2,197,020. The last mile
19 Workforce Financial Aid grants for tobacco regional residents
20 for the 2023-2024 school year as described on pages 9-23 of the
21 Commission book and subject to the conditions listed on pages 10
22 and 11 of the Commission books. And that was seconded by
23 William Wampler. Any further discussion?

24 (NO RESPONSE.)

25 CHAIRMAN BYRON: All in favor say aye.

1 (ALL AFFIRM.)

2 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Any opposed?

3 (NO RESPONSE.)

4 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Oh, Mr. Walker. Thank you. Is that who
5 that was?

6 MR. SORRELL: That is Mr. Walker, yes.

7 CHAIRMAN BYRON: All right. So that is approved. Thank
8 you very much. All right. So, now we have under Other Business
9 -- you want to go over that with us as well?

10 MS. HUMPHREYS: Sure.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRON: The Extensions.

12 MS. HUMPHREYS: Those extension, right. We have two
13 extensions. One is for Central Virginia Community College
14 Educational Foundation related to Project 3629, New Radiography
15 Overhead X-Ray System. The current project end date is May 18th,
16 2023. It is a 5th year extension requested. The Commission
17 approved a \$91,667 grant in May of 2020 to support 50 percent of
18 that acquisition costs for a new X-Ray machine. CVCC is
19 requesting a two-year grant extension to allow time for facility
20 renovations to be completed and for the equipment to be
21 purchased and installed. Central Virginia Community College has
22 the only regional Radiologic Technology Program and is the sole
23 provider of radiologic technologists for a majority of the
24 tobacco region footprint. The approval of this grant occurred
25 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused both

1 fundraising and state capital improvement projects to be put on
2 hold.

3 Also, during this time, the cost of construction materials
4 significantly increased, further extending the timeline for
5 renovations to be completed. CVCC has secured the match for the
6 X-Ray equipment from Central Health; plans for the renovations
7 are approved with initial renovations underway; and full funding
8 of renovations are on the approval list of the Virginia
9 Community College System for General Assembly funding. The
10 additional two years will allow sufficient time for the required
11 renovations to be completed that are necessary to accommodate
12 this new equipment in a permanent location.

13 The next extension request is from Radford University
14 Foundation, their Counselor Education Program in Southwest
15 Virginia and this is grant 3514. This project's current end
16 date is June 30th, 2023. And there's a request for a one-year
17 extension to June 30th, 2024. This grant of \$325,000, approved
18 in June 2019, supports operating costs for Radford's School of
19 Counseling master's degree Program located at the Southwest
20 Virginia Higher Education Center.

21 Commission funds are used to pay 50 percent of the
22 instructor and other operating expenses for the program which
23 reduces the tuition burden for participants. The first cohort
24 of students completed the program in spring 2022 with 18
25 graduates.

1 And, the second cohort is underway, and the proposed one-
2 year extension will allow the cohort to complete the program.
3 Staff recommend approval of both extensions.

4 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Any questions?

5 UNKNOWN: Chairman, I would move that the Commission accept
6 the Education Committee's recommendation with Project 3629 to
7 approve the extension of the Central Virginia Community College
8 until May 31st, 2025.

9 DELEGATE WAMPLER: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. Any questions?

11 (NO RESPONSE.)

12 CHAIRMAN BYRON: All in favor say aye.

13 (SOME AFFIRM.)

14 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Any opposed?

15 MR. WALKER: Aye.

16 HITE: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Mr. Walker?

18 MR. WALKER: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Mr. Hite?

20 MR. HITE: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. It's unanimous.

22 UNKNOWN: Madam Chairman, I move the Commission accept the
23 Education Committee recommendation for Project 3514 to approve a
24 one-year extension through 30th June 2024 for Radford University
25 Foundation's Counselor Education Program.

1 DELEGATE WAMPLER: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. Any questions?

3 (NO RESPONSE.)

4 CHAIRMAN BYRON: All in favor say aye.

5 (ALL AFFIRM.)

6 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Mr. Hite?

7 MR. HITE: Aye

8 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Mr. Walker?

9 MR. WALKER: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Any opposed?

11 (NO RESPONSE.)

12 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. That's approved as well. All
13 right. I think that concludes our agenda. Do we have anything
14 else?

15 MR. SORRELL: I've got a little bit more. We do have one
16 more.

17 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Oh, okay. Vicki, I'm sorry. We've got
18 one more.

