

**Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission
Education Committee Meeting
Inn at Wise, 110 East Main Street, Wise, Virginia
May 21, 2024
2:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners Present

Ms. Amanda Cox, Chair	Senator T. Travis Hackworth
Senator L. Louise Lucas, Vice Chair (Remote)	Senator Todd E. Pillion
Senator Lashrecse D. Aird	Ms. Sandy Ratliff
Delegate Jonathan E. “Jed” Arnold	Honorable Gary D. Walker
Ms. Gretchen Clark	

Absent

Mr. Joel Cunningham, Jr.
Mr. Richard T. Hite

Staff

Honorable James Campos	Mr. Jordan Butler
Mr. Stephen Versen	Mr. Jerry Silva
Ms. Stephanie Kim	Ms. Adrian Chapman
Ms. Vicki Humphreys	Ms. Emily Van Pelt
Ms. Sara Williams	Ms. Hannah Franke-Fuller
Ms. Sarah Capps	Ms. Roz Stein

Counsel for the Commission

Ms. Elizabeth Myers

Education Committee Chair Cox opened the meeting. Campos called roll. Clark moved to approve Commissioner Lucas’s remote participation; Ruff seconded the motion; all members present voted “aye.”

Aird moved to approve the minutes from the previous Education Committee meeting on October 11, 2023; Blevins seconded; all members present voted “aye.”

The meeting was opened to public comment, and there was none.

Humphreys provided an overview of the allocation of \$2.2 million for Workforce Financial Aid, explaining the funding categories, application requirements, and eligible uses of WFA. Southern

Virginia grants 4258, 4231, 4252, 4249, 4257, and 4250 were eligible for a total amount of \$1,145,000. Southwest Virginia grants 4254, 4253, 4255, 4251, and 4256 were eligible for a total amount of \$1,050,000.

Hackworth asked for clarification as to why the number of students served per college could be significantly different while the awarded amount is similar. Humphreys explained that each institution uses the funding to support students in different ways depending on their programming. The funds may also cover testing fees, which vary by field. These factors result in levels of student support that vary at different colleges.

Aird moved to accept staff recommendations to award these grants; Arnold seconded the motion; all members present voted "aye."

The Committee moved on to consider extensions and modifications. Humphreys provided an overview and recommended an extension for project 3647. Clark moved to accept the staff recommendation; Walker seconded the motion; all members present voted "aye."

Cox brought to the Commission's attention the Talent Attraction Program, which is currently paused; she would like to renew consideration of reinstating this or creating a similar program that would fall in line with the administration's goals. Cox adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.