

**Open Work Session
Wor-Wic Community College Master Plan
October 15, 2019**

Dr. Ray Hoy, President of Wor-Wic Community College, came before Council and said he appreciates the opportunity to talk about their new Master Plan, and he will lead Council through the process. He said their consultant, Hord Coplan Macht, developed the Master Plan in consultation with the entire campus community, and folks from the external community, and the scope of services included a comprehensive assessment of the campus and their facilities, and documenting their specific campus needs. He said, even though the campus is young, they are getting to the point where infrastructure needs to be addressed. He said some infrastructure issues have come up over the past few years, such as roofs, chillers, boilers, and all those sorts of things, so they want to make sure they are looking ahead to deal with those issues. He said they want to provide a 10-year facilities plan, a 20-year land use plan, guide the development of the campus as they move forward, and suggest criteria for evaluating certain projects as high, low, and medium priority for the projects. He said this is also a requirement of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, which has specific criteria, so they charged the consultants with making sure they address the criteria as directed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. He said their specific goals were that the campus should have a symbolic and functional entry since they do not have a functional entry. He clarified, this has nothing to do with the circle drive that comes into the campus, but it is just that people do not know where to go when they get there, and he will address that more when he gets into his presentation. He said they need to have a focal point for the campus, and a meaningful sequence of arrival. He said new students do not know where to go, and even visitors to the campus just do not know where to go when they come to Wor-Wic. He said they also want to have an identity created by their building materials. He said, when coming to Wor-Wic, their buildings all look very similar, and that is really by design. He said there are a lot of college campuses where buildings look different, and things do not look like they necessarily belong, but they do not want that to happen, and they want to encourage the same feel so, if they put a building in Worcester County, for example, it would shout Wor-Wic. Mr. Dodd asked if they would use the yellow brick, to which Dr. Hoy responded, yes, the yellow brick. He said it would not have been his preference to start with, but, it speaks Wor-Wic, so they are going to continue with that. Mr. McCain said he thinks that is a big deal because he has been on a lot of university campuses, and when he sees the consistency of architecture, such as Virginia Tech where there is all the stone, people relate that to Virginia Tech. He said then he has gone to James Madison where they have had all of these phases over the years, and everything is different, so he cannot tell what their architecture is. Dr. Hoy said his strong sense of this came from growing up in Chestertown with his alma mater Washington College where they knocked down the women's gymnasium and built a library on that site, but that library does not fit that campus. He said it just does not look like it belongs there, and he knew when he was a teenager that it just did not look right, but they have maintained a strong sense of image of what Wor-Wic should look like because they want to have a traditional image, and also fit the Eastern Shore.

Dr. Hoy said one of their big concerns is also vehicular circulation. He explained, they have areas on campus where they have conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians, and they want to avoid that as they go forward, and see if they can dissipate or eliminate it, or at least manage it as they go forward.

Dr. Hoy said the interiors should have a high degree of flexibility because, as they have learned over the years, they have to change because teaching has changed with using more technology than when the buildings were originally constructed, so they have to be flexible enough to make many of those

changes. He said they need a well located shipping and receiving area that can accommodate tractor trailers coming into campus and not having the conflicts with students, and those sorts of things.

He said those were the underlying goals, and this was about a 7-month process that began in August 2018, and concluded at the end of January 2019. He said it involved a lot of participation both on and off campus, a lot of data gathering, and that sort of thing, but also finding out students' perceptions of the campus, what the campus should be, what it means to them, where their strengths are as a campus, and where their weaknesses are. He said they then went through a process where they came back after the fact finding to the Board of Trustees as to what that was, and they were given direction to go forward, and then they came back with their final report, and that just gives Council a little background.

He said they will take a look at what their final analysis was, and, to summarize, Council knows the existing campus. He referred to his slide showing a map of the campus, and pointed out Route 50, Walston Switch, and the circle. He said the college, actually, has about 214 acres, but they probably use about 37 acres for the campus as it currently exists, but Council knows the campus and has a sense of it. He then showed an aerial image and said, looking down Route 50, the college owns all of that property going down through, but they acquired an additional 12 acres in the wooded area at the top of the picture. He explained, that area had been logged before by the previous owner, and that 12-acre area was something they acquired just a few years ago and added it to the college.

