

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF  
THE GOLDEN L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), INC.**

The regular meeting of the Programs Committee of the Board of Directors of The Golden L.E.A.F. (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc. (the “Foundation”), was noticed for and convened on February 5, 2025, at the Golden LEAF Retreat Center located at 301 N. Winstead Ave., Rocky Mount, NC 27804. Committee members participating in the meeting were Charles Brown, Barry Dodson, Lawrence Davenport, Don Flow, Randy Isenhower, Buddy Keller, Jeffrey Lee, Brian Raynor, David Rose, Jarette Sampson, and Ralph Strayhorn. Board member Michael Easley was also present. Also present were Scott T. Hamilton, President, Chief Executive Officer of the Foundation; Ted Lord, Senior Vice President/ General Counsel of the Foundation; Kasey Ginsberg, Vice President/ Chief of Staff of the Foundation; Erica Smith, Vice President of Finance of the Foundation; J.P. Boyd, Vice President of Investments of the Foundation; Marilyn Chism, Director of Programs of the Foundation; Angela Gailliard, Director of Programs of the Foundation; Jenny Tinklepaugh, Communications and External Affairs Manager of the Foundation; Brynn Fann, Program Officer and AV/ Tech Coordinator of the Foundation; and David L. Kyger, legal counsel to the Foundation.

Mr. Kyger called the roll of Programs Committee members.

Mr. Raynor called the meeting to order, declared a quorum to be present, and identified Ms. Tinklepaugh as secretary of the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the open and closed sessions of the December 4, 2024 meeting of the Programs Committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked members of the Committee to disclose individual interests related to matters to come before the Committee.

In accordance with the Foundation’s Conflicts of Interest Policy, the following standing disclosures and disclosures related to matters to come before the Committee were made or confirmed:

- Mr. Brown disclosed that he is the Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority of the North Carolina Department of Commerce (RIA) for which he receives no compensation related to his service. As a result of that service, he has a duality of interest regarding projects before the RIA and the Foundation and will abstain from the discussion and vote regarding those projects, which are identified in these minutes. Mr. Brown also disclosed that his son is a member of the Stanly Community College Board of Trustees, and that Mr. Brown would abstain from the discussion and the vote regarding the Community-Based Grants Initiative proposal from Stanly Community College Foundation, Inc. for the project, “Engineering and Information Technology Pathways – Dual-Enrollment and Apprenticeships.”
- Mr. Flow disclosed that he is a member of the Board of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, and that he has a duality of interest regarding the application from Gaston College for the Lincoln Count Health Academy, with which Atrium Health Lincoln is a collaborator.
- Mr. Davenport disclosed that his daughter serves on the Board of the Eastern NC Food Commercialization Center and that he has a duality of interest regarding the modification request from that organization.

In these minutes, where it is noted with respect to a matter that a director “would abstain” or “abstained,” the subsequent vote is subject to all such abstentions.

Mr. Raynor informed members of the Committee that the Committee would organize its discussions and actions regarding proposals and other items by reference to the recommendations sheet distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting. The recommendations sheet reflecting the actions of the Committee is included as Attachment A to these minutes.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present the applications received in the Economic Catalyst Program. A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding applications received in the Economic Catalyst Program which are items 1 and 2. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to enter closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. 143-318.11(a)(4) to prevent the disclosure of information relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the Foundation. The motion was seconded and carried.

Following the closed session, the Committee resumed its meeting in open session.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Chism and Ms. Gailliard to present the applications received in the Open Grants Program. A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the Stage Two applications received in the Open Grants Program, which are items numbered 3 - 6. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the Stage One applications received in the Open Grants Program, which are items numbered 7 - 14. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Gailliard to present the Out-of-Cycle applications.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the Out-of-Cycle application that is item numbered 15. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Lord discussed the application from the City of Whiteville for the “Provalus Building Renovation” project. He explained the status of the contract for renovation, including actions by the City Council regarding the contract. The Programs Committee discussed the contract and by consensus indicated that the status of the contract did not raise any concerns regarding awarding a grant to support the project. A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the Out-of-Cycle application that is item numbered 16. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Brown declared a duality of interest and abstained from the discussion and the vote because he is Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority of the North Carolina Department of Commerce which has provided or may provide funding related to the project.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Chism and Ms. Gailliard to present the applications received in the Community-Based Grants Initiative in the Southwest Prosperity Zone.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the applications received in the Community-Based Grants Initiative in the Southwest Prosperity Zone, which are items numbered 17 - 28, 30, 31, and 33 - 35. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the application received in the Community-Based Grants Initiative in the Southwest Prosperity Zone that is item numbered 29. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Flow declared a duality of interest and abstained from the discussion and the vote because he is a member of the Board of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, and Atrium Health Lincoln is a collaborator with Gaston College for this project.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the application received in the Community-Based Grants Initiative in the Southwest Prosperity Zone that is item numbered 32. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Brown declared a duality of interest and abstained from the discussion and the vote because his son is on the Board of Stanly Community College.

