

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
BOARD OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 519  
Counties of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

A special meeting of the Board of Illinois Community College District No. 519 was called to order by Mr. Doug Block, Chairperson, at 4:06 p.m. on October 27, 2015 in the Robert J. Rimington Board Room (Room H-228) in the Highland Community College Student/Conference Center, 2998 West Pearl City Road, Freeport, Illinois in said district.

Members Present: Mr. Doug Block, Mr. Jim Endress, Dr. Steve Jennings

Members Absent: Mrs. Diane Gallagher, Mr. David Shockey, Ms. Whitney Zumdahl,  
Mr. Blake Musser, Ms. Alexa Buss

Guests Present: Dr. Omar Ghrayeb, Associate Dean, Outreach and Undergraduate Programs, Northern Illinois University; Dr. Cliff Mirman, Department Chair, Department of Technology, Northern Illinois University; Mr. Paul Crawford, Director, Community College Relations, Northern Illinois University

Also Present: Mr. Tim Hood, President; Ms. Chris Kuberski, Executive Vice President; Ms. Jill Janssen, Vice President, Administrative Services; Ms. Liz Gerber, Vice President, Student Development and Support Services; Ms. Rose Ferguson, Associate Vice President, Human Resources; Mr. Scott Anderson, Dean, Business and Technology; Mr. Thedford Jackson, Student Advisor/Transfer Coordinator; Mr. Pete Willging, Director, Marketing and Community Relations; Ms. Jane Lethlean, Communications Specialist; Mr. Dave Vrtol, Faculty; Mr. Steve Gellings, Faculty; Mr. Jim Palmer, Faculty; Mr. Todd Vacek, Faculty; Dr. Brendan Dutmer, Faculty; Ms. Susan Vela, *Journal-Standard*; Mr. Brad Hart, Big Radio; Media Representative from WIFR Channel 23, Rockford; Media Representative from WREX Channel 13, Rockford; and, Ms. Terri Grimes, Board Secretary

**PUBLIC SIGNING OF RECENTLY APPROVED ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS) TO BACHELOR'S DEGREE-COMPLETION PROGRAM AGREEMENT BETWEEN HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Mr. Block welcomed everyone to the public signing of the agreement between Highland Community College and Northern Illinois University (NIU), noting that this is a great opportunity for our community. This program agreement will allow students to complete their first three years at Highland Community College in Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, or Wind Technology and their

fourth year they will have options to complete their degree on-line and/or in traditional courses at NIU. Students will not have to leave the area to complete their degree, which is an important advantage.

Mr. Anderson expressed his excitement with the agreement, noting that it is another way to meet the needs of students and industry, and it will be an asset to the community and region.

Dr. Ghrayeb noted that, through the agreement, NIU staff no longer need to evaluate the transcripts of those students who have completed an AAS degree. Any student with an AAS will have credit applied toward a bachelor of science in technology. NIU will also work with Highland staff to reach out to students who have already finished an AAS degree and want to continue their education and work towards a bachelor's degree. Mr. Block noted that this agreement could be used as a recruiting tool.

Dr. Mirman explained that previously students would only be given credit for courses that matched up one-for-one. This program is unique because, no matter what, the AAS is needed. He explained that through the hybrid program, students take classes online using a camera and laptop and will be able to interact with the class through this technology. Classes are recorded and stored online for student access.

Mr. Jackson stated that these are exciting times for students because students now have this opportunity and the possibility of opportunities through agreements that are in discussion, such as hospitality, criminal justice, and engineering. Dr. Ghrayeb also noted that students have the possibility of continuing their education after they receive their bachelor's degree and could complete a master's degree in industrial management, if they so choose.

Mr. Hood signed the official agreement.

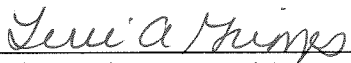
### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Jennings moved and Mr. Endress seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. At 4:25 p.m., there being no further business, the Chairperson declared the motion carried and the special meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Terri A. Grimes, Board Secretary  
Illinois Community College District No. 519