Dr. Hoy said they looked at everything including the campus landscape, and they have a beautiful campus, which he thinks everyone will agree on because they hear it from people all the time. He said they looked at landscape, active spaces where students are interacting on campus, and the image on his slide happens to be a community garden that helps support their Food for Students initiative. He explained, faculty, staff, and students actually grow plants that they donate to students because about 49 percent of community college students are food insecure, so they have a food pantry and a program to help serve their students who have needs in that area.

Dr. Hoy said there is a safety conflict with their vehicle circulation patterns in the service and loading area. Referring to his slide, he said the childcare center is right there at that corner, and that is their main entranceway for students, so it is very disconcerting to have all the traffic to the campus coming in that way. He said they also see pedestrian conflicts with traffic between Guerrieri Hall and Shockley Hall, as well as Henson Hall and Fulton Owen Hall.

Mr. Holloway said he knows Dr. Hoy has been trying to get an exit out on Route 50 for a number of years, and he kind of agrees with that, but a lot of folks travel Long Ridge Road down to Arvey Road to get out to Route 50, and he is starting to get some complaints from some of the residents. He clarified, not about the traffic, but about the condition of the road, to which Dr. Hoy responded, they actually encourage that egress, especially southbound or eastbound in particular because at certain hours when classes let out it is very challenging to access Route 50. He said, if there is an accident on Route 50, which happens from time to time at the Walston Switch and Route 50 intersection, that is the only way out, and they see a lot more traffic using that area. Mr. Holloway said he wants to bring that to the attention of the Public Works Department because he does not think the roads are being maintained as much as they should be because he is starting to hear complaints from residents. He again clarified, it is not about the traffic, but about the condition of the roads. Dr. Hoy said, to Mr. Holloway's point on the egress onto Route 50, he appreciates Wicomico County Planning and Zoning because they put that as a major priority annually in their submission to the Governor for projects in the County to at least allow emergency egress, but they have not been able to get anybody to move on that. He said they really feel

strongly that there should, at a minimum, be emergency egress from the north parking lot of the campus to Route 50 because it would be very helpful. Mr. Holloway asked if Dr. Hoy had any input when they did the traffic circle, to which Dr. Hoy responded, only to the extent that they recommended they have a longer feed-in lane coming up to that intersection because they knew it would back up onto Route 50. Mr. Holloway said it gets pretty bad there sometimes, to which Dr. Hoy responded, traffic can get very heavy right there, but, honestly, because he lives on the south side and makes a left hand turn when he comes out, he likes the traffic circle much more than a stop sign because he is usually leaving when students are coming in at 6:30 at night to come to classes. Mr. Holloway said he has gotten used to it, to which Dr. Hoy responded, he has gotten used to it too, and it is not a bad thing except for the people who come out of Royal Farms and think they should turn left, and that is always a bit disconcerting. Mr. Dodd said he thought he was used to it until he ended up in the wrong lane, and he hears that complaint a lot, to which Dr. Hoy responded, it is not well-defined, especially for someone who is new or does not travel that road very often. Mr. Holloway asked Dr. Hoy to inform folks that they are going to get a traffic light at Walston Switch and Mt. Hermon Road soon, to which Dr. Hoy responded, he appreciates that because that is an intersection he goes through, and it is a bad intersection. Mr. Holloway said they have been trying to get that for a long time, to which Dr. Hoy responded, thank you, and he appreciates that personally because he travels that every day.

Dr. Hoy said they also looked at signage knowing that their sign on the corner needs to be changed, but they wanted to wait until they went through this process to make improvements there. He said, as Council probably recalls, before the geothermal project there was a pine tree field, and that sign probably worked really well, but now there is so much space behind it since they cannot plant trees or anything behind it because of the geothermal pipes. He said there are 270 wells, and the pipelines are about 2.5 feet deep, so nothing with a root structure is going to grow there. He said they really need a better sign. Mr. Dodd asked if the new sign will have a rolling banner, to which Dr. Hoy responded, they will see. He said they are still debating and discussing that because, with the Arby's and Royal Farms signage, sometimes it gets to the point where it is a bit overwhelming to have that much more moving signage, but Wor-Wic's messages are pretty important to get to people about different events and those sorts of things, so they have gone back and forth on that, and, frankly, they are going to be discussing it tomorrow with a number of staff to get input from a number of different people.

