

**Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission
Education Committee Meeting
Hilton Richmond Downtown
501 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Monday, January 6, 2025
1:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Attending

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| Ms. Amanda Cox | Mr. Randy Everett |
| Senator L. Louise Lucas (Remote) | Dr. Sandra Frederick |
| Delegate Jed Arnold | Mr. Richard Hite |
| Ms. Gretchen Clark | Mrs. Sarah Wilson (Remote) |
| Mr. Joel Cunningham | |

Staff

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

Counsel

Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

Education Committee Chair Cox called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Commissioner Arnold moved to approve the remote participation of Commissioners Lucas and Wilson; Commissioner Hite seconded; all members present voted to approve.

Director Campos called roll and determined that a quorum was present.

Commissioner Cunningham moved to approve the minutes from September 9, 2024; Commissioner Arnold seconded; all members present voted to approve.

Cox called for public comment; there was none.

Ms. Humphreys presented the staff recommendations for the categories Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Training, Focus on STEM-H (project 4303-tabled), and Workforce Training Program, to be voted on in a block.

Arnold moved that the Education Committee accept the staff's recommendations for the Competitive Education Grants described on pages 30 to 42 of the Commission Book and make the following awards: \$100,000 to The Bridge Ministry, Inc., for project

#4305; \$129,527 to the Patrick & Henry Community College Foundation for project #4302; \$400,000 to Southside Virginia Community College Foundation for project #4304; \$105,142 to Southwest Virginia Community College for project #4307; \$313,022 to Virginia Highlands Community College Educational Foundation for project #4306; and \$188,820 to Wytheville Community College for project #4308; and \$243,404 to Central Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc. for project #4301; Commissioner Hite seconded; all members present voted to approve.

Ms. Kim described an exception request from a Talent Attraction Program (TAP) recipient.

Commissioner Everett moved to approve the TAP exception to Morgan Dianis, that Ms. Dianis is not required to repay the first half of her TAP award from April 2022 in the amount of \$12,000 for only working 21 out of 24 months in the tobacco region as a physical therapist and that no other disbursement for this award be made; Arnold seconded; all members present voted to approve.

Campos introduced Deputy Director Versen to present other business related to addressing the need for large animal veterinarians. The General Assembly has directed a two-year study with a budget to look into the shortage. Versen has participated in an external committee tasked with exploring financial resources to address the shortage; this group has developed an outline for an incentive program to support newly graduating large animal/food animal vets to serve in the tobacco footprint. The goal is to finalize the details of the program to be ready for Commission approval at the Spring 2025 meeting, with a program rollout planned for Fall 2025.

There was no other new business.

Cox adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.