Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Commission Meeting
September 12, 2025

I. Call to Order, Prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance





II. Roll Call and Quorum Determination



III. Approval of Agenda



Commission Meeting Agenda of September 12, 2025

Motion, Item III:

That the Commission accept the agenda for the September 12, 2025, meeting.

IV. Consideration of Minutes



Commission Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2025

Motion, Item IV:

That the Commission accept the Commission Meeting minutes for the June 13, 2025, meeting.

V. Chairman's Report



VI. Election of Officers

Nominating Committee Report

Rod Scott, Chair

Larry Turner

Ann Forbes





Commissioner Nelson, Chair



Commissioner Singleton, Vice Chair

2025 SHEEO Exceptional Leader Award
Dr. Jim Purcell

With over 30 years in public higher education, Dr. Jim Purcell is the only person to have led higher education agencies in four states—Arkansas, Louisiana, Rhode Island, and Alabama. He is the longest-serving director in higher education history and currently the nation's longest-tenured SHEEO.

"Congratulations to Alabama's own, Jim Purcell, on being awarded the 2025 SHEEO Exceptional Leader," said **Alabama Governor Kay Ivey**. "I applaud him for the work he has done for our state and public higher education. Here in Alabama, we have a variety of exceptional public colleges and universities that I am proud to continually support."



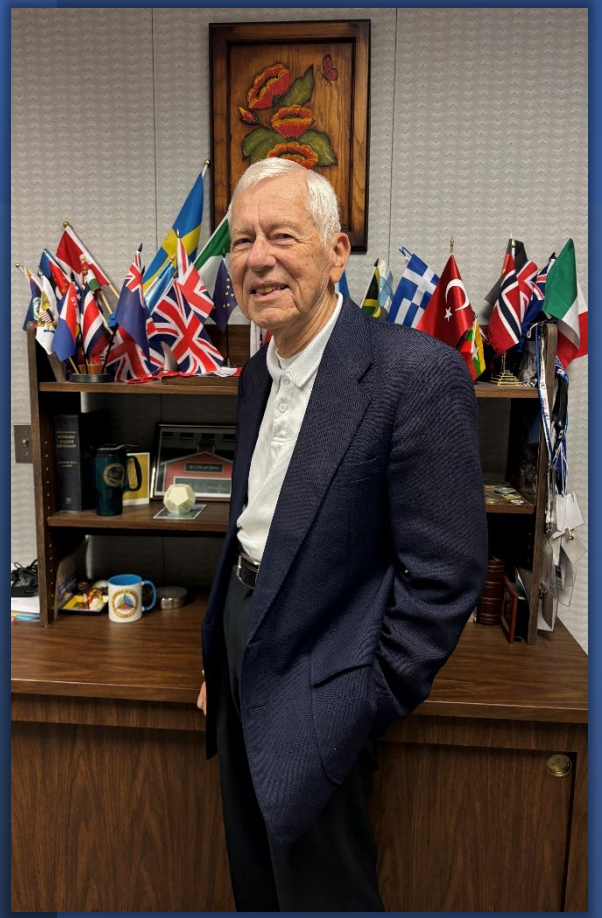
Dr. Robert Anderson, SHEEO President, and **Dr. Jim Purcell**

VII. Executive Director's Report



Dr. Jim Conely, ACHE Senior Program Officer







St. John's Episcopal Church
June 25, 2025

2025 Higher Education Policy Conference





August 11-14, 2025
Minneapolis, Minnesota

NEWS

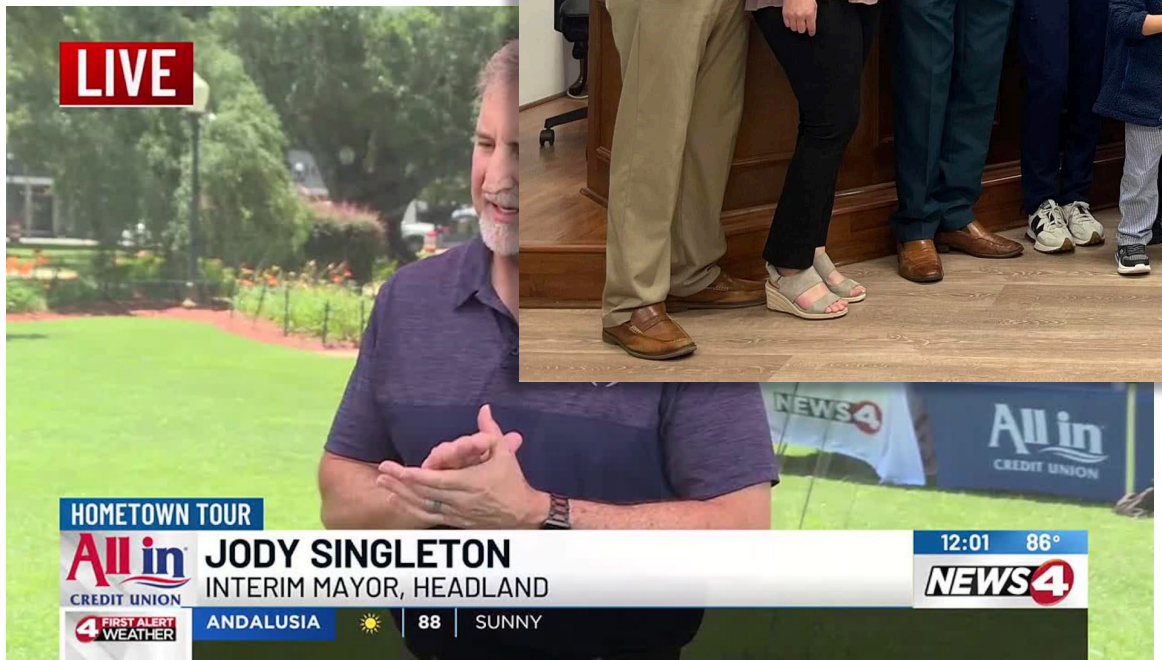
Singleton wins Headland mayoral race

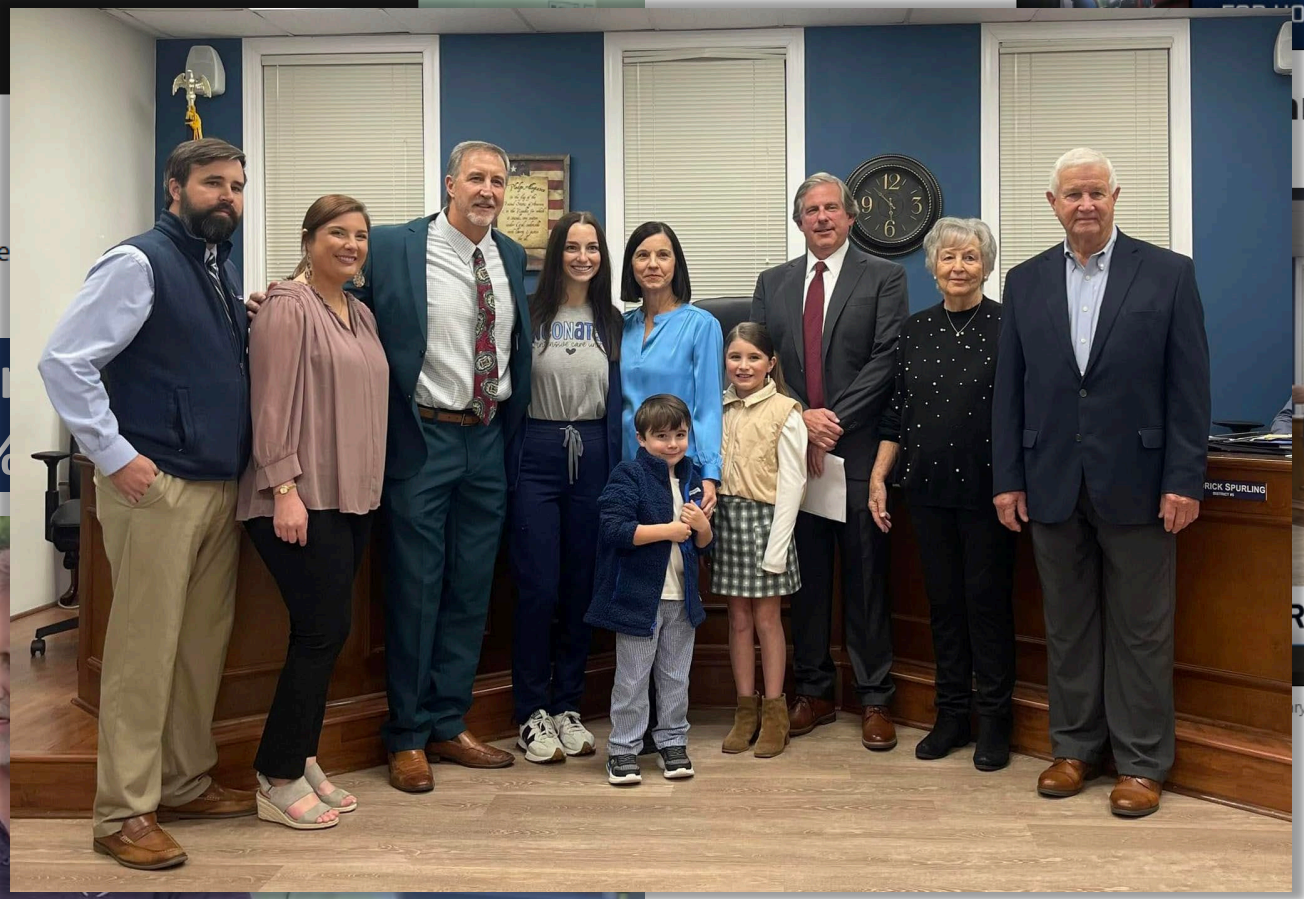
by: Richard Everett
Posted: Aug 26, 2025 / 07:13 PM CDT
Updated: Aug 26, 2025 / 08:57 PM CDT

SHARE

DOTHAN, Ala (WDHN) — The mayoral race
Singleton has won.

**Singleton wo
with 89%**



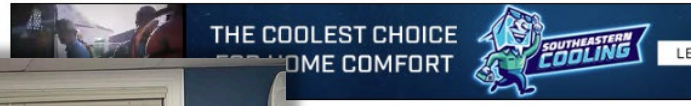


Wiregrass Gives Back | Silent Heroes Of The Wiregrass | Proud to be a Farmer | Teacher of the Month | Unearthed with

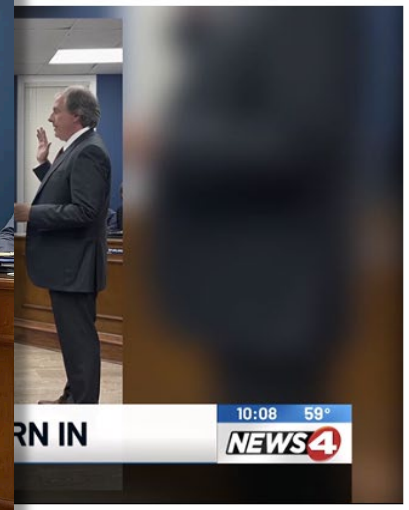
NEWS4

LIVE News Sports Weather Investigating 4 You David for a Day Interviews CrimeStoppers Wir

ADVERTISEMENT



n Singleton sworn



ry County Probate Judge Ray Marler.

Congratulations, Commissioner Singleton!



ACHE welcomed the city of Troy's own

Maddie Gregory

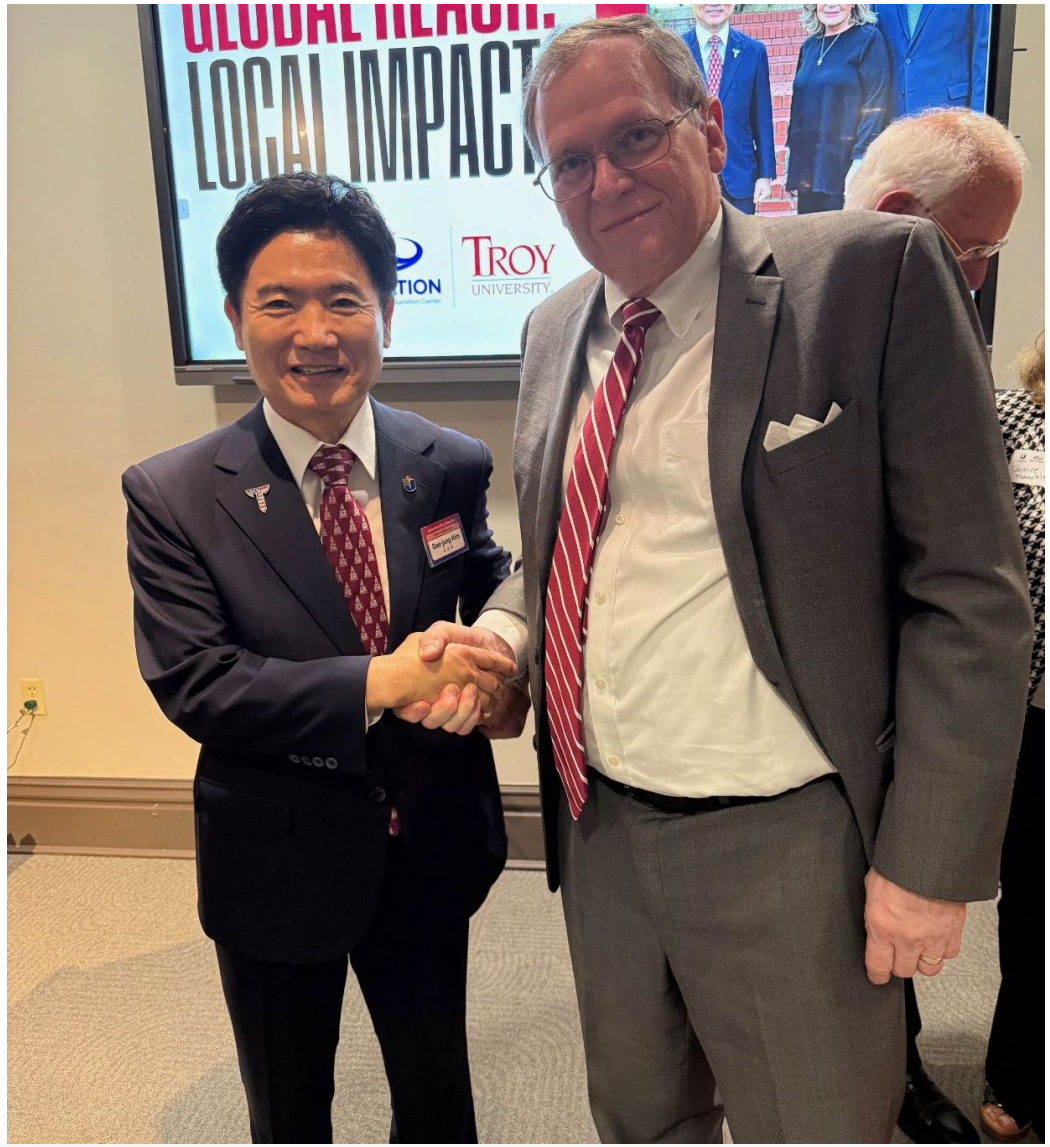
2025 NLBRA Junior Princess

(National Little Britches Rodeo Association)

during her official visit to Montgomery on August 27, 2025.

Dr. Jim Purcell, ACHE Executive Director**; Meesoon Han,** ALIEEP Executive Director**; Kim Dae Jung,** Jeonnam Superintendent**; Janice Hawkins** and **Dr. Jack Hawkins,** President of Troy University





Reception for Korean Education Center (K-EDU Center) at Troy University



College Colors Day on August 29, 2025



Administrative & Faculty Sessions • Interdisciplinary AI Modules Across Majors

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 | 9 AM-4 PM

Alabama A&M University, Knight Center, Huntsville, AL

GenAI Quick Start Workshop featuring:

- Networking opportunities with Alabama faculty and AWS AI professionals
- Up-to-date Generative AI training for classroom educators
- Access to open-sourced content for classroom instruction

Admission is free. Continental breakfast, lunch & refreshments are provided.

Register

Space is limited to 150 Participants. RSVP by September 5, 2025
https://app.brazenconnect.com/a/asp-sdengineering/e/KEzJl

Registration deadline has been extended so register today!

***By Invitation Only*: HBCU Presidents or their representative, Legislative members, HBCU Consortium Board, ACHE Board of Commissioners, and other distinguished guests**

Early Arrival VIP Event September 30th sponsored by LogiCore

LogiCore®
Readiness Accelerated.™



Founded in October 2002 by **President Miranda Bouldin**, LogiCore Corporation is a Prime Contractor for the Army's Expedited Professional & Engineering Support Services (EXPRESS) Program in the Logistics Domain and holds a GSA OASIS+ contract to compete for work both within the continental U.S. (CONUS) and outside the continental U.S. (OCONUS). The company specializes in Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) and Logistics Product Support for the Army and other Department of Defense organizations. LogiCore is also a trusted partner of Oracle, AWS (Amazon Web Services), and Adobe. LogiCore integrates Cybersecurity Risk Management Framework (RMF) controls, Artificial Intelligence, and data analytics into its logistics solutions, ensuring robust and reliable support for military readiness and national defense.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA® myBama

AI Exchange

Alabama Higher Education AI Exchange

October 22, 2025

REGISTER

Who Should Attend

- Employees of academic institutions in the state of Alabama interested in sharing and learning about the impact of AI on rese
  teaching and learning, business operations or student services.
- Representatives of companies doing business in Alabama using artificial intelligence and related technologies to enhance re
  teaching and learning, business operations or student services.
- Professionals interested in the uses of artificial intelligence and related technologies in higher education.
- Employees of state government agencies developing policies and strategies related to artificial intelligence and related tech

Objectives

1. **Explore the Transformative Role of AI in Higher Education and Workforce Development**
   Participants will examine how AI is reshaping teaching, advising, academic integrity and research in higher education, while identifying strategies to upskill and reskill Alabama's workforce for emerging AI-driven industries.
2. **Showcase Real-World Applications of AI in Industry, Government and Public Services**
   Attendees will gain insights into how AI is being used across key sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, finance and public services in Alabama and discuss its impact on operational efficiency, service delivery, and workforce transformation.
3. **Engage with Emerging Trends in AI Innovation, Ethics and Strategic Planning**
   The workshop will highlight cutting-edge research, generative AI experimentation, and frameworks for ethical, transparent and responsible AI use—while fostering dialogue around data privacy, compliance and risk management.
4. **Foster Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships Across Education, Industry, and Government**
   Participants will identify opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, explore funding and coordination strategies and contribute to shaping a unified vision for Alabama's AI ecosystem.

REGISTER NOW

Tracks

01

Track 1 | AI in Education & Workforce Development

Focus: The role of AI in teaching, learning, talent pipelines and lifelong learning.

02

Track 2 | AI in Research, Innovation & Strategy

Focus: Cutting-edge research, responsible use and long-term vision for AI in Alabama.

03

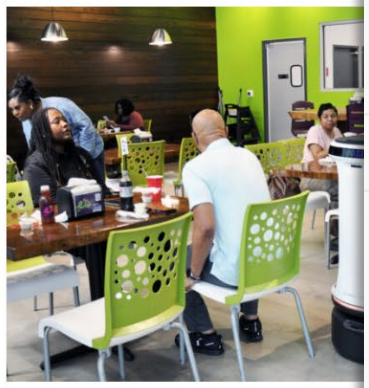
Track 3 | AI in Industry, Government & Public Services

Focus: Real-world AI applications in key Alabama sectors and public impact.

wbhm 90.3 FM wbhm.org
Public Radio for the Heart of Alabama

Is AI coming for your j… what to expect and ho…

MAY 22, 2025



Yo' Mama's restaurant employee Khaia Wheeler follows the… hands out plates of food and asks customers if they need a…

Oliva McMurrey, WBHM

By Olivia McMurrey

At Yo' Mama's restaurant in downtown Birmingham, F… easier.

On a recent Thursday, Jeffrey rolled through the dini… politely saying "excuse me" when a couple of custom… pass.

"So Jeffrey is really smart, and he does the hard part… number according to the layout inside the restaurant, … keypad and explained how to direct Jeffrey, a robot a… shelves for transporting up to 80 pounds of food and…



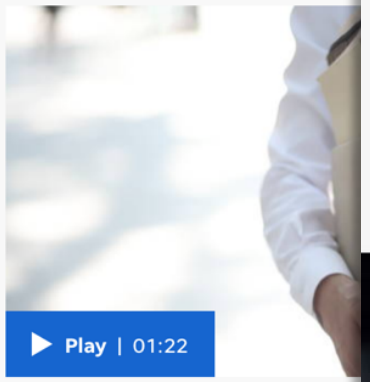
Jeffrey's counterpart, Rosie, works in the kitchen, mo… front counter.

