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**TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Education Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, September 21, 2021  
2:00 o'clock p.m.

Peaks of Otter Lodge  
85554 Blue Ridge Parkway  
Bedford, Virginia

1     APPEARANCES:

2     Ms. Rebecca Coleman, Chairwoman

3     Ms. Gretchen Clark

4     Mr. Joel Cunningham, Jr.

5     Dr. Alexis I. Ehrhardt

6     Mr. Cecil E. Shell

7

8     COMMISSION STAFF:

9     Mr. Evan Feinman, Executive Director

10    Mr. Andy Sorrell, Deputy Director

11    Ms. Sarah K. Capps - Southside Regional Director

12    Ms. Sara G. Williams, Southwest Regional Director

13    Mr. David Bringman, Database and Performance Metrics Manager

14    Ms. Stephanie S. Kim, Director of Finance

15    Ms. Jessie Stamper, Grant Specialist

16    Ms. Joyce Knight - Executive Assistant

17

18    COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION:

19    Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

20        Richmond, Virginia

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1 September 21, 2021

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MS. COLEMAN: Good afternoon, I'll call the Education  
4 Committee Meeting to order and ask Evan to call the roll.

5

MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Coleman.

6

MS. COLEMAN: Here.

7

MR. FEINMAN: Senator Lucas.

8

SENATOR LUCAS: (No response).

9

MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Aird.

10

DELEGATE AIRD: (No response).

11

MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Clark.

12

MS. CLARK: Here.

13

MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Cunningham.

14

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Here.

15

MR. FEINMAN: Dr. Ehrhardt.

16

DR. EHRHARDT: Here.

17

MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Harris.

18

MR. HARRIS: (No response).

19

MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Hurst.

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DELEGATE HURST: (No response).

21

MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Rasoul.

22

DELEGATE RASOUL: (No response).

23

MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Ratliff.

24

MS. RATLIFF: (No response).

25

MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Shell.

1 MR. SHELL: Here.

2 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Sutherland.

3 MR. SUTHERLAND: (No response).

4 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Tyler.

5 DELEGATE TYLER: (No response).

6 MR. FEINMAN: You do not have a quorum, Madam  
7 Chairman. Our counsel and I have had a conversation previously  
8 so we can make informal recommendations to the Full  
9 Commission. Since the only thing we need to do today is make  
10 recommendations to the Commission and action of the body is  
11 done at the Full Commission level, we can proceed and then  
12 make recommendations to the Full Commission. We may want  
13 to do a little more conversation during the Full Commission.

14 MS. COLEMAN: We have two sets of minutes that we  
15 haven't approved yet, so we'll just set that aside.

16 Next on the agenda is public comment. First, we'll  
17 hear from our guests, if any. Anyone from the Commission? All  
18 right, then we don't have any public comments at this time.

19 MR. FEINMAN: I just want to let everybody know all  
20 the microphones have been sanitized and we have additional  
21 masks if anyone needs one. Our Wi-Fi is slow, it's weather  
22 dependent.

23 Members of the Commission, please locate your travel  
24 vouchers and get them in to Joyce Knight so we can reimburse  
25 you.

1 MS. COLEMAN: A large part of our business today is  
2 to go over the Education applications, and as Evan said, we'll  
3 make any recommendations to the Full Commission tomorrow for  
4 any action to be taken. Sara Williams, our Southwest Regional  
5 Grants Administrator, will be going through these applications,  
6 and there'll be an opportunity for each applicant, can voice their  
7 concerns with the recommendations.

8 So, Sara, I'll turn it over to you.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: The first group is Number 3898, The  
10 Floyd County EDA. A New Adult Welding, Fabrication, and  
11 Machining Program at the Floyd CCDC. They're requesting  
12 \$162,106.

13 These funds will be used to purchase equipment for  
14 the establishment of a new welding and fabrication center and  
15 CCDC Program, and this will create a new evening adult program  
16 in welding, fabrication, and machining and provide additional  
17 learning and certification opportunities for high school students in  
18 the existing welding program.

19 With the help of the Commission for that evening  
20 program, they'll be able to start that program for adults in the  
21 evenings. There are currently 52 job openings or positions for  
22 these graduates.