Referring to his next slide, Dr. Hoy said they talked about the location of their visitor front door, and all of those parking spaces are filled by 8:00 a.m. when all the staff comes in, so there is really no student parking in the front except for handicapped access parking. He said, if a new student comes to campus, they do not know where to go, or how they get there because there is no parking, so wayfinding is an issue. He clarified, they do a pretty good job with signage, but wayfinding is an issue because there is nothing indicating that is the front door. He said, by the way, they re-did the parking lot in this picture this past summer, and Council can see the condition it was in, so it was very much needed. He said, again, they just do not have a front door to the campus at the moment, so that is one thing they asked the architects to consider as they put forth a plan. He said he mentioned vehicular-pedestrian conflicts, and these pictures show a couple of examples, especially Guerrieri Hall and Maynard Technology, and they had the same situation between Shockley and the Hazel Center at one point. He said Council may recall driving under the bridge coming into campus, but they got rid of that about a dozen years ago and made the student entrance drive a little further to the south and past the Jordan Center, but they still have that issue. He explained, walking out of his office building he can step right out into the street and into the path of a car. He said he sees this happen way too often, and occasionally people drive faster than they should through there.

Dr. Hoy's next slide showed parking utilization on the campus, the most utilized, and least utilized. He said, ever since they put in the solar canopy, they see a lot of parking under the canopy because it shields cars from the sun as well as snow and rain. His next slide showed the ages of the buildings, and he said Bruckhorst is original construction, which is 25 years, and includes the Maynard Technology Center. He said the Hazel Center is 14 years old now, and the Jordan Center is 13 years. He said Henson is 20 years old, Guerrieri is 18, Fulton Owen is 11, and then Shockley is 7 years old. He said the only thing not seen on this map is the maintenance building, which was constructed at the same time as the Jordan Center about 13 years ago. He said the buildings are starting to age a little bit, and some of the infrastructure, such as boilers and chillers, have had to be replaced, and reroofing projects.

Dr. Hoy said, in terms of a library, they do not have a library, and never had. He said they do not have stacks because they do not have books, and they have had an electronic library since the college began. He said it was quite an interesting initiative in the early days, but now that is the way everybody goes. He said colleges still have books, but they do not see students using them anymore because everything is accessible through a digital library, and their library is accessible by students at home and also on campus. He said they have library support services, but it is a distributed system, so they have a library space, and media and resource centers in every building, but then they try to have study space across campus as well, and one of the thoughts is to consolidate that in the future.

Dr. Hoy said Council may be familiar with their food services operation, but they have one central food service area, and then vending areas across campus. He said many of the gathering spaces are co-located with some of the vending areas, and those are areas where students also group study together. He said because community college students are not in a residential capacity they tend to spend time together when they are on campus, but they need to find space, and that is something that has been lacking on their campus because they are space constrained. He said, as Council will see, they qualify for three additional buildings today with their current population, but part of the issue is they do not have enough study space, and those sorts of spaces.

Dr. Hoy said they have an area they call fitness and recreation, but it is a half gym on the third floor of Guerrieri Hall. He said it is really for the Academy, but it is open to student access use between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 4:45 to 6:30 p.m., but can go until 8:00 p.m. in the mezzanine section that has the Life Fitness equipment. He said there is very little student access for fitness and wellness activities, and they need a gym, but, honestly, the area in the picture with the foosball and ping pong tables is probably going to go away because they might need that for some office space, so there is not much recreation or fitness space on their campus.

Mr. McCain said, along those same lines, he thought he saw something previous to this that at one point in time they were looking at athletic fields, to which Mr. Dodd responded, yes. He said, at the last dinner meeting, Dr. Hoy said it was in the five-year plan, so he was going to ask about that. Dr. Hoy said it has kind of slid to the ten-year plan, but it is in this plan, and he will share with Council why. He said they are currently the only community college, and, frankly, the only public institution in Maryland that does not have intercollegiate athletics. He said Carroll County was a holdout, but they began their intercollegiate athletic program this year, and they are a younger institution than Wor-Wic. He said Wor-Wic is the only institution without intercollegiate athletics at this point. Mr. Dodd asked if it is on the radar screen, to which Dr. Hoy responded, it is, and he is going to show Council later in his presentation.