AI in Alabama isn't the future – it…

Alabama AT&T… face layoffs in…

Sarah Clifton, Montgomery Adverti…
Published 4:09 a.m. CT June 26, 20…
Updated 2:54 p.m. CT June 26, …

Job Layoffs



Show caption

A new round of layoffs from… of Alabama workers out of … months.

AT&T, a telecommunicatio… serves as one of the largest… country, is based in Dallas, … the Alabama Department o… company intends to lay off … Huntsville.

yahoo.com

yahoo!

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FORTUNE

Ford CEO Jim Farley wa… wipe out half of white-c… but the 'essential econo… huge shortage of worke…

Jason Ma
Sat, July 5, 2025 at 1:35 PM CDT
3 min read



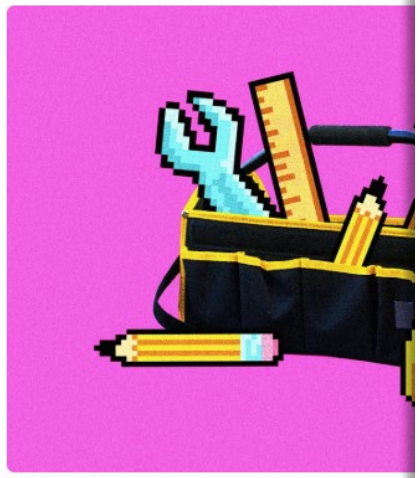
Ford CEO Jim Farley at the NFC Wild Card Pl… in Detroit on Jan. 14, 2024.

- **While highlighting the importanc… "essential economy"** and blue-co…

NBC NEWS

Blue-collar jobs are gaining pop… threatens office work

Deon J. Hampton
Sat, August 16, 2025 at 5:15 AM CDT
5 min read



Tilde Oyster / NBC News ; Getty Images

Geoffrey Hinton's message on a recent podcast… simple: "Train to be a plumber."

Hinton, a Nobel Prize-winning computer scientis… AI," said in June what people have now been say… manual labor and expertise are the least vulnera… some other career paths, many of which have ge… respected and more lucrative.

"I think plumbers are less at risk," Hinton said. "Sc… paralegal, they're not going to be needed for ver…

Even with the dramatic rise of AI and the evoluti… technologists and tradespeople are touting skill… term job security for workers who can do what c…

Last month, Microsoft revealed a list of jobs that… advances.

Occupations atop the list were interpreters, hist… sales representatives, and writers. Some roles c… jobs like roofers and rail and dredge operators, h… workers and painters. In the health care industry… assistants were also considered safe.

As AI advances, many manual labor jobs figure t…

256 TODAY
Smart News for Smart People

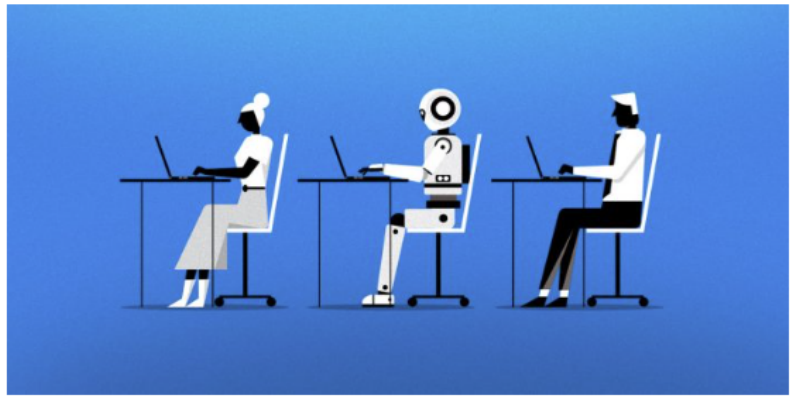
BUSINESS CULTURE

Samford University

Where Passio… Meets Pu…

Frankencandidates: Expert warns of AI bot surge in Alabama job market

By **From combined reports** September 1, 2025



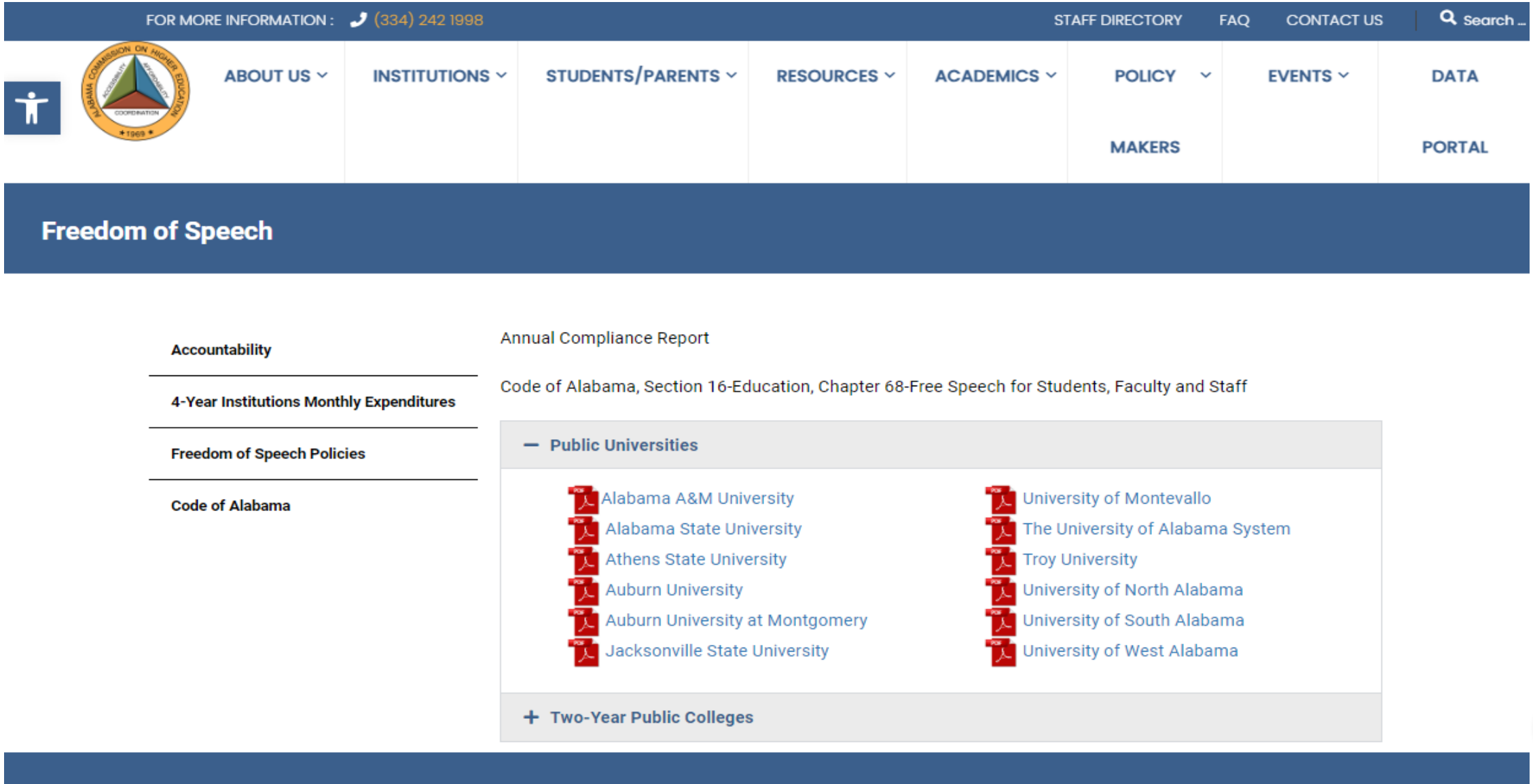
(sorbetto/iStock, 256Today)

HUNTSVILLE — As if finding a job wasn't hard enough already, Alabamians have to contend with the fact that their competitors in the job market now aren't just, well, other Alabama job applicants, but AI-generated bots.

As Americans celebrate Labor Day, a leading background screening expert is sounding the alarm over a growing trend in the 2025 hiring landscape: Job applications that are increasingly coming not from real, actual, human people, but from bots.

Freedom of Speech

Act 2019-396, §5, Code of Alabama, Section 16-68-5



Freedom of Speech
Act 2019-396, §5, Code of Alabama, Section 16-68-5

Annual Report is due by September 1 for the prior 12-month period ending July 31 to include the following:

1. Date and description of each policy violation adopted pursuant to this chapter.
2. Description of the administrative handling and discipline relating to each violation described.
3. Description of substantial difficulties, controversies, or successes in maintaining a posture of administrative and institutional neutrality.
4. Any assessments, criticism, commendations, or recommendations the board of trustees sees fit to include.

https://www.ache.edu/index.php/freedom-of-speech-policies/

Performance Funding/Outcome-Based Funding

ALABAMA REFLECTOR

EDUCATION GOVERNMENT & POLITICS HEALTH CARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

EDUCATION GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Alabama legislators consider 'outcomes-based' model of higher education funding

BY: **RALPH CHAPOCO** - AUGUST 29, 2025 7:01 AM



Rep. Danny Garrett, R-Trussville, presents the proposed 2026 Education Trust Fund budget in the Alabama House of Representatives on April 24, 2025 at the Alabama Statehouse in Montgomery, Alabama. Garrett and other lawmakers are looking into alternatives for funding higher education several months after the Legislature approved an alternative funding model for K-12 education. (Brian Lyman/Alabama Reflector)

SACSCOC Names New President

SACSCOC

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Welcome from the President

Dear Members, Colleagues, and Visitors:



Welcome to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) website.What you find here represents our deep heritage, enduring mission, and bold vision for the future.

A Proud History of Academic Stewardship

SACSCOC traces its roots to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, founded in 1895, with the Commission on Colleges formally established in 1917 to assess and uphold quality within southern higher education institutions.Since that time, we have stewarded accreditation for colleges and universities across eleven southern U.S. states, as well as for select international institutions.

Our Mission and Core Values

Our mission is to assure the educational quality and improve the effectiveness of our member institutions through an accountable and transparent peer-review process. Our six core values—**Integrity, Continuous Quality Improvement, Peer Review/Self-Regulation, Accountability, Student Learning, and Transparency**—are the bedrock of everything we undertake.

Strategic Priorities and Forward Momentum

Drawing from themes introduced in our First 100-Day Announcement, here's how we plan to build on our strong foundation:

- **Students First, Always**: Accreditation decisions, standards, and support services will be centered on promoting student success and learning outcomes.

About

- About SACSCOC
- Welcome from the President
- SACSCOC Global Impact
- Commission Organization and Elected Members
- Staff Directory
- Higher Education Accreditation Information and Links
- FAQs

Dr. Stephen Pruitt, who earned his doctorate from Auburn University, served as President of the SREB from July 2018 to June 2025.

SACSCOC Institutional Accreditation Guidance

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 302000 ◘ Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2000
Delivery Address: 100 North Union Street ◘ Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3758

Telephone: (334)242-1998 ◘ 1-800-960-7773 ◘ Fax (334)242-2269
www.ache.edu

MEMO

July 11, 2025

To: Alabama Institutional Presidents and Chancellors

Subject: SACSCOC Institutional Accreditation Guidance

From: Dr. Jim Purcell, ACHE Executive Director

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing to address an important matter that has recently surfaced in other states: the decision by some institutions to disengage from the **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)** in favor of alternative accrediting agencies, including newly proposed accreditors. While accreditation decisions ultimately rest with each institution's governing board, I encourage you to approach any such discussion with caution and full awareness of the relevant statutory, regulatory, and policy implications for Alabama's public colleges and universities.

Accreditation is not merely a compliance obligation, it is fundamental to our institutions' eligibility for critical student financial aid programs, licensure and program approvals, and various federal and interstate initiatives. Several Alabama statutes, administrative rules, and ACHE policies specifically reference SACSCOC accreditation or the requirement for recognized regional accreditation. Disengagement from SACSCOC without thoughtful statewide coordination could have significant unintended consequences, including the potential loss of eligibility for student aid programs and programmatic approvals.

For example:

- State-Supported Financial Aid Programs:
  - Alabama Student Grant Program — *Ala. Code § 16-33A-1* through *§ 16-33A-11*
  - Alabama Student Assistance Program — *Ala. Code § 16-33A-1* through *§ 16-33A-11*
  - Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program — *Ala. Code § 31-10-20* through *§ 31-10-25*
  - Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program - *ACHE Administrative Code Rule 300-4-12-.09(1)(a)*
  - Additional merit- and need-based programs that rely on institutional eligibility standards defined in statute and ACHE policy.
- Educator Preparation Programs:
  - The *Alabama Administrative Code Rule 290-3-3-.01* requires in-state institutions to maintain recognized regional accreditation for educator preparation program approval by the State Board of Education.
- ACHE Program Review and Institutional Approval:
  - Under Program Review, The *ACHE Administrative Code Rule 300-2-1-.02(6)(c)(1)* requires all degree-granting institutions operating in Alabama to maintain accreditation from SACSCOC or a comparable accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to be eligible for state program approval. Please refer to *Alabama Administrative Code Rule 290-3-3-.01*
- Distance Education and Reciprocity Agreements:
  - Many multi-state and federal regulatory frameworks for distance education participation presume SACSCOC accreditation.

When the U.S. Department of Education eliminated the regional–national accreditor distinction in 2020, ACHE consulted with legislative leadership on whether statutory amendments were needed to expand institutional flexibility in accreditation. The consensus at that time was clear: Alabama would continue its statutory alignment with SACSCOC accreditation requirements to ensure stability and protect student funding streams.

Given these considerations, I strongly urge all institutions to consult with ACHE before initiating any discussion about changing accrediting bodies and to approach any proposed changes through an appropriate statewide process. Should legislative adjustments become necessary in the future, they should be thoughtfully developed in collaboration with institutional leadership and the Legislature to protect students and institutions alike.

I appreciate your commitment to the quality and integrity of Alabama's higher education system. If you have any questions about the statutory or policy references that apply to your institution, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office. We are glad to support you in navigating these requirements.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued service to the students and citizens of Alabama.

SACSCOC Institutional Accreditation Guidance

- State-Supported Financial Aid Programs:
  - Alabama Student Grant Program — *Ala. Code § 16-33A-1* through *§ 16-33A-11*
  - Alabama Student Assistance Program — *Ala. Code § 16-33A-1* through *§ 16-33A-11*
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Preliminary Enrollment, Fall 2025

Alabama Public Universities

Four-Year Institutions	Undergraduate Preliminary Enrollment	Graduate/Professional Preliminary Enrollment	Total Preliminary Enrollment
Alabama A&M University	6,777	1,039	7,816
Alabama State University	3,874	691	4,565
Athens State University	2,578	435	3,013
Auburn University [4]	28,979	6,222	35,201
Auburn University at Montgomery	3,316	1,435	4,751
Jacksonville State University	8,906	1,135	10,041
Troy University	9,422	3,025	12,447
University of Alabama [2]	35,626	6,758	42,384
University of Alabama at Birmingham [2, 3]	12,136	10,339	22,475
University of Alabama in Huntsville	6,792	1,631	8,423
University of Montevallo	2,699	425	3,124
University of North Alabama	8,144	2,292	10,436
University of South Alabama [2]	9,530	5,091	14,621
University of West Alabama	2,907	3,253	6,160
Total Four-Year Institutions	**141,686**	**43,771**	**185,457**

Fall 2025 FINAL enrollment numbers will be released in February 2026.

Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Preliminary Opening Fall Enrollment Survey, Fall 2025

Notes: These preliminary Fall 2025 enrollment numbers reflect initial enrollment at the beginning of the semester and will change due to administrative processes, timing, and the complex nature of student registration and financial aid. ACHE will release final enrollment numbers in February 2026. Citations are as follows: 1) Does not include postdocs (N/A for Fall 2025), 2) Includes medical residents and/or medical interns, 3) Includes dental and optometry residents, and 4) Excludes vet med and pharmacy residents and interns.

Preliminary Enrollment, Fall 2025

Alabama Public Community Colleges

Two-Year Institutions	Total Preliminary Enrollment	Two-Year Institutions	Total Preliminary Enrollment
Bevill State Community College	4,512	Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	2,197
Bishop State Community College	3,166	Marion Military Institute	313
Calhoun Community College	9,504	Northeast Alabama Community College	3,544
Central Alabama Community College	2,312	Northwest-Shoals Community College	5,076
Chattahoochee Valley Community College	1,771	Reid State Technical College	725
Coastal Alabama Community College	9,258	Shelton State Community College	4,839
Drake State Community and Technical College	1,361	Snead State Community College	3,110
Enterprise State Community College	2,866	Southern Union State Community College	5,119
Gadsden State Community College	4,960	Trenholm State Community College	2,099
Ingram State Technical College	1,112	Wallace Community College – Dothan	4,342
Jefferson State Community College	9,198	Wallace Community College – Hanceville	6,040
Lawson State Community College	3,592	Wallace State Community College – Selma	2,115
Total Two-Year Institutions Preliminary Enrollment			**93,131**

Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Preliminary Opening Fall Enrollment Survey, Fall 2025

Notes: These preliminary Fall 2025 enrollment numbers reflect initial enrollment at the beginning of the semester and will change due to administrative processes, timing, and the complex nature of student registration and financial aid. ACHE will release final enrollment numbers in February 2026.

Preliminary
Fall Enrollment

F24 to F25 Comparison

Universities
2.1% increase in Fall 2025 Total Enrollment

Community Colleges
5.2% increase in Fall 2025 Total Enrollment

Institutions by Level	Undergraduate				Graduate				Total			
Four-Year Institutions	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**
Alabama A&M University	6,537	6,777	240	3.7%	908	1,039	131	14.4%	7,445	7,816	371	5.0%
Alabama State University	3,501	3,874	373	10.7%	551	691	140	25.4%	4,052	4,565	513	12.7%
Athens State University	2,536	2,578	42	1.7%	452	435	(17)	-3.8%	2,988	3,013	25	0.8%
Auburn University	27,929	28,979	1,050	3.8%	6,231	6,222	(9)	-0.1%	34,160	35,201	1,041	3.0%
Auburn University at Montgomery	3,323	3,316	(7)	-0.2%	1,897	1,435	(462)	-24.4%	5,220	4,751	(469)	-9.0%
Jacksonville State University	8,638	8,906	268	3.1%	1,290	1,135	(155)	-12.0%	9,928	10,041	113	1.1%
Troy University	9,483	9,422	(61)	-0.6%	2,784	3,025	241	8.7%	12,267	12,447	180	1.5%
University of Alabama	34,521	35,626	1,105	3.2%	6,500	6,758	258	4.0%	41,021	42,384	1,363	3.3%
University of Alabama at Birmingham	11,959	12,136	177	1.5%	10,410	10,339	(71)	-0.7%	22,369	22,475	106	0.5%
University of Alabama in Huntsville	6,807	6,792	(15)	-0.2%	1,749	1,631	(118)	-6.7%	8,556	8,423	(133)	-1.6%
University of Montevallo	2,693	2,699	6	0.2%	449	425	(24)	-5.3%	3,142	3,124	(18)	-0.6%
University of North Alabama	7,618	8,144	526	6.9%	2,570	2,292	(278)	-10.8%	10,188	10,436	248	2.4%
University of South Alabama	9,241	9,530	289	3.1%	5,094	5,091	(3)	-0.1%	14,335	14,621	286	2.0%
University of West Alabama	2,696	2,907	211	7.8%	3,219	3,253	34	1.1%	5,915	6,160	245	4.1%
Total Four-Year Institutions	**137,482**	**141,686**	**4,204**	**3.1%**	**44,104**	**43,771**	**(333)**	**-0.8%**	**181,586**	**185,457**	**3,871**	**2.1%**
Two-Year Institutions	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**
Bevill State Community College	4,344	4,512	168	3.9%					4,344	4,512	168	3.9%
Bishop State Community College	3,945	3,166	(779)	-19.7%					3,945	3,166	(779)	-19.7%
Calhoun Community College	8,767	9,504	737	8.4%					8,767	9,504	737	8.4%
Central Alabama Community College	2,113	2,312	199	9.4%					2,113	2,312	199	9.4%
Chattahoochee Valley Community College	1,487	1,771	284	19.1%					1,487	1,771	284	19.1%
Coastal Alabama Community College	7,744	9,258	1,514	19.6%					7,744	9,258	1,514	19.6%
Drake State Community and Technical College	1,055	1,361	306	29.0%					1,055	1,361	306	29.0%
Enterprise State Community College	2,752	2,866	114	4.1%					2,752	2,866	114	4.1%
Gadsden State Community College	4,851	4,960	109	2.2%					4,851	4,960	109	2.2%
Ingram State Technical College	969	1,112	143	14.8%					969	1,112	143	14.8%
Jefferson State Community College	9,697	9,198	(499)	-5.1%					9,697	9,198	(499)	-5.1%
Lawson State Community College	3,697	3,592	(105)	-2.8%					3,697	3,592	(105)	-2.8%
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	2,048	2,197	149	7.3%					2,048	2,197	149	7.3%
Marion Military Institute	333	313	(20)	-6.0%					333	313	(20)	-6.0%
Northeast Alabama Community College	3,175	3,544	369	11.6%					3,175	3,544	369	11.6%
Northwest-Shoals Community College	4,599	5,076	477	10.4%					4,599	5,076	477	10.4%
Reid State Technical College	654	725	71	10.9%					654	725	71	10.9%
Shelton State Community College	4,538	4,839	301	6.6%					4,538	4,839	301	6.6%
Snead State Community College	2,749	3,110	361	13.1%					2,749	3,110	361	13.1%
Southern Union State Community College	5,090	5,119	29	0.6%					5,090	5,119	29	0.6%
Trenholm State Community College	2,183	2,099	(84)	-3.8%					2,183	2,099	(84)	-3.8%
Wallace Community College-Dothan	4,079	4,342	263	6.4%					4,079	4,342	263	6.4%
Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)	5,736	6,040	304	5.3%					5,736	6,040	304	5.3%
Wallace Community College-Selma	1,894	2,115	221	11.7%					1,894	2,115	221	11.7%
Total Two-Year Institutions	**88,499**	**93,131**	**4,632**	**5.2%**					**88,499**	**93,131**	**4,632**	**5.2%**
Prelimary Fall Enrollment Totals	**225,981**	**234,817**	**8,836**	**3.9%**	**44,104**	**43,771**	**(333)**	**-0.8%**	**270,085**	**278,588**	**8,503**	**3.1%**

Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Preliminary Opening Fall Enrollment Survey, Fall 2025

Notes: These preliminary Fall 2025 enrollment numbers reflect initial enrollment at the beginning of the semester and will change due to administrative processes, timing, and the complex nature of student registration and financial aid. ACHE will release final enrollment numbers in February 2026.

