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Posted By: Pat Parris
Witnessed By: _____

**MINUTES OF A
WORK SESSION
OF THE JACKSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON
MAY 21, 2012**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a joint Work Session with the Southwestern Community College Board of Trustees on May 21, 2012, 11:45 a.m., Southwestern Community College, 477 College Drive, Bradford Hall Conference Room, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present: Jack Debnam, Chairman
Doug Cody, Vice Chair
Charles Elders, Commissioner
Mark Jones, Commissioner
Joe Cowan, Commissioner

Chuck Wooten, County Manager
J. K. Coward, Jr., Co. Attorney
Pat Parris, Clerk to Board

Chairman Debnam called the work session to order.

Don Tomas, President, welcomed the Commissioners to the campus. He presented an overview of SCC's accomplishments that include:

- Nationally, community colleges are the institution of choice for workers upgrading their skills and for displaced workers reentering the workforce.
- Community colleges provide the curricula to respond to the needs of local economies.
- Provide education, training and support services for new, expanding and existing business and industry.
- More than 90% of graduates stay in the region.
- 95% of employers recommend the college for workforce education and training programs.
- During the 2010-11 academic year 1 in 10 citizens in Jackson, Macon and Swain were enrolled at SCC. 8,911 enrolled at SCC during 2010-11.
- Enrollment trends reflect an annual unduplicated curriculum enrollment of 27.9% increase since 2006-07 and an increase of 33.5% in annual curriculum seat count since 2007-08.
- Graduates have highest passing rates in the state on professional licensure exams

This year there is a unique opportunity for SCC to capitalize on state and county resources to enhance the facilities and benefit the constituents served. He urged the Board to make a carefully considered decision on SCC's 2012-13 budget requests including matching funds in the amount of \$580,000 which will be used for renovations to the Cosmetology Dept., construction of a commons area and an on-campus food service court and lounge.

At 1:15 p.m., Chairman Debnam recessed the work session until May 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the Justice & Administration Center.

Attest:

Approved:

Patsy C. Parris, Clerk to Board

W. J. Debnam, Chairman