



**Minutes of the April 22, 2025 Regular Meeting of the
Board of Trustees of Community College District 535**

The 809th meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was conducted on April 22, 2025 at the Des Plaines campus of Oakton College, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, Illinois.

Closed Session – Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Burns called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. in room 1502. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Martha Burns	Chair	Present
Trustee Theresa Bashiri-Remetio	Vice Chair	Present
Trustee William Stafford	Secretary	Present
Trustee Micah Eimer		Present
Trustee Benjamin Salzberg		Absent
Trustee Marie Lynn Toussaint		Present
Trustee Wendy Yanow		Present
Trustee Chris AbiNader	Student Trustee	Present

Also present in room 1502 were Dr. Joianne Smith, President; Johanna Fine, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Ashley Knight, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs; and Michele Roberts, Vice President for Administrative Affairs.

Chair Burns asked for a motion to go into closed session under the exceptions to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, with the purpose of reviewing closed session minutes of March 18, 2025; and considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, collective negotiating matters, and pending litigation.

Trustee Stafford made the motion, seconded by Trustee Bashiri-Remetio. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Eimer	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye
Trustee AbiNader	Aye

At 6:21 p.m., Trustee Bashiri-Remetio made a motion to adjourn the closed session meeting which was seconded by Trustee Stafford. A voice vote was called and the closed session was adjourned.

Open Session – Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Burns called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:27 p.m. in room 1506.

Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Martha Burns	Chair	Present
Trustee Theresa Bashiri-Remetio	Vice Chair	Present
Trustee William Stafford	Secretary	Present
Trustee Micah Eimer		Present
Trustee Benjamin Salzberg		Absent
Trustee Marie Lynn Toussaint		Present
Trustee Wendy Yanow		Present
Trustee Chris AbiNader	Student Trustee	Present

Also present in room 1506:

Leadership: Johanna Fine, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Kelly Iwanaga Becker, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning; Dr. Ashley Knight, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs; Michele Roberts, Vice President for Administrative Affairs; and Katherine Sawyer, Chief Advancement Officer.

Administrators: May Alimboyoguen, Dean of Health Careers; Robyn Bailey, Dean of Skokie Campus; Marc Battista, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Matthew Boutilier, Director of Online Curriculum and Instruction; Steve Butera, Director of Communications and External Relations; Dr. Sebastian Contreras Jr., Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Student Success; Dr. Leana Cuellar, Dean of Access, Equity and Diversity; Dr. Rick Daniels, Director of Institutional Equity and Inclusion; Dr. Ruben Howard II, Dean of Business and Career Technologies; Jake Jeremiah, Dean of Library; Dr. Andrea Lehmacher, Director of Marketing; Dr. Kanchana Mendes, Dean of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Nathan Norman, Senior Director of Workforce Development; Dr. James Rabchuk, Dean of STEM; Delia Rodriguez, Dean of Adult and Continuing Education; John Wade, Director of Systems and Network Services; Dan Weber, Director of Registrar Services; and Andy Williams, Controller.

Union Leaders: Jennifer Crowley, Classified Staff Association; Mary Hope Griffin, Adjunct Faculty Association; and Dr. Suzi Ziegenhorn, Full-Time Faculty Association.

Faculty: Ragaa Abdallah, Computer; Donovan Braud, English; Lisa Cherivtch, Business; Michael Farquhar, Mathematics; Margaret Gas, Nursing; Mark Palmeri, Art; Jessica Pinedo, English; and Kristi Zenchak, Biology.

Staff: Laura DeMerle, Continuing and Adult Education; Muriel Dorsey-Johnson, Advising and Transitions; Ernest Gest, Facilities; Julia Gray, Information Technology; Joe Hanafee, Advising and Transitions; Ewa Lyczewska, Marketing and Communications; Kushal Patel, Information Technology; and Beatriz Sparks, Office of the President.

Students: Sabrina Yousif.

Guests: Sean Benjamin and Diana Matthews.

Pledge of Allegiance –Trustee Burns led the pledge.

Land Acknowledgment – Student Trustee AbiNader read the Land Acknowledgment.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Burns asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes of the March 18, 2025 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Trustee Bashiri-Remetio made the motion. Trustee Yanow seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Statement by the President

Condolences

- To the family of Adjunct Faculty Michael McNett who passed away on March 17. Mike was one of our longest serving adjunct faculty members in the English department, one of the first adopters of on-line learning, a writing tutor in the Learning Center, and an active member of the Adjunct Faculty Association.