Dr. Hoy said the Higher Education Commission projects that they should have a 1,200 student increase by 2027. He said these plans are built for ten years, and the analysis for building needs is on a ten-year

horizon. He said they are talking about having a 40 percent increase, which equates to about 147 gross square feet. He said, just for context, the Applied Technology Center is 40,000 gross, and 24,000 net, so Council can see that they need some spaces, and 30,000 square feet for athletics/recreation is part of what they qualify for. Mr. Dodd asked if that is just the building, to which Dr. Hoy responded, yes, it is just the building, and it is assignable because, obviously, it is a much larger structure, and it is probably 60/40 percent gross to net. He said, unfortunately, they are converting classrooms to office space all the time, and he hates doing that, but they have to have a place for people. He said, in fact, this spring they are taking two small classes out of service to make six offices out of it because they do not have room for people, and they are very challenged in that regard. He said he mentioned they need additional study space, but they also do not have enough space for physical plant space, assembly, laboratory, classroom, and food and lounge, so Council can see that they qualify for a lot of different spaces.

Dr. Hoy said they went through this analysis and looked at their strengths, which are beautiful buildings, as Council knows, a well-maintained campus, relatively new facilities based on colleges and universities and the age of many structures on many campuses, strong academic programs, especially in the allied health and criminal justice arena, they are affordable to their citizens, and their library services are accessible and well utilized. He clarified, as he said, there is no library space on campus, but it is an e-space. He said their opportunities include continuing growth with a projected enrollment growth of 40 percent from the Higher Education Commission, and they have plenty of space to grow the campus. He said they are highly visible on Route 50, they are near regional transportation, and, in fact, right across the street from a regional hub and population centers, but it still is a challenge for people. He said, for example, if someone is coming from Crisfield, it is a two hour ride each way on the bus because of the stops and everywhere it goes, so it is really a challenge for some people to come and go. Mr. Holloway asked if they have ever identified through traffic studies how many people actually use public transportation to get to the school versus driving cars, to which Dr. Hoy responded, he does not know those numbers, but they get numbers from Shore Transit to see what their ridership is and the peak times of day. He said they come through regularly, but sometimes students do not want to wait, so they actually cross Route 50, which he does not like. He said he has seen them walking across with baby carriages trying to get a different bus, which is not a safe thing, but it happens. He again said he does not know the number, but he can probably find that out because they get it from Shore Transit.

Dr. Hoy said the guiding principles they used to go forward are to strengthen the college's impact on economic development, which is what they are all about, education, training for the Lower Shore region, to enhance their visibility and access to the campus, preserve that campus identity they talked about, and create spaces to encourage student interaction. He explained, students who interact more on campus seem to do better, so they want to encourage that.

Dr. Hoy said this all comes down to a proposed plan. Referring to his slide, he said this is the proposed development. He said there are seven and a half new buildings, with the half being the maintenance building expansion, which is letter E. He said the gym is letter C, and they can see the athletic fields for baseball and soccer, and tennis courts. He said, as Mr. Dodd knows, he is an old jock, and was even a coach of high school and college lacrosse, has coached soccer, and he loves intercollegiate athletics and sports, but they have to focus on what they can do, and when they can do it. He said he knows sports would increase their male student population, and, frankly, that is a challenge because they are almost 70 percent female. He said, even though with Title 9 programs they would have the equivalent number of male and female sports, he knows it would increase their male population, and there is no question about it. He said they lose a lot of students who go to other schools to play intercollegiate athletics at those institutions, even community colleges. He said they come down here and recruit students heavily

and take them away, including Chesapeake, Cecil, Alleghany, Harford, and a number of different schools that are down here poaching all the time. He said in many cases he will see the student wearing a Seahawks shirt, or something like that, and he will ask them about it, and they will tell him they went to Cecil last fall, but came home, which some of them do, but not all of them. He said, in any event, this is the building layout for the future. He clarified, this will not happen while he is here, and will probably not happen while Council is in their roles, but this is a long range plan for the college campus.