23 Staff recommends awarding a grant of \$162,106.

24 MS. COLEMAN: The Staff recommends a full award?

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

1 MS. COLEMAN: Are there any issues with Floyd  
2 County that you'd like to bring to the Commission? Does anyone  
3 on the Committee have any questions? Thank you.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: The next project is Number 3900,  
5 Virginia Technical Institute, Workforce Pipeline Advanced  
6 Manufacturing and Skilled Labor, requesting \$60,000.

7 This request will support 50 percent of the costs of a  
8 new instructor to launch a new entry-level advanced  
9 manufacturing and skilled labor training program. This is a  
10 short-term program that takes place over a three-week period,  
11 and they attend 40 hours a week during that timeframe. And  
12 this will make it available for them to have workforce credentials.  
13 And these will be recognized workforce credentials, OSHA 10 and  
14 NCCER Core, and Skills USA Career Essentials.

15 When they graduate, they'll have an opportunity to  
16 interview with local employers who have the need for these  
17 entry-level labor people.

18 Staff recommends awarding the grant of \$60,000 for  
19 50 percent of the new faculty expenses associated with VTI's new  
20 entry-level Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Labor-Training  
21 Program.

22 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, Sara.

23 Does anybody wish to speak? Thank you.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: The next project is 3910, Wytheville  
25 Community College, Wytheville Community College Center for

1 Automation and Robotics Education, requesting \$466,829.

2 This request will fund 50 percent of the equipment  
3 needed to establish the WCC Center for Automation and Robotics  
4 Education, also known as the CARE Lab. This will establish three  
5 programs, Industrial 4.0 Fundamentals, Mechatronics Level 1,  
6 and FANUC Robotics.

7 The applications say that among the positions that are  
8 proposed, the CARE Lab will prepare students to seek  
9 employment as electromechanical technicians, production  
10 technicians, industrial technicians, positions for which there is  
11 projected growth in Virginia of 3.9 percent and mean salaries of  
12 \$54,570. Graduates of the Advanced Mechatronics Level  
13 Program will be qualified to seek employment as  
14 mechatronics/automation technicians and application engineers.  
15 The jobs are expected to grow, and we had this down at 1.7  
16 percent, but it's actually 14 percent, and that's a substantial  
17 change. That mean salary is \$61,050.

18 Staff is recommending awarding a grant of \$466,829.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Any comments from anyone? Any  
20 questions from the Committee? Then, let's move on.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Now, we'll move on to the Work  
22 Study/Earn and Learn, one project, 3907, Institute for Advanced  
23 Learning and Research, ExperienceWorks - Apprenticeships,  
24 requesting \$651,348.

25 They want to establish the ExperienceWorks initiative

1 over two years. This is for high school juniors and seniors and is  
2 designed to create a culture of understanding that  
3 apprenticeships are for everyone and they can provide a clear  
4 benefit for employees and job seekers.

5 If funded, a portion of the apprenticeship coordinator,  
6 a portion of apprentice wages and fringe benefits. This is to  
7 support an apprenticeship coordinator position and four years at  
8 80 percent. Funding was also requested to support ten AsPHIRE  
9 event costs and 1,400 twelfth graders. We're sorry we could not  
10 recommend full funding for this. We thought that the  
11 Commission could not support that at this time. Apprenticeships  
12 are a priority for the Commission. The Commission basically  
13 can't support all the wages.

14 We also felt that we have a long list of  
15 apprenticeships. A lot of these programs have many benefits,  
16 but some have a higher priority than others. We really didn't see  
17 that there was a clear commitment that once the Commission  
18 grant was completed that these employers would be willing to  
19 support a hundred percent. Without everything for the  
20 apprenticeship program, we just couldn't be certain.

21 The same is true for the money requested for the  
22 tuition for the training. The training is for up to 15 hours of  
23 training. Most Department of Labor apprenticeship programs  
24 require 2,000 hours of training. We weren't sure when we read  
25 the application where this 15 hours fit in, and we thought maybe

1 the training opportunity was somewhat unique for each  
2 apprenticeship program. We had a hard time determining  
3 exactly how this would function, what training would be provided  
4 and who would be providing it, what the cost would be, and most  
5 of all, tuition is covered under the Commission's Workforce  
6 Financial Aid Program. I don't think it's allowed in the  
7 competitive education.