Preliminary

Dual Enrollment

F24 to F25 Comparison

Universities

20.3% increase of DE in F25

5.7% of F25's Undergraduates are DE

Community Colleges

12.1% increase of DE in F25

33.9% of F25's Undergraduates are DE

Institutions by Level	Undergraduate				Dual Enrollment				% of Dual Enrollment		
Four-Year Institutions	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**
Alabama A&M University	6,537	6,777	240	3.7%	186	203	17	9.1%	2.8%	3.0%	0.2%
Alabama State University	3,501	3,874	373	10.7%	51	158	107	209.8%	1.5%	4.1%	2.6%
Athens State University	2,536	2,578	42	1.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Auburn University	27,929	28,979	1,050	3.8%	784	1,030	246	31.4%	2.8%	3.6%	0.7%
Auburn University at Montgomery	3,323	3,316	(7)	-0.2%	497	640	143	28.8%	15.0%	19.3%	4.3%
Jacksonville State University	8,638	8,906	268	3.1%	1,383	1,657	274	19.8%	16.0%	18.6%	2.6%
Troy University	9,483	9,422	(61)	-0.6%	228	336	108	47.4%	2.4%	3.6%	1.2%
University of Alabama	34,521	35,626	1,105	3.2%	1,022	1,376	354	34.6%	3.0%	3.9%	0.9%
University of Alabama at Birmingham	11,959	12,136	177	1.5%	45	67	22	48.9%	0.4%	0.6%	0.2%
University of Alabama in Huntsville	6,807	6,792	(15)	-0.2%	70	76	6	8.6%	1.0%	1.1%	0.1%
University of Montevallo	2,693	2,699	6	0.2%	483	488	5	1.0%	17.9%	18.1%	0.1%
University of North Alabama	7,618	8,144	526	6.9%	1,667	1,839	172	10.3%	21.9%	22.6%	0.7%
University of South Alabama	9,241	9,530	289	3.1%	284	215	(69)	-24.3%	3.1%	2.3%	-0.8%
University of West Alabama	2,696	2,907	211	7.8%	35	15	(20)	-57.1%	1.3%	0.5%	-0.8%
Total Four-Year Institutions	**137,482**	**141,686**	**4,204**	**3.1%**	**6,735**	**8,100**	**1,365**	**20.3%**	**4.9%**	**5.7%**	**0.8%**
Two-Year Institutions	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**	**% of Change**	**2024**	**2025**	**# of Change**
Bevill State Community College	4,344	4,512	168	3.9%	2,184	2,317	133	6.1%	50.3%	51.4%	1.1%
Bishop State Community College	3,945	3,166	(779)	-19.7%	1,586	1,443	(143)	-9.0%	40.2%	45.6%	5.4%
Calhoun Community College	8,767	9,504	737	8.4%	1,503	1,735	232	15.4%	17.1%	18.3%	1.1%
Central Alabama Community College	2,113	2,312	199	9.4%	918	1,019	101	11.0%	43.4%	44.1%	0.6%
Chattahoochee Valley Community College	1,487	1,771	284	19.1%	387	656	269	69.5%	26.0%	37.0%	11.0%
Coastal Alabama Community College	7,744	9,258	1,514	19.6%	2,695	3,367	672	24.9%	34.8%	36.4%	1.6%
Drake State Community and Technical College	1,055	1,361	306	29.0%	313	385	72	23.0%	29.7%	28.3%	-1.4%
Enterprise State Community College	2,752	2,866	114	4.1%	1,105	1,232	127	11.5%	40.2%	43.0%	2.8%
Gadsden State Community College	4,851	4,960	109	2.2%	1,410	1,567	157	11.1%	29.1%	31.6%	2.5%
Ingram State Technical College	969	1,112	143	14.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jefferson State Community College	9,697	9,198	(499)	-5.1%	3,725	4,531	806	21.6%	38.4%	49.3%	10.8%
Lawson State Community College	3,697	3,592	(105)	-2.8%	511	436	(75)	-14.7%	13.8%	12.1%	-1.7%
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College	2,048	2,197	149	7.3%	943	1,020	77	8.2%	46.0%	46.4%	0.4%
Marion Military Institute	333	313	(20)	-6.0%	3	3	0	N/A	0.9%	1.0%	0.1%
Northeast Alabama Community College	3,175	3,544	369	11.6%	1,573	1,815	242	15.4%	49.5%	51.2%	1.7%
Northwest-Shoals Community College	4,599	5,076	477	10.4%	2,574	2,803	229	8.9%	56.0%	55.2%	-0.7%
Reid State Technical College	654	725	71	10.9%	187	164	(23)	-12.3%	28.6%	22.6%	-6.0%
Shelton State Community College	4,538	4,839	301	6.6%	1,265	1,467	202	16.0%	27.9%	30.3%	2.4%
Snead State Community College	2,749	3,110	361	13.1%	777	897	120	15.4%	28.3%	28.8%	0.6%
Southern Union State Community College	5,090	5,119	29	0.6%	803	788	(15)	-1.9%	15.8%	15.4%	-0.4%
Trenholm State Community College	2,183	2,099	(84)	-3.8%	365	429	64	17.5%	16.7%	20.4%	3.7%
Wallace Community College-Dothan	4,079	4,342	263	6.4%	1,025	1,124	99	9.7%	25.1%	25.9%	0.8%
Wallace State Community College (Hanceville)	5,736	6,040	304	5.3%	1,301	1,240	(61)	-4.7%	22.7%	20.5%	-2.2%
Wallace Community College-Selma	1,894	2,115	221	11.7%	1,042	1,174	132	12.7%	55.0%	55.5%	0.5%
Total Two-Year Institutions	**88,499**	**93,131**	**4,632**	**5.2%**	**28,195**	**31,612**	**3,417**	**12.1%**	**31.9%**	**33.9%**	**2.1%**
Prelimary Fall Enrollment Totals	**225,981**	**234,817**	**8,836**	**3.9%**	**34,930**	**39,712**	**4,782**	**13.7%**	**15.46%**	**16.91%**	**1.45%**

Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Preliminary Opening Fall Enrollment Survey, Fall 2025

Notes: These preliminary Fall 2025 enrollment numbers reflect initial enrollment at the beginning of the semester and will change due to administrative processes, timing, and the complex nature of student registration and financial aid. ACHE will release final enrollment numbers in February 2026.

VIII. Discussion Items



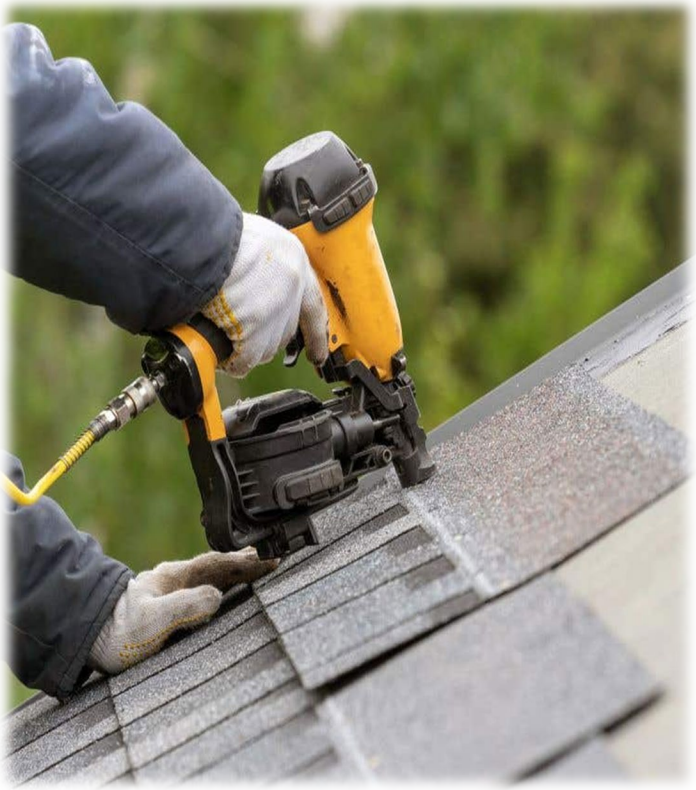
HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant Results

Staff Presenter: Dr. Jim Hood



HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Overview

- Lawmakers passed **Act 2025-270** that provided **$5 million** in funding.
- Projects limited to deferred maintenance defined as general upkeep and maintenance of facilities.
- Priority placed on projects related to ADA, health, and safety compliance.
- Grant included a matching requirement between institutional and state funds.



Eligible Deferred Maintenance

Deferred maintenance projects are associated with the upkeep of the institutions' facilities. The grant prioritizes plans necessary to maintain functionality, not to improve aesthetics. Projects for repair and/or replacement include but are not limited to the following:

- Roofing
- Gutters and Downspouts
- Interior or Exterior Painting
- Resurfacing of Floors
- Windows and Window Hardware
- Electrical and Plumbing Systems
- Security Cameras and Systems
- Interior or Exterior Lighting
- Central Heating and Cooling (HVAC)
- Projects related to ADA, health, and safety compliance
- Traffic Control Devices

Eligible HBCU Institutions (14)

- Alabama A&M University
- Alabama State University
- Bishop State Community College
- Drake State Community College
- Gadsden State Community College
- Lawson State Community College
- Miles College
- Oakwood University
- Selma University
- Shelton State Community College
- Stillman College
- Talladega College
- Trenholm State Community College
- Tuskegee University

HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant: Timeline

- $750K limit/cap per institution (15% of total funds)
- Zoom meeting on July 10 to discuss grant criteria.
- Institutions submitted projects in priority order on August 1 (14 of 14 submitted)
- Institutions submitted 28 projects requesting over $9.2M (funds addressed 54%)
- **ACHE Financial Affairs Committee** reviewed and finalized projects on August 28
- Institutions verified matching funds and accepted projects on September 8

ACHE Financial Affairs Committee

Jody M. Singleton, Chair
Dr. Harry Hobbs
Payne R. Meadows
Paul W. Kennedy
Rod Scott

Distribution of Funds

Public Universities

- A&M and ASU each received $750K (cap limit)
- 30% of total funds

Public Community Colleges

- Average award of $277,688
- 33% of total available funds

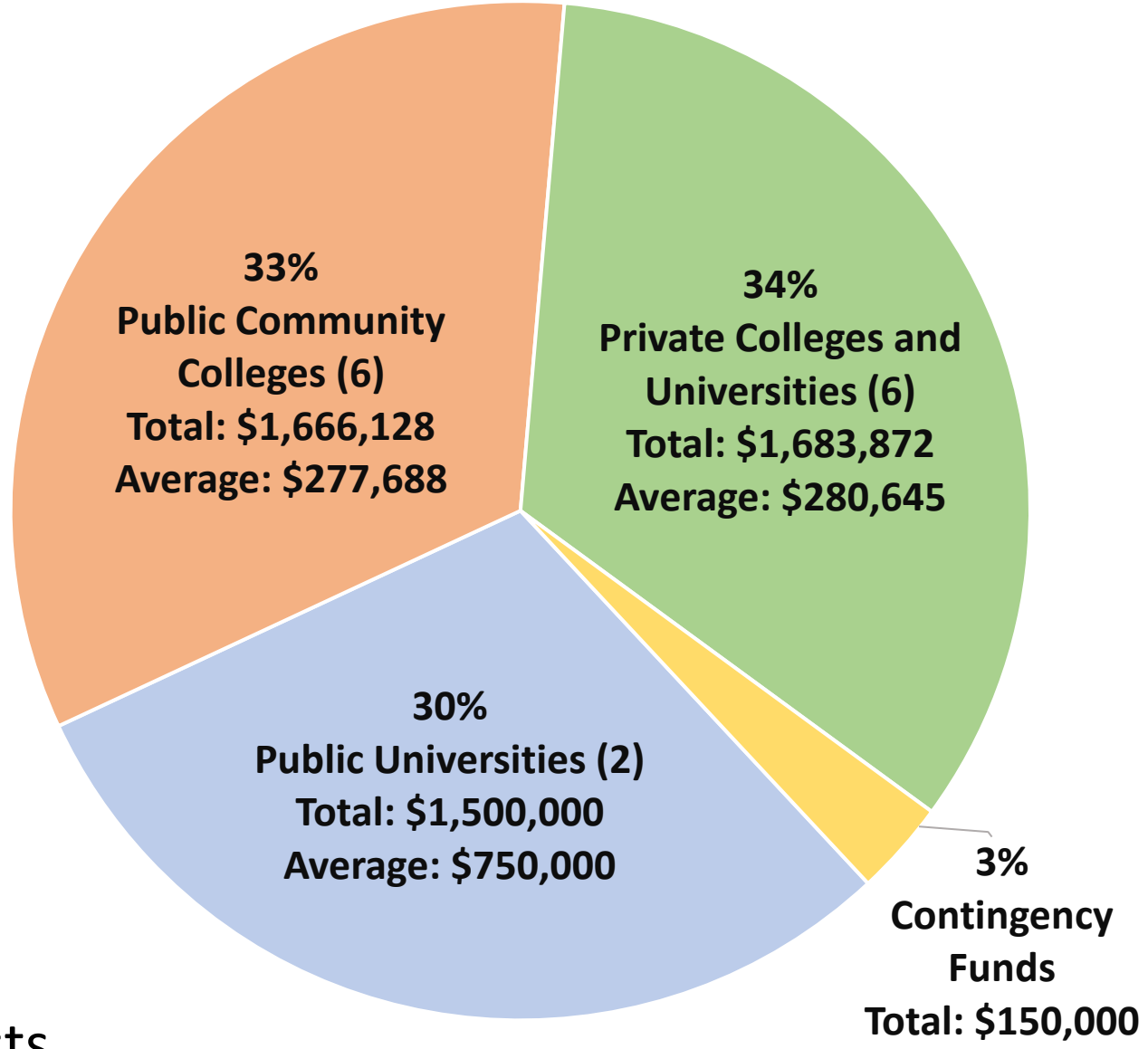
Private Colleges & Universities

- Average award of $280,645
- 34% of total available funds

Institution	Institution Total
Public Universities (2)	
Alabama A& M University	$ 750,000
Alabama State University	$ 750,000
Public Community Colleges (6)	
Bishop State Community College	$ 372,210
Drake State Community College	$ 387,928
Gadsden State Community College	$ 389,504
Lawson State Community College	$ 113,500
Shelton State Community College	$ 72,986
Trenholm State Community College	$ 330,000
Private Colleges and Universities (6)	
Miles College	$ 282,075
Oakwood University	$ 254,480
Selma University	$ 278,508
Stillman College	$ 274,700
Talladega College	$ 288,544
Tuskegee University	$ 305,565
Contingency Funds	$ 150,000
Total Funds	**$ 5,000,000**

Distribution of Funds by Sector

- Institutions collectively submitted 28 projects totaling $25.04 million.
- 21 (75%) of those projects received full (14) or partial (7) funding
- Grant dollars addressed 54.4% of the requested dollars indicating the ongoing need for these funds.
- Distribution includes $150K in contingency funds to address contingencies and administrative costs.