Dr. Hoy said he brought the vehicular transportation circulation issues to Council's attention, and they are proposing changing that completely, and eliminating the egress they currently have between the Maynard Technology Center and Bruckhorst Hall that is closest to Route 50. He said it is going to make people travel around campus a little more, and to Mr. Holloway's point, offload more people onto Long Ridge. He said Short Ridge is the little road that comes in off Long Ridge, and was added as a construction entrance when they built Fulton Owen and Shockley Hall. He said it has become a strong entrance, but not necessarily an egress because it is not lit, so they close it down at night because they do not have lights on it. He said, again, it was not constructed for that purpose, but they found a need for it. He said with one of the newest buildings they are planning, which is the Applied Technology Center, they are going to have to have loading and unloading for that particular facility because of the type of training and education with the construction trades, and those sorts of things, and they are going to have to be able to load and unload things there, so they asked the consultants to site that building for them. He clarified, they knew they wanted to build it, but they did not know where it would be best suited on campus. He said, when coming in off Long Ridge to Horse Bridge Road, which is just off Long Ridge, they have their maintenance facility, and all the way at the top end of that is where food services and the bookstore are, so this would have a single line access for tractor trailer traffic on the campus to all of these particular facilities, and keep them from traveling around campus and interfering with student spaces. Mr. Cannon asked if they will be closing off the ingress and egress to the circle, to which Dr. Hoy responded, no. He again showed the map demonstrating the existing parking and amount of utilization of parking, and said, in the proposed parking, there is a lot to the right of building A. He, said, again, these are long-term parking needs of the campus and how it would play out, so that is where the parking growth would end up by the time they need that, and they say it is about a five-minute walk. He said he always laughs when students complain about how far they had to park from the buildings on campus. He said it is a laugh because, if anyone has experienced it anywhere else, they are awfully darn close, and nobody is far away. He said his next slide shows their open existing space, but, actually, they are recommending tightening it up and closing it down. He said Council can see four additional buildings at the end of the quad area that is now Fulton Owen and Shockley Hall, but that stretch is getting too long, so they suggested putting a building on the end, and they have room for two more buildings on the outside of that to push that out, and then the gym would be across the street with that type of activity.

Mr. Dodd asked if they added stormwater ponds, or were they already there, to which Dr. Hoy responded, all of them are existing stormwater ponds. He said the one to the far right below the baseball diamond is really located where their preexisting wastewater treatment plant facility was. He said, when they got City water and sewer and gave the City the water tower, this went away, so it might be wetlands, but he does not know if there is a pond there. He said, again, these are the new proposed open spaces, so they will be creating new plaza quad areas on the campus with the future buildings.

Dr. Hoy said he talked earlier about site signage, and he thinks they have fairly well-defined wayfinding once on campus, but the problem is finding what one is looking for as they come to campus, so they want to do a better job with the sign on Route 50. He said that nice looking sign faces Route 50, but people may or may not notice it because it is actually on the side of the college, and they have to turn

their head to the right to see it when driving by. He said it would not have been a bad sign on the front corner, but people just have to know where to find it. He then referred to his slide showing the architect's rendition of an example of something they could have. He said, again, there will not be any large trees or anything between the sign and the buildings because of the geothermal field that is there.

Dr. Hoy said his next slide shows the recommendations for the campus as it grows, and, obviously, they participated in the discussion of the phasing. He showed a map of the existing campus, and the phasing over the next ten-year period. He said, in the capital improvement plan (CIP) is the building identified as #4 on this map, which is the new Learning Commons Building, which is in the CIP with design maybe in 2024 through 2026. He said, in their estimation, that is a greater need than the gymnasium, but the gymnasium would be the next building. He explained, the reason is that they need the campus space, they need the study space, and they need the office space on campus, and this is going to provide them with that along with the Applied Technology Center and roadway improvements that correspond with that. He said there is actually no plan for all the things identified on the map as #12, but that will be whatever folks in the future decide is needed. He said, when they do the planning process, they try to identify where they are going to be so they do not trip up and put something where there should be a future building site. He said, with the Applied Technology Center, it will be located where the current soccer field is. Referring to his slide, he said they can see the student entrance drive that used to be on the left hand side of that building going through the Jordan Center, and they are proposing moving that behind the Applied Technology Center. He said the road project is part of this, and also at the top of the red oval on his slide is a reconfiguration of the front lot. He said they actually want to have a front door, so they need some parking spaces there, and more open access so people can come to the front of the college, be greeted, and find out where to go. He said, if someone shows up on campus and wants to go to Admissions, they have to find a parking space someplace in the back of campus, and then figure out where it is in the center of the building, so this would strengthen their entrance. He said this is all part of the Applied Technology Center project as submitted. He said it is an L-shaped building of about 40,000 square feet, with about 24,000 assignable. He said it is going to have bays with high open ceilings, three storage facilities much like the other buildings on campus in that regard, and, as he mentioned, a yard for storage, and access to the high bay doors. He said really what they are doing is emphasizing building trades and instructional technology, supply chain manufacturing, and alternative energy. He said the wind turbines seem to be coming to Ocean City, so they are going to need a lot of training for people working in that industry. He said their noncredit course work in transportation is really a growing industry with their transportation needs, and they are also expanding coursework in HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and welding. He said, if someone did not take these things while they were in high school, the only way to learn that skill today is to get a job with somebody and either officially or unofficially apprentice, or they are just not going to learn it, and not get that opportunity, so they want to be able to train people in these fields because there is a demand for folks in these trades in their community today. He said this building will also have makerspace where they want community and students to work together in a collaborative environment where they can explore and innovate.