Congratulations

- At the reorganization meeting earlier this after we thanked Trustee Dr. Gail Bush for her 6 years of service and seated Dr. Micah Eimer for a 6-year term in office. Trustees Toussaint and Yanow were seated for their second 6-year terms on the Board. We also thanked Trustee Toussaint for her year of service as the past Board Chair, and congratulated Martha Burns, Theresa Bashiri-Remetio and Bill Stafford on being selected by your Board colleagues as the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary of the Board for the upcoming year. And finally, we thanked former student trustee Franklin Ocaña for his year of service, and congratulated Chris AbiNader for being elected as the new student trustee.
- Oakton's designation as a Military Friendly School has been renewed for 2025-2026. Thank you for everyone at Oakton who plays a role in supporting our active military and veteran students and their families.

- Oakton received the GFOA certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting for FY2024. Congratulations to Controller Andy Williams and his team.
- The Marketing and Communications Team won two Paragon Awards from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) - a Gold Award for the Workforce Equity Initiative at Oakton College in the Promotional Short Form Category, and the Bronze Award of Oakton Weekly in the E-Newsletter Category.

Student Recognitions

- The newly elected SGA officials were sworn into their new roles at last Thursday's Student Leadership Banquet:
 - President: Ana Adamadze
 - Vice President: Joseph Park
 - Student Trustee: Chris AbiNader
 - Senator(s): Andrew Atto
- Margot Mattenson was named Student Employee of the Year at the Student Leadership Banquet on April 17. Margot works in the Student Life and Campus Inclusion office.
- Congratulations to the students who were recognized with the Board of Trustees Leadership Awards:
 - Margot Mattenson
 - Taylor Anama
 - Kelly Croke
- Jiheon Kang was selected as one of only 22 students (selected from a total of 2800 applicants) to receive the Hites Transfer Scholarship, PTK's most prestigious and largest scholarship offering \$7500. The Hites Transfer Scholarship recognizes outstanding academic achievement and rigor, engagement in college and community activities, and leadership accomplishment of Phi Theta Kappa members preparing to transfer to senior institutions in pursuit of a bachelor's degree.
- The following students received the Award of Merit at the 2025 Skyway Art Competition hosted by College of Lake County:
 - Marcela Thalia Valencia Chaves
 - Ava Yelton
 - Jane Szabo

Athletics Recognitions

- The following individuals were recognized at the Athletics End of Year celebration on April 18:
 - Student honorees:
 - Leadership: Isaiah Moore (men's basketball), Sofija Pjevic (volleyball)
 - Perseverance: Lana Dahl (softball)
 - Professor of the Year: Dr. Benjamin Drury
 - Coach of the Year: Anthony Siriscevich

Happenings

- April is Community College Month, AAPI Heritage Month, Arab American Heritage Month, Autism Acceptance Month, Earth Month (today is actually earth day) and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- The OakArt 2025: Oakton Annual Art Students Exhibition opened on April 10 with a public reception. Oakton's art students exhibit their paintings, drawings, ceramics, 3D art, digital art and photography. Viewings take place from through April 30.
- The six piano ensemble takes place this Sunday, April 27 at 3 pm in the Footlik Theater.
- End of the year events include AAPI, ANDALE, Black student Success and Emory Williams Academy celebrations, the Service Learning Student Showcase, the Honors Program Academic Concentration Program celebration and the ribbon cutting of the new RICE center.
- The 2025 Commencement Ceremony on Monday, May 12 at the Rosemont Theatre.

Educational Foundation Liaison Report

The Foundation continues to build on strong fundraising performance. Fundraising on the year is 15% over goal and 4% ahead of total performance in FY24. Contributions from Foundation Board members make up 12% of total giving and Board leaders have directly influenced another \$411,000 in support.

Notable commitments received since the last update to the Trustees include:

- A \$17,600 grant from Maine Township to continue their scholarship support.
- A \$2,500 gift from the Junior Leagues of Evanston-Northshore to support a scholarship in their name.
- A \$1,000 from the Wilmette Harbor Rotary Club to renew annual support for a scholarship in their name.
- A \$2,700 gift from the Dr. Micah Eimer for Oakton College Board of Trustees campaign to support the Oakton Annual Fund.