19 MS. HUMPHREY: That's quite alright. I'm flexible. A lot
20 of the schools that are participating in the Workforce Financial
21 Aid grant program have indicated a need to support licensing and
22 testing fees for students in some of the non-credit and for
23 credit programs. These include CDL licenses and registered
24 nurses, practical nurses, and some of the other health programs.
25 So, students are challenged by the time constraints related to

1 the programming and clinical requirements and scheduling in the
2 rigor of the program. And once they graduate, they often can't
3 afford the cost of the licensure exams and must delay until they
4 save enough money to take it. And then they sometimes don't do
5 as well because of the time lapse so that affects their final
6 scores and how fast they're placed into these needed positions.

7 Just to give you an example of the types of health program
8 licensure fees: Dental Assisting has a state fee of \$100, a
9 national fee of \$450; Dental Hygiene national board exam fee
10 \$550, regional clinical exam \$1200, and Virginia license fee
11 \$210; Medical Laboratory Technology \$215; Nursing, the state
12 license and test combined, \$450; Physical Therapy Assistant,
13 licensure in Virginia is \$100, exam registration \$485, testing
14 site reservation about \$83.

15 So just giving you an example of the types of costs that
16 some of these health studies students are facing when they're
17 done with their programs and are ready to be placed into the
18 job. We'd like to gauge the Committee's interest in studying
19 these demands for assistance with licensing and testing fees and
20 how we might be able to use Workforce Financial Aid dollars to
21 help meet the needs of those students. We do not come prepared
22 with a policy for you all to adopt today but just wanted to be
23 able to have our partners here from the community colleges
24 available to answer any questions you might have about the issue
25 and also to set a direction to move forward on whether we want

1 to look at including this type of assistance with the WFA
2 program.

3 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Well, I personally think that, and we can
4 see how the Committee feels, that getting more information is
5 always good. I've heard a lot of different things on the fees
6 from my service on the Workforce Board but I think it would
7 probably be a good idea to check with them, too, because they
8 have addressed some of that and some of it has come as a result
9 of the different people that are doing the testing and some of
10 the changes that have happened over the last several years, too.
11 So having that information and maybe what some other states are
12 doing, you know, to address it and how much of a burden it is or
13 if there should be a match, I think would be good information to
14 bring back because it will probably come up again, undoubtedly.

15 MS. HUMPHREY: Okay. Thank you. Any other comments?

16 MS. CLARK: Do the community colleges have any input in
17 that? I mean, they're here. Does anybody have anything they
18 want to say?

19 MS. HAIR: So good morning, I'm Shannon Hair at Danville
20 Community College. I serve as Vice President of Institutional
21 Advancement and Development. And I also wear the hat of the
22 Executive Director of the DCC Educational Foundation. And to
23 your question, Delegate Byron, yes, there is a need. There are
24 students that come to our doors daily when they complete their
25

1 CNA, their CDL, their programs of study, and they cannot pay for
2 those tests due to those life issues.

3 One example is we just started a CDL program. We have
4 successfully let a dozen students walk through that program.
5 One of those students was living in his car. So, this is a game
6 changer for him because he is going to now have a salary, be
7 able to change his life but having the resources to even pay for
8 that test is not there for that individual. So that would be, I
9 would think, probably our community college partners would agree
10 that this would be a great use of those funds to help those
11 students, those that cannot afford for the testing to be paid
12 out of pocket. Thank you, Ms. Clark. Any questions?

13 CHAIRMAN BYRON: You have someone behind you.

14 MR. HUGHES: Once again, Perry Hughes, Vice President of
15 Workforce Development at Wytheville. I think we close this gap
16 in some areas, but we still have a broad gap in others. When
17 Fast-forward was approved years ago by the legislature, when we
18 went through the pricing sessions, one of the things that we
19 addressed on the pricing side of those programs, we included
20 those fees in that max pricing. So, you know, when it comes to
21 a Fast-forward program a lot of these are paid for. The one
22 example that Shannon's already mentioned, CDL, we don't cover
23 that on the workforce Fast-forward side because that is a
24 floating number based off the number of years that remain on an
25 individual's license. So, if they've got eight years on their

1 current license their amount is going to be different than
2 someone who has two years, and the DMV will not bill us for
3 that. So that's the reason that one is not paid. So, we do
4 have some students who come through to complete the training,
5 but they cannot afford the \$60 that's required at the DMV to
6 obtain their license.

7 So, I think we covered a lot of it on these Fast-forward
8 programs, but over on the academic side we are still missing
9 serving a lot of students. So, any questions I'll be glad to
10 answer those. Madam Chair?