Bishop State Chiller Pipe Project



Gadsden State Roof Project



HBCU Deferred Maintenance Grant Results



IX. Decision Items



A. Approval of 2026 Meeting Schedule

Staff Presenter: Dr. Jessie Lynn Nichols

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2026

March 13, 2026

June 12, 2026

September 11, 2026

December 11, 2026

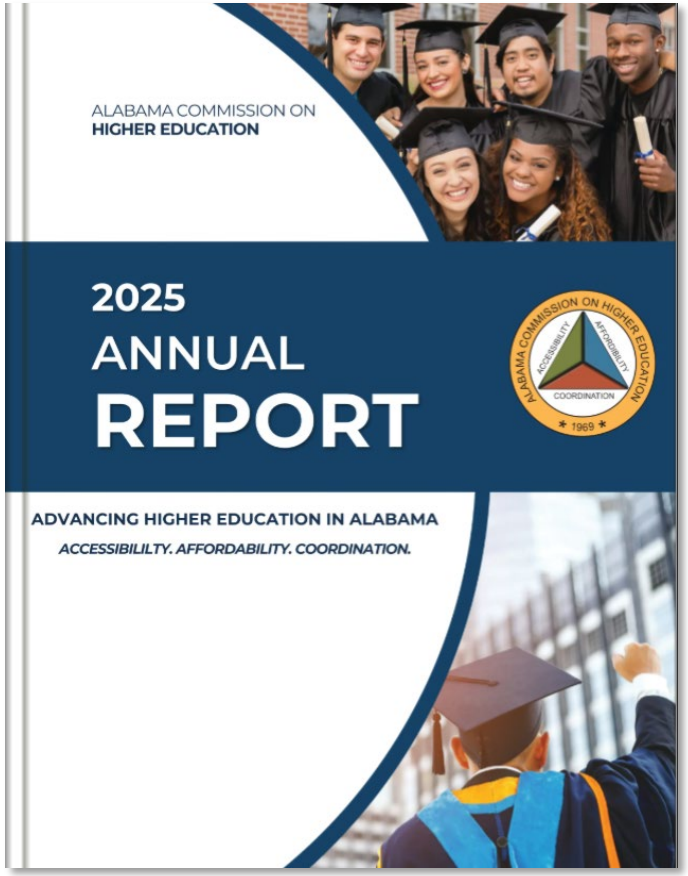


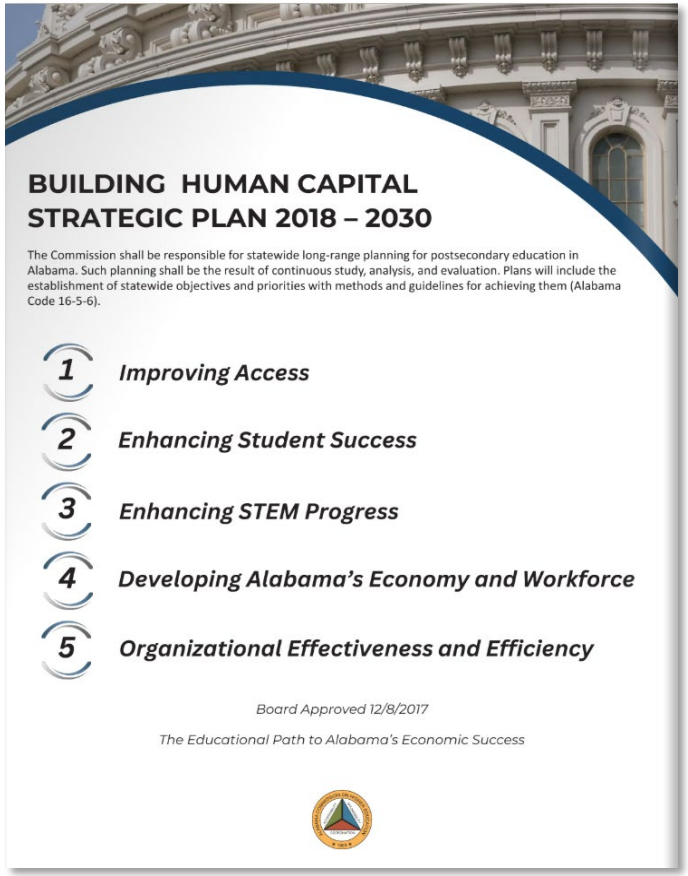
Motion, Decision Item A:

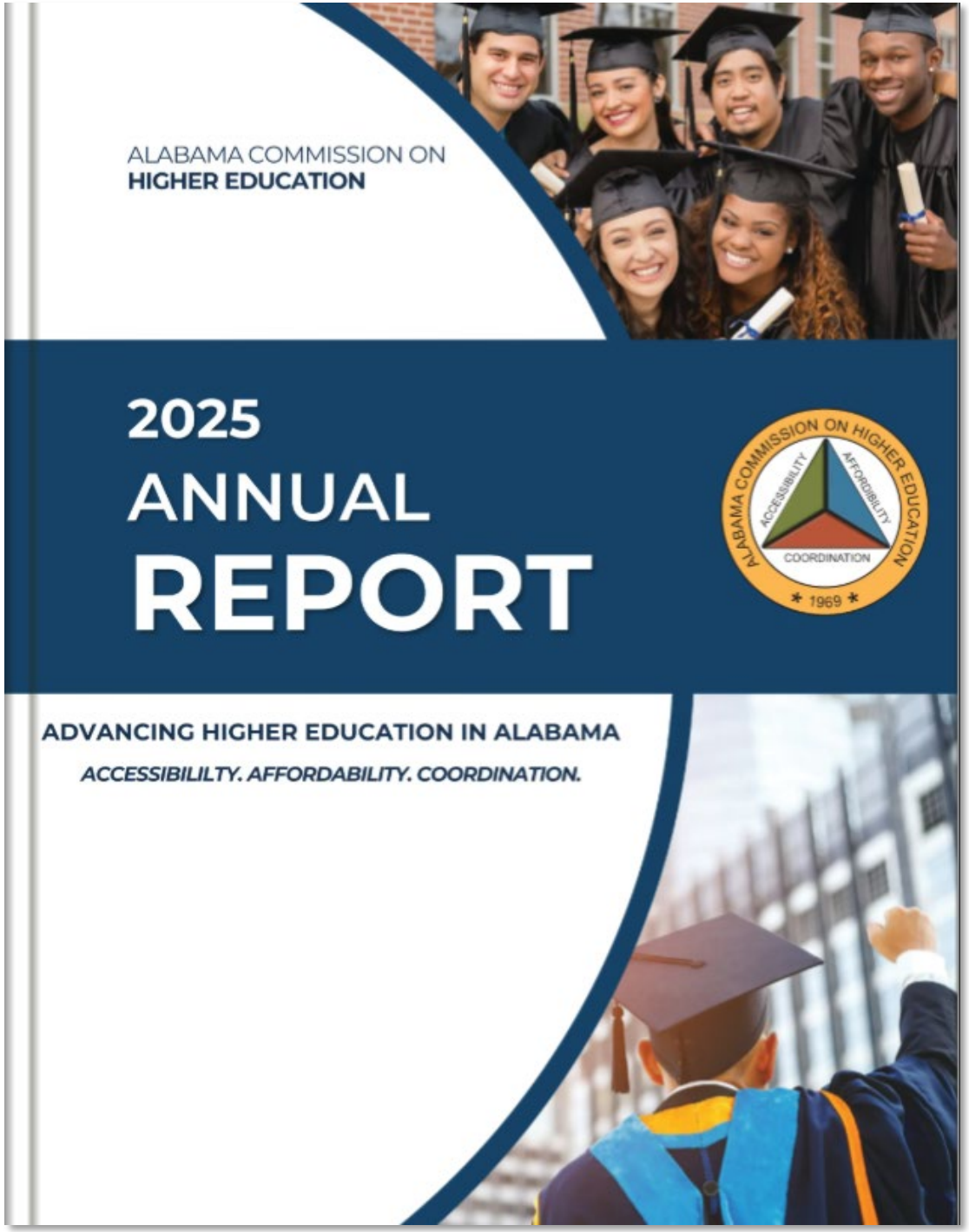
That the Commission approve the Commission's 2026 Meeting Schedule.

B. 2024-2025 Annual Report

Staff Presenter: Dr. Jessie Lynn Nichols






ALABAMA COMMISSION ON
HIGHER EDUCATION
2025
ANNUAL
REPORT
ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
ACCESSIBILITY
AFFORDABILITY
COORDINATION
1969
ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALABAMA
ACCESSIBILILTY. AFFORDABILITY. COORDINATION.

ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education, a statewide 12-member lay board appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House and confirmed by the Senate, is the state agency responsible for the overall statewide planning and coordination of higher education in Alabama, the administration of various student aid programs, and the performance of designated regulatory functions. The Commission seeks to provide reasonable access to quality collegiate and university education for the citizens of Alabama. In meeting this commitment, the Commission facilitates informed decision making and policy formulation regarding wise stewardship of resources in response to the needs of students and the goals of institutions. The agency also provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the State.

Responsibilities of the Commission include the following:

- Approves new units of instruction (This includes new institutions, mergers, branch campuses, colleges, schools, divisions and departments);
- Approves any new academic programs;
- Approves off-campus instruction;
- Facilitates planning for higher education;
- Reviews and makes recommendations concerning existing programs;
- Prepares a Consolidated Budget Recommendation to the Governor and Legislature;
- Collects and compiles information concerning higher education in the State;
- Administers student assistance programs;
- Conducts studies on higher education issues and makes recommendations to the institutions, the Legislature and the Governor concerning its findings;
- Provides a state-level framework for institutions to respond cooperatively and individually to the needs of the citizens of the State;
- Reviews institutional facilities masterplans and report to trustees and the Legislature;
- Maintains an electronic student unit record system to provide accountability on student progress;
- Provides oversight for the programmatic review of public and private institutions operating as foreign corporations in Alabama, in accordance with the statutory authority granted to the Commission; and
- Serves as the state portal for Alabama's participation in the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA).

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ACHE COMMISSIONERS



AMY SHIPLEY PRICE, CHAIR
3RD DISTRICT
TERM: 09/01/2016 – 08/31/2025



STAN NELSON, VICE CHAIR
AT-LARGE
TERM: 08/07/2019 - 08/31/2027



ANN FORBES SIRMON
1ST DISTRICT
TERM: 09/01/2020 - 08/31/2029



HARRY HOBBS
5TH DISTRICT
TERM: 02/18/2025 – 08/31/2033



PAUL W. KENNEDY
4TH DISTRICT
TERM: 09/01/2020 - 08/31/2029



PAYNE MEADOWS
2ND DISTRICT
TERM: 09/01/2024 – 08/31/2033

ACHE COMMISSIONERS



DOUGLAS RAGLAND
6TH DISTRICT
TERM: 02/18/2025 – 08/31/2033



SHANE SPILLER
7TH DISTRICT
TERM: 02/21/2024 - 08/31/2029



ROD SCOTT
AT-LARGE
TERM: 08/07/2019 - 08/31/2028



JODI SINGLETON
AT-LARGE
TERM: 09/01/2021 - 08/31/2030



LARRY TURNER
AT-LARGE
TERM: 03/27/2019 - 08/31/2027



TERRY WELCH
AT-LARGE
TERM: 02/2/2024 - 02/20/2031
Resigned 04/09/2025

MESSAGE FROM THE
COMMISSION CHAIR



AMY SHIPLEY PRICE

Since 1979, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education has been charged with the overall planning and coordination of higher education in the State of Alabama. This includes administering various student aid programs as well as performing designated regulatory functions. ACHE has a long history of advancing higher education and 2025 was certainly no exception.

During 2025, ACHE saw an increase of 19.6% in legislative funding. We are grateful to Governor Ivey and the legislature for their continued support for ACHE.

This increase is instrumental in our continued efforts to keep accessibility, affordability, and coordination for students and institutions as the top priority. One highlight of this year has been the development of our Pathways to Progress Initiative. This initiative seeks to align educational instruction and attainment with workforce demands in designated economic regions by providing scholarships and strategic advising. Related efforts, like the FAFSA Completion Initiative, further support this effort. The increase in FAFSA completion rates improves access to higher education for all Alabama students. Through the continued work of these initiatives, we can build stronger, resilient communities and create a lasting impact across Alabama.

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education is paving the way for sustained progress by aligning workforce and education priorities. It has been a privilege to serve as chair of the Commission this past year, and I am particularly grateful for the opportunity to represent District 3 over the last nine years. The future of ACHE is bright under the leadership of our current Commissioners, Dr. Purcell, and the ACHE team. I want to thank each of them for their dedication to higher education in Alabama.

LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DR. JIM PURCELL

It has been a strong year for higher education in Alabama. Enrollment at the state's public colleges and universities continued to rise, and both the Governor and the Legislature reaffirmed their commitment to student success by approving a fourth consecutive year of funding increases of six percent or more. In addition to sustained operational support, campuses also benefited from one-time appropriations to address deferred maintenance and critical facility needs.

Following last year's challenges with the rollout of the revised Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), we are pleased to report a 21% year-over-year increase in FAFSA completions. Alabama currently ranks 12th in the nation for overall completions, an achievement that reflects the resilience of our students, the dedication of our educators, and the strength of our statewide support systems.

This year also marked a major milestone for the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL), as they celebrated their 40th anniversary. NAAL's primary mission is to foster communication and collaboration among its member libraries. The organization places a strong emphasis on the collective purchasing and sharing of collections, products, and services that support teaching, learning, and research across Alabama's institutions of higher education.

As we reflect on these achievements, we remain committed to building a stronger, more connected higher education system, one that prioritizes innovation and opportunity for all. Thank you for your continued support as we move forward in shaping Alabama's educational and economic future.

ALABAMA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

4-Year Institutions

Alabama A&M University (AAM)
Alabama State University (ASU)
Athens State University (ATSU)
Auburn University (AU)
Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM)
Jacksonville State University (JSU)
Troy University (TROY)
University of Alabama (UA)
University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH)
University of Montevallo (UM)
University of North Alabama (UNA)
University of South Alabama (USA)
University of West Alabama (UWA)

2-Year Institutions

Bevill State Community College (BEV)
Bishop State Community College (BIS)
Calhoun Community College (CAL)
Central Alabama Community College (CEN)
Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVC)
Coastal Alabama Community College (CACC)
Drake State Community and Technical College (DRA)
Enterprise State Community College (ENT)
Gadsden State Community College (GAD)
Ingram State Technical College (ING)
Jefferson State Community College (JSC)
Lawson State Community College (LAW)
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (LBW)
Marion Military Institute (MMI)
Northeast Alabama Community College (NEC)
Northwest Shoals Community College (NWS)
Reid State Technical College (REI)
Shelton State Community College (SHC)
Snead State Community College (SND)
Southern Union State Community College (SOU)
Trenholm State Community College (TRE)
Wallace Community College – Dothan (WSD)
Wallace State Community College – Hanceville (WSH)
Wallace State Community College - Selma (WSS)



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Historic State Support for Public Education

The **2026 Education Trust Fund** bill was signed into law in May 2025 by Governor Ivey and saw and increase in appropriated funds for education in the state, totaling $9.09 billion. This budget included one of the largest appropriations into Higher Education in Alabama history.

Act 2025-270 FY26 Operating Budget for Higher Education

Institution Type	Amount Received	Percentage Increase Over FY25
Two-Year	$622,223,785	6.01%
Four-Year*	$1,776,618,830	6.64%
Other Higher Education	$158,228,445	9.66%
Total Higher Education	$2,557,071,060	6.66%

Act 2025-268 Supplemental Funding for Higher Education

Alabama Center for the Arts	$100,000
Marine Environnemental Science Cons/Dauphin Island Sea Lab	$7,000,000
Alabama A&M University	$5,972,688
Alabama State University	$4,180,844
University of Alabama System	$54,287,475
Athens State University	$3,772,700
Auburn University	$26,067,000
Auburn University at Montgomery	$3,262,202
Jacksonville State University	$5,632,743
University of Montevallo	$4,028,237
University of North Alabama	$5,884,716
University of South Alabama	$15,580,106
Troy University	$6,312,751
University of West Alabama	$4,058,290
Tuskegee University	$3,950,000
Miles College	$250,000
Alabama Community College System	$55,811,836
Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission/Fire College	$4,300,000
The Alabama Commission on Higher Education	
Nature Discovery Center - Landtrust of North Alabama	$ 1,000,000
North Alabama Agriplex	$ 900,000
Pathways to Progress	$ 500,000
Judge Horton Civil Justice Learning Center	$ 1,700,000
Alabama Veterinary Hospital - Birmingham Zoo	$ 1,200,000
Tennessee Riverline Program	$ 175,000
Kingdom College	$ 80,000
Selma University	$ 75,000

**Supplemental funding in Alabama Higher Education refers to additional state-allocated resources beyond regular operating budgets. These funds support specific initiatives, capital projects, or emerging needs not covered by standard appropriations*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Act 2025-269 Advancement and Technology FY 2025 Supplemental Appropriation	
Alabama Community College System	$126,530,406
Alabama A & M University	$7,901,761
Alabama State University	$4,380,745
Alabama System, Univ of	$80,045,407
Athens State University	$4,378,421
Auburn University	$37,876,092
Auburn University Montgomery	$6,001,837
Jacksonville State University	$13,743,270
Montevallo, University of	$3,513,270
North Alabama, University of	$13,202,648
South Alabama, University of	$16,909,551
Troy University System	$17,732,102
West Alabama, University of	$8,677,840
Tuskegee University	$1,231,650

The Advancement and Technology Fund is a state-appropriated fund established by the Alabama Legislature using Education Trust Fund (ETF) revenues. It provides public colleges and universities with dedicated resources for instructional technology, facility upgrades, and workforce development, aiming to enhance student success and institutional capacity.

ACHE Board Appointments

- Alabama Local Government Training Institute (ALGTI)
- Alabama STEM Council
- Alabama Terminal for Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on Career Pathways
- Alabama Virtual Library Advisory Council
- Alabama Workforce Council Committee on Credential Quality and Transparency
- Forever Wild Land Trust
- Health Care Workforce Task Force
- Joint Interim Study Commission on Responsible Technology Purchases
- Postsecondary Math Task Force
- Principal Mentoring and Leadership Committee

INSTITUTIONAL FINANCE

CONSOLIDATED BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

The Commission receives, evaluates, and coordinates budget requests for the public institutions of higher education in Alabama. ACHE conducts budget hearings to gather additional insight and justification for funding needs. A single consolidated budget report containing budget recommendations for separate appropriations to each of the institutions is presented annually to the governor and legislature. The recommendation of the Commission is based on, but not limited to, assessment of institutional requests, funding needs derived from standard techniques of objective measurement and need, and unit cost figures calculated using comparative, verified data supplied by the institutions. The Consolidated Budget Recommendation also includes the Commission's recommendation for a variety of statewide programs and activities.

Alabama Public Higher Education Institutions				
Institutions	FY 2024-2025 Appropriation	FY 2025-2026 Budget Request	FY 2025-2026 Recommendation	FY 2025-2026 Appropriation
Alabama A & M University	$57,304,433	$71,859,831	$61,242,443	$61,115,089
Alabama State University	**$62,783,930**	**$67,315,683**	**$66,525,586**	**$66,556,368**
Alabama, Univ of - Main Campus	$248,302,456	$268,649,829	$265,444,683	$266,214,571
Alabama, Univ of - Birmingham	**$397,409,628**	**$429,037,170**	**$419,485,867**	**$421,143,986**
Alabama, Univ of - Huntsville	$72,681,686	$143,932,879	$77,196,566	$77,280,307
Athens State University	**$21,741,509**	**$24,696,858**	**$23,264,674**	**$23,502,462**
Auburn University	$355,844,105	$390,735,372	$377,129,459	$379,246,504
Auburn University Montgomery	**$33,112,856**	**$35,752,691**	**$35,178,559**	**$34,989,116**
Jacksonville State University	$57,483,222	$63,806,376	$61,696,928	$61,933,407
Montevallo, University of	**$30,730,750**	**$33,633,825**	**$32,453,002**	**$33,018,738**
North Alabama, University of	$53,339,628	$66,025,000	$56,309,257	$57,665,778
South Alabama, University of	**$161,458,465**	**$181,904,311**	**$171,243,355**	**$171,209,511**
Troy University System	$82,021,926	$104,075,000	$85,929,812	$87,931,064
West Alabama, University of	**$31,265,149**	**$33,915,000**	**$32,444,912**	**$34,218,443**
Total Public Senior Institutions	$1,665,479,743	$1,915,339,825	$1,765,545,103	$1,776,025,344
Public Two-Year Institutions*	**$457,974,345**	**$486,311,163**	**$484,884,732**	**$485,311,163**
Total All Public Institutions	$2,123,454,088	$2,401,650,988	$2,250,429,835	$2,261,336,507

*The Two-Year Institution line includes O&M for Public Two-Year Institutions, Marion Institute, and Prison Education.

Alabama's higher education institutions requested an increase of 13.1% for their 2025-26 budgets. The Commission approved a recommendation for an increase of 6%, totaling $2,250,429,835 based upon the estimate of funds available for Higher Education. In Act 2025-270, the Legislature appropriated a total of $2,261,336,507 from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) to these institutions, an increase of 6.5% above the previous year's budget.

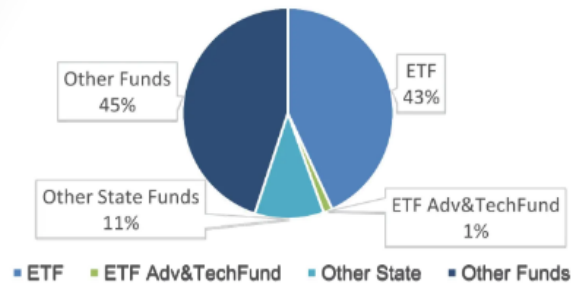
INSTITUTIONAL FINANCE

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND CAPITAL PROJECTS REQUESTS

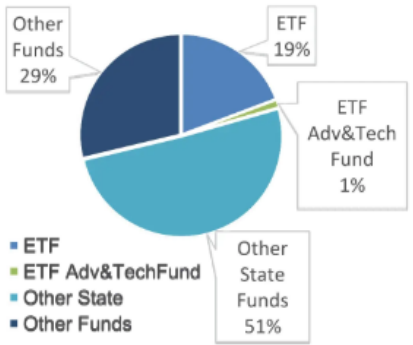
Each public two- and four-year institution submitted a Facilities Master Plan and Capital Projects Request to the Commission as required by statute. The Facilities Master Plan and Capital Budget Request report for the period covering FY 2026-30 was presented at the December 13, 2024, Commission meeting. The two- and four-year institutions project they will need over $9.6 billion to fund capital projects during this five-year period. The charts below indicate a close to half of this funding will be requested from the Education Trust Fund.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR REQUESTED CAPITAL PROJECTS

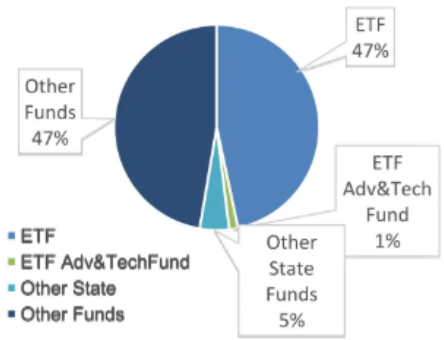
Total Two- and Four-Year Institutions



Two-Year Institutions



Four-Year Institutions

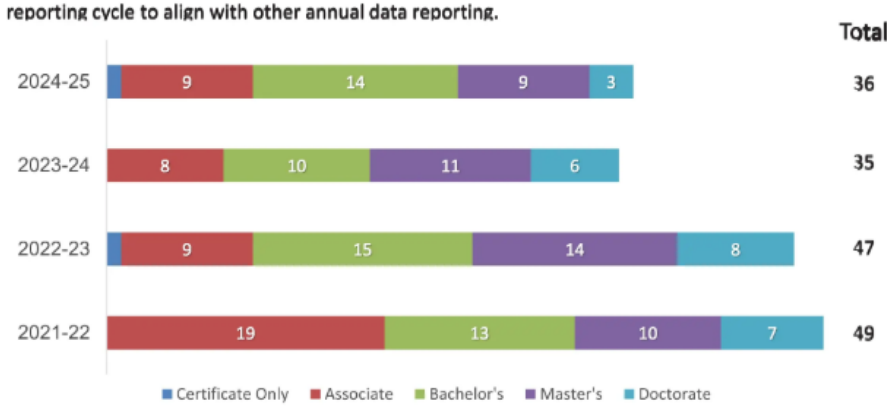


*Other State Funds – Direct Legislative appropriations, statewide, capital bond issues or any other funding not from the ETF.
**Other Funds – All other potential sources of funding other than direct legislative appropriations.