The Foundation provided \$1.36 million in approved scholarship funding for distribution to students attending in academic year 2025-2026 to the Financial Aid office on April 15. The Foundation will continue to add to these resources over the next 4 months as donors commit additional funding for award in the coming fiscal year.

The Foundation received 14 grant applications totaling nearly \$135,000 from faculty and staff for initiatives in fiscal year 2026. The Board will conduct interviews with principle investigators on May 1 - 2 before recommending proposal and related funding for approval at their next meeting.

The Board's next quarterly meeting will take place on June 5, 2025.

Student Trustee Report

New Student Trustee Chris AbiNader shared that he previously served as SGA President. His major at Oakton is Human Resources, and he wants to develop a career that can effect real change inside the workforce. Mr. AbiNader also shared some information about his family and background.

Student Spotlight

Sabrina Yousif shared her journey to pursue her Illinois High School Diploma at the age of 50. She raised three kids, and decided she wanted to set an example for them. The opportunity to complete her GED at Oakton turned that desire into reality. Sabrina said it was not easy, but her children were her inspiration. She used all the support she could gather from her family and instructors, and utilized the resources available at Oakton.

Sabrina indicated that education has become a powerful tool for her; not only for personal growth but also to show her children that learning never stops. Her time at Oakton increased her confidence and now she is not afraid to take risks and make mistakes. Her enhanced English language skills have empowered her to move to the next level in her career. She is grateful to Oakton College for providing her with the tools to succeed.

Trustee Comments

Chair Burns welcomed newly elected Trustee Micah Eimer, and new Student Trustee, Chris AbiNader. She also indicated that she reached out to the Executive Director of ICCTA to start a discussion on how trustee candidates can be more involved in their municipalities and regions.

Trustee Eimer thanked the Board for welcoming him, and shared that during his campaign he learned the community knows Oakton College well, and he is excited for the work he can do. Trustee Toussaint and Trustee Yanow said they are grateful for being re-elected for another 6-year term.

Public Participation – None

Board Report: Student Learning Outcomes at Oakton College

Ragaa Abdallah, Chair, Professor of Computer Information Systems
Marc Battista, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
Kanchana Mendes, Dean of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

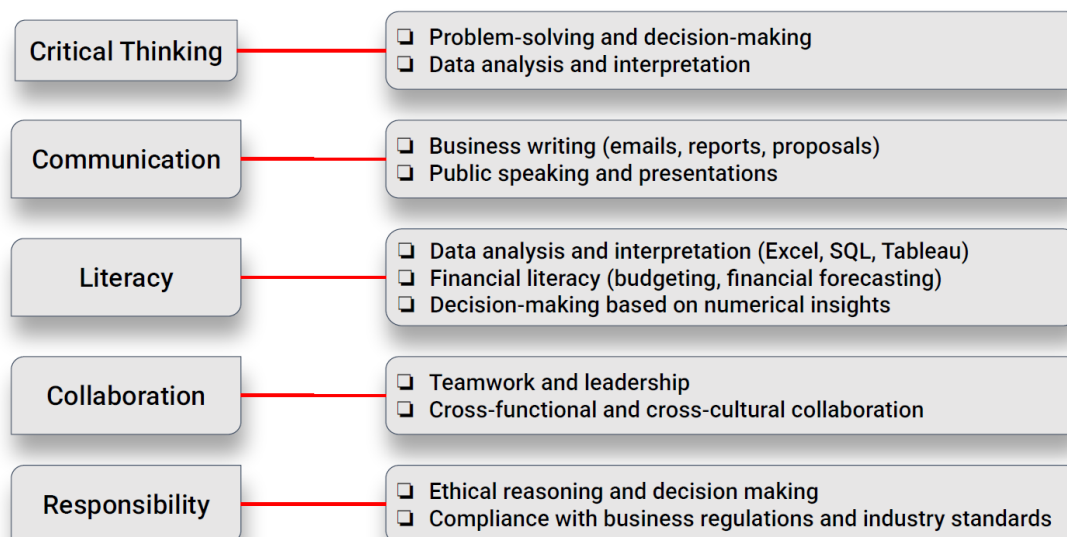
Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): What students should know, do, or value

- Measurable skills: Demonstrate growth, readiness for education/work.