11 CHAIRMAN BYRON: I think that information, sharing with
12 Vicki is going to be good to be able to bring back, you know.

13 DELEGATE WAMPLER: Madam Chair?

14 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Yes.

15 DELEGATE WAMPLER: What are the average costs of some of
16 these tests, CDL tests or CNA tests that are required for
17 licensure? How much would these cost a student? I know they
18 can vary but give me a ballpark.

19 MR. HUGHES: Well, the CDL, we do the testing. So, the
20 testing is done. The one component on the CDL side is the
21 license where they go to the DMV. And that's going to run
22 anywhere from \$30-60, which doesn't sound like much but if you
23 don't have a dollar, it might as well be \$600. So, that's one
24 thing that's standing in between these individuals going to
25 work. They've got to have a license. They've got all the

1 credentials, they passed all the tests, but they've got to hold
2 the license in their hands. I don't know on the medical side
3 because over on our side of the house we don't run an estimate,
4 so I can't answer that question. But I do know, I think there's
5 some numbers, I think Ms. Humphreys already has some numbers
6 over on the medical side and some of those are extremely costly,
7 several hundred to thousands of dollars.

8 MS. PENNINGTON: Madam Chairman, board members, thank you.
9 I'm Laura Pennington and I'm from Virginia Highlands Community
10 College just up the hill. All I had to do was put it in neutral
11 today and just come down the hill. We're glad that you're in
12 Southwest Virginia and grateful that you are taking up this
13 matter.

14 Those of us who work in foundations and have emergency
15 assistance programs, it breaks our heart every day for a student
16 who has made it all the way through a six-week program, a
17 12-week program, a year program, a two-year program, only to
18 find that they cannot pay for that certification that is going
19 to lead to a living wage, high demand, high pay job.

20 A couple of examples that I will add to my colleagues'
21 comments are -- and I know that you all are acutely aware of the
22 shortage of nursing and other healthcare professions in the
23 entire footprint. Just as a point of information for you, for
24 students who are graduating and are going to be serving as
25 licensed practical nurses and nurses, they both are required to

1 take what's called an NCLEX exam. For those of you who love and
2 know nurses this probably gives you chills. It's a tough exam
3 and it's expensive. It's close to \$500 and there are many, many
4 students who just simply cannot afford that. So, any
5 consideration you guys would offer to this matter I think would
6 be really, really appreciated by your constituents. And
7 something that I think you could really, really make a
8 measurable impact on. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Hold on before you leave.

10 MS. PENNINGTON: Yes, ma'am

11 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Delegate Marshall has a question.

12 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So, most of the students, CDL or even
13 nursing, do they have a job before they graduate?

14 MS. PENNINGTON: A lot of them do have jobs.

15 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So, would the potential new employer
16 pay for the tests?

17 MS. PENNINGTON: We do have partnerships that I can speak
18 for Southwest Virginia. You know, the largest healthcare
19 employer in our region is Ballad Health. And many of them do
20 partner with us to share the cost of licensing. They even help
21 with tuition. But, you know, there are only so many funds to go
22 around. And we operate many of our foundations. When we're
23 helping students with this issue, we try to patch together all
24 kinds of different resources. And it would be nice if the
25 Commission could see a way to be part of that last dollar

1 assistance. As you mentioned, Madam Chairman, workforce
2 development board. For students who are being served and
3 supported through that work they may very well receive some kind
4 of allocation or a small stipend to help them with those fees,
5 but I guarantee you there is always going to be a gap. So yes,
6 our employers do often help us but there's often a gap.

7 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Thank you.

8 MS. PENNINGTON: Other questions?

9 (NO RESPONSE.)

10 MS. PENNINGTON: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Vicki, it might help to get into some of
12 those areas, too, that don't have a tobacco commission and see
13 what they do for funding and to address some of those concerns.

14 MS. HUMPHREY: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay.

16 MR. SORRELL: Yes. I have just one thought for our --

17 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay.

18 MR. SORRELL: Yes, Madam Chairman. Basically, in other
19 business I thought it would be good to get an update from you,
20 perhaps, on, you know, what direction the Committee might be
21 considered going with our Talent Attraction Program based upon
22 the outcome of the legislative session or, you know, direction
23 that you might have from that. If you recall, the Committee
24 back in December chose to pause that particular program and
25 perhaps come forward next year with some new ideas. And so I

1 thought it might just be, you know, again we don't have a ready
2 policy or anything to present to you today but having some
3 direction from the Committee would be helpful and I'm sure that
4 Stephanie Kim might be able to answer any questions the
5 Committee have about that.