ACADEMICS

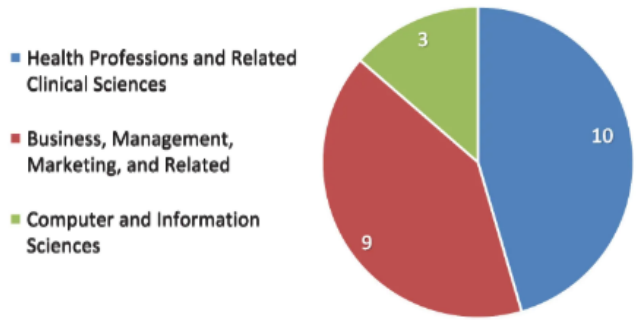
New Academic Program Approvals 2024-2025

Between September 2024 and June 2025, the Commission approved 36 new degree programs. Compared with previous cycles, the 2024-25 year had fewer graduate-level programs approved, including only three new doctoral programs. In the 2023-24 report, ACHE shifted the program reporting cycle to align with other annual data reporting.



Source: ACHE Program Inventory

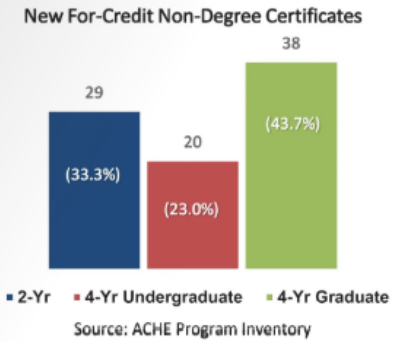
Top New Program Areas of Study



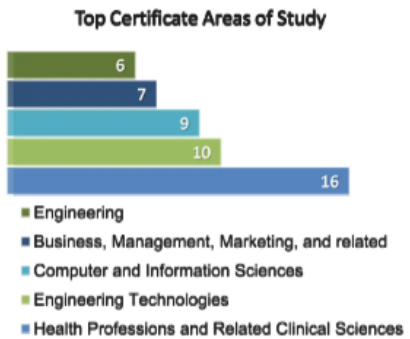
Source: ACHE Program Inventory

New For-Credit Non-Degree Certificates

Between September 2024 and June 2025, Alabama's 2- and 4-year public institutions developed 87 new non-degree certificates, including 29 short-term certificates at the community and technical college level and 58 undergraduate and graduate certificates at the university level. In this reporting period, degree completions in Health Professions and Computer and Information Sciences were awarded by both 2-year and 4-year institutions. All nine Business degrees, however, came from 4-year institutions. Most certificates in Health Professions, Business, and Computer and Information Sciences (24 out of 32) were also issued by 4-year institutions. In contrast, all certificates in Engineering Technologies were awarded by 2-year colleges.

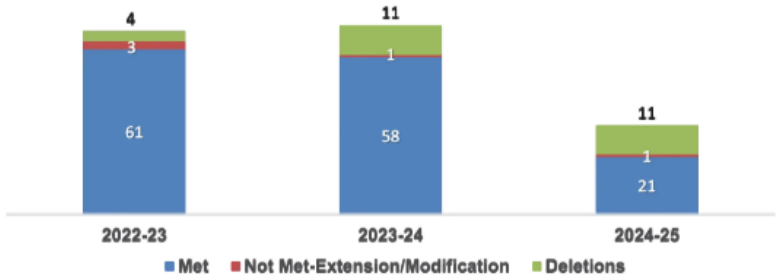


Source: ACHE Program Inventory



Post-Implementation Reporting

Post-Implementation Reporting is a seven-year monitoring process for newly approved degree programs. Its purpose is to ensure programs meet required benchmarks for enrollment, graduation, and other performance measures. Programs that do not meet these conditions may be recommended for closure, unless the Commission approves corrective adjustments. During the 2022-2024 reporting period, most of the outstanding post-implementation reports were completed. The remaining reports, along with those due in 2024, were reviewed at the Commission's December 2024 and March 2025 meetings.



Source: ACHE Program Inventory

ACADEMICS

Non-Resident Institutions in Alabama

ACHE reviews programs for out-of-state institutions, known as Non-Resident Institutions (NRIs), seeking authorization to operate in Alabama through a private school license from the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Private School Licensure Division. Most NRIs have a physical presence in the state, while some are online-only and fall outside NC-SARA coverage, particularly those based in California, which does not participate in NC-SARA.

Alabama is the only state where NRI licensure and programmatic review are managed by two separate agencies: ACCS (licensing) and ACHE (programmatic approval or exemption). Since the current review policy was adopted in 2019, ACHE has exempted 232 NRIs from programmatic review, including 12 in the past fiscal year from institutions headquartered in seven states.

Arizona	1	California	3	Florida	1
Michigan	2	Texas	3	Ohio	1
		Pennsylvania	1		

In addition, ACHE has approved three institutions located out-of-country not qualifying for exemptions following full programmatic review. Campuses of these three non-exempt institutions are in Cupecoy (Sint Maarten), Barbados (West Indies), and Basseterre, St Kitts (West Indies). Together, these 235 approved or exempted non-resident institutions offer programs in 22 of the 54 CIP categories.

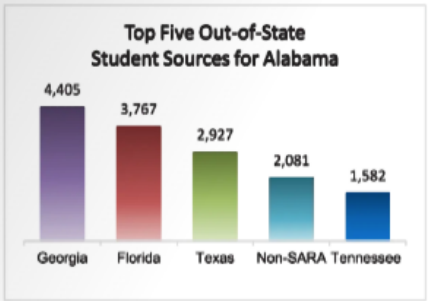
For a current list of NRIs with ACHE programmatic approval or exemption from review, contact NRI@ache.edu. The ACHE NRI review process is available at https://www.ache.edu/wp-content/NRI/Prog_Review_Procedures.pdf. Information on Alabama NRI licensing is available at https://www.accs.edu/about-accs/private-school-licensure/.

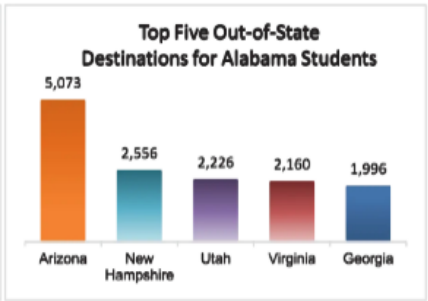
National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)

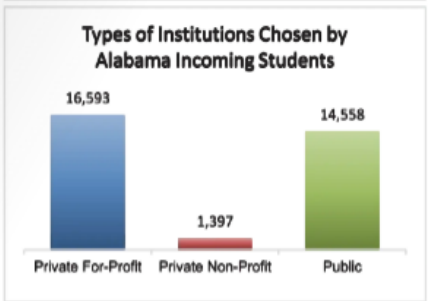
Since 2016, Alabama's State Reciprocity Committee has contracted with ACHE to be the State Portal Entity for NC-SARA. ACHE enrolls and renews institutions as members of NC-SARA (also referred to as SARA), communicates policies and procedures to institutional contacts, and investigates student complaints. As a result of having a uniform set of regulations and a uniform sliding payment scale across the nation, NC-SARA member institutions can streamline the process of becoming authorized to offer distance education programs in other NC-SARA states, saving at least $69,797 per institution annually.

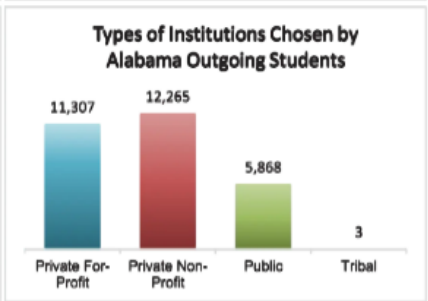
NC-SARA is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps students access educational opportunities and ensures efficient, consistent, and effective regulation of distance education programs. NC-SARA membership currently stands at 41 institutions including public, private, and proprietary institutions based in Alabama.

NC-SARA Data Dashboards









Top Institutions Attended by Alabama Incoming Students		
Institution	Sector	Total
Columbia Southern University	Pvt For Profit	16,593
Troy University	Public	3,032
University of South Alabama	Public	2,688
The University of Alabama	Public	2,373
University of AL at Birmingham	Public	1,656

Top Institutions Attended by Alabama Outgoing Students		
Institution	Sector	Total
Southern New Hampshire Univ (NH)	Pvt For Profit	2,552
Western Governors University (UT)	Pvt For Profit	2,185
University of Phoenix (AZ)	Pvt For Profit	1,912
Liberty University (VA)	Pvt For Profit	1,853
Strayer University	Pvt For Profit	1,684

The most current available SARA data reports that Alabama's SARA-participating institutions enrolled 32,548 distance education students from other participating states and 29,450 Alabama residents enrolled in distance education programs in SARA states outside Alabama. Data can be found at https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards.

Academic Common Market

The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a tuition-savings program comprised of fifteen (15) participating southern states that allow students to pursue uncommon academic programs not offered in their home state at in-state tuition rates. Alabama residents who attended out-of-state institutions via the ACM had tuition savings in the amount of $1,208,318 during the 2024-25 academic year. The average tuition savings per student for Alabama residents was $14,050. During academic year 2024-25, the ACM included 2,197-degree programs across the SREB states, with 168 institutions participating and 1,479 students approved for tuition savings. There was a total of 97 Alabama residents who were certified to attend out-of-state institutions, while 138 out-of-state students were certified by their home state to attend Alabama institutions during academic year 2024-25.

2024-25 ACM Enrollment at Alabama Institutions	
State of Residence	Students Attending Alabama IHEs
Georgia	46
Louisiana	30
Mississippi	22
Tennessee	25
Other SREB States	15
Total Count	138

2024-25 Top 10 Degree Programs Attracting Out-of-State Students	
1. Marine Science, BS	6. Audio Production, BS
2. Risk Management & Insurance, BS	7. Cardiovascular Technology, BS
3. Supply Chain Management, BS	8. Recording Industry, BS
4. Intelligence & Security Studies, BS	9. Southern Studies, BA
5. Aerospace, BS	10. Cancer Biology, BS

Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB State Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP), since 1993, has supported underrepresented students in earning their Ph.D.s and pursuing academic careers to diversify college faculties. Scholars receive financial aid and are invited to the Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, the nation's largest professional development conference for underrepresented doctoral scholars. The data below represents Ph.D. scholars who received funding from the state and/or individual institutions.

SREB DSP Outcomes 1993-Present	
Alabama Scholars	240
Graduates	163
Employed Graduates	143
Graduates Employed in Higher Education – 95%	
FY24-25 Participation	
Alabama Scholars Funded in 2023-24	17

Alabama Institutions with Current Scholars
Alabama State University
Auburn University
Tuskegee University
University of Alabama
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of South Alabama

ACHE
SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Pathways to Progress

PATHWAYS TO PROGRESS
Aligning Skills and Credentials for Community Growth

Pathways to Progress is an economic and workforce development initiative led by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) that strategically aligns educational attainment with workforce demands in designated economic regions. Using data tools like the Education Workforce Needs Index (EWNI) and the Economic Life Cycle Matrix, the initiative targets communities where increasing postsecondary credentials is expected to directly strengthen economic vitality.

The Pathways to Progress Initiative recognizes that strong regional economies will depend on an educated, skilled workforce. By addressing gaps in education, aligning training with local industry needs, and providing scholarships and strategic advising, the initiative aims to build resilient communities that can adapt and thrive, creating lasting economic prosperity across Alabama.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

In 2022, ACHE developed the FAFSA Completion Portal and implemented direct communications with high school seniors in Alabama to increase the state's FAFSA completion rate. As of mid-August 2025, Alabama ranked as 12th among the completion rates for the Class of 2025. ACHE also shares data with local educators to ensure students receive the necessary support to complete their applications promptly and successfully. Official data for each FAFSA award year is published in October. For further inquiry, go to https://fafsa.ache.edu/Data/Summary



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Email Outreach Campaign

Building on this effort, ACHE launched its first round of targeted emails containing additional support resources for students, including access to state-based aid and planning tools. Future messages will be tailored to student responses, allowing for a more personalized and impactful outreach approach. During this FAFSA completion cycle, a total of 37,639 emails were sent to all Alabama seniors within the SAI range. These messages were not limited to high school students listed in the FAFSA portal.

STUDENT FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education is committed to expanding access to postsecondary opportunities through targeted scholarship programs that support student success and strengthen the state's workforce.

ACHE administers several key scholarship and grant programs designed to assist students with financial need, encourage academic excellence, and promote enrollment in high-demand fields. These include:

- Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program (**ATLAP**) – This program assists licensed athletic trainers in **repaying their federal student loans** while serving in public K–12 schools and supports the state's efforts to recruit and retain these professionals, ensuring safer and healthier sports environments for Alabama's students.
- Alabama Student Assistance Program (**ASAP**) – A **need-based grant** providing critical support for students attending eligible public and private institutions.
- Alabama Student Grant Program (**ASGP**) – This program provides **non-need-based grant aid** for Alabama residents attending eligible private, nonprofit institutions in the state. Award amounts vary of **up to $3,000 per year**, depending on fund availability.
- Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (**ANGEAP**) – This program provides **tuition assistance** to active members of the Alabama National Guard who are enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution within the state. It recognizes the dedication of our service members and helps them pursue higher education while serving.
- Alabama Math And Science Teacher Education Program (**AMSTEP**) – This program provides **loan repayment incentives** to Alabama certified teachers of mathematics or science who agree to teach in public schools in the state. It helps address critical teacher shortages in these high-demand subject areas.
- Police Officer's And Firefighter's Survivor's Educational Assistance Program (**POFSEAP**) – This program offers **tuition, fees, and instructional costs** for the **dependents** and **eligible spouses** of Alabama law enforcement officers and firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty. It serves as a small measure of support and gratitude for families who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- (Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program – This initiative provides **scholarships** and **targeted support** to help adult learners return to college and complete their degrees. Many Alabamians have some college credit but no degree. (Re)Engage Alabama connects these students with resources, flexible pathways, and financial assistance to help them cross the finish line and enter the workforce better prepared.

For more information on these programs and how to apply, please visit Grants | Scholarships | Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

SUPPORT OF OTHER
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Alabama Soil and Water Conservation
State Appropriation - $3,023,376

Alabama Resource Conservation and Development Councils
State Appropriation - $8,962,744

Alabama Humanities Foundation
State Appropriation - $300,000

USS Alabama Battleship
State Appropriation - $1,550,000

National Computer Forensics Institute
State Appropriation - $650,000

Alabama HBCU CARES
State Appropriation -$650,000

Alabama Wing of Civil Air Patrol
State Appropriation - $155,000

Alabama Trails Commission
State Appropriation - $340,000

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center (BBTCAC)
State Appropriation - $350,000

Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers Pilot Program
State Appropriation - $700,000

Alabama Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative
State Appropriation - $532,000

Alabama International Education and Economic Partnership (ALIEEP)
State Appropriation - $400,000

SUPPORT OF OTHER
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Alabama Forestry Commission Education Program
State Appropriation - $200,000

International Motorsports Hall of Fame
State Appropriation - $200,000

Alabama Black Belt Adventures
State Appropriation - $475,000

Adaptive and Disability Sports Education
State Appropriation - $60,000



Statewide Programs in ACHE Budget

Alabama Agricultural Land-Grant Alliance
State Appropriation - $5,006,831

Alabama Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
State Appropriation - $1,260,184

Articulation & General Studies Committee/Alabama Transfers
State Appropriation - $799,589

Network of Alabama Academic Libraries
State Appropriation - $384,076

NAAL
CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

The Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) is a consortium of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and all 26 public and private four-year colleges and universities in Alabama. Established in 1984 to reduce disparities between institutions offering graduate education, NAAL celebrated an exceptional 40 years of dedication, growth, and success this year. NAAL's mission has broadened to coordinate library resource sharing and enhance the education and research missions of all Alabama higher education. NAAL's Executive Council was chaired this year by Angie Moore, Library Director at Faulkner University.

On October 3rd, 2024, NAAL proudly celebrated an exceptional 40 years of collaboration, innovation, and shared resources that have strengthened library services across the state. The event was hosted by the University of Montevallo, held in the Anna Irvin Dining Hall with more than 60 librarians, higher education administrators, and other special guests in attendance. Speakers included Dr. Jim Purcell, Executive Director of ACHE, Dr. John W. Stewart III, President of the University of Montevallo, and Dr. Jim Vickery, former President of the University of Montevallo. Jessie Lynn®, an award-winning country music singer, and Tré Daniel, a student piano major, provided entertainment, and a special video presentation on "40 years of NAAL" was screened. John-Bauer Graham, Dean of Library Services at Jacksonville State University, served as the emcee for the event. An '80s theme with a display of 1980s library technology lightened the atmosphere and paid tribute to NAAL's origins.



2025 SHEEO
Exceptional Leader Award



Dr. James E. Purcell, Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE), was honored with the 2025 Exceptional Leader Award during the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Annual Conference. The award, presented in July, recognizes a state higher education executive officer who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, a strong commitment to public service, and significant contributions to higher education at both the state and national levels.

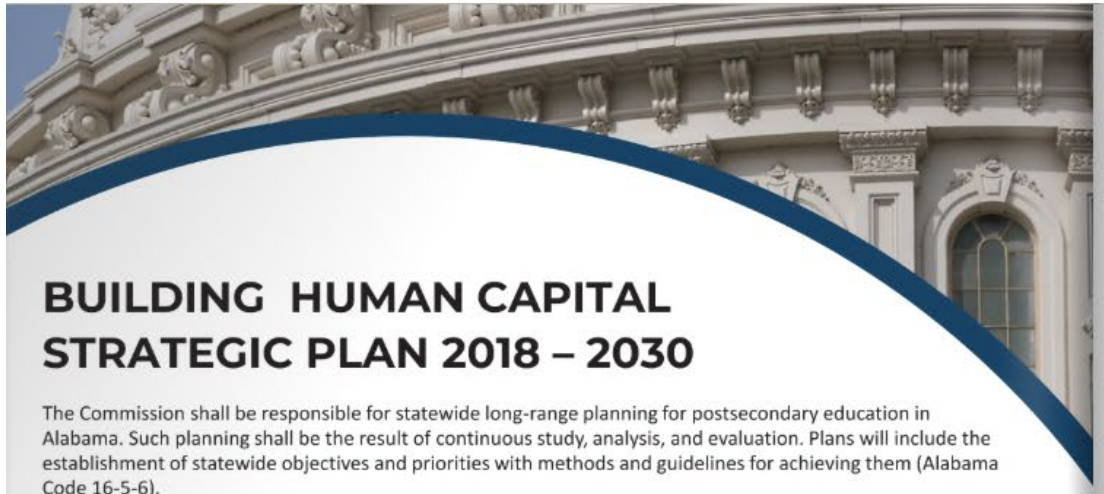
With more than 30 years of service in public higher education, Dr. Purcell is the only individual to have served as the state higher education executive in four states - Arkansas, Louisiana, and Rhode Island - and now ACHE in Alabama.

He is the longest-serving director in higher education history and currently holds the distinction of being the nation's longest-serving SHEEO.

Since joining ACHE in 2017, Dr. Purcell has led transformative efforts across Alabama's higher education system, including tripling the state's investment in need-based financial aid and significantly increasing FAFSA completion rates among high school seniors.

