

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**September 22, 2021
Board Conversation
H202/203 – Student Center**

A virtual option to participate was provided due to the COVID-19 public health emergency

Attending In-Person:

Trustees Tom Lynch, Chair; Carolyn Kimberlin, Vice Chair; Gary Fearnow; Theodore Luck; and Dr. John Molesworth. Trustees Ellis Barber and Dr. April Miller were unable to attend. Also in attendance: Interim President Dr. Thomas Powell, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board; Jerry Boyd, Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Nora Clark, Vice President (VP) for Learning Support; Lewis Godwin, Chief of Operations; Dr. Tony Hawkins, Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Continuing Education, and Workforce Development; Dr. Cathy Jones, VP for Finance and Human Resources; Deborah Powell, Executive Director for the Office of Institutional Advancement and the FCC Foundation; Caroline Cole, Communications Director to the President; Larry Johnston, Director of Athletics; Dr. Candice Baldwin, Associate Vice President (AVP) for Student Success; Dr. Amy Coldren, Director of Veteran and Military Services; Tricia Morris, Veteran and Military Services Specialist/School Certifying Official; students veterans Andrew Casperson, Alan Istas, and Neffertiti Meredith; military student Juan Irias-Sanchez, active duty Army; Edmund O’Meally, PK Law, College legal counsel; and Kari Melvin, Recording Secretary.

Participating Virtually:

Joseph McCormick, Chief Information Officer.

Board Chair Lynch opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Interim President Powell introduced Dr. Amy Coldren, Director of Veteran and Military Services.

Dr. Coldren thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk about her department and to highlight its students. She provided an overview of the Veteran and Military Services Center. The Center was created in 2012 and has evolved over time. It provides a place for veteran and active-duty military students to connect with one another and is staffed by work-study students. This semester, the Center is serving approximately 100 veterans and 18 active-duty members, including those in the Reserves and National Guard. The Center is also serving about 40 family members, including dependent children and spouses of veterans.

There are numerous benefits and sources of funding available to military-connected students. The Center helps students navigate all of these benefits and serves as a one-stop shop.

The Center also provides academic advising. It is important to have an understanding of how these benefits work and to help students build their schedule to maximize their benefits. The Center is connected to veteran services in the community and refers students to these resources. A few years ago, a chapter of the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society was created. A variety of programs have been conducted over the years, including a SALUTE induction ceremony and a graduation luncheon for veterans. The Center also maintains a memorandum of understanding with the Martinsburg Vet Center. Historically, a counselor would come to our campus to provide mental health services for combat veterans.

The Center has several back-office responsibilities as well, the main one being certification for all students who use the Veterans Affairs (VA) benefit each semester and compliance with VA rules and regulations. There were several changes this year and Center staff have been attending trainings to learn how to navigate these changes. The Center also maintains compliance with the memorandum of understanding with the Department of Defense, which allows active-duty students to use tuition assistance to attend FCC.

Veteran and military students Andrew Casperson, Alan Istas, Neffertiti Meredith, and Juan Irias-Sanchez each gave a brief summary of their military service and their experiences at FCC. Trustees engaged in conversation, praising the students, Dr. Coldren, Ms. Morris, and the services we provide to our students who are veterans or active military. When asked her immediate needs, Dr. Coldren respectfully requested that they return to full funding to allow hiring an additional counselor to assist this population of students. The Trustees thanked all participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

**Dr. Thomas Powell
Secretary/Treasurer**

**Prepared by Kari Melvin
Office of the President
Frederick Community College**