8           Additionally, the AspHIRE provision for the 1,400  
9 twelfth graders, we didn't think it was really appropriate for the  
10 Commission to do that. I would like to point out that of the  
11 1,400 that would participate, the outcome for the  
12 apprenticeship's program was much smaller, and then the  
13 question of how many would complete a journeyman  
14 certification.

15           With all that said, apprenticeships are a priority of this  
16 Committee, and we wanted to do something to help get it  
17 started. We think the coordinator position is a critical need and  
18 hope that by supporting that, we could help this initiative get  
19 going and we think maybe an additional request can be and  
20 would support one of the program costs associated with that.

21           With all that said, Staff recommends an award of  
22 \$64,800 for 50 percent of the Apprenticeship Coordinator  
23 position, contingent upon the Apprenticeship Coordinator  
24 focusing efforts on identifying apprenticeships in traded sectors,  
25 including manufacturing, information technology, healthcare, and

1 construction.

2 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, Sara.

3 I direct your attention to the fact that they  
4 recommend an award in this case. Having said that, is anybody  
5 here from ILR?

6 MS. BROWN: I am Julie Brown. Evan, can you speak  
7 a little louder? A final review of the recommendations from the  
8 Commission, I reached out to Staff, and we had a good  
9 conversation. The items included in our request are from  
10 research that was conducted back in 2018, and they feel the two  
11 items in this request, those are the four-year, offset 20 percent  
12 being reasonable to bring employers to the table, as well as  
13 funding support the related technical construction.

14 Back in 2018, I conducted a survey with employers  
15 and they said in order to get the system up and running and  
16 paperwork is always very cumbersome. The second thing was  
17 the technical instruction. There's a couple of challenges with the  
18 apprenticeship and that the tuition to the technical instruction  
19 and paying tuition to a post-secondary provider, and here, they  
20 said this is a priority. So, for that employee to try to get  
21 assistance and be eligible for it. (Unintelligible). Construction  
22 trades.

23 Those that would do the training are not eligible for  
24 G3, fast forward, and other forms of instruction provided, post-  
25 secondary. With apprenticeship, it's an opportunity that the

1 employers can provide to the related technical instruction, but  
2 they need support in purchasing things, the cost of certification,  
3 textbooks, and you have to have certification, and other  
4 healthcare certifications that may be based on the  
5 apprenticeship.

6 We did have a great conversation. Staff will focus on  
7 its work absolutely. We didn't have a conversation for three  
8 years, trying to get some things moving and wanted something  
9 to recognize and to establish the apprenticeship programs and  
10 make them work, it takes a lot from everyone. The employers  
11 should see some of the fabulous work that they're doing in North  
12 and South Carolina and they're eating our lunch in Virginia.  
13 They're getting high school students into manufacturing, and  
14 that's critical for workforce development and all these jobs that  
15 economic developers claim we need. And we want to bring all  
16 that into the region.

17 The apprenticeship programs are critical. Those  
18 packages are going to have requirements around workforce  
19 training that stipulate through registered apprenticeship. Those  
20 packages are on the table, and we know Virginia is that  
21 construction specifically and coming through the registered  
22 Apprenticeship Program. So, if we have to delay this another  
23 year, and this is what employers say they need.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Madam Chair, I have a question. Do  
25 you think that employers would be willing to pay more with the

1 wages but from a policy perspective, the technical instruction is a  
2 challenge, could we get the employers to chip in more, maybe up  
3 to 90 percent if we covered more of the wages? Would that be  
4 enough, or do you think they'd say no, it's not enough for us,  
5 and I know you can't speak for all of them?

6 MS. BROWN: I know we were able to get a  
7 sonography program going and a registered apprentice  
8 healthcare (unintelligible), technical instruction, and that's 140  
9 hours of training for this technical instruction. So, out of the  
10 \$650,000 requested, I really do think the employers would be  
11 willing to pay the wage, but the instruction is another thing. And  
12 we could always, you know, tweak this, for some employers, it's  
13 got to be one way, but I think the support for the technical  
14 instruction is a must. Lacking details is significant, but we just  
15 can't keep kicking the can down the road. A little money will  
16 bring them to the table, we know that, and we have to do the  
17 technical instruction that's required for the apprenticeship.

18 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Any further questions?

19 UNIDENTIFIED: Would the \$88,000 be in jeopardy if  
20 we didn't fully fund the request?

21 MS. BROWN: Again, had a conversation with Staff,  
22 talking about a 60/40 split, and if you go back to VRS -- 50  
23 percent, they are a great partner to work with, we've been very  
24 clear with them and have promised to do great things across the  
25 region.