During the conference, SHEEO President Dr. Robert Anderson praised Dr. Purcell's leadership, describing him as an innovative, collaborative, and student-centered policymaker whose vision has advanced both state and national priorities. Under Dr. Purcell's leadership, Alabama has launched several initiatives that are helping more students enter and complete postsecondary programs - *All in Alabama*, *(Re)Engage Alabama*, *Retain Alabama*, and *Recall Alabama*—as well as the newly established *Pathway to Progress*, a 2025 workforce-aligned credentialing and training initiative designed to meet the demands of Alabama's evolving economy.

"Congratulations to Alabama's own, Jim Purcell, on being awarded the 2025 SHEEO Exceptional Leader," said **Alabama Governor Kay Ivey**. "I applaud him for the work he has done for our state and public higher education. Here in Alabama, we have a variety of exceptional public colleges and universities that I am proud to continually support." **Amy Price, ACHE Board Chair,** said, "Congratulations to Dr. Purcell on this outstanding honor! We could not be more proud of the work he has done on behalf of ACHE in Alabama. Dr. Purcell has built bridges with higher education leaders across our state and has been an advocate for student success at all levels. His work on FASFA completion rates, coupled with his work on expanding dual enrollment, has positively impacted the lives of many Alabamians."



BUILDING HUMAN CAPITAL STRATEGIC PLAN 2018 – 2030

The Commission shall be responsible for statewide long-range planning for postsecondary education in Alabama. Such planning shall be the result of continuous study, analysis, and evaluation. Plans will include the establishment of statewide objectives and priorities with methods and guidelines for achieving them (Alabama Code 16-5-6).

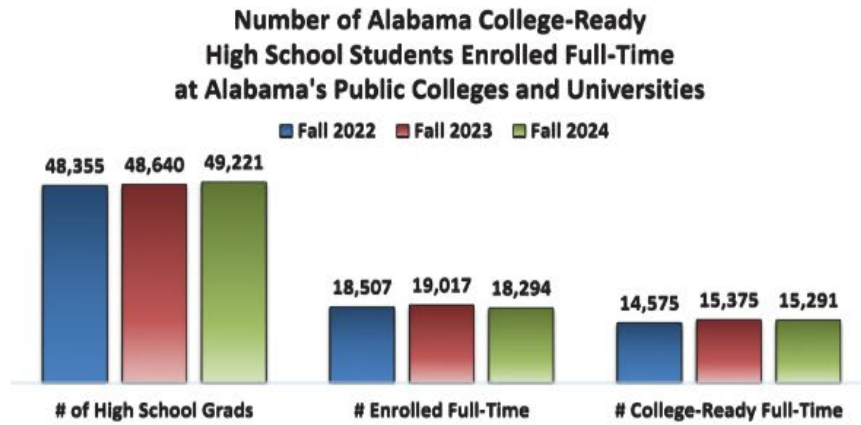
1. *Improving Access*
2. *Enhancing Student Success*
3. *Enhancing STEM Progress*
4. *Developing Alabama's Economy and Workforce*
5. *Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency*

Board Approved 12/8/2017

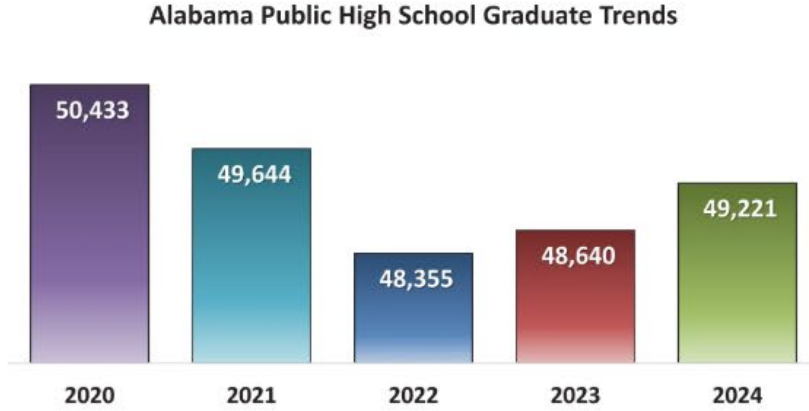
The Educational Path to Alabama's Economic Success

PRIORITY ONE: IMPROVING ACCESS

Strategy One: Increase the number of high school students prepared for college



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education
Note: College-Ready students are those not requiring developmental education courses while in college.

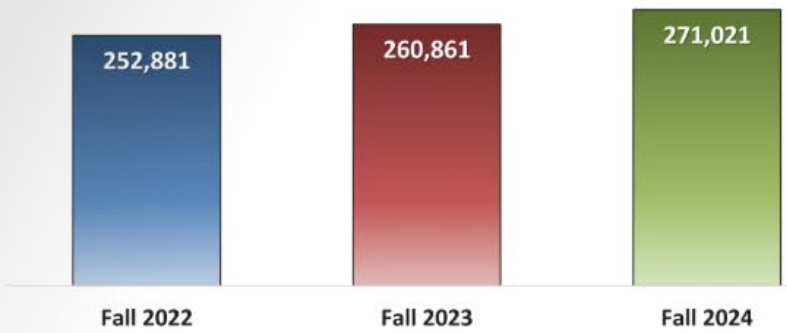


Source: Alabama State Department of Education

PRIORITY ONE: IMPROVING ACCESS

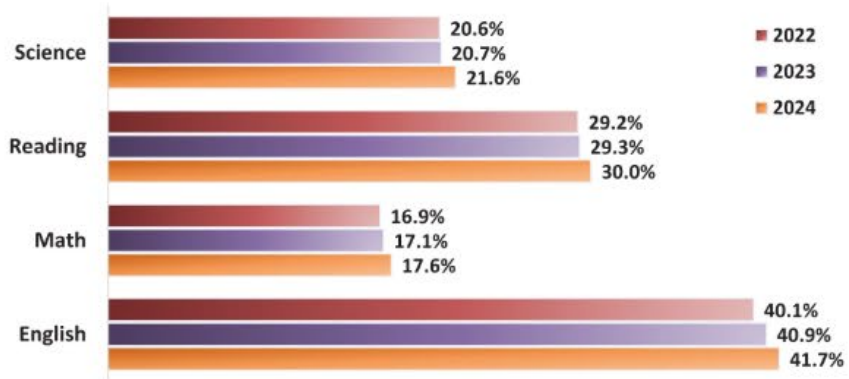
Strategy One: Increase the number of high school students prepared for college

Alabama Public Institutions Total Enrollment



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Percentage of Students Who Met ACT College Readiness Benchmarks



Source: Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA)

PRIORITY ONE: IMPROVING ACCESS

Strategy One: Increase the number of high school students prepared for college

Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP)	
Report Year	Funding Allocations
2025	$9,207,875
2024	**$8,728,582**
2023	$8,820,657
2022	**$7,049,369**
2021	$5,719,093

A need-based grant providing critical support for students attending eligible public and private institution.

Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP)	
Report Year	Funding Allocations
2025	$9,946,495
2024	**$8,346,325**
2023	$8,218,869
2022	**$7,695,285**
2021	$5,992,200

Provides non-need-based grant aid for Alabama residents attending eligible private, nonprofit institutions in the state.

Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program (ANGEAP)	
Report Year	Funding Allocations
2025	$6,628,804
2024	**$6,365,556**
2023	$5,979,575
2022	**$5,644,245**
2021	$5,082,090

Provides tuition assistance to active members of the Alabama National Guard who are enrolled in an accredited postsecondary institution within the state.

(Re)Engage Alabama Grant Program	
Report Year	Funding Allocations
2025	$158,375*
* Plus $125,000 earmarked toward completion	
2024	$100,750

Provides scholarships and targeted support to help adult learners return to college and complete their degrees; implemented January 2024.

Police Officer's & Firefighter's Survivors Educational Assistance Program (POFSEAP)	
Report Year	Funding Allocations
2025	$231,662
2024	**$243,317**
2023	$244,408
2022	**$256,063**
2021	$237,217

Offers tuition, fees, and instructional costs for the dependents and eligible spouses of Alabama law enforcement officers and firefighters who have been killed in the line of duty.

Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP)	
Report Year	Funding Allocations
2025	$234,819
2024	**$271,716**
2023	$239,047
2022	**$310,415**
2021	$201,766

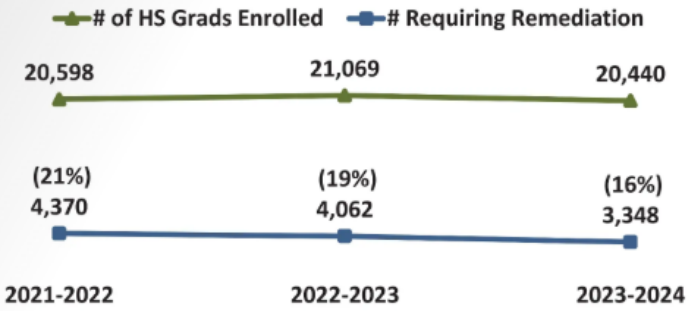
Provides loan repayment incentives to Alabama certified teachers of mathematics or science who agree to teach in public schools in the state.

Note: All data collected as of August 2025

PRIORITY TWO: ENHANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

Strategy One: Rethink developmental education

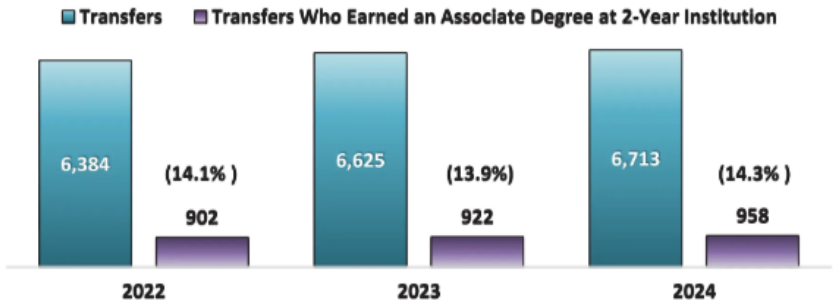
Number and Percentage of Alabama High School Graduates Enrolled Requiring Remediation



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database and Alabama State Department of Education

Strategy Four: Promote the seamless transfer of students

Number of New Students Transferring from Alabama Public Community Colleges to Alabama Public Universities Fall Term



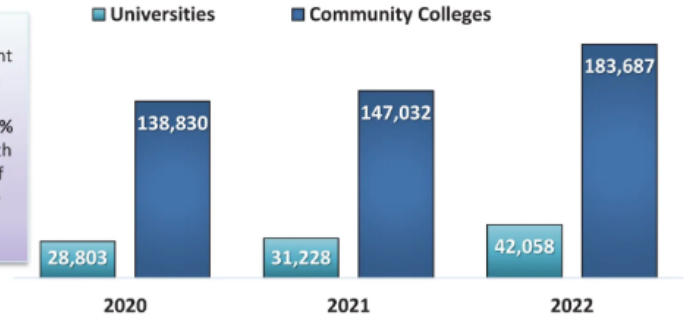
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database Transfer Migration Report

PRIORITY TWO: ENHANCING STUDENT SUCCESS

Strategy Four: Promote the seamless transfer of students

Number of Dual Enrollment Credit Hours at Alabama Public Colleges and Universities

In 2022, Dual Enrollment credits at the universities increased **46.0%** from 2020, with an increase of **32.3%** at the community colleges.

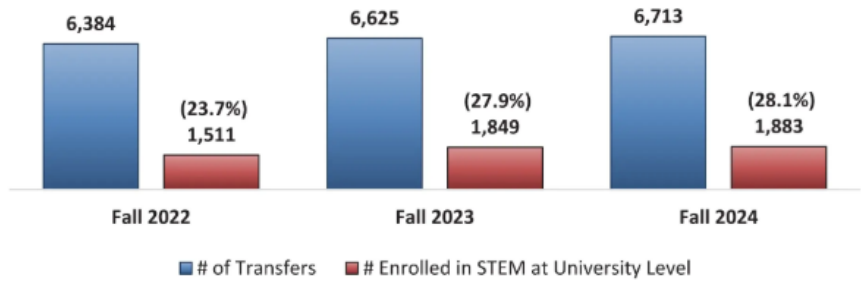


Source: Alabama Commission on Higher Education, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Data Exchange

PRIORITY THREE: ENHANCING STEM PROGRESS

Strategy Two: Increase in the number of community college transfer students who enroll in STEM programs.

Number and Percentage of Community College Transfer Students Who Enroll in STEM Programs

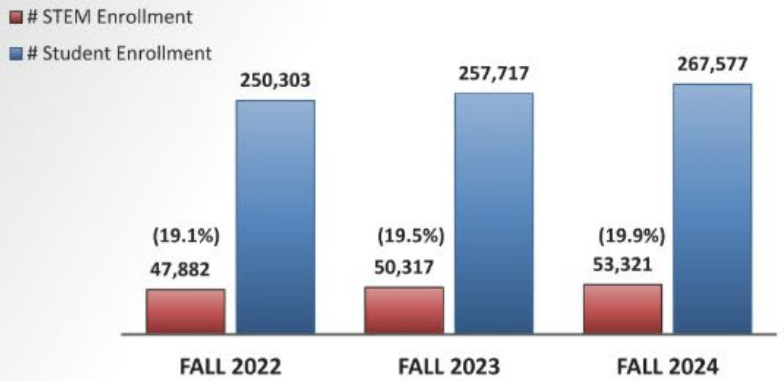


Note: The Department of Homeland Security STEM Degree Program list is used.
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

PRIORITY THREE: ENHANCING STEM PROGRESS

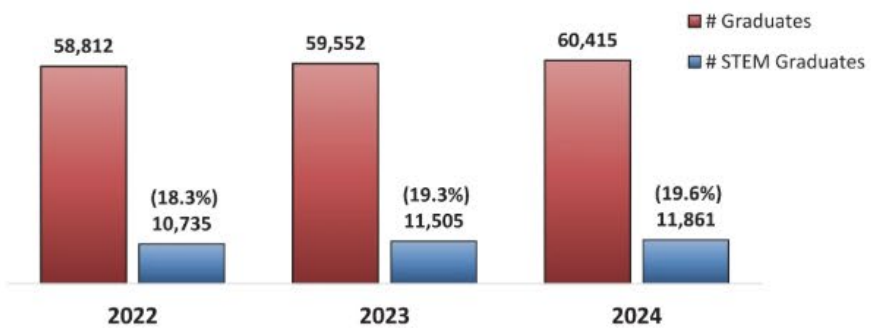
Strategy Three: Increase support of STEM students by increasing STEM enrollment

Number of STEM Enrollment in Alabama Public Institutions



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database.
Note: These numbers represent an unduplicated headcount.

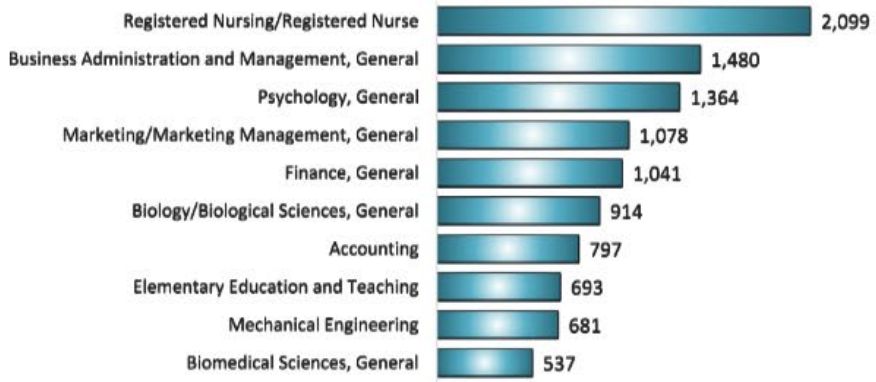
Number and Percentage of STEM Graduates at Alabama Public Institutions



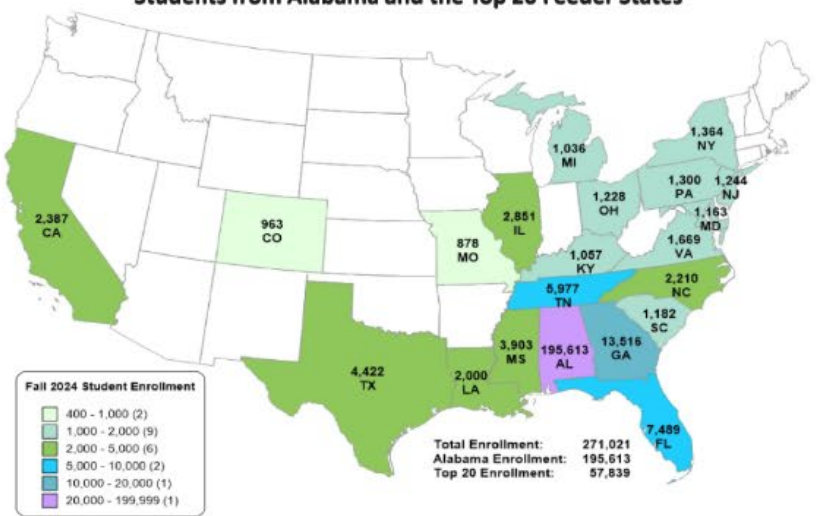
Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database.
Note: These numbers represent an unduplicated headcount.

PRIORITY FOUR: DEVELOPING ALABAMA'S ECONOMY AND WORKFORCE

2023-2024 Top 10 Completions by Major for Baccalaureate Degrees



Fall 2024 Enrollment in Alabama Public Colleges and Universities Including Students from Alabama and the Top 20 Feeder States



Source: Alabama Statewide Student Database

Note: Data does not include 7,058 students from other states and does not include 10,511 students from unknown states, territories, and foreign countries.

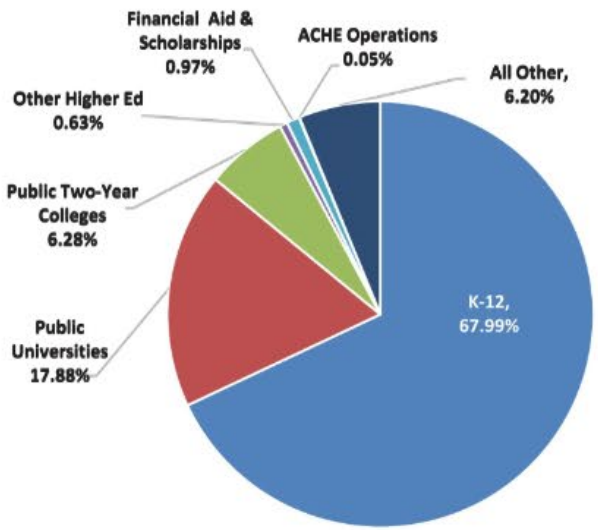
Percent of students enrolled from Alabama – 72%;
Percent of students enrolled from Georgia, the top feeder state – 5%

PRIORITY FIVE: ORGANIZATIONL EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Strategy One: Optimize institutional performance

Alabama Education Trust Fund (ETF) Appropriations				
	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of ETF Split	Split of ETF Appropriation	Percentage of ETF Split
Sectors	**FY24-25**	**FY24-25**	**FY25-26**	**FY25-26**
K-12	$6,363,394,077	68.07%	$6,737,754,832	67.99%
Public Universities	$1,665,479,743	17.82%	$1,771,923,830	17.88%
Public Two-Year Colleges	$586,946,967	6.28%	$622,223,785	6.28%
Other Higher Ed	$55,143,912	0.59%	$62,002,206	0.63%
Financial Aid & Scholarships	$84,551,121	0.90%	$96,451,091	0.97%
ACHE Operations	$4,446,209	0.05%	$4,470,148	0.05%
All Other	$588,544,140	6.30%	$614,590,647	6.20%
Total	**$9,348,506,169**	**100%**	**$9,909,416,539**	**100%**

Percentage of ETF Appropriation for Education FY 2025-26





ACHE IN ACTION


ACHE
IMPACT
September 2025 / Vol. 1/ Q1

A Message from Executive Director Dr. Jim Purcell

Welcome to the first issue of the ACHE Impact Newsletter! This publication marks an exciting step forward in our mission to keep stakeholders, partners, and the public informed about the vital work being done across Alabama's higher education landscape.

At the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, we are dedicated to fostering a collaborative and innovative environment where students can thrive, institutions can grow, and our state can prosper. ACHE Impact will serve as a platform to highlight initiatives, share success stories, and provide updates on policy and progress that impact the future of education and workforce development in Alabama.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to strengthen postsecondary education and build a brighter future for all Alabamians.

