

**ARKANSAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD  
Special Meeting via Conference Call  
July 31, 2017**

**Minutes of Meeting**

The Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board held a special meeting via conference call on Monday, July 31, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the merger of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute to East Arkansas Community College. The meeting convened at 4:30 p.m., with a quorum present.

Coordinating Board present:

Dr. Jim Carr, Vice Chair  
Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary  
Dr. Charles Allen  
Al Brodell  
Dr. Olin Cook  
Greg Revels  
Sam Sicard

Coordinating Board absent:

Sherrel Johnson, Chair  
Keven Anderson  
Lori Griffin  
Chris Gilliam

Department staff present:

Dr. Maria Markham, Director  
Tara Smith, Deputy Director  
Dr. Marla Strecker, Senior Associate Director for Academic Affairs and Research  
Lillian Williams, Academic Affairs Program Specialist  
Jeanne Jones, Academic Affairs Program Specialist  
Mason Campbell, Academic Affairs Program Specialist  
Nichole Abernathy, Executive Assistant

Presidents, chancellors, other institutional representatives, members of the press and guests were also present.

Vice Chairman Jim Carr thanked the Coordinating Board members and guests for participating on the call and asked Nichole Abernathy to conduct a roll call.

Nichole Abernathy conducted a roll call to confirm that there was a quorum.

Agenda Item No. 1  
Merger of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute to  
East Arkansas Community College

Act 636 of 2017 sets forth the process for a possible merger of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute (CRTI) to East Arkansas Community College (EACC) if the institutions choose to merge. The legislation governs the process of the merger of CRTI to EACC upon the approval of the Board of Directors of CRTI; the Board of

Trustees of EACC; and the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board (AHECB).

Upon approval of the merger, all statutory authority, powers, duties, functions, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, or other funds, including the functions of budgeting or purchasing, of CRTI shall be transferred to EACC. The Board of Directors of CRTI shall be abolished and the Board of Trustees of EACC shall assume the powers and duties of the Board of Directors of CRTI.

On July 25, 2017, the Board of Directors of CRTI voted to merge CRTI with EACC with a proposed effective date of August 1, 2017. On July 26, 2017, the Board of Trustees of EACC voted to approve/accept the offer by CRTI's Board to merge with EACC effective August 1, 2017. Upon approval of the merger by the AHECB, EACC will work with all accrediting bodies during the transition to reflect the merger. This merger will not cause EACC to request a change in their role and scope statement.

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board hereby approves the merger of Crowley's Ridge Technical Institute to East Arkansas Community College, effective August 1, 2017.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education is authorized to notify the President and the Chair of the Board of Trustees of East Arkansas Community College of the Coordinating Board's resolution.

Greg Revels asked why the AHECB had to approve the merger. Tara Smith replied that Act 636 of 2017 states that a merger or consolidation of a state-supported postsecondary vocational-technical institution with an existing community college, with a branch campus of a four-year institution, or with a four-year institution, is subject to the approval of the board of trustees of the existing community college or four-year institution and the AHECB.

Vice Chairman Carr noted the merger was approved by both the CRTI and EACC boards of Trustees.

Sam Sicard moved to approve Agenda Item No. 1. Dr. Michael Stanton seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Carr thanked everyone for participating in the special meeting and announced that on Friday, August 4, the AHECB would have a special meeting to approve the productivity funding model. The next regular meeting would be October 27, 2017, at Arkansas State University in Mountain Home.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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Nichole Abernathy

APPROVED:

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Dr. Michael Stanton, Secretary