1 DR. EHRHARDT: Sara, you mentioned financial aid, is  
2 it possible to move that piece to that funding pocket, and, if so,  
3 what would the timeline be?

4 MR. FEINMAN: I think we should still be cautious here  
5 about taking on a new ongoing set of funding, particularly when  
6 we talk about wages. Yes, the apprenticeship, when done  
7 properly, is primarily a learning experience. It's very different to  
8 pay someone's tuition at a post-secondary institution than to pay  
9 money that's going directly into that human being's wallet. If we  
10 take on the funding part of the apprentice wages for this project,  
11 I don't know how we will say we won't do it for other items.  
12 There's a lot of apprenticeship projects out there. In the future,  
13 we'll be asking larger numbers and start paying wages. I try to  
14 caution you all about taking on new ongoing expense categories.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Any further questions? Our challenge  
16 is to whether to recommend to the Commission, think about it  
17 and we'll come back to that when we put down our  
18 recommendations. That takes us to the next project.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Now, we're moving into the nursing  
20 and healthcare careers, 3901, Emory & Henry College, Improving  
21 Rural Healthcare Through Nursing Education, requesting  
22 \$207,195.

23 These funds will support two faculty positions, and this  
24 will be located at Emory & Henry School of Health Sciences in  
25 Marion, Virginia. A portion of the request is also allocated for

1 additional simulation manikins and related software expenses.  
2 Once it reaches full capacity, 40 students are expected to be  
3 enrolled and 35 are expected to graduate at the end of each  
4 year. There's only one other BSN program in the Southwest  
5 region, and that's currently at UVA-Wise.

6 Staff recommends awarding the grant of \$207,195.

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Anyone from Emory &  
8 Henry here that wishes to speak? Anything from the Committee?  
9 Okay, next one.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: The next is 3899, and that came in  
11 from Patrick Henry Community College Foundation. I understand  
12 since that time there's been a name change and it's now Patrick  
13 and Henry Community College Foundation. They've requested  
14 \$210,293.50. This will be to meet employers' demands. This is  
15 to increase a lab and the current lab. The new lab will allow  
16 them to expand five of their programs. And it should say Staff  
17 recommends awarding a grant of \$210,293.50 to fund personnel  
18 and equipment and long-lived supplies.

19 MR. FEINMAN: 210, the Patrick Henry.

20 MS. COLEMAN: Anyone from Patrick and Henry  
21 Community College Foundation to speak?

22 MS. WILLIAMAS: The next one is 3905, Ferrum  
23 College for the Ferrum College Division of Nursing Educational  
24 Space Expansion, requesting \$133,188.

25 This money is requested to have funding to renovate

1 space for the Division of Nursing and to support the expansion of  
2 the BSN Program. This project will result in a dedicated space.  
3 With this space, they'll be able to increase their enrollment from  
4 14 to 20 students each year.

5 Staff recommends awarding a grant of \$133,187.50.

6 MS. COLEMAN: That's matching the requested  
7 amount. Any questions? Any questions from the Committee?  
8 All right.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Number 3902, Southern Virginia  
10 Higher Education Center, Center of Nursing Excellence:  
11 Equipment and Technology Refresh, requesting \$152,704.

12 This is for upgrading the equipment and technology at  
13 its Center of Nursing Excellence. The CNE is conducting clinical  
14 training for healthcare workers in their region. The equipment  
15 there is at its end of its useful life and must be replaced. Once  
16 updated, the CNE capacity and it's estimated it'll serve 10  
17 percent more users each year.

18 Staff recommends awarding a grant of \$152,704.

19 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Are there any questions?

20 DR. ADAMS: No questions or comments. Just thank  
21 you very much.

22 Ninety-nine percent of these people are staying in the  
23 region after they've been trained here.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Number 3909, Southside Virginia  
25 Community College Foundation, Expanding Nursing Education in

1 Southside Virginia, requesting \$398,350.

2 They want to increase the Nursing Program in Chase  
3 City that'll be located at the Estes Community Center in Chase  
4 City and adding a weekend program. Candidates can achieve an  
5 Associate's degree in nursing, and this can be achieved in four  
6 consecutive semesters. The funds primarily will be used for  
7 instructors during the weekend program, which will graduate an  
8 added number of cohorts.