- Assessment levels: Course, program, institutional
- Purpose: Transfer readiness, career preparation
- Impact: Improves teaching, curriculum, student support

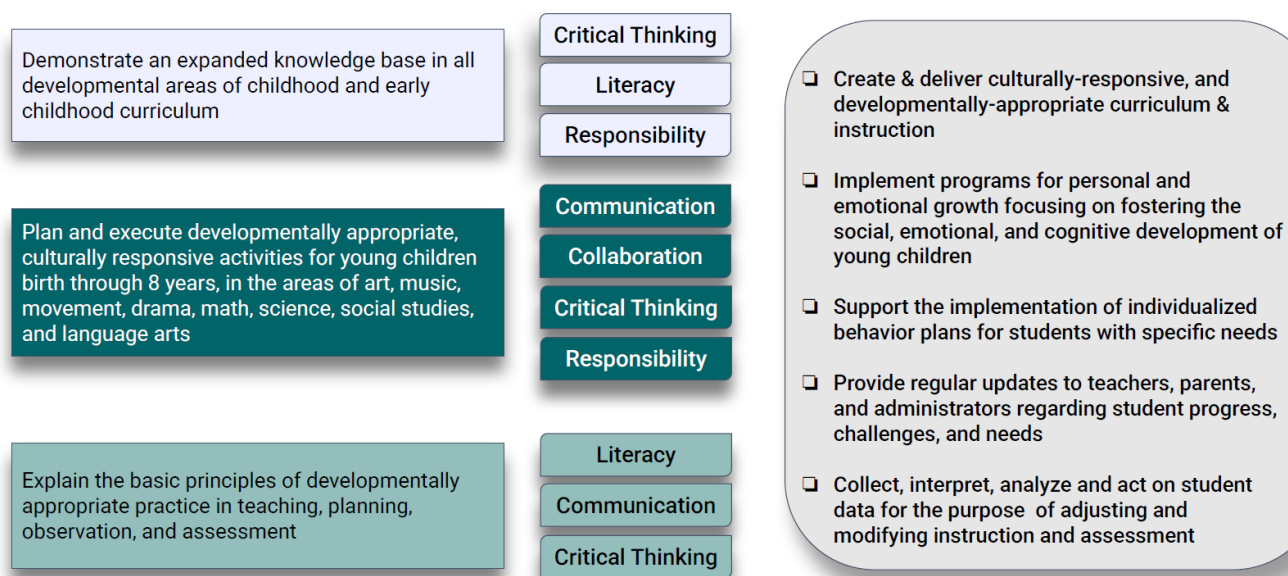
General Education Learning Outcomes

1. Critical Thinking
2. Communication – Written and Oral
3. Literacy – Information and Quantitative
4. Responsibility
5. Collaboration



Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Measurable statements that describe what students should know, be able to do, and value upon completion of a specific CTE program, focusing on the skills and knowledge needed for a particular career path.



NEW BUSINESS**4/25-1a Approval of Consent Agenda**

Trustee Stafford offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves adoption of the Consent Agenda."

Trustee Yanow seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

4/25-1b Approval of Consent Agenda Items 4/25-2 through 4/25-6

Trustee Yanow offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the following items 4/25-2 through 4/25-6 as listed in the Consent Agenda."

4/25-2 Ratification of Payment of Bills for March 2025

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby ratifies expenditures and release of checks by the Treasurer of Community College District 535 in the amount of \$7,193,604.98 for all check amounts as listed and for all purposes as appearing on a report dated March 2025."

4/25-3 Acceptance of Treasurer's Report for March 2025

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 receives for filing as a part of the College's official records, the report of the Treasurer for the month of March 2025."

4/25-4 Acceptance of Quarterly Report on Investments

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 accepts the Quarterly Report on Investments for filing."

4/25-5 Supplemental Authorization to Pay Professional Personnel – Spring 2025

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves an adjustment of \$391,788.24 to the total amount of part-time teaching salaries paid during the spring 2025 semester; the revised, total payment amount is \$4,410,430.67."

"Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves an adjustment of \$121,137.80 to the total amount of faculty overload salaries paid during the spring 2025 semester; the revised, total payment amount is \$782,177.53."

4/25-6 Approval of Clinical Practice Agreements

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the following cooperative agreements:

Cardiac Sonography (1)
Health Information Technology (2)
Physical Therapy Assistant (1)
Radiology (1)
Surgical Technology (1)."