Mr. Raynor asked Ms. Gailliard to present the applications received in the SITE Program.

Ms. Gailliard provided an overview of the SITE Program and information about SITE Program grants previously awarded, including the counties in which the awards were located and the economic development tier rankings of those counties. She then discussed the applications on the current agenda in detail.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the applications received in the SITE Program, which are items numbered 36 and 37. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Raynor then asked Mr. Lord to present the grant modification requests.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the grant modification requests that are items numbered 38, 39, and 41. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the actions reported on Attachment A regarding the grant modification request that is item numbered 40. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Brown declared a duality of interest because he is Chair of the Rural Infrastructure Authority of the which may provide funding or has provided funding related to the project and abstained from the discussion and vote.

Mr. Raynor asked Mr. Lord to present items under Other Business.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the items under Other Business that are items numbered 42 - 44. The motion was seconded and carried.

A motion was made to recommend that the Board take the action reported on Attachment A regarding the item under Other Business that is item numbered 45. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Davenport declared a duality of interest because his daughter serves on the Board of the Eastern NC Food Commercialization Center and abstained from the discussion and vote.

Mr. Raynor then asked Ms. Ginsberg to provide an update on the Golden LEAF Rural Internship Initiative. Ms. Ginsberg reported that 85 applications are in process with 20 applications submitted so far. She added that five students are prior applicants, and six sites are previous Rural Internship Initiative sites. The deadline for application is February 19. Ms. Ginsberg reported that the applicant students are from a range of counties across the state with good geographic diversity from the east, west, and central. She added that the students come from 13 colleges and universities. Ms. Ginsberg said that their majors are healthcare, agriculture, business, and education.

With no other business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jenny Tinklepaugh, Secretary of the  
Meeting

Read and approved:

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Brian Raynor, Chair of the Programs Committee

**Attachment A**

## Programs Committee Recommendations

<b>Economic Catalyst Proposals</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
1	Cumberland, County of	Project Aero	Defer	
2	Edgecombe, County of	Project Neptune	Defer	
<b>Open Grants Program Stage 2 Proposals</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
3	Carteret Community College Foundation, Inc.	Carteret Works	\$297,860.00	
4	Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public Schools	Innovative Pathways to Careers	\$166,000	Funding for high school components, only.
5	Harrells Christian Academy Inc	HCA Agricultural Education Building	\$350,000	
6	Beaufort County Community College	Nursing Expansion	\$405,000	No funding for replacement of outdated equipment
<b>Open Grants Program Stage 1 Proposals</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
7	College of the Albemarle	COA Health Sciences Regional Education Center	Yes	
8	Johnston Community College Foundation, Inc.	Workforce Development in Support of Advanced Manufacturing	Yes	
9	Mayland Community College Foundation	Cybersecurity Foundations Certificate	Yes	
10	Sallie B. Howard School of Arts and Science	High School CTE Expansion	Yes	
11	Southwestern Community College	Cutting Edge Dental Simulation Lab for Educating Dental Hygiene Professionals	Yes	

12	HOLLA! (Helping Our Loved Ones Learn and Achieve)	HOLLA! Youth Enrichment and Technology Center	No	
13	Rockfish Creek Association Inc	Farmgate-to-Fork Empowering Small Farms: A Precision Agriculture Initiative for Sustainable Growth in Southeastern North Carolina	No	
14	Root Cause Farm Inc	Agriculture Workforce Development and Early Career Exposure Project	No	
<b>Out of Cycle Open Grants Proposals</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
15	Habitat for Humanity of Goldsboro- Wayne Inc	McNair Heights Neighborhood Development	Defer	
16	Whiteville, City of	Provalus Building Renovations	\$500,000	Lease agreement must comply with NCGS sec. 158-7.1 unless otherwise approved by Golden LEAF
<b>Community-Based Grants Initiative – Southwest Prosperity Zone</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
17	5&2 Training Institute Inc	5 & 2 Training Institute Inc. Phase 2	\$0	
18	South Piedmont Community College Foundation Inc	HVAC-R Program at L.L. Polk Campus (Anson CBGI)	\$500,000	
19	The Caraway Foundation	Anson CBGI	\$300,000	Award grant to Anson County Schools
<b>Anson County</b>				
20	City of Concord	McGill Reuse Project	\$0	
21	Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	Expanding Automotive Technology Pathways in Cabarrus County	\$1,250,000	No funding for ADAS Scan Tool Fixture; Release of funds contingent on the college securing \$250,000 for the project
<b>Cabarrus County</b>				