9 Staff recommends awarding a grant of \$398,350.

10 MR. FEINMAN: This is the kind of thinking we want to  
11 see more of. There's a consistent problem with retraining  
12 populations with careers. Much of our workforce training model  
13 focus on people that don't have full-time jobs and family  
14 responsibilities. So, the problem is trying to get these  
15 certifications on weekends and other times that folks are  
16 available.

17 MS. COLEMAN: Anyone from Southside Virginia wish  
18 to speak?

19 DR. ADAMS: I'm here, I have no comments, but I  
20 want to thank you all very much.

21 MS. COLEMAN: Any questions from the Staff or  
22 Committee?

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Now, we're moving on to the four-  
24 year degree programs. We have applications from Averett  
25 University, Number 3906, Averett University, Growing Workforce

1 Talent Through Expanded Market Responsive Education,  
2 requesting \$120,000.

3 Averett is requesting this amount of money and  
4 furnishings for a final piece of the \$4 million initiative to expand  
5 Averett online. Six new online degree programs will be added,  
6 and this will include a new business plan. Over \$3 million has  
7 been secured with planning, website, and branding contracts.  
8 The Commission funds will be used for the equipment and  
9 furnishings or a recruitment and call center. The majority  
10 participating will be included in a 75-mile radius of Averett that  
11 will include the City of Danville and 11 counties in the Tobacco  
12 Region.

13 Staff recommends awarding a grant of \$120,000 to  
14 support equipment and furnishings.

15 MS. COLEMAN: Any questions?

16 MR. FEINMAN: I'll add a little color there, Ms.  
17 Chairwoman. This is an application, and we immediately met  
18 with them, but it seems a little off-track for us, but the more we  
19 learned, the stronger the application got.

20 In particular, the significant market opportunity  
21 presented by Online Marketing for secondary institutions in the  
22 Footprint, as well as the well-designed structure of Averett's  
23 approach, which is led in part by a consultant who helped Liberty  
24 University design their successful online learning program. And  
25 that led us to be persuaded that this specific sort of service, this

1 is to support the students there in the process of getting, and  
2 that's a unique set of talent and presents a unique need to be  
3 responsive to those folks. We feel strongly about this, this is a  
4 major program, and this will bring in a source of revenue to the  
5 university and give them an opportunity for further programs and  
6 doing a lot more and hopefully work with us.

7 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Anyone from Averett  
8 want to comment?

9 UNIDENTIFIED: I'd just like to say thank so much for  
10 the opportunity and we really appreciate it. I would like to draw  
11 your attention to one thing, and it's really 1,500 online students.  
12 We have to make sure our online program fits with what we  
13 have. So, thank you.

14 MS. WILLIAMS: Finally, we have Education-Other.  
15 This is from CODEVA, Virginia, Strengthening the Computer  
16 Science Education Pipeline, Number 3908, requesting \$166,612.  
17 This is for the computer science pipeline.

18 Commission funds will continue to support computer  
19 science training for teachers in the Tobacco Region. In 2017,  
20 they were awarded a grant of \$350,000. And as a result of that  
21 funding previously and as a result of all that, 300 region-based  
22 teachers were trained, and they impacted over 5,000 additional  
23 teachers.

24 The current application will continue to need funds for  
25 stipends for teachers and some travel expenses. And this can

1 continue to change as far as for the teachers. The previous  
2 award without the final two years of Commission support, it is  
3 possible that there may be a decline in the number of educators  
4 who are able to participate. In consideration of the commitment  
5 that CodeVA is showing to the regional hubs through the funding  
6 of positions previously supported with Commission funds and the  
7 addition of a second position at the Southwest Higher Education  
8 Center.

9 The regional hubs were established during the first  
10 phase and something we had requested when we provided that  
11 first grant. So, I believe there were seven hubs around the  
12 state.

13 One thing I'm very pleased to see, there was some  
14 previous funding in the first round concerning the hubs. In the  
15 second phase, it's hoped that CodeVA will be paying for those  
16 positions. We do want to note that some training programs are  
17 no longer listed in the Commission Strategic Plan or the  
18 Competitive Education Program. I know in 2017, that award,  
19 teacher training was eligible, and that has changed though.  
20 However, we did think it was very important to approve in the  
21 final round of funding for this project to help solidify CodeVA and  
22 to insure that teachers were not left behind.