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Eimer	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

4/25-7 Authorization to Approve April Purchases

Trustee Toussaint offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the approval of the attached resolutions, as stipulated in the following agenda items, for the purchase of the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Pages</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Vendor / Location</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4/25-7a	1	Installation Services for Batting Cage and Turf	Midwest Field Solutions, LLC Elk Grove Village, IL	\$60,500.00
4/25-7b	1	Omatic Cloud Migration for File Import Software - Three-Year Contract Renewal	Omatic Software, LLC Mount Pleasant, SC	\$27,749.88
4/25-7c	2	Blackbaud Education Foundation Software – Four-Year Contract Renewal	Blackbaud, Inc Charleston, SC	\$116,405.00
4/25-7d	1	Desktop Computers for the Testing Center	CDW-G, LLC Vernon Hills, IL	\$44,102.43
4/25-7e	1	Border Routers and Hardware Support and Maintenance	JensenIT, Inc Des Plaines, IL	\$38,149.52
4/25-7f	1	Multifactor Authentication (MFA) Services – One-Year Contract Renewal	Duo Security Ann Arbor, MI	\$54,000.00
4/25-7g	1	Consulting Services for TargetX Customer Relationship Management (CRM)	Violet Consulting, LLC Goose Creek, SC	\$82,000.00
4/25-7h	1	Travel & Expense Management Software – Chrome River – Three-Year Contract	Ellucian, Inc Reston, VA	\$106,754.00
GRAND TOTAL:				\$529,660.83."

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Eimer	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

4/25-8 Preview and Initial Discussion of Upcoming Purchases

The following purchases will be presented for approval at an upcoming Board of Trustees meeting:

- a. Transportation Services for Athletic Teams – One-Year Renewal
- b. Library Services (CARLI and NILRC)
- c. Construction for Pedestrian Lighting and Incident Recording
- d. Replacement Laptop Computers for Full-Time Staff and Faculty Members
- e. Cisco Systems Hardware and Software Support Contracts
- f. Extreme Networks WIFI SaaS Licenses
- g. Annual VMware Support and License Renewal
- h. Palo Alto Networks Firewall Updates/Support/Subscription
- i. Ivanti Cherwell Software as a Service (SaaS) Renewal
- j. Bitsight Technologies Third-Party Risk Management Services – Three-Year Contract
- k. ZogoTech Data Warehouse Pathways and Learning Management System (LMS) Module
- l. Consulting Services for Academic Affairs Leadership

4/25-9 Authorization to Hire Chief Information Technology Officer

Trustee Stafford offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the appointment of Mr. John Wade as Chief Information Technology Officer effective May 5, 2025 at an annual salary of \$185,000. That salary will be prorated for the period of May 5, 2025 through June 30, 2025."

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Eimer	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

4/25-10 Authorization to Hire Full-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty Members

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio offered: "Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the attached resolutions for Mr. Sean Benjamin and Ms. Diana Matthews to be hired as full-time, tenure-track faculty for the 2024-2025 academic year, beginning in May 2025, and Ms. Angelica Davila for full-time, tenure-track faculty position for the 2025-2026 academic year, beginning August 2025. They will receive the salary associated with the lane and step described as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Academic Rank and Assignment</u>	<u>Lane-Step</u>	<u>Base Salary</u>
Mr. Sean Benjamin	Professor, Radiography	D-7	\$83,047
Ms. Diana Matthews	Assistant Professor, Radiography	D-7	\$83,047
Ms. Angelica Davila	Instructor, English	D-1	\$68,868."

Trustee Yanow seconded the motion. Trustee Stafford called the roll:

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio	Aye
Trustee Burns	Aye
Trustee Eimer	Aye
Trustee Stafford	Aye
Trustee Toussaint	Aye
Trustee Yanow	Aye

The motion carried. Student Trustee AbiNader favored the resolution.

4/25-11 Notification of Award of Grants

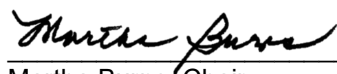
Funding has been made available to Oakton College:

- a. ICCB Rev Up Round 3 Grant.....\$391,418.00
(Manager: George Vail / Administrator: Dr. Ruben Howard II)
- b. IBHE Nurse Educator Fellowship..... \$10,000.00
(Manager: Margaret Gas / Administrator: May Alimboyoguen)
- TOTAL: \$401,418.00**

Adjournment

Chair Burns announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Oakton Community College, District 535, will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at the Des Plaines Campus.

Trustee Bashiri-Remetio made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Trustee Toussaint. A voice vote was called and the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



Martha Burns, Chair



William Stafford, Secretary

Minutes recorded by:
Beatriz Sparks
4/2025