Mr. Holloway said Dr. Hoy listed plumbing in reference to industrial trades, but the Wicomico County Board of Education dropped their plumbing program, to which Dr. Hoy responded, they did because they could not get anybody in it. Mr. Holloway then asked if Dr. Hoy thinks they will be able to generate people, to which Dr. Hoy responded, he hopes so because they sure need plumbers, and he needs one all the time. Mr. Holloway said the Board of Education dropped it, and did not seem to have any interest in trying to promote it, to which Dr. Hoy responded, there is a difference between the interests of a 16 to 18-year-old and an older adult who is looking for an occupation and a career, and cannot go back to high school to get that education, so they are hopeful that people will see this as a real possibility, and

be able to do something like that. He said he hears from the construction trade industries constantly how they need people in these trades, but the issue is they all need them, and he thinks he pays his doctor less than he pays his plumber. Mr. Holloway said they need to start looking at how plumbing is licensed because he thinks they have to work a certain amount of time before becoming licensed, to which Dr. Hoy responded, they do, but Wor-Wic can do that through apprentice relationships. Mr. Holloway said it was disappointing to him when they did not pursue that harder, to which Dr. Hoy responded, when Wor-Wic eliminated their electronics program, he was really disappointed, but they could not get people in it, so sometimes they just have to recognize that nobody is going to take it. He said, whether it is good for them or not, no one can make them take it. Mr. Dodd said, when Council found out Wicomico County did not have the plumbing program any longer, they had a meeting with all three Boards of Education, and they found out that Somerset and Worcester did not have it either.

Mrs. Acle said her question is related to plumbing, and they do not have it in the CTE program. She then asked, if there is a high school student who is interested in plumbing, and Wor-Wic offers it because they have dual enrollment with gifted and talented, could the student dual enroll, to which Dr. Hoy responded, once that program is up and running, in all likelihood, yes, and that is their intent with the public schools. He said this program will probably start out as continuing education, so they would not earn college credits for it, but that does not mean Wor-Wic will not transition into that, and it does not mean it cannot be used in a dual enrollment type relationship. He explained, dual enrollment is designed for students to take credit classes whether they are CTE or general education, to which Mrs. Acle responded, that is the gifted and talented program for the high school. She said Dr. Hanlin explained that to Council, to which Dr. Hoy responded, there is a gifted and talented component to it. Mrs. Acle asked if it is for 9th through 12th grade, to which Dr. Hoy responded, there was a Bill passed in 2013 that was called the College and Career Readiness Act and College Success Act of 2013. He said that Bill strongly encouraged the growth of dual enrollment, but the Kirwan Commission is taking that a step further with the intent of college and career readiness by the end of 10th grade, so students who are ready would start college in the 11th grade. He said they already have about 550 to 600 high school students in the three Counties taking college courses while they are in high school, but very few are taking non-credit career training programs, but in the Kirwan Plan design there will be an opportunity for them to take non-credit classes. He explained, today, if a student in high school takes something non-credit, they are usually doing it outside of their typical high school classroom hours, and they might be taking it at night, but it does not count toward their high school graduation. He said, prospectively, it is expected to also be able to count toward their high school credit, so they are in that transition period right now. He said one of the reasons they want to include some of these things in the program is so they are making sure they are addressing that developing need and developing opportunity. Mrs. Acle asked if that is available to 9th through 10th graders, to which Dr. Hoy responded, that is an interesting question. He said, by contract with the schools, they have to be 16 years old, but they are working with the schools right now to drop that requirement so if somebody is ready they could take it even earlier. He said a gifted and talented student can actually take classes before, and they have had students as young as 10 years old take college courses, but they were gifted and talented. He said gifted and talented is one avenue to take courses, and dual enrollment is another avenue, but it has specific requirements with each school system defining what those requirements are. He said Somerset's rules are a little bit different than Wicomico and Worcester. Mrs. Acle asked if there are new COMAR laws that apply to gifted and talented, and she guesses that was the topic they were talking about, to which Dr. Hoy responded, the gifted and talented allows any student to access some of the higher education courses if they meet certain criteria, so they can be any age. Mrs. Acle asked if there is transportation for them, to which Dr. Hoy responded, transportation is always an issue. Mrs. Acle asked how they get there, to which Dr. Hoy responded, parents or older students. He said they actually worked together