23 With that in mind, Staff recommends awarding a grant  
24 of \$166,612 to support a final two years of CodeVA's training  
25 programs.

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Anyone from CodeVA like  
2 to speak?

3 UNIDENTIFIED: No, ma'am, thank you very much.

4 MS. COLEMAN: Anyone from the Committee have any  
5 questions?

6 UNIDENTIFIED: My question is did you say that the  
7 stipends will be part of it? How is the stipend different than what  
8 we were talking about for the institute?

9 MR. FEINMAN: The answer there is teachers have a  
10 variety of different ways they can do this or do continuing  
11 education. And sometimes it will require them to travel several  
12 counties over and spend time taking on. To try to make sure  
13 that they're paid their time and travel and the comparative doing  
14 it that way versus continuing education classes. Even in their  
15 own community, more of a reimbursement than it is a typical  
16 wage.

17 This has been a ringing success. We want to finish up  
18 this project so that we can and essentially in Southwest Virginia.  
19 Per capita rates of teachers who fully implemented standard  
20 learning and in considering other rural parts of the  
21 Commonwealth. In fact, and especially in things like computer  
22 science. It remains the case that we've had many, many  
23 teachers affected by this, so finishing the project is really  
24 important.

25 MS. COLEMAN: Any more questions?

1           That concludes the formal applications. Now, we have  
2 to decide what we'll recommend to the Full Commission. Let's do  
3 that before we go on to Extensions. So, please follow along with  
4 me.

5           All right. 3898, Floyd County EDA, New Adult  
6 Welding, Fabrication, and Machining Program at Floyd CCDC,  
7 \$162,106. Everyone all right with that?

8           Number 3900, Virginia Technical Institute, Workforce  
9 Pipeline Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Labor, \$60,000.  
10 Are we good with that?

11          All right, moving on. 3910, Wytheville Community  
12 College, Wytheville Community College Center for Automation  
13 and Robotics Education, \$466,829. Are we good with that?

14          All right, Project Number 3907, Institute for Advanced  
15 Learning and Research, ExperienceWorks-Apprenticeships,  
16 requesting \$651,348. And they recommended \$64,800. Are we  
17 good with that?

18          All right, moving on. Project 3901, Emory & Henry  
19 College, Improving Rural Healthcare Through Nursing Education,  
20 requesting \$207,195. Are we good with that?

21          Project Number 3905, Ferrum College, Ferrum College  
22 Division of Nursing Educational Space Expansion, requesting  
23 \$133,188. Are we good with that?

24          All right. Project 3899, Patrick Henry Community  
25 College Foundation, Increasing Healthcare Training Capacity to

1 Meet Employer Demand, requesting \$210,294. Are we good with  
2 that?

3 MR. FEINMAN: This is essentially a public discussion  
4 prior to the public meeting which will happen tomorrow, in which  
5 the Commission will vote.

6 MS. COLEMAN: Project Number 3902, Southern  
7 Virginia Higher Education Center, Center of Nursing Excellence:  
8 Equipment and Technology Refresh, requesting and granted  
9 \$152,704. Everyone's all right.

10 Project 3909, Southside Virginia Community College  
11 Foundation, Expanding Nursing Education in Southside Virginia,  
12 requesting and granted \$398,350.

13 Request 3906, Averett University, Growing Workforce  
14 Talent Through Expanded Market Responsive Education,  
15 requested and granted \$120,000. Thank you.

16 Request 3908, CodeVA Inc., Strengthening the  
17 Computer Science Education Pipeline, requesting \$166,612.

18 So, I don't believe we'll need any further action.

19 MR. FEINMAN: A voice vote can't hurt.

20 MS. COLEMAN: All right. All those in favor of  
21 recommending to the Full Commission taking actions  
22 recommended by the Staff with respect to Projects 3898, 3900,  
23 3910, 3907, 3901, 3905, 3899, 3902, 3909, 3906, and 3908,  
24 signify by saying aye. (Ayes). Anyone opposed? (No response).  
25 Thank you.

1 Sarah, can you take the other business?

2 MS. CAPPS: Southside Virginia Community College  
3 Foundation, Elevating SVCC's Energy Workforce Programs,  
4 Number 3410. And this is Southside Virginia Community College.  
5 A \$400,000 award from May of 2018. The current project and  
6 date is May 22 of 2022. Southside Community College is  
7 requesting a one-year extension. This is supporting the very  
8 successful Power Line Worker Training School at Fort Pickett in  
9 Nottoway County.