Campus Snapshots

Celebrating Accomplishments Across Alabama's

Each quarterly newsletter will spotlight 3 of our state's outstanding 4-year institutions and a exceptional 2-year institutions on a rotational schedule

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) is proud to launch the ***ACHE Impact Newsletter,*** a quarterly publication designed to inform, engage, and connect stakeholders across Alabama's higher education landscape. Each issue delivers timely updates on statewide initiatives, policy developments, research trends, and strategic goals that shape the future of higher education in Alabama.

Our goal is to highlight the work being done in collaboration with institutions, community partners, and state leaders to promote student success, economic growth, and workforce readiness. The newsletter also features data-driven insights, success stories from campuses, and opportunities to get involved with key projects and programs.

Whether you're a policymaker, educator, student, or community advocate, the *ACHE Impact Newsletter* is your go-to resource for staying informed and inspired by the progress happening across the state.

Stay connected. Stay informed. See the impact.



In **October 2024**, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, in collaboration with Auburn University, convened the ***Alabama Higher Education AI Exchange***. This two-day event brought together faculty, researchers, and leaders from across the state to explore AI's role in higher education through tracks on Research, Teaching & Learning, and Operations. Sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities focused on advancing AI literacy and collaboration across Alabama institutions.

In **April 25, 2025**, Dr. Jim Purcell, Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, delivered inspiring opening remarks during the presidential inauguration ceremony of Dr. Catherine Wehlburg at Athens State University. His address underscored the importance of transformative leadership in higher education and celebrated Dr. Wehlburg's commitment to academic excellence, student success, and institutional innovation.





On **May 9, 2025**, ACHE Research Fellows Dr. Jessie Lynn Nichols and Dr. Deana Goodwine earned their doctoral degrees from Auburn University. Dr. Nichols explored Career Pathways of Agriculture Students: An Introspective Look Through a 40-Year Lens, and Dr. Goodwine examined Factors Affecting Completion of Employer-Driven Competency-Based Education and Skills-Based Learning Programs.

On **June 13, 2025**, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education took its quarterly meeting on the road, convening at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. This off-site session provided an opportunity to engage directly with institutional leaders, highlight regional initiatives, and reaffirm ACHE's commitment to advancing education and opportunity across the state.





On **July 15, 2025**, Dr. Jim Purcell, Executive Director of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, was honored with the 2025 SHEEO Exceptional Leader Award. Presented at SHEEO's annual conference, the award recognizes visionary leadership and enduring impact in higher education policy and practice. Dr. Purcell shared remarks during the event, reflecting on this tremendous accomplishment and reaffirming Alabama's commitment to student success, equity, and innovation across the higher education landscape.

On **July 18, 2025,** representatives from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, including Commissioner Jody M. Singleton, joined Kingdom College leadership and community stakeholders to celebrate recent legislative support alongside state leaders. The gathering highlighted ongoing collaboration to strengthen access and opportunity through Alabama's growing independent college sector.





On **July 22, 2025**, representatives from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, including Commissioner Shane Spiller, joined Selma University leadership and community stakeholders to commemorate supplemental funding received this year from the Alabama Legislature. The event highlighted the importance of public investment in institutional revitalization and student success.

On **August 5, 2025**, ACHE staff visited The University of West Alabama for engaging discussions centered on data integrity, higher education policy, and collaborative strategies to strengthen student and institutional outcomes. The visit reflected UWA's ongoing commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and student success. ACHE extends its gratitude to UWA for their warm hospitality and continued partnership in advancing Alabama's higher education landscape.




ALABAMA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
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100 NORTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

Motion, Decision Item B:

That the Commission accept the ACHE 2025-2026 Annual Report.

C. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operation Plan

Staff Presenter: Mrs. Veronica Harris



Alabama Commission on Higher Education
FY 2025-26 Budgetary Facts

The purpose of the Operations Plan is to ensure that the objectives of the Legislature's FY 2025-26 appropriations are satisfied. Each agency is required to submit a plan for each budget unit showing expenditures for each quarter of the fiscal year. This plan was due to the Executive Budget Office (EBO) on July 31, 2025, and submitted; however, any changes can be made by a revision after October 1, 2025.

The Commission has 41 programs under 6 appropriation units.

- Four (4) new programs were added in the FY 2025-26 budget: Pathways to Progress, Best and Brightest STEM, ReEngage Alabama, and Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship.
- The FY 2025-26 budget represents a 20.87% percent increase over the previous fiscal year's budget.

Program Variants

The following programs received increases/decreases in the FY 2025-26 ETF budget:

ACHE Operations and Maintenance	$23,939
Scottsboro Boys Museum	**($200,000)**
Alabama Student Assistance Program	$500,000
Alabama Student Grant Program	$500,000
Alabama National Guard Program	$500,000
Math and Science (Earmarked)	$253,250
Pathways to Progress	$600,000
Best and Brightest STEM	$250,000
Resource Conservation & Development	$1,925,000
Soil and Water Conservation Committee	$100,000
Alabama Humanities Foundation	$100,000
AKEEP	$150,000
(Re)Engage Alabama	$1,935,000
Civil Air Patrol	$30,000
Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship	$8,000,000

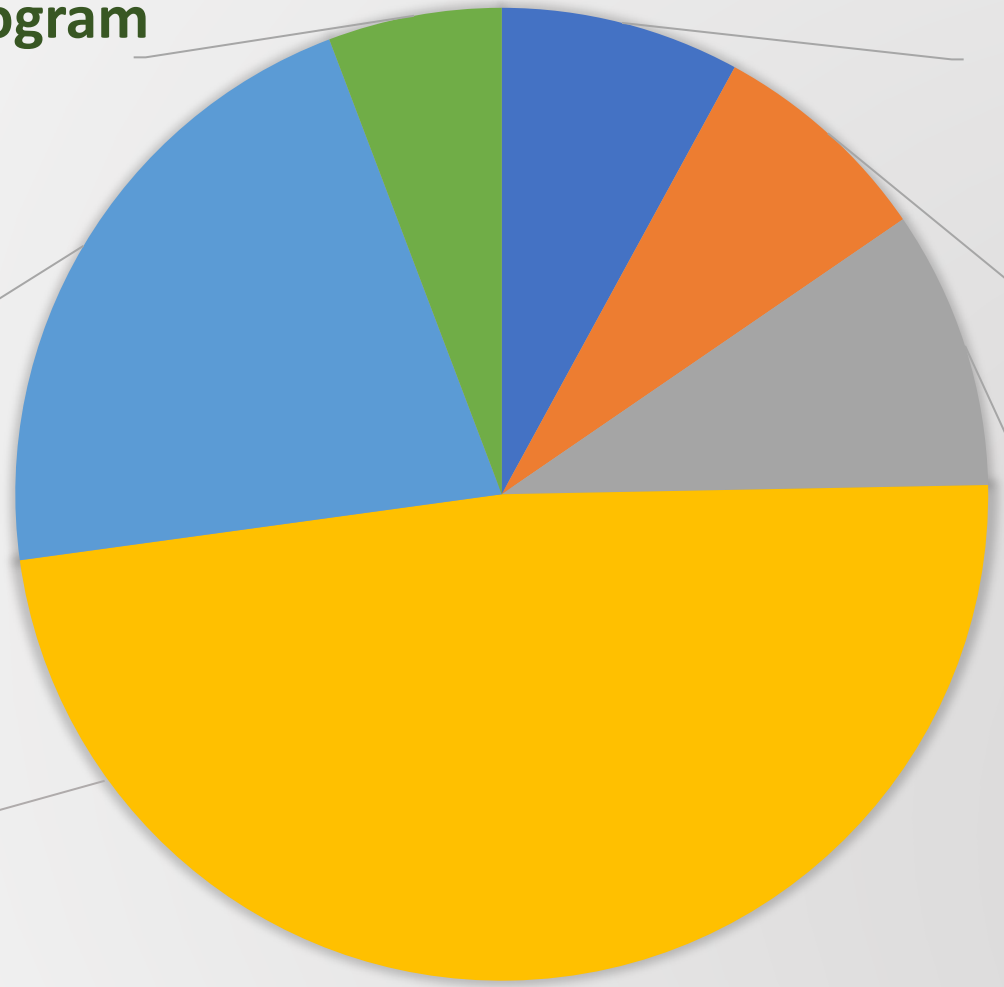
Alabama Commission on Higher Education
FY 2025-26 Budget - All Funds

Fund Code No.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	FY 2024-25 Appropriated	FY 2025-26 As Passed	Difference	
				Dollars	Percent
172	**Planning and Coordination Services**				
	Postsecondary Education (ACHE O&M)	$4,446,209	$4,470,148	$23,939	0.54%
	Industry Credential Directory	$100,000	$100,000	$ -	0.00%
	Retain Alabama ($400,000 to O&M and $250,000 to AHEP)	$650,000	$650,000	$ -	0.00%
	FAFSA Completion	$580,000	$580,000	$ -	0.00%
	Pathways to Progress	$ -	$600,000	$600,000	
	Study Alabama	$50,000	$50,000	$ -	0.00%
	Subtotal O&M	$5,826,209	$5,850,148	$23,939	0.41%
	Non-Resident Institutions Fees (Local Funds - Fees)	$236,239	$236,239	$ -	0.00%
	NC-SARA Fees (Local Funds - Fees)	$200,000	$200,000	$ -	0.00%
	Total for 172	$6,262,448	$6,286,387	$23,939	0.38%
153	**Student Assistance**				
	Alabama Student Assistance Program	$9,500,000	$10,000,000	$500,000	5.26%
	Alabama Educational Grants Program	$9,500,000	$10,000,000	$500,000	5.26%
	Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program	$8,831,114	$9,331,114	$500,000	5.66%
	Police and Firefighter's Survivors Tuition Program	$466,935	$466,935	$ -	0.00%
	(Re)Engage Alabama Program	$ -	$1,935,000	$1,935,000	
	Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship Program	$ -	$8,000,000	$8,000,000	
	Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program	$746,750	$1,000,000	$253,250	33.91%
	Indians Affairs Scholarship Program	$100,000	$100,000	$ -	0.00%
	Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program	$892,500	$892,500	$ -	0.00%
	Total for 153	$30,037,299	$41,725,549	$11,688,250	38.91%
152	**Support of Other Educational Activities**				
	Southern Regional Education Board	$831,214	$831,214	$ -	0.00%
	Network of Alabama Academic Libraries	$384,076	$384,076	$ -	0.00%
	AGSC/STARS	$799,589	$799,589	$ -	0.00%
	Best and Brightest STEM Pilot Program	$ -	$250,000	$250,000	
	STEM Major Teacher Recruitment	$4,500,000	$4,500,000	$ -	0.00%
	Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research	$1,260,184	$1,260,184	$ -	0.00%
	Total for 152	$7,775,063	$8,025,063	$250,000	3.22%

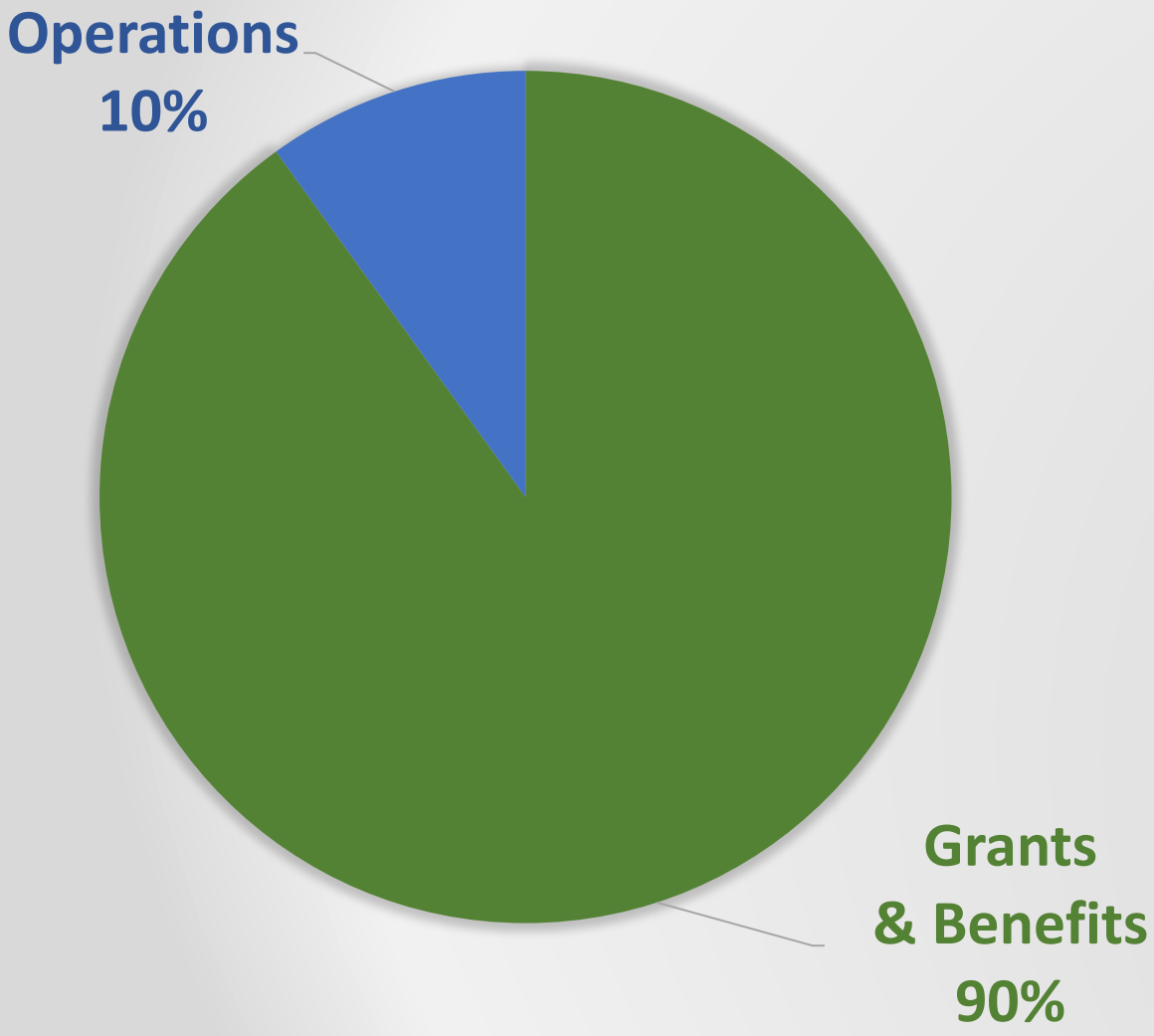
Alabama Commission on Higher Education
FY 2025-26 Budget - All Funds

Fund Code No.	PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	FY 2024-25 Appropriated	FY 2025-26 As Passed	Difference	
				Dollars	Percent
151	**Support of State Universities**				
	Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance	$6,491,283	$6,491,283	$ -	0.00%
189	**Support of State Programs**				
	Resource Conservation & Development Program (RC &D)	$7,037,744	$8,962,744	$1,950,000	27.35%
	Soil and Water Conservation Committee Program	$2,923,376	$3,023,376	$100,000	3.42%
	AL Forestry Foundation Black Belt Initiative	$532,000	$532,000	$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Black Belt Adventures	$475,000	$475,000	$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Black Belt Treasures	$350,000	$350,000	$ -	0.00%
	Humanities Foundation	$200,000	$300,000	$100,000	50.00%
	Alabama Civil Air Patrol	$125,000	$155,000	$30,000	24.00%
	National Computer Forensics Institute	$550,000	$650,000	$100,000	18.18%
	Adaptive Sports Scholarship	$60,000	$60,000	$ -	0.00%
	Motorsports Hall of Fame	$200,000	$200,000	$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Trails Foundation	$340,000	$340,000	$ -	0.00%
	Forestry Commission Education Program	$200,000	$200,000	$ -	0.00%
	Alabama Recruit and Retain Minority Teachers Pilot	$700,000	$700,000	$ -	0.00%
	AKEEP-Education & Teacher Recruitment Partnership (ALIEEP)	$250,000	$400,000	$150,000	60.00%
	USS Alabama	$1,350,000	$1,550,000	$200,000	14.81%
	Scottsboro Boys Museum	$200,000	$200,000	$ -	
	Alabama HBCU Cares	$650,000	$650,000	$ -	0.00%
	Total for 189	$16,143,120	$18,748,120	$2,605,000	16.14%
340	Deferred Maintenance	$5,000,000	$5,000,000	$ -	0.00%
	Grand Total (includes Local Funds)	**$71,709,213**	**$86,276,402**	**$14,567,189**	**20.31%**
Source of Funds					
200	**Education Trust Fund**	**$71,272,974**	**$85,840,163**	**$14,567,189**	**20.44%**
403	Federal Funds	$0	$0	$0	0.00%
403	Local Funds (Fees and Grants)	$436,239	$436,239	$ -	0.00%
	Grand Total	**$ 71,709,213**	**$ 86,276,402**	**$14,567,189**	**20.31%**

FY 2025-26 Budgeted Expenditures by Appropriation Unit



FY 2025-26 Budgeted Expenditures by Category



Planning and Coordinating Services

Operations & Maintenance
Industry Credential Directory
Retain Alabama
FAFSA Completion Assistance
Study Alabama
Pathways to Progress

Student Assistance

Alabama Student Assistance Program
Alabama Educational Grants Program
Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance Program
Police and Firefighters' Survivors Tuition Program
Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program
Birmingham Promise Scholarship Program
Indians Affairs Scholarship Program
ReEngage Alabama Scholarship Program
Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship Program

Support of Other Educational Activities

AGSC/STARS
Southern Regional Education Board
STEM Major Teacher Recruitment
Best and Brightest STEM

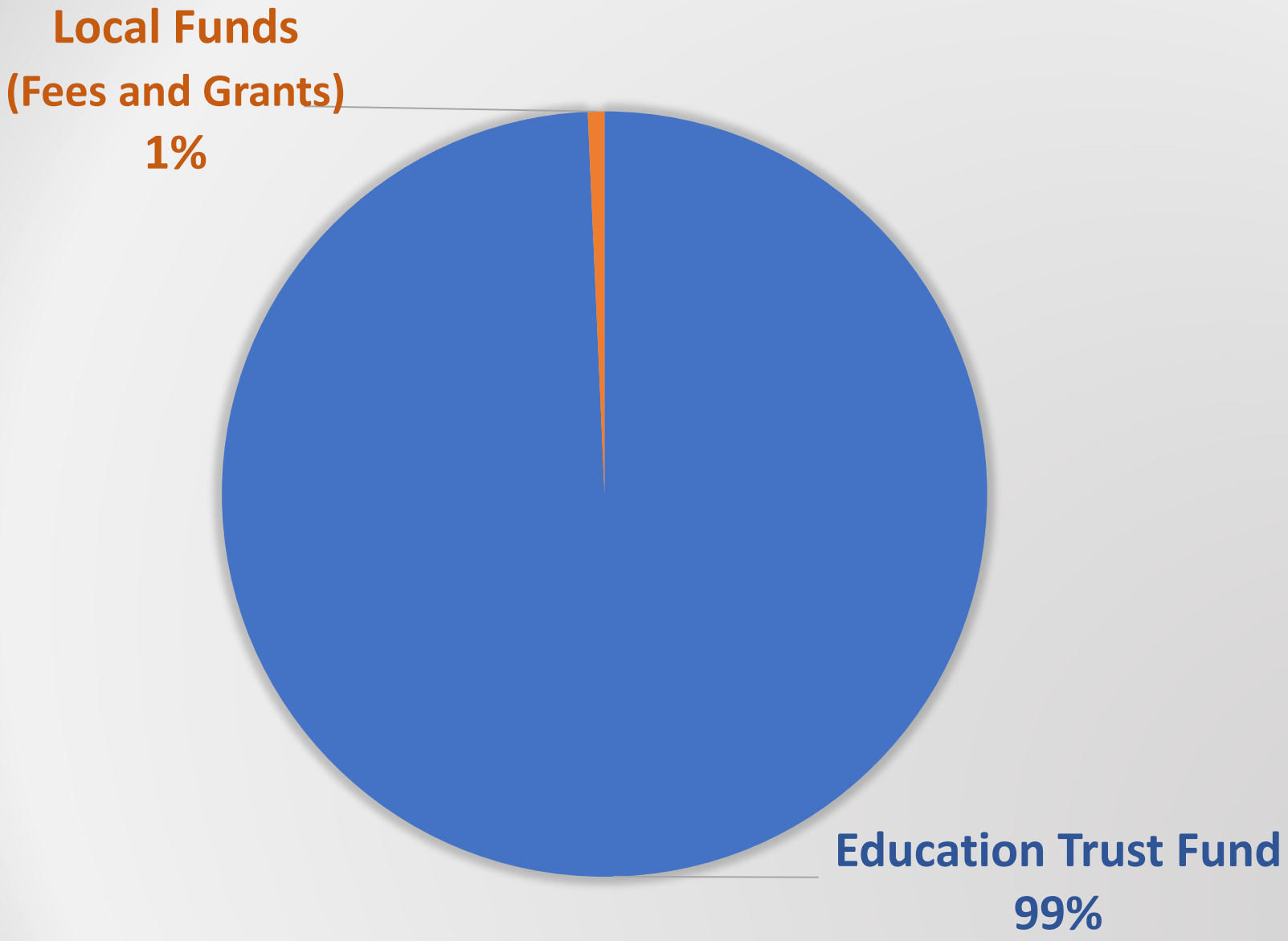
Support of State Universities

Alabama Agricultural Land Grant Alliance

Deferred Maintenance

State Programs (19 Programs)

ACHE's Sources of Revenue



Motion, Decision Item C:

That the Commission approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operations Plan.