6 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Well, outside of having a work study on
7 some of the information that I think we were all looking for,
8 I'm not sure that anything has changed since our last meeting
9 because we put a pause, I think, to try to garner some more
10 information about whether we felt like we were getting the
11 effect out of that. I think with some of the other things going
12 on with some reforming of workforce that there's a lot of things
13 in the works right now as well that we're trying to get some
14 good data and metrics to go by so we can make wise choices and
15 so the Tobacco Commission can continue to make investments with
16 their limited dollars in the most appropriate way for what's
17 going to help revitalize those areas.

18 And while education is a big part of that, it's a big part
19 of the cost of the monies that we spend as well. I'll open it
20 up to the Committee if you have anything new. It just hadn't
21 been brought up, but I think that whether we have a small group
22 or a group that looks at that and reviews the information a
23 little bit more thoroughly than we've done in a committee
24 meeting and comes back with either recommendations or no
25 recommendations. That's the direction we're going to go and we

1 can certainly address that, you know, with some folks to see who
2 might want to serve on that and bring it back to you tomorrow.

3 MR. SORRELL: Yes. Perhaps a subcommittee of the Education
4 Committee could look at that issue and bring a recommendation
5 back to the commission.

6 CHAIRMAN BYRON: And something like that can even be done
7 virtually, if need be, to make it convenient because those
8 meetings don't have to be in person, do they? I don't think
9 that type of meeting would be required. We'll check the rules
10 with legal counsel down there. Okay. Yes. Did you want to -
11 Stephanie, do you want to tell us something?

12 MS. KIM: Yeah. There's one other piece of other business.

13 MR. SORRELL: Yes. She also has an extension request that
14 somebody has a question for you.

15 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay.

16 MS. KIM: It's kind of more of an exception request. This
17 is for a TAP recipient who received an \$18,000 two-year award in
18 2019 as a Special Educator. And she's requesting an exception,
19 had sent an e-mail to request. I'm just going to read what her
20 exception request is. Basically, with the program we've
21 required a two-year commitment to work, live, and volunteer in
22 the region. She has fulfilled that two-year requirement and has
23 applied for renewal for another two years, so she is in the
24 middle of that renewal period. And she said due to my current
25

1 circumstances I would like to request an exception to the
2 requirement of the award year completed, so the second year.

3 I am requesting to see if an exception can be made based
4 off school years completed instead. The award was made in
5 October so she would have to work from October to October each
6 year and so that starts a new school year. Being in the field
7 of special education and having a major job switch in my
8 position, working for mostly learning disabilities in Algebra I
9 from three years to now teaching adaptive curriculum, working
10 with significant physical and cognitive delays. This has caused
11 a major toll on my overall health, mentally and physically. I
12 have put in countless hours over the years but most notably this
13 school year, creating a bridge of two populations in my school.
14 This has been done through two programs that involve buddies for
15 our special education population who are paired with their
16 peers. Considering health ailments that have arisen during my
17 teaching career I have been unable to get the proper help and
18 care I need.

19 The medical care in my area has very limited resources,
20 which plays a huge factor in my decision to consider moving back
21 closer to family where greater medical support is available.
22 Along with this I am anticipating a proposal over the summer
23 which would, in fact, lead me back to Massachusetts where my
24 family and said person all reside. With the requirement to
25 complete grant contract and to teach until October I would

1 likely plan to start the school year out as normal and then be
2 forced to quit midway through the school year. With a
3 population of students under my care, along with the staff
4 members in my classroom, I anticipate an extremely difficult
5 transition.

6 I would be devastated for my population of students in a
7 situation where their routine and consistency has completely
8 flipped upside down. I really hope to finish on a positive note
9 this school year with my current students, allowing them the
10 opportunity to start the year with a new teacher if I choose to
11 let this be my final year. Thank you for your consideration as
12 I greatly appreciate your willingness to hear me out. So, there
13 are several options if we make the exception to not fulfill the
14 second year. Then she would receive no reward for the second
15 year. You could prorate it. Give her credit for the first year
16 that she completed and then not give her the second year. Or
17 you could give her an exception and grant her the full two years
18 even though she will complete her school year, I guess, at the
19 end of May and then not fulfill through October, which was the
20 anniversary of the award date. And since this goes against our
21 standard policy, we're bringing it to you.

22 DELEGATE RUFF: Madam Chairman, I would say once you make
23 an exception that becomes the rule. Everyone will see that and
24 may try to do the same thing. I would not be opposed to
25

1 prorating it but I don't think we can just ignore the
2 predicament.