10 Staff recommends approval of the one-year extension  
11 to May 31, 2023.

12 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Anybody have any  
13 questions for Sarah? All right. Any opposition?

14 MS. CAPPS: The next two projects on the list, the  
15 current end date is September 23, 2021, and this grant was  
16 awarded in September of 2015 and a balance of \$697,000. The  
17 final one-year extension is requested in order to allow both NCI  
18 and Patrick Henry time to complete the approved activities.

19 Several factors contributed to the need for the  
20 extension and delays associated with mandatory closures during  
21 the pandemic and some leadership changes at New College and  
22 the Tobacco Commission freezing the grant. NCI and Patrick  
23 Henry have submitted revised budgets to Staff for the remaining  
24 grant funds that are consistent with the intent of the originally  
25 approved grants.

1           So, Staff recommends approval of a final one-year  
2 extension to September 30, 2022 and approval of the revised  
3 project budgets.

4           MS. CAPPs: The last one is Southern Virginia Higher  
5 Education Center, Project Number 3099; \$2,000,000 was  
6 awarded in September of 2015 for the development of the  
7 Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence in South Boston.

8           At first, this was to be precision machining, and now  
9 that's focused on robotics and automation programs. Danville  
10 Community College is the training partner for the Automation  
11 Robotics Program. Danville Community College plans to employ  
12 the instructor. They have been under a hiring freeze following  
13 the Governor's order. There were also delays due to the  
14 pandemic. There's a balance remaining of \$487,817. The  
15 Southern Virginia Higher Education Center is reporting significant  
16 fulfillment delays by equipment vendors and is requesting an  
17 extension to allow time for equipment purchases to be delivered  
18 and installed.

19           So, Staff recommends a final extension to September  
20 30, 2022.

21           MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Shall we suggest to the  
22 Commission that we approve approval of the three extensions?  
23 So, shall we recommend to the Full Commission extension for  
24 3410 to May 22 of 2022; Project 3098, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015,  
25 September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, and Project 3099 to September 23<sup>rd</sup>,

1 2021. All right, thank you.

2 MS. COLEMAN: Next is Stephanie.

3 MS. KIM: It's requested we allocate four-and-a-half-  
4 million dollars for the Talent Attraction Program, and we've had  
5 that the last three years, and, also, a million-and-a-half dollars  
6 for the Virginia Department of Health, Repayment Program, it's  
7 already in the budget, but we want to get it formally approved.

8 MR. FEINMAN: We would appreciate it if the  
9 Committee would not tie our hands. Their approach is similar to  
10 ours. It's sort of take it, either use it or lose it. We haven't been  
11 able to persuade them. So, instead, we'd like it if you all would  
12 instruct us that award no more than 50 percent of the  
13 outstanding debt in a given two-year period and spend their  
14 funds before they spend ours and carry forward any balances.  
15 We want them to use our funds when they're used judiciously.  
16 I'll make a recommendation to the Full Commission that they  
17 approve that motion in that form and we might not be able to  
18 approve vouchers from them that would not support a single  
19 approval.

20 MS. COLEMAN: What we're suggesting to the  
21 Commission is approval of \$1.5 million and then we're going to  
22 make a caveat to spend the money. So, it is a suggestion that  
23 we recommend this motion, \$1.5 million for the VDH State Loan  
24 Repayment Program with the A, B, C, and D caveats listed, and  
25 that includes the \$1.5 million for the Education Committee's

1 Talent Attraction Program for the FY2022 budget.

2 All right. Any other business or transactions? All  
3 right, then that takes care of our business today. Thank you all.

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6 **PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.**

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**CERTIFICATE OF THE COURT REPORTER**

I, Medford W. Howard, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Virginia at Large, do hereby certify that I was the Court Reporter who took down and transcribed the proceedings of the **Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, Education Committee Meeting**, when held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 2:00 o'clock p.m., at the Peaks of Otter Lodge, 85554 Blue Ridge Parkway, Bedford, Virginia.

I further certify this is a true and accurate transcript, to the best of my ability to hear and understand the proceedings.

Given under my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_

Medford W. Howard  
CCR