

**DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF ABILENE, INC.**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 5, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marelyn Shedd            Dani Ramsay            Dave Copeland

**MEMBER ABSENT:**        John Beckham            Jack Rich

**STAFF PRESENT:**        Kent Sharp                Kim Tarrant

**GUESTS PRESENT:**        Bruce Kreitler, Steve Savage - Abilene City Council; Robert Hanna - City Manager; Don Green - Abilene Regional Airport; Katie Alford, Larry Gill, Joe Canon - Dodge Jones Foundation; Gail Gregg, Audra Ude, Dr. David Young - Abilene Independent School District; Dr. Elton Stuckly, Mike Reeser, Gail Lawrence, Jeff Kilgore, Rick Denbow, Adam Harvey, Jonathan Hoekstra, Ray Fried - Texas State Technical College; Alecea Rush – KTXS reporter; Brooke Crum – Abilene Reporter News

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:** President Dave Copeland called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. at 174 Cypress St., Chamber conference room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Abilene Texas.

**2. PRESENTATION BY TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE ON A NEW INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE TRAINING CENTER IN ABILENE:** Larry Gill introduced Mike Reeser, Chancellor of Texas State Technical College (TSTC). Chancellor Reeser gave a presentation on the current workforce challenges in Texas and the need for a new industrial training campus in Abilene. Texas leads the nation in job creation, but faces a shortage on workers in middle-skill jobs. The gap will get worse before better because the average age of a worker is over 50. Since FY 2003 the small number of technical college courses and allied health courses offered has caused a “supply gap” in technical training. TSTC’s mission is to help build the Texas workforce by offering affordable training, skills and placement for the industrial jobs in high demand today. TSTC owns and operates “Center for Employability Outcomes” (C4EO), which is a research, development and commercialization division focused on optimizing student employability. C4EO creates advanced skills modeling and data analytics tools that connect educators, individuals, and industry. Current initiatives focus on aligning learning outcomes with marketable skills to close regional skill gaps.

TSTC was founded in 1965 with the first campus in Waco, Texas. Fifty years later they have a total of 11 campuses, with Hutto (Austin Metro Area) and Rosenberg (Houston Metro Area) being the two newest campuses and construction to begin in the Spring of 2016 on the Fort Bend facility. TSTC is 1) an agency of the State with a Governor-appointed Board; 2) they teach more hours of technical training than any other college in Texas; and 3) TSTC is the only college in Texas to adopt a funding model based entirely on student employment outcomes – aligning with its purpose of strengthening Texas with a highly skilled, technically-competent workforce. The Texas Legislature already authorized \$12 million in bonding capacity for the state-operated two-year college to construct a new industrial training campus in Abilene. TSTC is requesting the Abilene private sector, the DCOA and the city to jointly contribute \$6 million to the project over a 10 year period (\$600,000/year) which includes a tract of land to build the facility on. The

Abilene campus will begin with industrial systems & welding plus general academic classes. Each program would start with 100 students and eventually the campus would be able to support 3-4,000 students. State grant opportunities will be available for students from modest income households. TSTC is hoping to get a commitment on the remaining operating funds and acquire the tract of land in hopes to start construction this summer.

**3. ADJOURNMENT:** Due to another engagement Dave Copeland left the presentation early and not having a quorum, the board meeting was adjourned. The two remaining board members stayed for the remainder of the TSTC presentation.



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Dave Copeland, President