D. Public Drawing to Determine Order of Payment of ASGP Funds for 2025-2026

Staff Presenter: Mrs. Takena Jones

Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP) provides grants for eligible in-state students attending one of the following private institutions:

- Amridge University
- Faulkner University
- Huntingdon College
- Miles College
- Oakwood University
- Samford University
- South University–Montgomery
- Spring Hill College
- Stillman College
- U.S. Sports University
- University of Mobile

Because all funds cannot be disbursed immediately, a drawing is needed to determine disbursement order.

MILES COLLEGE
EST. 1898

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

South UNIVERSITY℠
ESTABLISHED 1899

STILLMAN
PREPARING YOU FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

Faulkner University
A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

1830 SPRING HILL COLLEGE

HUNTINGDON COLLEGE
faith, wisdom, service

AMRIDGE UNIVERSITY

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

USSJ United States Sports University

UNIVERSITY *of* MOBILE

Motion, Decision Item D:

That the Commission approve the Public Drawing to Determine the Order of Payment of Alabama Student Grant Program (ASGP) Funds for the 2025-2026 Academic Year.

E. Final Approval of Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter §300-4-15: Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship

Staff Presenter: Mrs. Takena Jones



Final Approval of Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter 300-4-15: Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship

Purpose:

To provide scholarship for tuition and required educational expenses for eligible dependents of qualifying Alabama law enforcement officers attending in-state accredited postsecondary institutions.

Award Amounts:

- Full-Time: **$3,000** maximum per term at a **university**
  $1,500 maximum at a **community college**
- Part-Time: Prorated

Final Approval of Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter 300-4-15: Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship

Eligible Recipients:

- Natural or adopted children 27 years of age or younger
- Spouses (current or surviving) of qualifying officers
- Child/Spouse must be Alabama residents for at least the past 2 years
- Not eligible for other police survivors' educational assistance
- Must complete FAFSA

Requirements for Continued Eligibility:

- Maintain full-time Alabama residency
- Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards
- Complete degree within 66 months

Final Approval of Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter 300-4-15: Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship

Qualifying Law Enforcement Officers:

- Certified by the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission
- Employed full-time for at least 7 years at one agency *or* at least 12 continuous years across multiple agencies in the state of Alabama
- Must not have been terminated for disciplinary reasons

Eligible Institutions:

Accredited public or private vocational schools, technical schools, community/junior colleges, colleges, or universities in Alabama

Approved Programs:

For-credit or non-credit workforce training, certificates, associate's or bachelor's degrees

Approval Process for the Administrative Procedures of the Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship

- Preliminary approval of the proposed Administrative Procedures was granted by the Commission on Friday, June 13, 2025. The proposed changes were filed with the Legislative Services Agency on June 18, 2025, and published in the ***Alabama Administrative Monthly*** on June 30, 2025. Interested parties had until August 15, 2025, to comment. **No comments were received**.
- Should the Commission grant final approval to these proposed administrative procedures, the certified Administrative Procedures will be filed with the **Alabama Procedures Office** and become effective 45 days after the certification notice is published.



Motion, Decision Item E:

Staff recommends the Commission to grant Final Approval of the proposed Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter §300-4-15: Alabama Law Enforcement Officers' Family Scholarship.

F. Final Approval of Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter §300-4-14: Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program

Staff Presenter: Ms. Artcola Pettway



Final Approval of Proposed Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter 300-4-14: Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program

- During the 2025 Alabama Legislative Session, lawmakers passed **Act 2025-337** authorizing ACHE to establish the **Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program**.
- Eligible athletic trainers can receive federal student loan assistance up to **$7,500** per year worked or **$3,750** per semester worked for a **maximum of four consecutive years**.
- Implementation begins **Fall 2025 semester** and forward.





Final Approval of Proposed Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter 300-4-14: Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program

Purpose:

- To encourage recruitment and retention of licensed athletic trainers at qualifying public K-12 schools or school systems in the State of Alabama;
- To provide federal student loans assistance to eligible athletic trainers through the Alabama Math and Science Teacher Education Program (AMSTEP);
- To establish eligibility requirements and procedures for participants; and
- To develop an accountability and evaluation plan.

ALABAMA BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

ALATA
ALABAMA ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

Approval Process for the Administrative Procedures of the New Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program

- Preliminary approval of the proposed Administrative Procedures was granted by the Commission on Friday, June 13, 2025. The proposed changes were filed with the Legislative Services Agency on June 18, 2025, and published in the ***Alabama Administrative Monthly*** on June 30, 2025. Interested parties had until August 15, 2025, to comment. **No comments were received**.
- Should the Commission grant final approval to these proposed administrative procedures, the certified Administrative Procedures will be filed with the **Alabama Procedures Office** and become effective 45 days after the certification notice is published.



Motion, Decision Item F:

Staff recommends the Commission to grant Final Approval of the proposed Administrative Procedures for the New Chapter §300-4-14: Alabama Athletic Trainer Loan Assistance Program.

G. Academic Programs

Staff Presenters: Dr. Robin McGill and Ms. Kristan White



Alabama Public Four-Year Institutions

























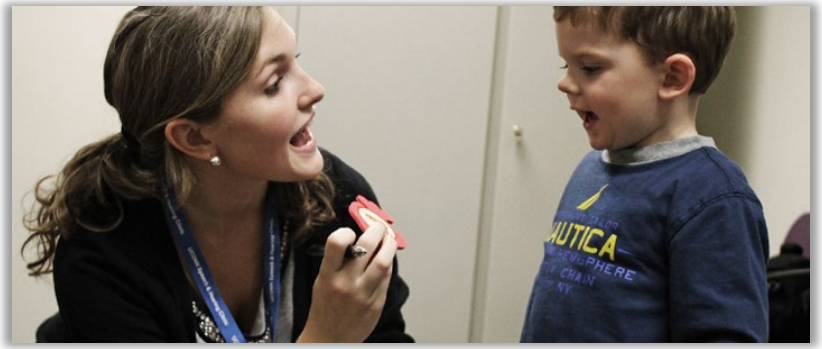




Auburn University

G-1. Doctor of Philosophy in Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences (CIP 51.0204)

- The program will prepare graduates for academic careers as faculty researchers and clinicians, addressing the current shortage of PhD-level faculty qualified to train aspiring Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists. This occupation is included on the 2024-25 Alabama Demand Occupations list.
- The program will build on existing curriculum, faculty, and resources within the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, which already supports the AuD in Audiology and the MS in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. To meet projected needs, AU will reallocate up to $334,000 annually in institutional funds to hire additional faculty.



Motion, Decision Item G-1:

That the Commission approve Auburn University's proposal to offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences.

Jacksonville State University

G-2. Master of Science in Forensic Investigation (CIP 43.0402)

- The proposed MS will build on JSU's existing programs in Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation, requiring limited new resources to deliver.
- Unlike traditional forensic science programs in the SREB region, it will focus specifically on forensic investigation.
- The program proposal includes eleven letters of support from multiple external entities, including local and regional law enforcement agencies, attesting to the program's need and offering collaboration in its delivery.



Motion, Decision Item G-2:

That the Commission approve Jacksonville State University's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Forensic Investigation.

Troy University

G-3. Doctor of Chiropractic in Chiropractic (CIP 51.0101)

- The proposed program will be the only Doctor of Chiropractic program in Alabama and has the potential to support economic development interests in the Wiregrass region, as attested by letters of support from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce and Houston County Commission.

- The proposed program will require substantial start-up investment to support new faculty hires, along with equipment and facilities upgrades at the Dothan Campus. To help offset some costs, the Alabama Legislature appropriated $475,000 in one-time supplemental funding for FY2025 for the program's health training equipment.



Motion, Decision Item G-3:

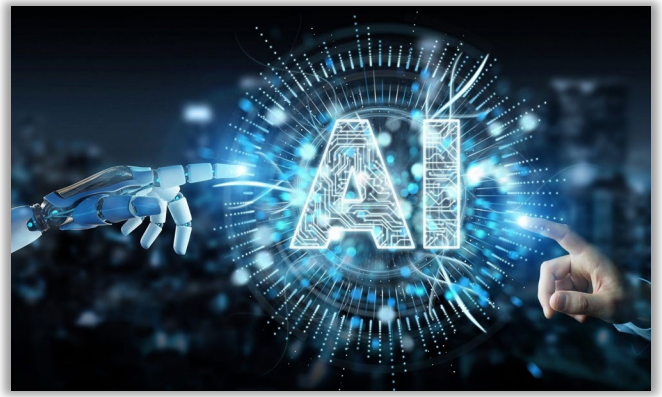
That the Commission approve Troy University's proposal to offer a Doctor of Chiropractic in Chiropractic.

The University of Alabama

G-4a. Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)

- The proposed MS in Artificial Intelligence will enhance the research capacity of the Alabama Center for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (ALA-AI), provide an additional feeder into the existing Computer Science PhD program, and contribute to the state's economic and workforce development efforts, as attested by industry letters of support.

- This program will build on UA's existing faculty expertise in computer science and artificial intelligence, requiring only modest additional funds for new faculty.



Motion, Decision Item G-4a:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence.

The University of Alabama

G-4b. Master of Science in Translational Science and Medicine (CIP 51.1402)

- The proposed MS will build on existing coursework developed for the Advanced Drug Discovery concentration within the PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies (CIP 30.0000) and will prepare graduates for employment as Medical Scientists (listed as a Regional In-Demand Occupation) within the biomedical or pharmaceutical industries or for doctoral study in medicine or biomedical sciences.

- The proposal includes three letters of support from industry leaders attesting to the need for graduates in Translational Science: Merck, Spyre Therapeutics, and Astraea Therapeutics, LLC.



Motion, Decision Item G-4b:

That the Commission approve The University of Alabama's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Translational Science and Medicine.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

G-5a. Master of Science in Higher Education Intercollegiate Athletics Administration (CIP 13.0499)

- The proposed MS is designed to meet the industry need for professionals focused specifically on athletic administration at the college and/or university level. No comparable programs are currently offered in Alabama, though similar offerings in Oklahoma and South Carolina have proven successful.

- The program will build upon existing faculty and resources in the School of Education and Human Sciences and will not require new resources to implement until Year 4 (AY 2028-29) once the program has established a record of new enrollments.



Motion, Decision Item G-5a:

That the Commission approve the University of Alabama at Birmingham's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Higher Education Intercollegiate Athletics Administration.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

G-5b. Master of Science in Applied Nutrition (CIP 19.0501)

- The program will prepare graduates for careers as community dieticians and nutritionists.
- The proposed program will provide an opportunity for those who lack the undergraduate prerequisites for Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) programs but still wish to promote nutrition for wellness, health, and disease prevention.
- The proposal includes four letters of support attesting to the need for the program: Pack Health, Element Health, UAB University Recreation, and UAB Medicine's Cardio-Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services.



Motion, Decision Item G-5b:

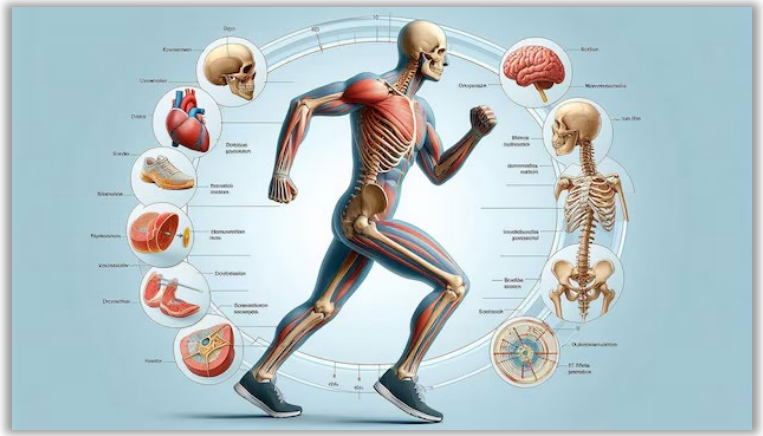
That the Commission approve the University of Alabama at Birmingham's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Applied Nutrition.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

G-5c. Master of Science in Exercise Physiology (CIP 26.0908)

- The proposed MS in Exercise Physiology will elevate an existing concentration within the MS in Kinesiology into a standalone degree program, requiring minimal new resources to implement.

- The new program is better situated for specialized accreditation requirements through CAAHEP and for STEM designation through the US Department of Homeland Security, which will broaden the enrollment pipeline.



Motion, Decision Item G-5c:

That the Commission approve the University of Alabama at Birmingham's proposal to offer a Master of Science in Exercise Physiology.

University of Alabama at Birmingham

G-5d. Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science (CIP 51.1005)

- Graduates of the BS in Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program will be prepared for employment as Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians, which are included on the 2024-25 Alabama Demand Occupations List.

- The roles and responsibilities of the MLS have evolved over the years with the adoption of more testing procedures and practices in healthcare. This program will help address a specific and crucial healthcare need, not only in Birmingham and Alabama, but nationwide.





Motion, Decision Item G-5d:

That the Commission approve the University of Alabama at Birmingham's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science.

University of Alabama in Huntsville

G-6a. Bachelor of Science in Cyber Operations Technology (CIP 11.1003)

- The proposed BS has been developed in partnership with ACCS. The first two years of courses will be taken at Alabama Community Colleges, with the last two years to be taken at UAH.

- The program proposal includes seven letters of support from multiple local and regional external entities, including: Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association, Calhoun Community College, Cintel, Leidos, Mission Multiplier, OASYS, and TactWare.



Motion, Decision Item G-6a:

That the Commission approve the University of Alabama in Huntsville's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Cyber Operations Technology.

University of Alabama in Huntsville

G-6b. Bachelor of Science in Game Design (CIP 50.0411)

- This program will build on UAH's existing Game Design Minor and BFA in Art (CIP 50.0701) with Concentration in Digital Animation, requiring minimal resources to implement.

- The proposed program has the potential to support Huntsville's growing needs for Serious Games professionals across Alabama's industries, where interactive tools are increasingly used for workforce development, operational training, and complex system simulations.



Motion, Decision Item G-6b:

That the Commission approve the University of Alabama in Huntsville's proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Game Design.

Alabama Community College System

Bishop State Community College

G-7. Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Manufacturing Technology (CIP 15.0801)

- The proposed AAS in Aviation Manufacturing Technology is designed to prepare graduates for employment in positions included on the 2024-2025 Alabama Demand Occupations List, including Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers, and Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians.

- Region 7, which includes Mobile, is within the world's third-largest aviation corridor and is home to major employers such as Airbus, Collins Aerospace, and VT Mobile Aerospace Engineering. Several industry partners provided letters of support affirming that the program will help meet the workforce demands of Mobile's aviation sector.



Motion, Decision Item G-7:

That the Commission approve Bishop State Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Manufacturing Technology.

Calhoun Community College

G-8. Associate of Applied Science in Theatre Design and Technology (CIP 50.0502)

- The AAS in Theatre Design and Technology will provide graduates with a baccalaureate pathway into Athens State University's BFA in Theatre (CIP 50.0501) with a concentration in Production Design.
- The program will be delivered at the Alabama Center for the Arts in Decatur, a state-of-the-art facility that offers approximately 45,000 square feet of performing arts space, in partnership with Athens State University.





Motion, Decision Item G-8:

That the Commission approve Calhoun Community College's proposal to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Theatre Design and Technology.

Reid State Technical College

G-9a. Instructional Role Change and Name Change

- At its meeting in March 2025, the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Board of Trustees approved a revised mission for Reid State Technical College that includes academic programs designed for transfer to a university.
- In June 2025, Reid State Technical College was awarded full institutional accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- At its meeting in July 2025, the ACCS Board of Trustees accepted Reid State's statement of intent to change its instructional role from a technical college to a community college, and the Board endorsed a name change for the institution to Reid State Community College, consistent with its instructional role.

Motion, Decision Item G-9a:

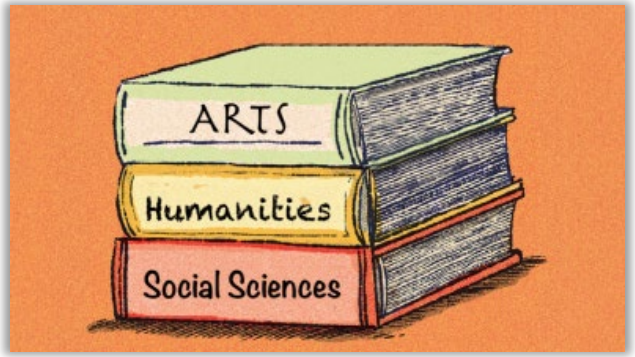
- That the Commission approve Reid State Technical College's instructional role change and name change.

Reid State Technical College

G-9b. Associate of Arts in Academic Transfer (CIP 24.0101)

- Expanding Reid State's degree offerings to include academic transfer pathways will broaden access for current students to associate degrees in preparation for bachelor programs, enable dual enrollment students to earn transfer credits, and strengthen the college's ability to meet the needs of its education and business partners.
- The proposed AA in Academic Transfer will provide flexible educational pathways in the liberal arts and humanities that will expand Reid's enrollment pipeline and enable it to pursue partnerships with high schools in its service area.





Motion, Decision Item G-9b:

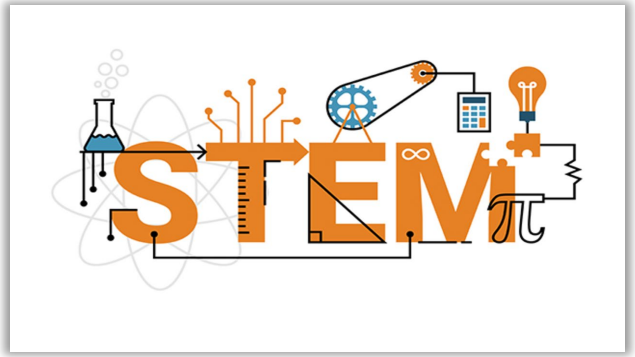
That the Commission approve Reid State Technical College's proposal to offer an Associate of Arts in Academic Transfer.

Reid State Technical College

G-9c. Associate of Science in Academic Transfer (CIP 24.0101)

- Expanding Reid State's degree offerings to include academic transfer pathways will broaden access for current students to associate degrees in preparation for bachelor programs, enable dual enrollment students to earn transfer credits, and strengthen the college's ability to meet the needs of its education and business partners.
- The proposed AS in Academic Transfer will provide valuable educational pathways in science and mathematics, that prepares students for transfer to bachelor's degree programs and career opportunities in high-demand STEM fields.





Motion, Decision Item G-9c:

That the Commission approve Reid State Technical College's proposal to offer an Associate of Science in Academic Transfer.

H. Information Items



1. Distribution of 2025-2026 Alabama Student Assistance Program (ASAP) Funds
2. Implementation of For-Credit Non-Degree Certificate Programs
3. Changes to the Academic Program Inventory
4. Curricular Modifications for Existing Degree Programs
5. Updates to Academic Units

H. Information Items



6. Implementation of Distance Education Programs
7. New Exempt Off-Campus Sites:
    a. Calhoun Community College, STEAM Imagination Center
    b. Jacksonville State University, Etowah High School
    c. Jacksonville State University, Handley High School
    d. Jacksonville State University, Ranburne High School

Motion, Decision Item H:

That the Commission accept the Information Items as presented.

X. Adjournment