22	Cleveland Community College	Healthcare Educational Pathway	\$622,662.98	
23	Cleveland County Schools	Healthcare Education Pathway	\$360,590.58	
24	Gardner-Webb University	Healthcare Educational Pathway	\$290,408.52	
25	The City of Kings Mountain	Infrastructure Project-City of Kings Mtn.	\$0	
<b>Cleveland County</b>				
26	Belmont Abbey College	Anatomy/Physiology Lab Renovation	\$0	
27	Gaston College	Expansion of Gaston College Welding Program	\$125,000	Funding for welding equipment and crane only
<b>Gaston County</b>				
28	Iredell County EDC, Foundation	Herring Industrial Dr. Expansion	\$750,000	Funding for eastern portion of the road and Golden LEAF standard due diligence for lots 5 and 6; release of funds for road construction is conditioned on Golden LEAF approval of the results of due diligence reports for property owned by the grantee; due diligence funding is only available for so long as the property is owned by the grantee
<b>Iredell County</b>				
29	Gaston College	Lincoln County Health Academy	\$1,034,600	
<b>Lincoln County</b>				
30	Rowan-Cabarrus Community College	Expanding Advanced Manufacturing Pathways at RCCC	\$975,000	Release of funds is contingent on the college securing \$200,000 for the project
31	Rowan-Salisbury School System	Implementing Global Logistics Program	\$325,000	
<b>Rowan County</b>				
32	Stanly Community College Foundation, Inc.	Engineering and Information Technology Pathways – Dual-Enrollment and Apprenticeships	\$750,000	
<b>Stanly County</b>				



33	South Piedmont Community College Foundation Inc	SPCC BioWorks Program	\$480,000	No funding for participant support
34	Union County Government	Union County Food Innovation Center	\$1,000,000	
35	Wingate University	Union County Agricultural Workforce Development Initiative	\$0	
<b>SITE Programs</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
<b>Identification</b>				
36	Lenoir, County of	Lenoir County SITE Identification	\$15,000	
37	Vance County	Vance County - Site Identification	\$15,000	
<b>Modifications</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Programs Cmte Rec</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>
38	Town of Holly Springs	Project Galaxy	Approve modification	
39	NC Chamber Foundation	NC Ag Leads	Approve modification	Authorize the Chair of the Board, Chair of the Programs Committee, and the President of the Foundation to approve a modification and extension of Golden LEAF's contract with the NC Chamber Foundation to create a Phase 3 to fund activities through August 2025 to further develop initiatives identified during the planning process, with funds to be used for personnel, meetings, contracted services and similar costs, all within the original contract amount.
40	NC Global Transpark Authority	Project C130	Approve modification	

41	The Ocracoke Foundation, Inc.	Ocracoke Seafood Company Business Expansion	Approve modification	
<b>Other Business</b>				
<b>#</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments Special Conditions</b>		
42	Revisions to Golden LEAF Grant Monitoring Policy	Approve proposed revisions.		
43	Modification to grant to Davidson County Schools for the South Davidson Welding Program	Approve a change in the project and project outcomes from focusing on Career and College Promise courses and completions to welding training, generally.		
44	Transfer grant made to Siler City to City of Sanford (Mountaire Farms, Inc. Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements and Expansion)	Authorize the Chair of the Board, Chair of the Programs Committee and President of the Foundation to approve transfer \$2M grant for wastewater improvements previously awarded to Siler City to the City of Sanford for improvements to Siler City's wastewater treatment plant and use of funds for the revised project and project scope. (Sanford has received funding from NC for the project and is managing design and construction.)		
45	Modification to Eastern NC Food Commercialization Center Grant	Allow use of funds for building construction and improvements in addition to equipment.		