

MINUTES of the Board Workshop
of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of VICTORIA COLLEGE
January 26, 2026

V. Bland Proctor, <i>Chair</i>	Luis A. Guerra, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	John Zacek, <i>Secretary</i>	Dr. Daniel Cano	Catherine McHaney	Dr. Estella De Los Santos	Ron Walker
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Also in attendance: VC Staff: Dr. Jennifer Kent, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Keith Blundell, Cindy Buchholz, Terri Kurtz, Amy Mundy and Darin Kazmir.

The Victoria College Board of Trustees met for a board workshop on Monday, January 26, 2026 at 3:30 PM in Corporate Training Room 101 in the Academic Building of Victoria College located at 2200 E. Red River, Victoria, TX. Mr. Bland Proctor, Chair, presided over the meeting.

A. Call to Order:

1. Quorum Call:

Mr. Bland Proctor called the workshop to order at 3:34 p.m. and announced that a quorum of board members was present.

2. Certification of the Posting of the Notice of the Agenda

Dr. Jennifer Kent certified that the agenda had been properly posted per Texas statute also in accordance with the provisions of Sections 551.125 and 551.127 of the Texas Government Code.

B. Citizen Communication:

1. At this time, the public is invited to address the Board of Trustees.

No members of the public spoke to the Board.

C. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. DISCUSS Options for Educational Delivery Outside of the Taxing District

Dr. Jennifer Kent started the meeting sharing how proud she and administration are of the hard work that is being done in Gonzales. This is a very difficult conversation to have but it needs to be had. She shared some highlights in the workshop packet that the board was presented.

The overview is a plan to modify service delivery in Gonzales that enhances the student experience, addresses the changing needs of students and industry, and better aligns college expenses with revenue. Highlights include: changes in credit enrollment, changes in CE enrollment, comparison of revenue and expenses over the past 10 years, analysis of 225-26 budget, VCF Gonzales and Lavaca Funding report and a press release to be distributed the week of January 26.

Cindy Buchholz went over some of the enrollment data with the board. The overview clearly shows a considerable decline over the years. They have tried WebEx classes to see if that would draw more students in, that did not work. What research has discovered is that jobs in the Gonzales are not requiring a degree. The population is also slowly decreasing. It seems that the middle-class population is leaving. There is a high percentage of high school dropouts. We do feel that our Adult Ed and ESL programs need to remain in Gonzales. Mr. John Zacek also shared that the Lockhart/Luling area seems to be expanding, more subdivisions are being built. Some of the population may be moving that way, closer to Austin.

Dr. Kent shared that we have done surveys in the area, we have met with the mayor, with other Gonzales leaders. Cindy Buchholz shared that it has been concluded that we can combine our Gonzales Nursing program with our Hallettsville program. Amy Mundy shared that the Foundation can help with student travel expenses for those in need. There was more discussion had, questions and answers, other possible solutions. In the end, it was agreed that the press release below would go out later this week.

NEWS RELEASE DRAFT v2 – 1/23/26

Victoria College announces plan to evolve Gonzales Center to enhance student experience, workforce training

Victoria College (VC) announced a plan to evolve its presence in Gonzales with a revised model that prioritizes students and high-demand career training for the local workforce.

The transition follows months of strategic dialogue with local leaders and stakeholders to address changing community needs and a shifting economic landscape.

“Our commitment to the Gonzales community is as strong today as it was when we opened the Gonzales Center in 2007,” said VC President Dr. Jennifer Kent. “We are pivoting our model to remove barriers for Gonzales-area students and prioritize high-demand workforce training.”

VC will continue to offer workforce training in Gonzales—including truck driving; welding; heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration; electrical; plumbing; nurse aide; medical assisting; and pharmacy technician—with the flexibility to expand into new training areas as local needs arise. Adult Basic Education—including GED preparation and English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) classes—will continue to be offered at no cost to Gonzales residents, addressing a significant need based on local educational attainment data.

Under the new model, degree-seeking students will transition from Interactive Television (ITV)-based courses—which require physical attendance at the Gonzales Center—to flexible online instruction. This change addresses the growing student preference for “anywhere” access while maintaining a local VC presence.

“We are moving from a system where students had to be in a specific chair at a specific time for ITV instruction to a flexible digital model that fits students’ busy lives,” said Kent.

VC will continue to provide advising, financial aid, testing, and tutoring for Gonzales students. Additionally, a new laptop checkout program will be launched to ensure all students have the technology needed to succeed. VC also plans to utilize grant funds to upgrade and modify facilities to ensure the physical space is used as effectively and efficiently as possible.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of nursing education in the region, VC will consolidate its Vocational Nursing (VN) Program in Gonzales with the historic VN Program in Hallettsville. Gonzales-based nursing students will continue to participate in clinical rotations at Gonzales healthcare facilities, and VC will provide specialized scholarships and travel assistance to Gonzales students completing their studies in Hallettsville.

Another opportunity for growth in Gonzales County lies within Gonzales ISD.

“With Victoria College’s implementation of the state-funded Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program, all high school students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch would be eligible for free college classes, including course materials,” said Kent. “This has been a gamechanger for students in other districts, opening the door for them to earn an associate degree by the time they graduate from high school. Whether through workforce courses at GISD’s new CTE building or core academic classes at the high school, Victoria College is eager to expand services with our longtime partners at GISD.”

Additionally, the VC Foundation maintains a strong commitment to local students, with more than \$300,000 in scholarships currently designated specifically for Gonzales-area students.

For more information about Victoria College offerings and services in Gonzales, visit VictoriaCollege.edu.

There being no further business, the workshop was adjourned at 4:16 PM.



Mr. V. Bland Proctor, Chair



Mr. John E. Zacek, Secretary