with the schools and Shore Transit, and tried to provide transportation opportunities from the three high schools in Salisbury to the college, but nobody wanted it, so they all figured out how to get there. Mrs. Acle asked, if the student does not have transportation, do they not go, to which Dr. Hoy responded, exactly, but Wor-Wic does go to the schools. He clarified, they teach college level courses in many of the high schools, so that is another outreach where they work with the schools to help develop. He said they are looking at a number of different ways to address those issues to make sure people are not missing out on opportunities, but there are people who are missing out.

Dr. Hoy said he appreciates all the support they get from Council, and, as they know, it is vital to the success of their students and their community. He said, with Council's support and help, they have been changing lives since 1975, and plan to continue to do so by addressing whatever needs come forward.

Mr. Dodd asked if this is the same presentation Dr. Hoy did in Ocean City about a week ago, to which Dr. Hoy responded, no. He explained, Michael James contacted him because the Ocean City Economic Development Committee was having their first meeting of the year, and he was asked to come and talk about workforce. He said he really tailored it to hospitality, tourism, government, and the industries that are in the Ocean City community, and he works with them specifically on that sort of thing.

Mr. Cannon said Dr. Hoy has done a really great job in expanding the campus, and a lot of that has been contributions, and he is not really sure it has been the responsibility of the County, but they certainly want to contribute as much as they can. He then asked Dr. Hoy how he finds his outside contributions working because he has always done a great job with the named buildings, and he asked if Dr. Hoy sees that continuing on, to which Dr. Hoy responded, he could not have asked Mr. Cannon to ask him a better question. He said he knows this is public, but they are actually in a quiet phase of a campaign to raise about \$10 million dollars, and part of it is because of the new building, the Applied Technology Center. He explained, the State does not participate in the purchase of technology equipment that does not have a lifespan of more than 15 years, and he dares any of them to tell him anything they have that is technology that lasts 15 years because it just does not. He said they have identified about \$2.5 million dollars in this building that is unlikely to be eligible for State funding, so they need to raise that money. Mr. Cannon asked if it is not going to brick and mortar as much as it is to equipment, to which Dr. Hoy responded, correct. He said the State, Wicomico County, and Worcester County have been generous in their contributions to the construction of facilities on campus and have addressed those needs, and they have tried to help supplement that with gifts and donations from the community. He said last night they had a Foundation Board meeting and he talked to the Board about this, and, this was not intended, but at the end of the night they had \$160,000 in contributions to the campaign, so that was extremely generous and wonderfully surprising. He said Mr. McCain is on the campaign committee, and he thanked him. He said they have some matching opportunities, and that is why it is a great time to do this. He said, during this past Legislative Session, the State passed a Bill to provide an opportunity to all 16 Maryland community colleges, and actually Baltimore and Montgomery County have multiple college campuses, so they get multiple shots at this. He said, if Wor-Wic raises \$250,000 in the next two years, they will match it with \$250,000. He said, upon successful completion of that, in two more years with an additional \$250,000 raised, they will match that, so \$500,000 from the State would generate \$1 million dollars, and it is for workforce technology, which is what they are building. He said this gives them an opportunity and a way to encourage people to want to maximize their contributions with a dollar for dollar match going forward. He said they actually have another matching opportunity that they will be able to announce soon which will even expand beyond that, so they are really excited about it. He said they get a lot of support from the community, but they, obviously, need more, and they are trying to do

everything they possibly can to ensure they are providing education using the highest technology available, and using the tools the students are going to be using when they move into the workforce.