3 MS. CLARK: Madam Chair, I would say that if someone else
4 could have received that grant that could have fulfilled the
5 whole term and I think you must meet the full obligation.

6 DELEGATE WAMPLER: Madam Chair, a question for Stephanie?

7 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Go ahead.

8 DELEGATE WAMPLER: Now, she's completed one year of
9 employment or service in the state and in the program?

10 MS. COX: She's completed the first two years and then the
11 second two-year renewal period she has completed one and a half
12 years. And she has not received any renewal payments yet so she
13 wouldn't owe any money back. She either wouldn't receive it or
14 would receive a prorated amount.

15 DELEGATE WAMPLER: Madam Chair. Stephanie, what does the
16 contract state? What exactly --

17 MS. KIM: That they must complete two years or 24 months of
18 employment. It's a little bit different with teachers because
19 they have summers off, but that award year was in October 2019,
20 so their employment starts -- their award period starts October
21 2019. So, she worked until October 2020, 2021, and got her full
22 \$18,000 for that. And now she's worked from October '22 and
23 she's looking to end this school year, I think, the end of May
24 of 2023.

25 CHAIRMAN BYRON: She's still working now?

1 MS. COX: Yes. But she was hoping to then conclude this
2 school year and then move to Massachusetts.

3 SENATOR RUFF: Madam Chairman, the goal of this is to
4 attract people and hope they would want to stay. She is clearly
5 saying that she's moving back to Massachusetts. So, I'm not
6 sure we have to worry too much about her feelings.

7 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Part of the issue with the program was
8 understanding that it's an avowed attraction and certain rules
9 that are setup with that.

10 MR. PACE: Madam Chair, I'm not on the Committee though,
11 but I wanted to make a comment about what Senator Ruff said
12 though. This was one of the big things I was so proud of the
13 Tobacco Commission did. This little incentive program to bring
14 people to Southside Southwest Virginia. And now this person,
15 this lady is moving to Massachusetts? Massachusetts?

16 What if we say that we give - my personal view is that -
17 and I'm not on the committee, though, but my personal view is
18 that we give it - if we make an exception - what's that going to
19 say to the other people who have done the same thing and have
20 stayed here? What is that going to say though?

21 I mean, I'm sorry for all the stuff that she's heard,
22 though. But, if set - again, you make an exception, it becomes
23 the rule. I would not forgive myself if we went along with this
24 exception, personally. That's just my opinion, Madam Chair.

25

1 MS. COX: And it may be that she chooses to stay here until
2 that October date and then moves on. That's what she said.

3 SENATOR RUFF: No. Teachers don't do that. She is going
4 to seek a job somewhere else and if she gets the job, she'll
5 move. If she doesn't get the job she might come back. But the
6 demand for teachers is so strong that she will get a job.

7 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Especially in the field she's in.

8 MS. KIM: Right. But it's just a matter of whether she
9 goes in and stays in the region until that October 19th date and
10 then leaves.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRON: And, you know, I have a heartbreaking
12 story I'm not going to share with you but that happened to a
13 teacher that left some place and didn't know that it was going
14 to hurt her for just shortening herself five months and there
15 was no changing of that rule. And that, I just think, as
16 Senator Ruff said, we're going to have to follow guidelines and
17 rules. This is not an extension like we do on some of our
18 grants. This is an exception to something that we've put out as
19 policy. So, do we -- anybody want to make a -- we don't have
20 any action then? We don't do anything.

21 MS. KIM: We follow the rules.

22 MR. SORRELL: No action means that the rules stand as they
23 are.

24 CHAIRMAN BYRON: So. unless I hear a motion from somebody?

25 (NO RESPONSE.)

1 CHAIRMAN BYRON: Okay. You got your answer. Thank you.
2 Okay. Do we have any other business?

3 (MEETING ADJOURNED.)
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14 CERTIFICATE

15
16 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

17 COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
18

19 I, Marsha Self, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth
20 of Virginia, at large, do hereby certify that the foregoing
21 transcript of THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION
22 COMMISSION Meeting held on May 17, 2023, were taken before me at
23 the time and place in the foregoing caption specified, and that
24 the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to
25 the best of my ability.

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I further certify that I am not a relative, counsel, or attorney for either party or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Given under my hand this the 23rd day of July 2023.

Marsha Self, CERT

My Commission Expires: February 28, 2023.
State Notary Registered Number: 174126