Mr. Cannon said there was a meeting at the Greater Salisbury Committee with a major industry that is associated with offshore wind who are very seriously looking at Wicomico County, and how they can use Wicomico County to their benefit and vice versa. He said they were very concerned about the Airport because they thought that was a huge plus, and they were also extremely concerned about the community college, and anxious to know that the community college was very strongly developing with industries to try to create the workforce targeted towards their industry, to which Dr. Hoy responded, as Council knows, that is Wor-Wic's role. Mr. Cannon said it is a huge draw, to which Dr. Hoy responded, they try to address workforce needs as they develop. He clarified, they cannot address them all, and a perfect example is automotive. He explained, they had 21 automotive dealers come to them and say they need higher trained individuals in the automotive industry before they are ready to send them to Honda school, Toyota school, Mercedes school, etc. He clarified, they have to have a higher level of skills coming to the employers before they can do that. He said he thought it was gap training, and he thought they might be able to do that, but they have told him they really want the employees to have college degrees and certificates before they start working for them, and before they send them on to these industry-specific schools. He said their partner to the north, Del-Tech, has an automotive program and they are doing a good job, but the cost of Wor-Wic trying to duplicate what they are doing there is pretty expensive, and not on the radar at the moment, so they are not able to address all needs, but they try as much as possible. He said, if it was gap training, they probably would have been able to figure out a way, but to implement a two-year program in those areas just seems to be outside of their ability at the moment. Mr. Holloway asked if the automotive industry is saying that what Wicomico public education is doing as far as automotive training is not sufficient, to which Dr. Hoy responded, he will not speak for them, but they have had a number of potential employees who come to them who were just like the people who did not go into plumbing, but want a job. He said they might be able to change oil and rotate tires, but that is not the level of person they want, and they want a trained individual before they move into the next thing. He said he does not know how many students they have in the public schools in those programs, or what more they need before they can go into these areas, but it was very interesting. He explained, Pohanka came to them first, so they thought they would try to find out if this was an industry-wide issue, and they sent out a call to the industry giving them a date and time in case they wanted to talk to Wor-Wic about the topic. He said 21 different auto dealerships showed up, and it was eye-opening. Mr. Holloway said they all want more trained employees so they have more to choose from. Dr. Hoy said they have done this with the healthcare industry, and they have one coming up in a couple of weeks with the hospitality and tourism industry, so they do these routinely just to make sure they are providing the education and training levels needed in the workforce.

Dr. Hoy said he just wanted to bring Council up to date, and he thanks them for their continuing support. Mr. Cannon asked if Council will see the first phase of this in the CIP, to which Dr. Hoy responded, yes. He said Council already has it, to which Mrs. Hurley responded, no, they will not get it until December because it goes to the County Executive's Office first. Mr. Cannon said they will be seeing it soon. Dr. Hoy said, in the CIP, Council will see three years of the Applied Technology Center, and then they will be requesting funding in the future for the Learning Commons.

Mr. McCain said the great thing is that they are dead on target with their programs and so forth for workforce development matching what the community needs are. He said Dr. Hoy has talked about their adaptability, and that is tremendous. He said he was at the meeting Mr. Cannon mentioned this past week, and he has also been in two meetings with General Electric over the last week or so as far as

wind energy. He said, if that happens to come here, they need that adaptability for those jobs pretty quick, and they have a community college that can do that, to which Dr. Hoy responded, that is what this new building is going to be there for. Dr. Hoy said they have it covered, and they want to help bring those industries in, and help them move and grow, and they will train the workforce to address the needs. There was no further discussion.



John T. Cannon, President



Larry W. Dool, Vice President, District 3



Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Nicole Acle, District 2

absent
Josh Hastings, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



William R. McCain, At-Large



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator