



# Annual Financial Report

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025



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SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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SOUTHERN UNION  
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**Independent Auditor's Report**

Jimmy Baker, Chancellor, Alabama Community College System  
Todd Shackett, President, Southern Union State Community College  
Wadley, Alabama

**Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Southern Union State Community College (the College), a component unit of the State of Alabama, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the College's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the College as of September 30, 2025, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards (GAS)*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the College, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the College's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement issuance date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and GAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.



In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the College's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### **Required Supplementary Information**

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, Schedule of the College's Proportionate Share of the Collective Net Pension Liability, Schedule of the College's Contributions - Pension, Schedule of the College's Proportionate Share of the Collective Net Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) Liability, Schedule of the College's Contributions - Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB), and Notes to the Required Supplementary Information for Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the College's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information, *Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.



The *Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards* is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the *Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards* is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

#### **Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the introductory sections but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

#### **Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 14, 2026, on our consideration of the College's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the College's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackson Thornton &amp; Co. PC".

Montgomery, Alabama  
January 14, 2026



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# Management's Discussion and Analysis

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
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# Management's Discussion and Analysis

## Overview of the Financial Statements and Financial Analysis

In the accompanying documentation, Southern Union State Community College presents its financial statements for fiscal year 2024-2025, with comparative data for fiscal year 2023-2024. This report of the College's financial statements provides an overview of financial activities and emphasizes current year data. There are three financial statements presented: the Statement of Net Position; the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position; and the Statement of Cash Flows.

## Statement of Net Position

The Statement of Net Position presents the assets, liabilities, and net position of the College at September 30, 2025. The Statement of Net Position is a point in time financial statement which presents the readers of the financial statements a fiscal snapshot of Southern Union State Community College. The Statement of Net Position presents end-of-year data concerning assets (current and noncurrent), liabilities (current and noncurrent), deferred outflows and inflows of resources, and net position. From the data presented, readers of the Statement of Net Position are able to determine the assets available to continue the operations of the institution. They are also able to determine how much the institution owes vendors, investors, and lending institutions. In summary, the Statement of Net Position provides a picture of the availability of assets for expenditure by the institution.

Net Position is divided into three major categories. The first category, invested in capital assets, net of related debt and depreciation, provides the institution's equity in property, plant, and equipment owned by the institution. The second asset category is restricted assets, which is divided into nonexpendable and expendable. The corpus of nonexpendable restricted resources is only available for investment purposes. Expendable restricted assets are available for expenditure by the institution, but must be spent for purposes as determined by donors and/or external entities that have placed time or purpose restrictions on the use of the assets. The third category is unrestricted assets which are available to the institution for any appropriate purpose of the institution.

The following table shows the total net position of the institution, which increased \$2,698,496 from the prior year. Consumption of assets follows the institutional philosophy to use available resources to acquire and improve all areas of the institution to better serve the instruction and public service missions of the institution.

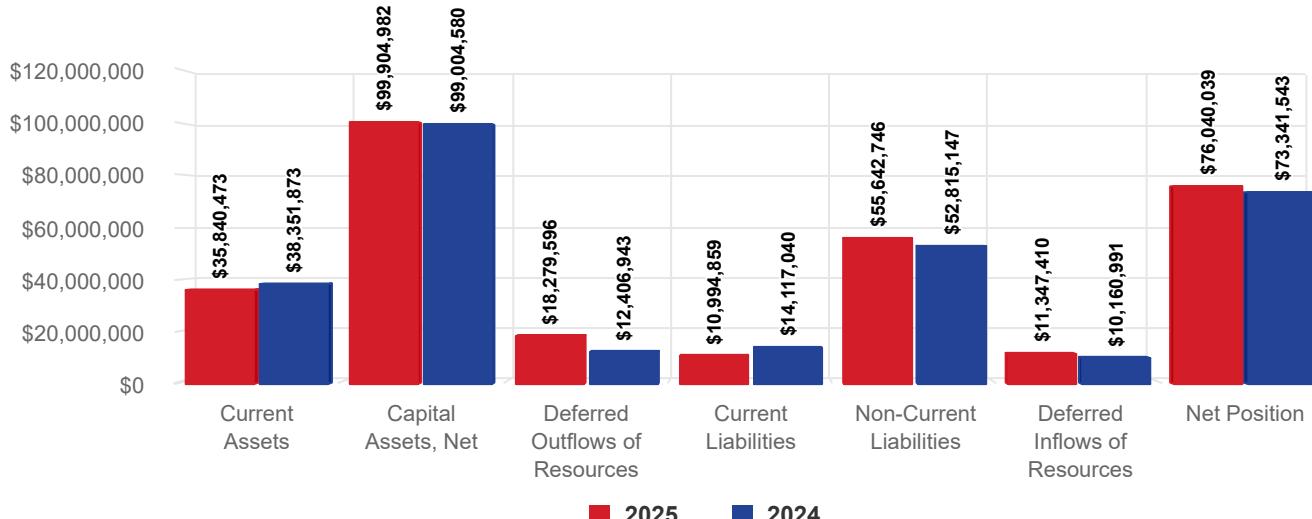
The following schedule summarizes the Statement of Net Position as of September 30, 2025 and 2024.

## Statement of Net Position

	2025	2024
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	\$ 35,840,473	\$ 38,351,873
Capital Assets, Net	99,904,982	99,004,580
Other Non-Current Assets	-	671,325
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>135,745,455</b>	<b>138,027,778</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>18,279,596</b>	<b>12,406,943</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	10,994,859	14,117,040
Non-Current Liabilities	55,642,746	52,815,147
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>66,637,605</b>	<b>66,932,187</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>11,347,410</b>	<b>10,160,991</b>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	83,028,065	80,383,765
Restricted	1,300,541	712,218
Unrestricted	(8,288,567)	(7,754,440)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 76,040,039</b>	<b>\$ 73,341,543</b>

The following is a graphic presentation of the College's Statements of Net Position as of September 30, 2025 and 2024:

## Statement of Net Position



## Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

Changes in total net position as presented on the Statement of Net Position are based on the activity presented in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. The purpose of the statement is to present the revenues received by the institution, both operating and non-operating, and the expenses paid by the institution, operating and non-operating, and any other revenues, expenses, gains and losses received or spent by the institution.

Generally speaking, operating revenues are received for providing goods and services to the various customers and constituencies of the institution. Operating expenses are those expenses paid to acquire or produce the goods and services provided in return for the operating revenues and to carry out the mission of the institution. Non-operating revenues are revenues received for which goods and services are not provided. For example state appropriations are non-operating because they are provided by the Legislature to the institution without the Legislature directly receiving commensurate goods and services for those revenues.

A condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position for the year ended September 30, 2025 and 2024 is presented below.

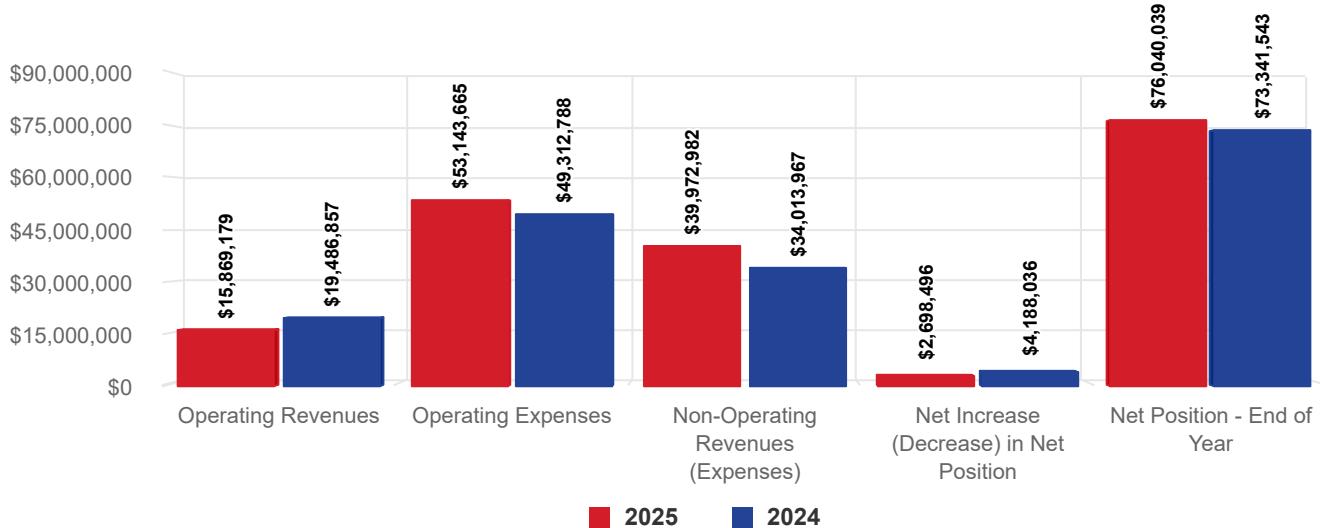
## Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Operating Revenues	\$ 15,869,179	\$ 19,486,857
Operating Expenses	53,143,665	49,312,788
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>(37,274,486)</u>	<u>(29,825,931)</u>
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	39,972,982	34,013,967
Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	<u>2,698,496</u>	<u>4,188,036</u>
Net Position - Beginning of Year	73,341,543	69,153,507
Net Position - End of Year	<b><u>\$ 76,040,039</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 73,341,543</u></b>

Some highlights of the information presented on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position are included in the exhibits on the following page. The largest operating revenue is student tuition and the largest operating expense is instruction. Gross tuition and fees increased by \$695,080 and scholarship allowances increased by \$2,918,841, for a net decrease of \$2,223,761. The increase in gross tuition and fees directly correlates to the increase in credit hours sold. The increase in scholarship allowances is related to more scholarships awarded. The College uses the case-by-case method to determine the amount of scholarship allowances and discounts. The auxiliary services of dining hall, residence hall, and print shop are self-supporting.

The following is a graphic presentation of the College's Statement of Revenues, Expenses & Changes in Net Position for the years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024:

## Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position



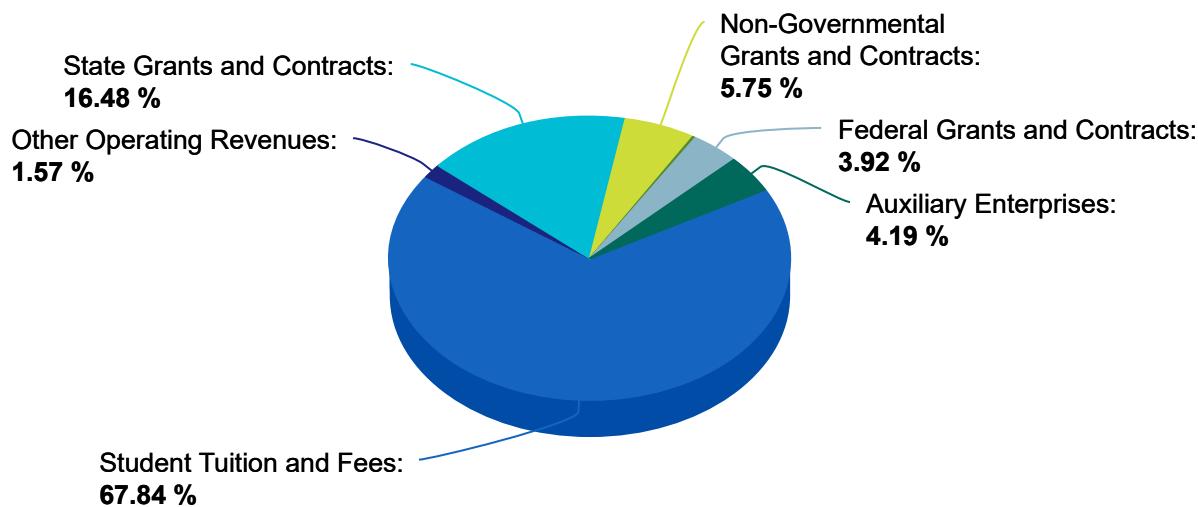
## Operating Revenues

### Operating Revenues

	2025	2024
Student Tuition and Fees	\$ 10,765,770	\$ 12,989,531
Other Operating Revenues	249,315	501,531
State Grants and Contracts	2,615,125	3,600,528
Non-Governmental Grants and Contracts	912,180	846,294
Sales and Services of Educational Departments	39,831	37,609
Federal Grants and Contracts	621,820	837,031
Auxiliary Enterprises	665,138	674,333
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 15,869,179</b>	<b>\$ 19,486,857</b>

The following is a graphic presentation of the total revenues by source for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025.

## Operating Revenues by Source



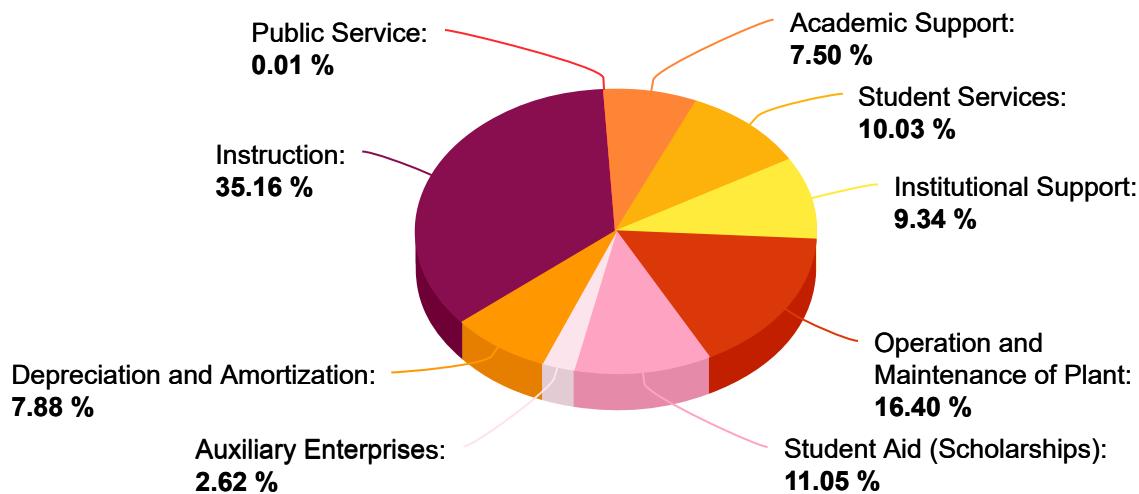
The operating expenses by function stated are displayed in the following exhibit.

## Operating Expenses

	2025	2024
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Instruction	\$ 18,687,504	\$ 17,826,499
Public Service	3,351	4,996
Academic Support	3,986,945	3,860,779
Student Services	5,328,996	5,113,921
Institutional Support	4,965,713	3,888,524
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	8,716,025	6,026,829
Student Aid (Scholarships)	5,874,665	7,031,178
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,392,425	1,427,270
Depreciation and Amortization	4,188,041	4,132,792
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 53,143,665</b>	<b>\$ 49,312,788</b>

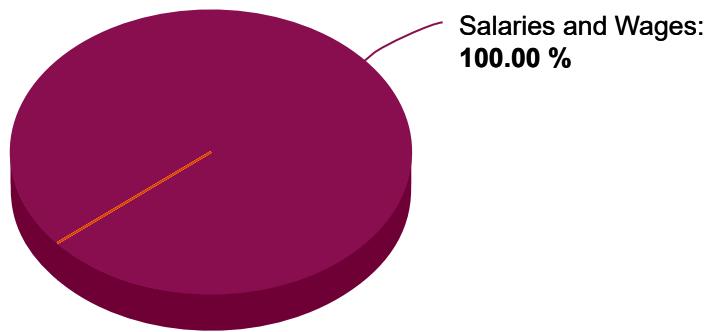
The following is a graphic presentation of operating expenses by function for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025.

## Operating Expenses by Function



Operating expenses are summarized here by natural classification.

## Operating Expenses by Natural Classification

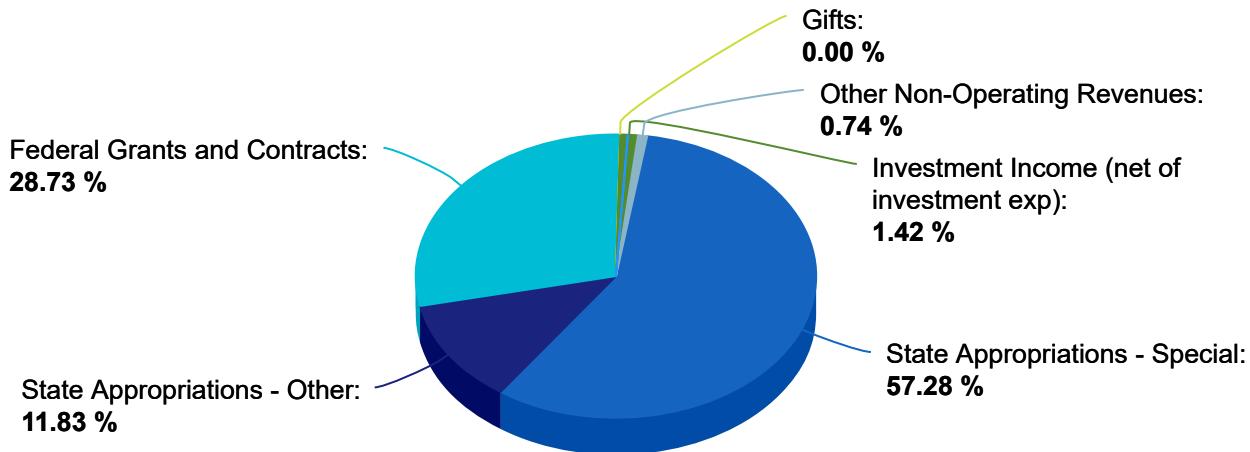


## Comparison of Non-Operating Revenue

	2025	2024
<b>Non-Operating Revenue</b>		
State Appropriations - O & M	\$ 23,241,503	\$ 22,420,481
State Appropriations - Special	85,475	226,085
State Appropriations - Other	4,817,758	625,851
Federal Grants and Contracts	11,699,635	10,422,476
Gifts	1,000	2,500
Investment Income (net of investment exp)	578,406	845,303
Other Non-Operating Revenues	301,472	234,812
Interest	(634,974)	(698,950)
Other Non-Operating Expenses	-	49,206
Bond Surety Fee Expense	(117,293)	(113,797)
<b>Total Non-Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 39,972,982</b>	<b>\$ 34,013,967</b>

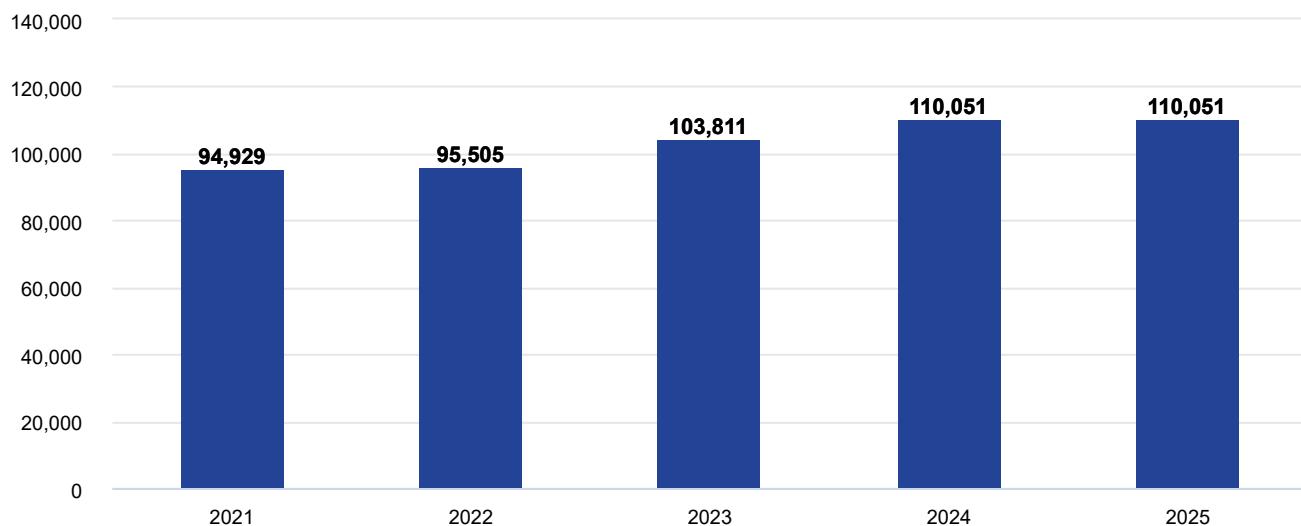
The following chart displays the non-operating revenues by type and their relationship with one another for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025.

## Comparison of Non-Operating Revenue



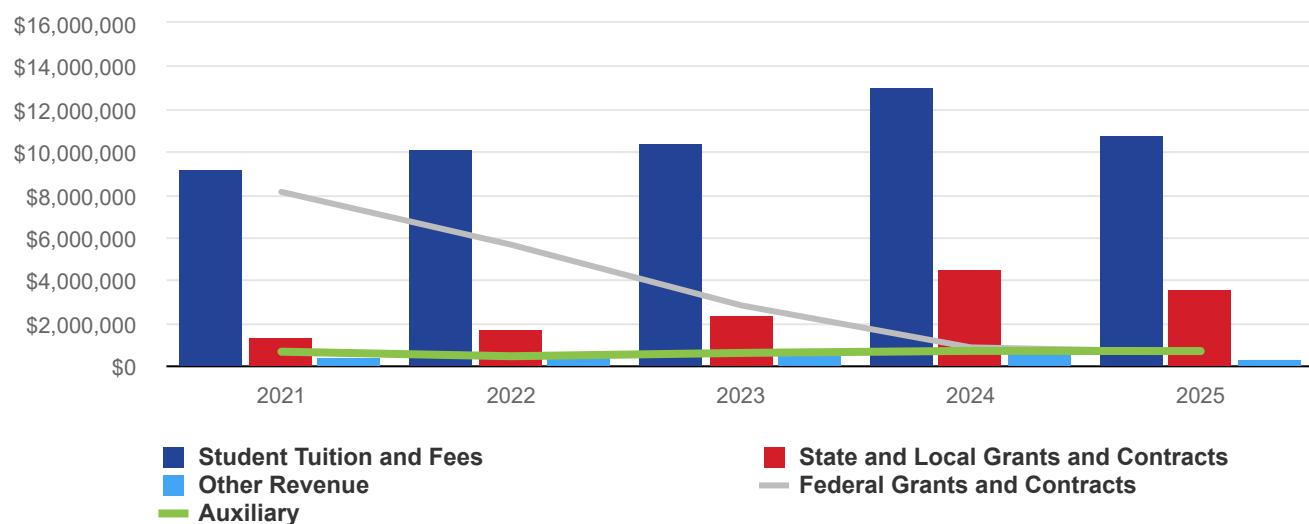
The following chart displays the 5 Year Comparison of Credit Hours for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025.

## 5 Year Comparison of Credit Hours



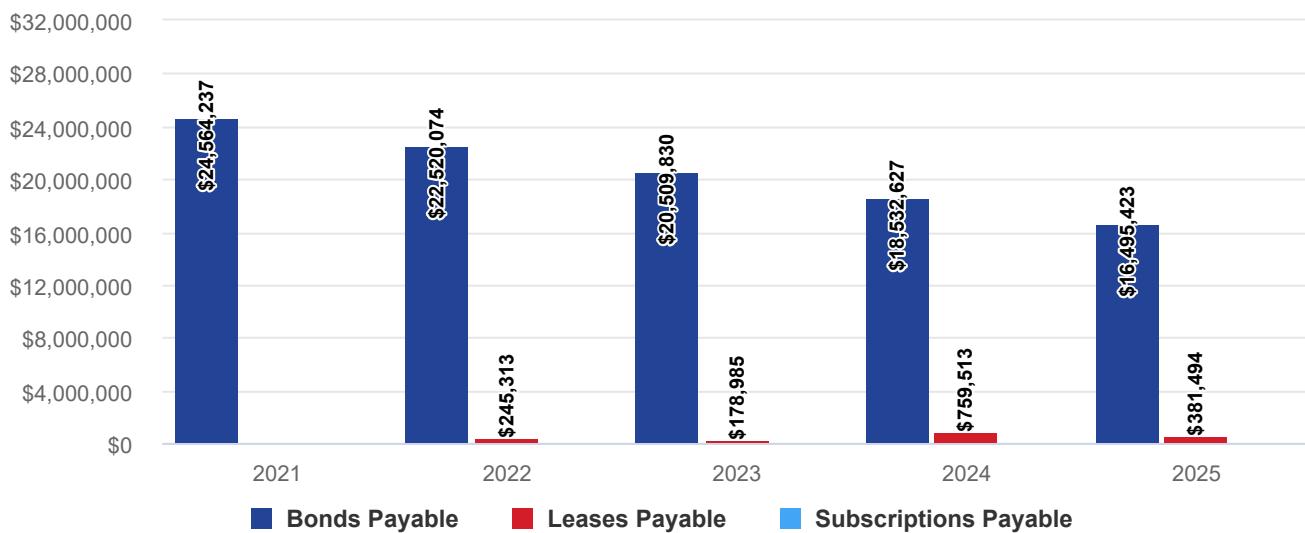
The following chart displays the 5 Year Comparison of Operating Revenue for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025.

## 5 Year Comparison of Operating Revenue



The following chart displays 5 Year Comparison of Long-Term Debt Principal for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025.

## 5 Year Comparison of Long-Term Debt Principal



## Statement of Cash Flows

The final statement presented is the Statement of Cash Flows which presents detailed information about the cash activity of the institution during the year. The statement is divided into five parts. The first part deals with operating cash flows and shows the net cash used by the operating activities of the institution. The second section reflects cash received and spent for non-operating, non-investing, and noncapital financing purposes. The third section reflects cash flows from capital and related financing activities which deals with the cash used for the acquisition and construction of capital and related items. The fourth section reflects the cash flows from investing activities and shows the purchases, proceeds, and interest received from investing activities. The fifth section reconciles the net cash used to the operating income or loss reflected on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position.

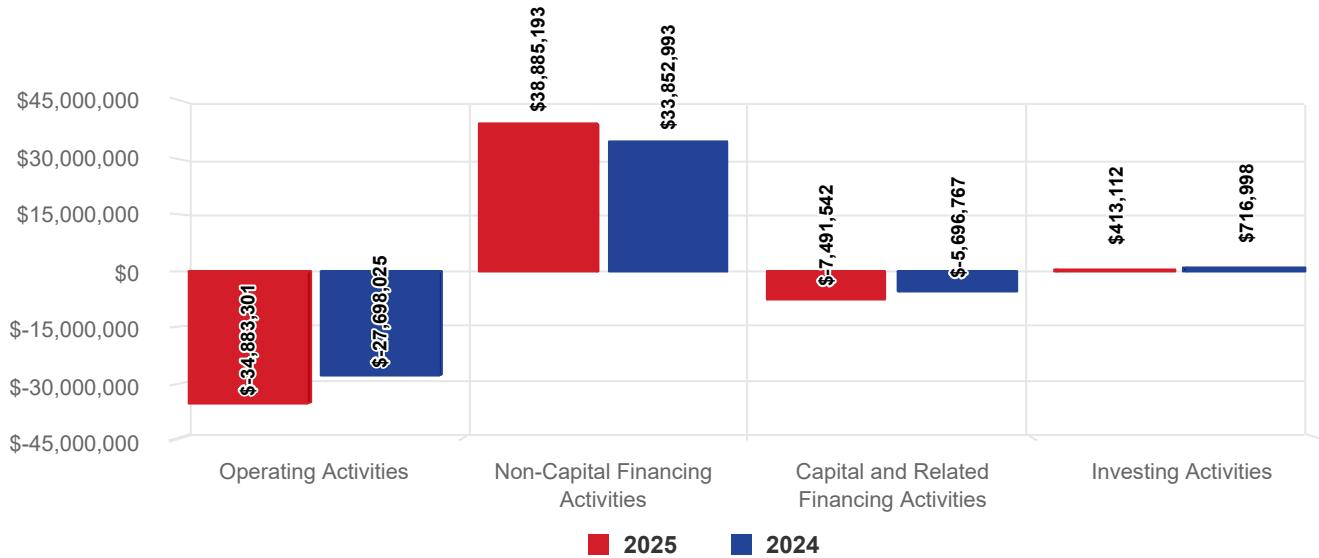
## Statement of Cash Flows

	2025	2024
<b>Cash Provided by (Used in):</b>		
Operating Activities	\$ (34,883,301)	\$ (27,698,025)
Non-Capital Financing Activities	38,885,193	33,852,993
Capital and Related Financing Activities	(7,491,542)	(5,696,767)
Investing Activities	413,112	716,998
<b>Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(3,076,538)</b>	<b>1,175,199</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	25,520,865	24,345,666
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 22,444,327</b>	<b>\$ 25,520,865</b>

The following chart visually depicts the cash flow figures used to generate the net change in cash for the year 2025-2024.

A condensed Statement of Cash Flows for the years ended September 30, 2025 and 2024 is presented below.

## Statement of Cash Flows



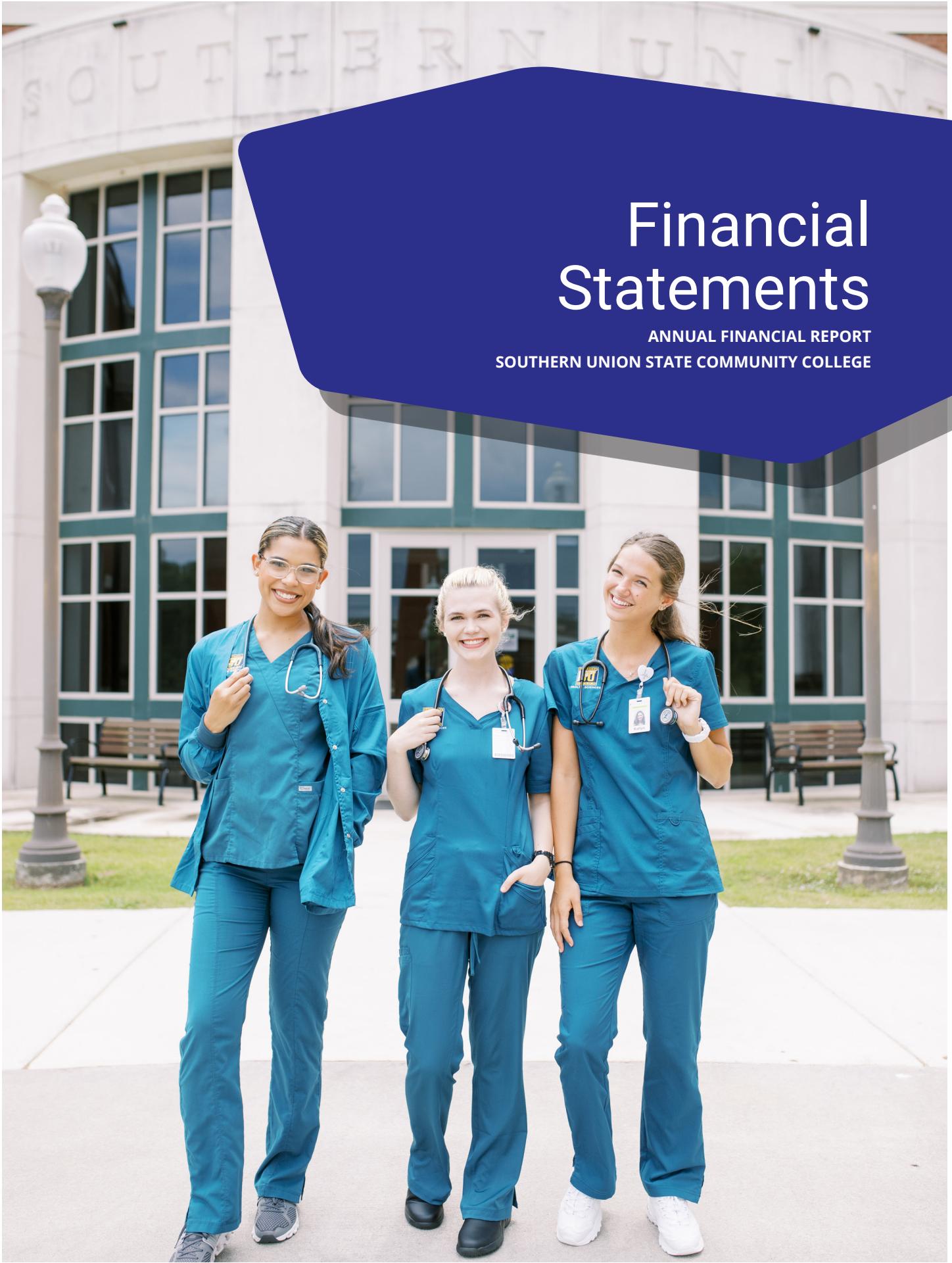
## Economic Outlook

The College's overall financial position is strong. Both enrollment and credit hour production improved for the 2024-2025 fiscal year compared to the prior year, with enrollment increasing 7.6% and credit hour production increasing 7.2%. The College expects enrollment growth to continue to increase at a steady rate. The College will maintain a close watch over resources to assure the ability to react to unexpected internal and external issues.



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# Financial Statements

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## Statement of Net Position

### September 30, 2025

	<b>2025</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 22,444,327
Short-Term Investments	4,073,084
Accounts Receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts)	8,603,036
Inventories	30,772
Deposit with Bond Trustee	688,204
Other Current Assets	1,053
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>35,840,476</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	
Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation and Amortization	99,904,982
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>99,904,982</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>135,745,458</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	
Pension	5,776,105
Other Postemployment Benefit (OPEB)	12,503,491
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 18,279,596</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Net Position (Continued)**  
**September 30, 2025**

**2025**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 2,849,424
Bond Surety Fee Payable	31,261
Unearned Revenue	5,896,289
Compensated Absences	92,813
Lease Payable	7,869
Bonds Payable	2,117,203
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>10,994,859</u></b>

**Non-Current Liabilities**

Compensated Absences	835,319
Lease Payable	373,625
Bonds Payable	14,378,220
Net Pension	26,055,000
Net OPEB Liability	14,000,582
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>55,642,746</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b><u>66,637,605</u></b>

**Deferred Inflows of Resources**

Pensions	4,786,000
Other Postemployment Benefit (OPEB)	6,561,410
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b><u>11,347,410</u></b>

**Net Position**

Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt and Depreciation	83,028,065
Restricted:	
Expendable:	
Debt Service	734,576
Scholarships and Fellowships	25,987
Training for Business / Industry	539,978
Unrestricted	(8,288,567)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b><u>\$ 76,040,039</u></b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

	<b>2025</b>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	
Student Tuition and Fees (net of scholarship allowances of \$10,418,572)	\$ 10,765,770
Other Operating Revenues	249,315
State Grants and Contracts	2,615,125
Non-Governmental Grants and Contracts	912,180
Sales and Services of Educational Departments	39,831
Federal Grants and Contracts	621,820
Auxiliary Enterprises	
Food Service (net of scholarship allowances)	315,982
Vending	7,252
Housing (net of scholarship allowances)	160,428
Other Auxiliary Enterprises	181,476
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>15,869,179</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Instruction	18,687,504
Public Service	3,351
Academic Support	3,986,945
Student Services	5,328,996
Institutional Support	4,965,713
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	8,716,025
Student Aid (Scholarships)	5,874,665
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,392,425
Depreciation and Amortization	4,188,041
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>53,143,665</b>
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (37,274,486)</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

	<b>2025</b>
<b>Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)</b>	
State Appropriations - O & M	\$ 23,241,503
State Appropriations - Special	85,475
State Appropriations - Other	4,817,758
Federal Grants and Contracts	11,699,635
Gifts	1,000
Investment Income (net of investment exp)	578,406
Other Non-Operating Revenues	301,472
Interest	(634,974)
Bond Surety Fee Expense	(117,293)
<b>Total Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)</b>	<b>39,972,982</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Position</b>	<b>2,698,496</b>
Net Position - Beginning of Year	73,341,543
<b>Net Position - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 76,040,039</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Statement of Cash Flows

### For the Year Ended September 30, 2025

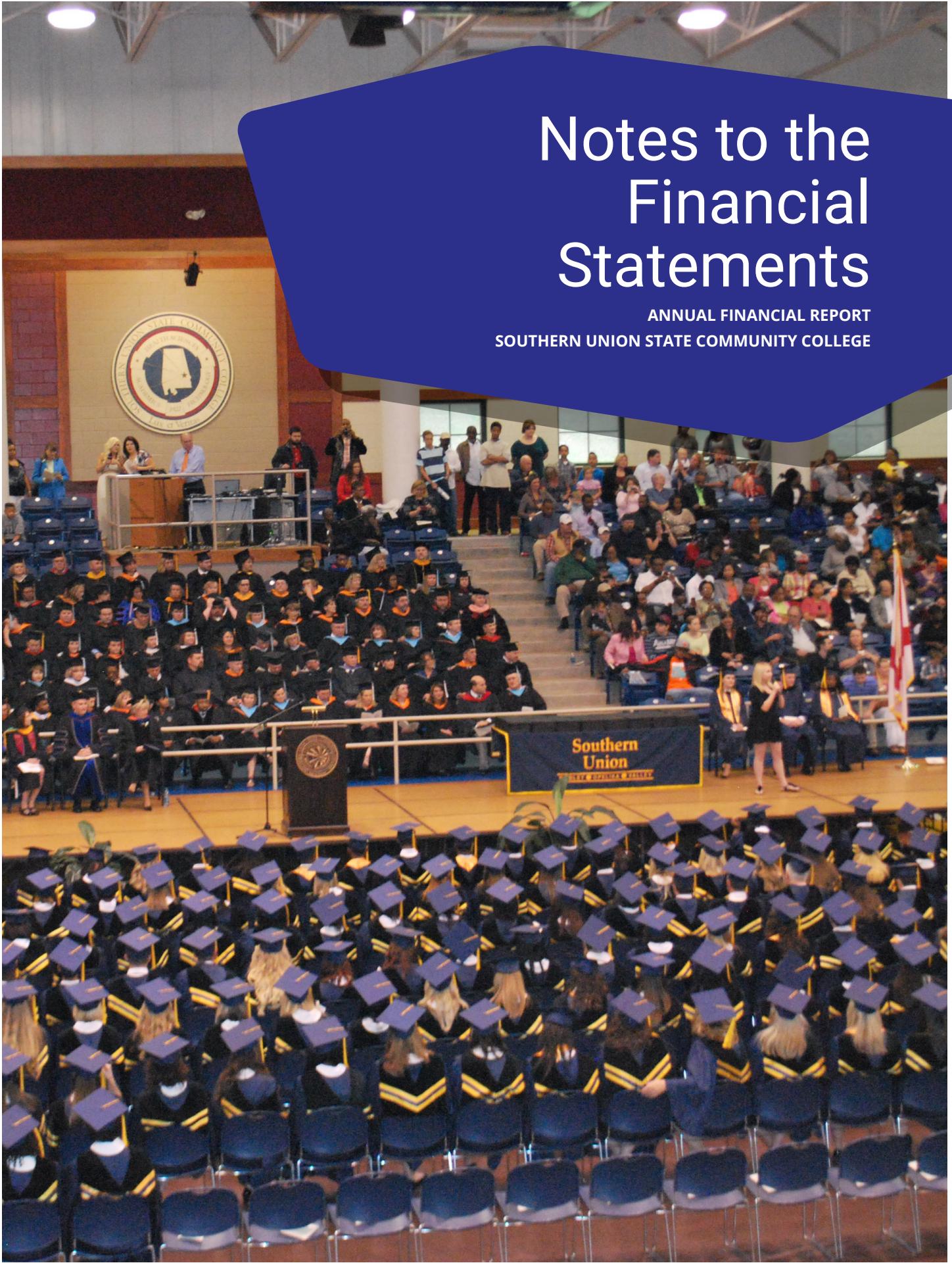
	<b>2025</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 9,138,237
Grants and Contracts	3,857,650
Payments to Suppliers	(13,037,594)
Payments for Utilities	(2,388,410)
Payments for Employees	(21,004,025)
Payments for Benefits	(6,463,859)
Payments for Scholarships	(5,874,665)
Auxiliary Enterprise Charges	
Vending	7,252
Housing	160,428
Other Auxiliary Enterprise	497,459
Sales and services of educational activities	39,831
Other Payments	184,395
<b>Net Cash Used in Operating Activities</b>	<b>(34,883,301)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Non-Capital Financing Activities</b>	
State Appropriations	26,991,644
Bond Surety Fee Expense	(117,959)
Gifts and Grants for Other than Capital Purposes	1,000
Federal Direct Loan Receipts	4,894,801
Federal Direct loan Lending Disbursements	(4,894,801)
Federal Grant Revenue - Non-Operating	11,699,635
Other Non-Capital Financing	310,873
<b>Net Cash Provided by Non-Capital Financing Activities</b>	<b>38,885,193</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>	
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	(9,401)
Purchases of Capital Assets and Construction	(5,585,483)
Principal Paid on Capital Debt and Leases	(2,128,147)
Interest Paid on Capital Debt and Leases	(634,975)
Bond Issue Costs Paid	(27,203)
Deposits with Trustees	447
Appropriations for Capital Projects	1,153,092
Other Capital and Related Financing	(259,872)
<b>Net Cash Used in Capital and Related Financing Activities</b>	<b>(7,491,542)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	
Investment Income	578,407
Purchase of Investments	(165,295)
<b>Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities</b>	<b>413,112</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(3,076,538)</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Cash Flows (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

	<b>2025</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of the Year	25,520,865
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 22,444,327</b>
<b>Reconciliation of Net Operating Income to Net Cash Used in Operating Activities</b>	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (37,274,486)
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Depreciation and Amortization Expense	4,188,041
Changes in Assets and Liabilities	
Receivables, Net	(399,735)
Inventory	(556)
Other Assets	1,168,361
Deferred Outflows	(5,872,654)
Accounts Payable	(1,537,099)
Unearned Revenue	(1,584,194)
Compensated Absences	976
Pension Liability	(5,772,000)
OPEB Liability	11,013,624
Deferred Inflows	1,186,419
<b>Net Cash Used in Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$ (34,883,303)</b>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

A large indoor graduation ceremony is taking place in a gymnasium. The stage is filled with graduates in black caps and gowns. A podium with a Southern Union logo is on the left. A large audience of family and friends is seated in bleachers on the right. A large circular seal for Southern Union State Community College is on the wall in the background.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



SOUTHERN UNION  
STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### Nature of Operations

The financial statements of Southern Union State Community College (the "College") are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant accounting policies of the College are described below.

### Reporting Entity

The College is a component unit of the State of Alabama. A component unit is a legally separate organization for which the elected officials of the primary government are financially accountable. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in Statement Number 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity*, states that a primary government is financially accountable for a component unit if it appoints a voting majority of an organization's governing body and (1) it is able to impose its will on that organization or (2) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the primary government. In this case, the primary government is the State of Alabama which through the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees governs the Alabama Community College System. The Alabama Community College System through its Chancellor has the authority and responsibility for the operation, management, supervision and regulation of the College. In addition, the College receives a substantial portion of its funding from the State of Alabama (potential to impose a specific financial burden). Based on these criteria, the College is considered for financial reporting purposes to be a component unit of the State of Alabama.

### Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statements of the College have been prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

It is the policy of the College to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred and then apply unrestricted resources when both restricted and unrestricted resources are available.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position distinguishes between operating and non-operating revenues. Operating revenues, such as tuition and fees, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activities of the College. Exchange transactions are those in which each party to the transactions receives or gives up essentially equal values. The College has determined that all federal grant and contracts (excluding Pell grants), state grants and contracts, local grants and contracts and non-governmental grants and contracts, which are not designated for the purchase of capital assets, will be considered operating revenue. Non-operating revenues arise from exchange transactions not associated with the College's principal activities, such as investment income and from all non-exchange transactions, such as state appropriations, gifts, and Pell grants.

**Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Statutes authorize the College to invest in the same type of instruments as allowed by Alabama law for domestic life insurance companies. This includes a wide range of investments, such as direct obligations of the United States of America, obligations issued or guaranteed by certain federal agencies, and bonds of any state, county, city, town, village, municipality, district or other political subdivision of any state or any instrumentality or board thereof or of the United States of America that meet specified criteria.

Investments are reported at fair value based on quoted market prices, except for money market investments and repurchase agreements, which are reported at amortized cost.

**Receivables**

Accounts receivable relate to amounts due from students, federal grants, state grants, state appropriations, ACCS, third party tuition, and auxiliary enterprise sales, such as a bookstore. The receivables are shown net of allowance for doubtful accounts.

**Capital Assets**

Capital assets, other than intangibles, with a unit cost of over \$10,000 (increased from \$5,000, effective October 1, 2024) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year, and all library books, are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. The capitalization threshold for intangible assets such as capitalized software and internally generated computer software is \$1 million and \$100,000 for easements and land use rights and patents, trademarks and copyrights. In addition, works of art and historical treasures and similar assets are recorded at their historical cost. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value (an entry price) at the date of donation. Land, Construction in Progress and intangible assets with indefinite lives are the only capital assets that are not depreciated. Depreciation is not allocated to a functional expense category. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend its life are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Maintenance and repairs are charged to operations when incurred. Betterments and major improvements which significantly increase values, change capacities or extend useful lives are capitalized.

Maintenance and repairs are charged to operations when incurred. Betterments and major improvements which significantly increase values, change capacities or extend useful lives are capitalized.

The method of depreciation and useful lives of the capital assets are as follows:

Assets	Depreciation Method	Useful Lives
Buildings	Straight Line	50 years
Building Alterations	Straight Line	25 years
Collections	Not depreciated	
Improvements other than Buildings and Infrastructure	Straight Line	25 years
Construction in Progress	Not depreciated	
Furniture and Equipment	Straight Line	5-10 years
Library Materials	Composite	20 years
Capitalized Software	Straight Line	10 years
Internally Generated Computer Software	Straight Line	10 years
Easement and Land Use Rights	Straight Line	20 years
Patents, Trademarks, and Copyrights	Straight Line	20 years

### Deferred Outflow of Resources

Deferred outflows of resources are reported in the Statement of Net Position. Deferred outflows of resources are defined as a consumption of net assets by the government that is applicable to a future reporting period. Deferred outflows of resources increase net position, similar to assets.

### Long-term Obligations

Long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the Statement of Net Position. Bond/Warrant premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds.

### Unearned Tuition and Fee Revenue

Tuition and fee revenues received for Fall Term but related to the portion of the Term that occurs in the subsequent fiscal year have been disclosed as unearned revenues.

### Compensated Absences

The College records liabilities for compensated absences in accordance with GASB Statement No. 101, Compensated Absences. A liability is recognized when leave is (1) attributable to services already rendered, (2) accumulates, and (3) is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. Substantially all employees of the College earn 12 days of sick leave each year, with unlimited accumulation. In accordance with Alabama law, sick leave balances generally convert to service credit in the Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama (TRS) upon retirement. Because those balances are more likely than not to be settled through conversion to TRS service credit rather than paid or otherwise settled, no liability is recorded for sick leave. All non-instructional employees earn annual leave at a rate that varies from 12 to 24 days per year depending on length of service, with accumulation limited to 60 days. Instructional employees do not earn annual leave. Payment is made to employees for unused annual leave at termination or retirement. Accordingly, the College records a liability for accrued but unused vacation leave, including salary-related payments directly and incrementally associated with that leave.

## Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred inflows of resources are reported in the Statement of Net Position. Deferred inflows of resources are defined as an acquisition of net assets by the government that is applicable to a future reporting period. Deferred inflows of resources decrease net position, similar to liabilities.

## Pensions

The Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama (the "Plan") financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting. Contributions are recognized as revenues when earned, pursuant to plan requirements. Benefits and refunds are recognized as revenues when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan. Expenses are recognized when the corresponding liability is incurred, regardless of when the payment is made.

Investments are reported at fair value. Financial statements are prepared in accordance with requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Under these requirements, the Plan is considered a component unit of the State of Alabama and is included in the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

## Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB)

The Alabama Retired Education Employees' Health Care Trust (the "Trust") financial statements are prepared by using the economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting. This includes for purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Trust and additions to/deductions from the Trust's fiduciary net position. Plan member contributions are recognized in the period in which the contributions are due. Employer contributions are recognized when due pursuant to plan requirements. Benefits are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan. Subsequent events were evaluated by management through the date the financial statements were issued.

## Net Position

Net position is defined as the difference between (a) assets and deferred outflows of resources and (b) liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net position is required to be classified for accounting and reporting purposes into the following categories:

- **Net Investment in Capital Assets** – Capital assets, including restricted capital assets, reduced by accumulated depreciation and by outstanding principal balances of debt attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets or related debt are also included in this component of net position. Any significant unspent related debt proceeds or inflows of resources at year-end related to capital assets are not included in this calculation.
- **Restricted:**

- *Expendable* – Net position whose use by the College is subject to externally imposed stipulations that can be fulfilled by actions of the College pursuant to those stipulations or that expire by the passage of time.
- *Non-expendable* – Net position subject to externally imposed stipulations that they be maintained permanently by the College.
- **Unrestricted** – Net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of net investment in capital assets or the restricted component of net position. Unrestricted resources may be designated for specific purposes by action of management or the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees.

## Federal Financial Assistance Programs

The College participates in various federal programs. Federal programs are audited in accordance with Title 2, U. S. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)*.

## Scholarship Allowances and Student Aid

Student tuition and fees are reported net of scholarship allowances and discounts. The amount for scholarship allowances and discounts is the difference between the stated charge for goods and services provided by the College and the amount that is paid by the student and/or third parties making payments on behalf of the student. The College uses the case-by-case method to determine the amount of scholarship allowances and discounts.

## Change in Accounting Estimate: Capitalization Threshold

On October 1, 2024, the College increased its capitalization threshold for tangible capital assets from \$5,000 to \$10,000. This change was implemented to align with federal regulations and enhance administrative efficiency. It is accounted for as a change in accounting estimate, applied prospectively in accordance with GASB Statement No. 100, which mandates that changes in estimates be recognized in the current and future periods only, without restating prior-period financial statements.

Under the revised threshold, assets previously capitalized with historical costs between \$5,000 and \$9,999.99 that remain undepreciated as of October 1, 2024, will continue to record depreciation expense and associated accumulated depreciation according to their remaining useful lives. Assets within that cost range which are already fully depreciated have been removed from the Property, Plant & Equipment (PP&E) ledger. Going forward, effective October 1, 2024, only assets with acquisition costs of at least \$10,000 will be capitalized. There has been no restatement of prior-period financial statements as a result of this change, which is consistent with the prospective treatment required by GASB Statement No. 100.

Management has evaluated the financial impact of this change and considers it to be material, given the likely influence on reported depreciation trends and the PP&E balance over time. This disclosure is provided to ensure transparency and comparability for users of the financial statements.

## New Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2022, GASB issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023. This Statement supersedes prior guidance based on vesting and instead requires recognizing a liability only when leave is *more likely than not* to be used, paid in cash, or otherwise settled. The College adopted this Statement for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. The adoption had no impact on the previously reported beginning net position, as liabilities for vacation leave were already recognized and sick leave converts to service credit in the Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama rather than being paid or otherwise settled.

In December 2023, GASB issued Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*, which is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024. This Statement requires governments to disclose potential risks arising from vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints when those conditions make the government vulnerable to a substantial impact, and when associated events have occurred, are in process, or are more likely than not to occur within 12 months of the issuance of the financial statements. The College adopted this Statement for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025. The adoption did not impact amounts previously reported in net position, and no new disclosures were required, as management was not aware of any concentrations or constraints with related events that met all of the disclosure criteria as of the issuance of these financial statements.

## Note 2. Deposits and Investments

### Deposits

Deposits at year-end were held by financial institutions in the State of Alabama's Security for Alabama Funds Enhancement (SAFE) Program. The SAFE Program was established by the Alabama Legislature and is governed by the provisions contained in the **Code of Alabama 1975, Sections 41-14A-1 through 41-14A-14**. Under the SAFE Program, all public funds are protected through a collateral pool administered by the Alabama State Treasurer's Office. Under this program, financial institutions holding deposits of public funds must pledge securities as collateral against those deposits. In the event of failure of a financial institution, securities pledged by the financial institution would be liquidated by the State Treasurer to replace the public deposits not covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation (FDIC). If the securities pledged failed to produce adequate funds, every institution participating in the pool would share the liability for the remaining balance.

The Statement of Net Position classification "Cash and Cash Equivalents" includes all readily available cash such as petty cash, demand deposits, and certificates of deposits with original maturities of three months or less.

### Investments

The College invests its funds in securities and investments in accordance with the **Code of Alabama 1975, Section 16-13-2, Sections 27-1-8 and 27-1-9, and Sections 27-41-1 through 27-41-41**. These laws provide that the College may invest in the same type of instruments as allowed by Alabama law for domestic life insurance companies. This includes a wide range of investments, such as direct obligations of the United States of America, obligations issued or guaranteed by certain federal agencies, and bonds of any state, county, city, town, village, municipality, district or other political subdivision of any state or any instrumentality or board thereof of the United States of America that meet specified criteria.

Permissible investments include:

1. U.S. Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and stripped Treasuries;
2. U.S. Agency notes, bonds, debentures, discount notes and certificates;
3. Certificates of Deposits (CDs), checking and money market accounts of savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, or commercial banks whose accounts are insured by FDIC/FSLIC, and who are designated a Qualified Public Depository (QPD) under the SAFE Program;
4. Mortgage Backed Securities (MBSs);
5. Mortgage related securities to include Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs) and Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits (REMIC) securities;
6. Repurchase agreements; and
7. Stocks and Bonds which have been donated to the institution.

The College's portfolio shall consist primarily of bank CDs and interest bearing accounts, U.S. Treasury securities, debentures of a U.S. Government Sponsored Entity (GSE) and securities backed by collateral issued by GSEs. In order to diversify the portfolio's exposure to concentration risk, the portfolio's maximum allocation to specific product sectors is as follows:

1. U.S. Treasury bills, notes and bonds can be held without limitation as to amount. Stripped Treasuries shall never exceed 50 percent of the institution's total investment portfolio. Maximum maturity of these securities shall be ten years.
2. U.S. Agency securities shall have limitations of 50 percent of the College's total investment portfolio for each Agency, with two exceptions: TVA and SLMA shall be limited to ten percent of total investments. Maximum maturity of these securities shall be ten years.
3. CDs with savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, or commercial banks may be held without limit provided the depository is a QPD under the SAFE Program. CD maturity shall not exceed five years.
4. The aggregate total of all MBSs may not exceed 50 percent of the institution's total investment portfolio. The aggregate average life maturity for all holdings of MBS shall not exceed seven years, while the maximum average life maturity of any one security shall not exceed ten years.
5. The total portfolio of mortgage related securities shall not exceed 50 percent of the institution's total investment portfolio. The aggregate average life maturity for all holdings shall not exceed seven years while the average life maturity of one security shall not exceed ten years.
6. The College may enter into a repurchase agreement so long as:
  - a) the repurchase securities are legal investments under state law for Colleges;
  - b) the College receives a daily assessment of the market value of the repurchase securities, including accrued interest, and maintains an adequate margin that reflects a risk assessment of the repurchase securities and the term of the transaction; and
  - c) the College has entered into signed contracts with all approved counterparties.
7. The College has discretion to determine if it should hold or sell other investments that it may receive as a donation.

The College shall not invest in stripped mortgage-backed securities, residual interest in CMOs, mortgage servicing rights or commercial mortgage related securities.

Investment of debt proceeds and deposits with trustees is governed by the provisions of the debt agreement. Funds may be invested in any legally permissible document.

Endowment donations shall be invested in accordance with the procedures and policies developed by the College and approved by the Chancellor in accordance with the "Alabama Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act", **Code of Alabama 1975, Section 19-3C-1** and following.

The Statement of Net Position current investment classification consists of non-negotiable certificates of deposit in the amount of \$4,073,084. Certificates of deposit are not subject to risk categorization because they are considered deposits for the purpose of this note. At September 30, 2025, the College had \$688,204 in accounts administered by its bond trustee. In accordance with the covenants of the College's Revenue Bond Series 2012, the trustee is permitted to invest these funds in direct general obligations of

the United States or securities the payment of which is unconditionally guaranteed by the United States. All instruments purchased are deemed money market instruments as defined in rule 2a7 and priced at amortized cost.

The entire balance on deposit with the trustee is invested in First American Funds which consist of Treasury securities and Treasury repurchase agreements. The fund is rated AAA by Standard & Poor's and Aaa- mf by Moody's.

To the extent available, the College's investments are recorded at fair value as of September 30, 2025. GASB Statement Number 72 - *Fair Value Measurement and Application*, defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. This statement establishes a hierarchy of valuation inputs based on the extent to which the inputs are observable in the marketplace. Inputs are used in applying the various valuation techniques and take into account the assumptions that market participants use to make valuation decisions. Inputs may include price information, credit data, interest and yield curve data, and other factors specific to the financial instrument. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources. In contrast, unobservable inputs reflect the entity's assumptions about how market participants would value the financial instrument. Valuation techniques should maximize the use of observable inputs to the extent available.

A financial instrument's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The following describes the hierarchy of inputs used to measure fair value and the primary valuation methodologies used for financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Level 1 – Investments whose values are based on quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets in active markets that a government can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 – Investments with inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable for an asset either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 – Investments classified as Level 3 have unobservable inputs for an asset and may require a degree of professional judgment.

Investments by Fair Value Level	Fair Value	Assets at Fair Value as of September 30, 2025		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets Identical for Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Certificates of Deposit	4,073,084			
Other *	688,204			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,761,288</b>			

\* All instruments purchased are deemed money market instruments as defined in Rule 2a7 and priced at amortized cost.

### Note 3. Receivables

Receivables are reported and summarized as follows:

Description	Amount
Federal Grants and Contracts	\$ 1,602,175
Student Tuition and Fees	2,219,924
State Grants and Contracts	2,018,071
Third-Party Tuition and Fees Receivable	1,838,103
Auxiliary Expenses	8,893
Interest Receivable	3,318
Agency Receivable	36,727
Other	2,017,271
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	(1,141,446)
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$ 8,603,036</b>

## Note 4. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended September 30, 2025, was as follows:

Description	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deductions	Adjustments	Ending Balance
<b>Nondepreciable Capital Assets</b>					
Land	\$ 1,159,258	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,159,258
Construction in Progress	2,718,644	3,426,675	(2,688,222)	-	3,457,097
<b>Total Nondepreciable Capital Assets</b>	<b>3,877,902</b>	<b>3,426,675</b>	<b>(2,688,222)</b>	-	<b>4,616,355</b>
<b>Other Capital Assets</b>					
Buildings	127,780,025	787,340	(31,336)	-	128,536,029
Building Alterations	787,340	1,900,882	-	-	2,688,222
Improvements other than Buildings and Infrastructure	7,179,599	-	-	-	7,179,599
Furniture and Equipment greater than \$25,000	9,042,448	1,060,130	(143,462)	-	9,959,116
Furniture and Equipment \$25,000 or less	5,034,093	190,760	(820,375)	-	4,404,478
Library Materials	858,993	8,825	-	-	867,818
Right to Use Assets - Buildings and Equipment	366,155	411,454	-	-	777,609
<b>Total Other Capital Assets</b>	<b>151,048,653</b>	<b>4,359,391</b>	<b>(995,173)</b>	-	<b>154,412,871</b>
<b>Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</b>					
Buildings	42,146,020	2,553,124	(21,935)	-	44,677,209
Improvements other than Buildings and Infrastructure	3,484,467	255,379	-	-	3,739,846
Furniture and Equipment greater than \$25,000	5,723,650	698,936	(143,462)	-	6,279,124
Furniture and Equipment \$25,000 or less	3,993,201	511,157	(820,375)	-	3,683,983
Library Materials	303,325	60,763	-	-	364,088
Right to Use Assets - Buildings and Equipment	271,311	108,683	-	-	379,994
<b>Total Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</b>	<b>55,921,974</b>	<b>4,188,042</b>	<b>(985,772)</b>	-	<b>59,124,244</b>
<b>Total Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$ 99,004,581</b>	<b>\$ 3,598,024</b>	<b>\$ (2,697,623)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 99,904,982</b>

**Note 5. Defined Benefit Pension Plan****General Information about the Pension Plan****Plan Description**

The TRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement plan, was established as of September 15, 1939, pursuant to the ***Code of Alabama 1975, Title 16, Chapter 25*** (Act 419 of the Legislature of 1939) for the purpose of providing retirement allowances and other specified benefits for qualified persons employed by State-supported educational institutions. The responsibility for the general administration and operation of the TRS is vested in its Board of Control which consists of 15 trustees. The plan is administered by the Retirement Systems of Alabama (RSA). The ***Code of Alabama 1975, Title 16, Chapter 25*** grants the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms to the TRS Board of Control. The Plan issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at [www.rsa-al.gov](http://www.rsa-al.gov).

**Benefits Provided**

State law establishes retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits and any ad hoc increase in postretirement benefits for the TRS. Benefits for TRS members vest after 10 years of creditable service. TRS members who retire after age 60 with 10 years or more of creditable service or with 25 years of service (regardless of age) are entitled to an annual retirement benefit, payable monthly for life. Service and disability retirement benefits are based on a guaranteed minimum or a formula method, with the member receiving payment under the method that yields the highest monthly benefit. Under the formula method, members of the TRS are allowed 2.0125% of their average final compensation (highest 3 of the last 10 years) for each year of service.

Act 377 of the Legislature of 2012 established a new tier of benefits (Tier 2) for members hired on or after January 1, 2013. Tier 2 TRS members are eligible for retirement after age 62 with 10 years or more of creditable service and are entitled to an annual retirement benefit, payable monthly for life. Service and disability retirement benefits are based on a formula method. Under the formula method, Tier 2 members of the TRS are allowed 1.65% of their average final compensation (highest 5 of the last 10 years) for each year of service up to 80% of their average final compensation.

Act 2022 of the Legislature of 2022 for TRSA provides that any Tier 2 member who withdraws from service after the completion of at least 30 years of creditable service is entitled to an annual retirement benefit.

Act 316 of the Legislature of 2019 established the Partial Lump Sum Option Plan (PLOP) in addition to the annual service retirement benefit payable for life for Tier 1 and Tier 2 members of the TRS. A member can elect to receive a one-time lump sum distribution at the time that they receive their first monthly retirement benefit payment. The member's annual retirement benefit is then actuarially reduced based on the amount of the PLOP distribution which is not to exceed the sum of 24 months of the maximum monthly retirement benefit that the member could receive. Members are eligible to receive a PLOP distribution if they are eligible for a service retirement benefit as defined above from the TRS on or after October 1, 2019. A TRS member who receives an annual disability retirement benefit or who has participated in the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) is not eligible to receive a PLOP distribution.

Members are eligible for disability retirement if they have 10 years of credible service, are currently in-service, and determined by the RSA Medical Board to be permanently incapacitated from further performance of duty. Preretirement death benefits equal to the annual earnable compensation of the member as reported to the Plan for the preceding year ending June 30 are paid to a qualified beneficiary.

## **Contributions**

Covered Tier 1 members of the TRS contributed 5% of earnable compensation to the TRS as required by statute until September 30, 2011. From October 1, 2011, to September 30, 2012, covered members of the TRS were required by statute to contribute 7.25% of earnable compensation. Effective October 1, 2012, covered members of the TRS are required by statute to contribute 7.50% of earnable compensation. Certified law enforcement, correctional officers, and firefighters of the TRS contributed 6% of earnable compensation as required by statute until September 30, 2011. From October 1, 2011, to September 30, 2012, certified law enforcement, correctional officers, and firefighters of the TRS were required by statute to contribute 8.25% of earnable compensation. Effective October 1, 2012, certified law enforcement, correctional officers, and firefighters of the TRS are required by statute to contribute 8.50% of earnable compensation.

Effective October 1, 2021, the covered Tier 2 members contribution rate increased from 6.0% to 6.2% of earnable compensation to the TRS as required by statute. Effective October 1, 2021, the covered Tier 2 certified law enforcement, correctional officers, and firefighters contribution rate increased from 7.0% to 7.2% of earnable compensation to the TRS as required by statute. These Tier 2 member contribution rate increases were a result of Act 537 of the Legislature of 2021 which allows sick leave conversion for Tier 2 members.

Participating employers' contractually required contribution rate for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024 was 13.57% of annual pay for Tier 1 members and 12.60% of annual pay for Tier 2 members. These required contribution rates are a percent of annual payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with member contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by members during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. Total employer contributions to the pension plan from the College were \$2,474,000 for the year ended September 30, 2025.

## **Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

At September 30, 2025, the College reported a liability of \$26,055,000 for its proportionate share of the collective net pension liability. The collective net pension liability was measured as of September 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2023. The College's proportion of the collective net pension liability was based on the employers' shares of contributions to the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating TRS employers. At September 30, 2024, the College's proportion was 0.200295%, which was an increase of 0.0008530% from its proportion measured as of September 30, 2023.

For the year ended September 30, 2025, the College recognized pension expense of \$3,323,459. At September 30, 2025, the College reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

Source	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 2,591,000	\$ 188,000
Changes of Assumptions	400,000	-
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	-	4,273,000
Changes in Proportion and Differences between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	311,000	325,000
Employer Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	2,474,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,776,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,786,000</b>

\$2,474,000 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from College contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended September 30, 2026.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ended September 30	Amount
2026	\$ (151,000)
2027	1,252,000
2028	(1,273,000)
2029	(1,312,000)
2030	-
Thereafter	-

## Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability as of September 30, 2024 was determined by an actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2023, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Projected Salary Increases	3.25% - 5.00%
Investment Rate of Return *	7.45%

\* Net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

The actuarial assumptions used in the actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2023, were based on the results of an investigation of the economic and demographic experience for the TRS based upon participant data as of September 30, 2020. The Board of Control accepted and approved these changes in September 2021 which became effective at the beginning of fiscal year 2021.

## Mortality Rate

Mortality rates were based on the Pub-2010 Teacher tables with the following adjustments, projected generationally using scale MP-2020 adjusted by 66-2/3% beginning with year 2019:

Group	Membership Table	Set Forward (+) / Set Back (-)	Adjustment to Rates
Service Retirees	Teacher Retiree – Below Median	Male: +2, Female: +2	Male: 108% ages < 63, 96% ages > 67; Phasing down 63-67 Female: 112% ages < 69 98% > age 74 Phasing down 69-74
Beneficiaries	Contingent Survivor Below Median	Male: +2, Female: None	None
Disabled Retirees	Teacher Disability	Male: +8, Female: +3	None

## Long-Term Expected Rate of Return

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target asset allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return*
Fixed Income	15.00%	2.80%
U.S. Large Stocks	32.00%	8.00%
U.S. Mid Stocks	9.00%	10.00%
U.S. Small Stocks	4.00%	11.00%
Int'l Developed Mkt Stocks	12.00%	9.50%
Int'l Emerging Mkt Stocks	3.00%	11.00%
Alternatives	10.00%	9.00%
Real Estate	10.00%	6.50%
Cash Equivalents	5.00%	1.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

\* Includes assumed rate of inflation of 2.00%.

## Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.45%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that the employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, components of the pension plan's fiduciary net position were projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

## Sensitivity of the College's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table presents the College's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.45%, as well as what the College's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower (6.45%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.45%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.45%)	Current Discount Rate (7.45%)	1% Increase (8.45%)
College's Proportionate Share of the Collective Net Pension Liability	\$ 36,227,000	\$ 26,055,000	\$ 17,493,000

## Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued RSA Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. The supporting actuarial information is included in the GASB Statement No. 67 Report for the TRS prepared as of September 30, 2024. The auditor's report on the Schedule of Employer Allocations and Pension Amounts by Employer and accompanying notes detail by employer and in aggregate information needed to comply with GASB 68. The additional financial and actuarial information is available at <http://www.rsa-al.gov/index.php/employers/financial-reports/gasb-68-reports/>.

## Note 6. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

### General Information about the OPEB Plan

#### Plan Description

The Alabama Retired Education Employees' Health Care Trust (Self - Trust) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment healthcare plan that administers healthcare benefits to the retirees of participating state and local educational institutions. The Trust was established under the Alabama Retiree Health Care Funding Act of 2007 which authorized and directed the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Board (Board) to create an irrevocable trust to fund postemployment healthcare benefits to retirees participating in the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Plan (PEEHIP). Active and retiree health insurance benefits are paid through PEEHIP. In accordance with GASB, the Trust is considered a component unit of the State of Alabama (State) and is included in the State's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

The PEEHIP was established in 1983 pursuant to the provisions of the **Code of Alabama 1975, Title 16, Chapter 25A** (Act 83-455) to provide a uniform plan of health insurance for active and retired employees of state and local educational institutions which provide instruction at any combination of grades K-14 (collectively, eligible employees), and to provide a method for funding the benefits related to the plan. The four-year universities participate in the plan with respect to their retired employees and are eligible and may elect to participate in the plan with respect to their active employees. Responsibility for the

establishment of the health insurance plan and its general administration and operations is vested in the Board. The Board is a corporate body for purposes of management of the health insurance plan. The **Code of Alabama 1975, Section 16-25A-4** provides the Board with the authority to amend the benefit provisions in order to provide reasonable assurance of stability in future years for the plan. All assets of the Alabama Retired Education Employees' Health Care Trust are held in trust for the payment of health insurance benefits. The Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama (TRS) has been appointed as the administrator of the PEEHIP and, consequently, serves as the administrator of the Trust.

## Benefits Provided

PEEHIP offers a basic hospital medical plan to active members and non-Medicare eligible retirees. Benefits include inpatient hospitalization for a maximum of 365 days without a dollar limit, inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient care, physician services, and prescription drugs.

Active employees and non-Medicare eligible retirees who do not have Medicare eligible dependents can enroll in a health maintenance organization (HMO) in lieu of the basic hospital medical plan. The HMO includes hospital medical benefits, dental benefits, vision benefits, and an extensive formulary. However, participants in the HMO are required to receive care from a participating physician in the HMO plan.

The PEEHIP offers four optional plans (Hospital Indemnity, Cancer, Dental, and Vision) that may be selected in addition to or in lieu of the basic hospital medical plan or HMO. The Hospital Indemnity Plan provides a per-day benefit for hospital confinement, maternity, intensive care, cancer, and convalescent care. The Cancer Plan covers cancer disease only and benefits are provided regardless of other insurance. Coverage includes a per-day benefit for each hospital confinement related to cancer. The Dental Plan covers diagnostic and preventative services, as well as basic and major dental services. Diagnostic and preventative services include oral examinations, teeth cleaning, x-rays, and emergency office visits. Basic and major services include fillings, general aesthetics, oral surgery not covered under a Group Medical Program, periodontics, endodontics, dentures, bridgework, and crowns. Dental services are subject to a maximum of \$1,250 per year for individual coverage and \$1,000 per person per year for family coverage. The Vision Plan covers annual eye examinations, eyeglasses, and contact lens prescriptions.

PEEHIP members may opt to elect the PEEHIP Supplemental Plan as their hospital medical coverage in lieu of the PEEHIP Hospital Medical Plan. The PEEHIP Supplemental Plan provides secondary benefits to the member's primary plan provided by another employer. Only active and non-Medicare retired members and covered dependents are eligible to enroll in the PEEHIP Supplemental Medical Plan. There is no premium required for this plan, and the plan covers most out-of-pocket expenses not covered by the primary plan. Members who are enrolled in the PEEHIP Hospital Medical Plan, VIVA Health Plan (offered through the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Fund (PEEHIF), Marketplace (Exchange) Plans, Alabama State Employees Insurance Board, Local Government Health Insurance Board, Medicaid, ALL Kids, Tricare, or Champus, as their primary coverage, or are enrolled in a Health Savings Account (HSA) or Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), are not eligible to enroll in the PEEHIP Supplemental Plan. The plan cannot be used as a supplement to Medicare. Retired members who become eligible for Medicare are eligible to enroll in the PEEHIP Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) Plan or the Optional Coverage Plans.

Effective January 1, 2023, United Health Care (UHC) Group replaced the Humana contract for Medicare eligible retirees and Medicare eligible dependents of retirees. The Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan (MAPDP) is fully insured by UHC, and members are able to have all of their Medicare Part A, Part B, and Part D (prescription drug coverage) in one convenient plan. With the UHC plan for PEEHIP, retirees can continue to see their same providers with no interruption and see any doctor who accepts Medicare on a national basis. Retirees have the same benefits in and out-of-network and there is no additional retiree cost share if a retiree uses an out-of-network provider and no balance billing from the provider.

## Contributions

The **Code of Alabama 1975, Section 16-25A-8** and the **Code of Alabama 1975, Section, 16-25A-8.1** provide the Board with the authority to set the contribution requirements for plan members and the authority to set the employer contribution requirements for each required class, respectively. Additionally, the Board is required to certify to the Governor and the Legislature, the amount, as a monthly premium per active employee, necessary to fund the coverage of active and retired member benefits for the following fiscal year. The Legislature then sets the premium rate in the annual appropriation bill.

For employees who retired after September 30, 2005, but before January 1, 2012, the employer contribution of the health insurance premium set forth by the Board for each retiree class is reduced by 2% for each year of service less than 25 and increased by 2% percent for each year of service over 25 subject to adjustment by the Board for changes in Medicare premium costs required to be paid by a retiree. In no case does the employer contribution of the health insurance premium exceed 100% of the total health insurance premium cost for the retiree.

For employees who retired after December 31, 2011, the employer contribution to the health insurance premium set forth by the Board for each retiree class is reduced by 4% for each year of service less than 25 and increased by 2% for each year over 25, subject to adjustment by the Board for changes in Medicare premium costs required to be paid by a retiree. In no case does the employer contribution of the health insurance premium exceed 100% of the total health insurance premium cost for the retiree. For employees who retired after December 31, 2011, who are not covered by Medicare, regardless of years of service, the employer contribution to the health insurance premium set forth by the Board for each retiree class is reduced by a percentage equal to 1% multiplied by the difference between the Medicare entitlement age and the age of the employee at the time of retirement as determined by the Board. This reduction in the employer contribution ceases upon notification to the Board of the attainment of Medicare coverage.

## **OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

At September 30, 2025, the College reported a liability of \$14,000,582 for its proportionate share of the Net OPEB liability. The Net OPEB liability was measured as of September 30, 2024, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the Net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2023. The College's proportion of the Net OPEB liability was based on the College's share of contributions to the OPEB plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating PEEHIP employers. At September 30, 2024, the College's proportion was 0.152288% which was a decrease of 0.003109% from its proportion measured as of September 30, 2023.

For the year ended September 30, 2025, the College recognized OPEB expense of \$258,759, with no special funding situations. At September 30, 2025, the College reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

Source	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 6,529,299	\$ 3,021,710
Changes of Assumptions	4,821,699	1,980,856
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	-	345,418
Changes in Proportion and Differences between Employer Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	609,715	1,213,426
Employer Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	542,778	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,503,491</b>	<b>\$ 6,561,410</b>

The \$542,778 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from the College's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the Net OPEB liability in the year ended September 30, 2026.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year Ended September 30	Amount
2026	\$ 723,987
2027	812,253
2028	565,898
2029	969,832
2030	1,755,848
Thereafter	571,485

## Actuarial Assumptions

The Total OPEB Liability as of September 30, 2023, was determined based on an actuarial valuation prepared as of September 30, 2022, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement and rolled forward to the measurement date of September 30, 2023:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary Increases	5.00 - 3.25%, including 2.75% wage inflation
Long-term Investment Rate of Return	7.00% compounded annually, net of investment expense, and including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate at the Measurement Date	3.89%
Municipal Bond Index Rate at the Prior Measurement Date	4.53%
Year Fiduciary Net Position (FNP) is Projected to be Depleted	2040
Single Equivalent Interest Rate at Measurement Date	4.32%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate at Prior Measurement Date	7.00%
Healthcare Cost Trend Rates:	
Initial Trend Rate	
Pre-Medicare Eligible	6.75%
Medicare Eligible	**
Ultimate Trend Rate	
Pre-Medicare Eligible	4.50% in 2033 FYE
Medicare Eligible	4.50% in 2033 FYE

\*\* Initial Medicare claims are set based on renewal premium rates through calendar year 2025 with an assumed 0% increase for the upcoming 2026-2028 negotiation period.

## Mortality Rate

The rates of mortality are based on the Pub-2010 Public Mortality Plans Mortality Tables, adjusted generationally based on scale MP-2020, with an adjustment of 66-2/3% to the table beginning in year 2019. The mortality rates are adjusted forward and/or back depending on the plan and group covered, as shown in the table below.

Group	Membership Table	Set Forward (+) / Set Back (-)	Adjustment to Rates
Active Members	Teacher Employee Below Median	None	65%
Service Retirees	Teacher Below Median	Male: +2, Female: +2	Male: 108% ages < 63, 96% ages > 67; Phasing down 63 - 67 Female: 112% ages < 69, 98% ages > 74; Phasing down 69 - 74
Disabled Retirees	Teacher Disability	Male: +8, Female: +3	None
Beneficiaries	Teacher Contingent Survivor Below Median	Male: +2, Female: None	None

The decremental assumptions used in the valuation were selected based on the actuarial experience study prepared as of September 30, 2020, submitted to and adopted by the Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama Board on September 13, 2021.

The remaining actuarial assumptions (e.g., initial per capita costs, health care cost trends, rate of plan participation, rates of plan election, etc.) were based on the September 30, 2023 valuation.

### Long-Term Expected Rate of Return

The long-term expected return on plan assets is to be reviewed as part of regular experience studies prepared every five years, in conjunction with similar analysis for the Alabama Teachers' Retirement System. Several factors should be considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption, including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation), as developed for each major asset class. These ranges should be combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The long-term expected rate of return on the OPEB plan investments is determined based on the allocation of assets by asset class and by the mean and variance of real returns.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of expected geometric real rates of return for each major asset class is summarized below:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return*
Fixed Income	30.00%	4.40%
U.S. Large Stocks	38.00%	8.00%
U.S. Mid Stocks	8.00%	10.00%
U.S. Small Stocks	4.00%	11.00%
International Developed Market Stocks	15.00%	9.50%
Cash	5.00%	1.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

\* Geometric mean, includes 2.50% inflation.

### Discount Rate

The discount rate (also known as the Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR), as described by GASB 74) used to measure the total OPEB liability was 4.32%. Premiums paid to the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Board for active employees shall include an amount to partially fund the cost of coverage for retired employees. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan contributions will be made at the current contribution rates. Each year, the State specifies the monthly

employer rate that participating school systems must contribute for each active employee. Currently, the monthly employer rate is \$800 per non-university active member. Approximately, 9.751% of the employer contributions were used to assist in funding retiree benefit payments in 2024 and it is assumed that the 9.751% will increase or decrease at the same rate as expected benefit payments for the closed group with a cap of 20.00%. It is assumed the \$800 rate will remain flat until, based on budget projections, it increases to \$904 in fiscal year 2026, \$1,114 in fiscal year 2027 and then will increase with inflation at 2.50% starting in 2028. Retiree benefit payments for university members are paid by the Universities and are not included in the cash flow projections. The discount rate determination will use a municipal bond rate to the extent the trust is projected to run out of money before all benefits are paid. Therefore, the projected future benefit payments for all current plan members are projected through 2122.

### **Sensitivity of the College's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates**

The following table presents the College's proportionate share of the Net OPEB liability of the Trust calculated using the current healthcare trend rate, as well as what the Net OPEB liability would be if calculated using one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (5.75% decreasing to 3.50% for pre-Medicare, Known decreasing to 3.50% for Medicare eligible)	Current Healthcare Trend Rate (6.75% decreasing to 4.50% for pre-Medicare, Known decreasing to 4.50% for Medicare eligible)	1% Increase (7.75% decreasing to 5.50% for pre-Medicare, Known decreasing to 5.50% for Medicare eligible)
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 11,262,285	\$ 14,000,582	\$ 17,531,621

The following table presents the College's proportionate share of the Net OPEB liability of the Trust calculated using the discount rate of 4.32%, as well as what the Net OPEB liability would be if calculated using one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (3.32%)	Current Rate (4.32%)	1% Increase (5.32%)
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 17,007,476	\$ 14,000,582	\$ 11,597,745

### **OPEB Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about the OPEB plan's Fiduciary Net Position is in the Trust's financial statements for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. The supporting actuarial information is included in the GASB Statement No. 74 Report for PEEHIP prepared as of September 30, 2024. Additional financial and actuarial information is available at [www.rsa-al.gov](http://www.rsa-al.gov).

## Note 7. Construction and Other Significant Commitments

As of September 30, 2025, the College had been awarded \$3,064,293 in contracts and grants on which performance had not been accomplished and funds had not been received. These awards, which represent commitments of sponsors to provide for specific purposes, have not been reflected in the financial statements.

## Note 8. Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term liabilities activity for the year ended September 30, 2025, was as follows:

Description	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Current Portion
<b>Bonds Payable</b>					
Series 2012	\$ 18,315,000	\$ -	\$ 2,010,000	\$ 16,305,000	\$ 2,090,000
Premium	217,627	-	27,203	190,423	27,203
<b>Total Bonds Payable</b>	<b>18,532,627</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,037,203</b>	<b>16,495,423</b>	<b>2,117,203</b>
Leases Payable	88,188	411,453	118,147	381,494	7,869
Compensated Absences	927,156	976	-	928,132	92,813
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 19,547,971</b>	<b>\$ 412,429</b>	<b>\$ 2,155,350</b>	<b>\$ 17,805,049</b>	<b>\$ 2,217,885</b>

### Bonds

Revenue bonds were issued in November 2012 by the State Department of Education to provide funds for the refunding of the 2003 Revenue Bond series and to provide funding to finance the acquisition, construction, and installation of various capital improvements.

### Bond Debt

A trustee holds sinking fund deposits, including earnings on investments of these deposits. Revenue from student tuition and fees are sufficient to pay the annual debt service are pledged to secure the bonds.

Principal and interest maturity requirements on bond debt are as follows:

Fiscal Year(s)	Revenue Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Totals
2026	\$ 2,090,000	\$ 574,675	\$ 2,664,675
2027	2,170,000	495,200	2,665,200
2028	2,250,000	415,900	2,665,900
2029	2,320,000	348,400	2,668,400
2030	2,410,000	255,600	2,665,600
2031-2032	5,065,000	267,400	5,332,400
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 16,305,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,357,175</b>	<b>\$ 18,662,175</b>

## Pledged Revenues

The Alabama State Board of Education pledged student tuition and fees to repay \$32,620,000 in Southern Union State Community College Refunding and Improvement Revenue Bonds issued in November 2012. A portion of the funds were used to refund the College's outstanding Revenue Bonds Series 2003, issued in the original principal amount of \$19,475,000 and outstanding in November 2012 in the amount of \$12,755,000. The remaining portion of the bond funds was used to provide funding to finance the acquisition, construction, and installation of various capital improvements. Future revenues in the amount of \$18,662,175 are pledged to repay principal and interest on the bonds at September 30, 2025. Pledged revenues in the amount of \$8,375,208 were received during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, with \$2,665,075 or 31.8% of pledged revenues being used to pay principal and interest during this fiscal year. These bonds are scheduled to mature in fiscal year 2032.

## Note 9. Risk Management

The College is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees and natural disasters. The College has insurance for its buildings and contents through the State Insurance Fund (SIF), part of the State of Alabama Department of Finance, Division of Risk Management, a public entity risk pool, which operates as a common risk management and insurance program for state owned properties. The College pays an annual premium based on the amount of coverage requested. The SIF provides coverage up to \$2 million per occurrence and is self-insured up to a maximum of \$6 million in aggregate claims. The SIF purchases commercial insurance for claims which in the aggregate exceed \$6 million. The College purchases commercial insurance for its automobile coverage, general liability, and professional legal liability coverage. In addition, the College has fidelity bonds on the College president and business officer as well as on all other college personnel who handle funds.

## Note 10. Health Insurance

Employee health insurance is provided through the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Fund (PEEHIF) administered by the Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Board (PEEHIB). The Fund was established to provide a uniform plan of health insurance for current and retired employees of state educational institutions and is self-sustaining. Monthly premiums for employee and dependent coverage are determined annually by the plan's actuary and are based on anticipated claims in the upcoming year, considering any remaining fund balance on hand available for claims. The College contributes a specified amount monthly to the PEEHIF for each employee and this amount is applied against the employees' premiums for the coverage selected and the employee pays any remaining premium.

Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded the College's coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Claims which occur as a result of employee job-related injuries may be brought before the State of Alabama Board of Adjustment. The Board of Adjustment serves as an arbitrator and its decision is binding.

If the Board of Adjustment determines that a claim is valid, it decides the proper amount of compensation (subject to statutory limitations) and the funds are paid by the College.

### **Note 11. Subsequent Events**

The College has evaluated subsequent events through January 14, 2026, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued. All subsequent events requiring recognition as of September 30, 2025 have been incorporated into these financial statements.



SOUTHERN UNION  
STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# Required Supplementary Information

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE





SOUTHERN UNION  
STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**Schedule of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability  
Teachers' Retirement Plan of Alabama  
For the Year Ended September 30**

(Dollar Amounts in Thousands)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
College's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.200295%	0.199442%	0.196221%	0.201827%	0.206966%	0.195907%	0.195413%	0.191159%	0.187280%	0.196947%
College's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 26,055	\$ 31,827	\$ 30,494	\$ 19,013	\$ 25,601	\$ 21,661	\$ 19,429	\$ 18,788	\$ 20,275	\$ 20,612
College's Covered Payroll	\$ 17,603	\$ 16,493	\$ 15,250	\$ 14,671	\$ 14,714	\$ 13,970	\$ 13,033	\$ 12,627	\$ 11,902	\$ 12,876
College's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	148.01%	192.97%	199.96%	129.60%	173.99%	155.05%	149.08%	148.79%	170.35%	160.08%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	71.41%	63.57%	62.21%	76.44%	67.72%	69.85%	72.29%	71.50%	67.93%	67.51%

**Notes to schedule:**

**Note 1: Per GASB 82, which amends GASB 68, covered payroll is defined as the payroll on which contributions to a pension plan are based. The covered payroll for this RSI Schedule (GASB 68 paragraph 81a) is for the measurement period, which for the September 30, 2025 year is October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.**

**Schedule of the Contributions Pension  
Teachers' Retirement Plan of Alabama  
For the Year Ended September 30**

(Dollar Amounts in Thousands)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,139	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,835	\$ 1,768	\$ 1,784	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,452	\$ 1,365
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,139	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,835	\$ 1,768	\$ 1,784	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,569	\$ 1,452	\$ 1,365
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
College's Covered Payroll	\$ 18,868	\$ 17,603	\$ 16,493	\$ 15,250	\$ 14,671	\$ 14,714	\$ 13,970	\$ 13,033	\$ 12,627	\$ 11,902
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	13.11%	12.15%	12.13%	12.03%	12.05%	12.12%	12.17%	12.04%	11.50%	11.47%

**Notes to Schedule**

Note 1: Per GASB 82, which amends GASB 68, covered payroll is defined as the payroll on which contributions to a pension plan are based, also known as pensionable payroll. The covered payroll for this RSI Schedule (GASB 68 paragraph 81b) is for the most recent fiscal year end, which for the September 30, 2025 year is October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025.

Note 2: The amount of contractually required contributions is equal to the amount that would be recognized as additions from the employer's contributions in the pension plan's schedule of changes in fiduciary net position during the period that coincides with the employer's fiscal year. For participants in TRS, this includes amounts paid for Accrued Liability, Normal Cost, Term Life Insurance, Pre-Retirement Death Benefit and Administrative Expenses.

## **Notes to Required Supplementary Information for Pension Benefits**

### **Note 1. Changes of Benefit Terms**

In 2022, the plan was amended to allow Tier II members to retire with 30 years of creditable service regardless of age with an early retirement reduction of 2% for each year that the member is less than age 62 at retirement (age 56 for police officers, firefighters, and correctional officers).

In 2022, the plan was amended to allow surviving spouses of retirement-eligible members who die in active service to receive an Option 2 monthly allowance.

In 2021 the plan was amended to allow sick leave conversion for Tier II members and to increase the member contribution rates for Tier II members to 6.20% for regular members and 7.20% for police officers, firefighters, and correctional officers effective on October 1, 2021.

The member contribution rates were increased from 5.00% (6.00% for certified law enforcement, correctional officers, and firefighters) of earnable compensation to 7.25% (8.25%) of earnable compensation effective October 1, 2011, and to 7.50% (8.50%) of earnable compensation effective October 1, 2012. Members hired on or after January 1, 2013, are covered under a new benefit structure, as follows:

- 1) A service retirement allowance is payable upon the request of any member who has attained age 62 and completed at least 10 years of creditable service (age 56 with 10 years of creditable service for a full-time certified firefighter, police officer or correctional officer).
- 2) Upon service or disability retirement a member receives a retirement allowance equal to 1.65% of the member's average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of creditable service. The benefit is capped at 80% of the member's average final compensation (the 5 highest years in the last 10 years of Creditable Service).
- 3) Regular members contribute 6% of salary and full-time certified firefighters, police officers and correctional officers contribute 7% of salary.

### **Note 2. Changes of Assumptions**

In 2021, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability and mortality were adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience. In 2021, economic assumptions and the assumed rates of salary increase were adjusted to more closely reflect actual and anticipated experience, including a change in the discount rate from 7.70% to 7.45%. In 2021 and later, the expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the Pub-2010 Teacher Retiree Below Median Tables projected generationally with 66- 2/3% of the MP-2020 scale beginning in 2019.

In 2018, the discount rate was changed from 7.75% to 7.70%.

In 2016, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability and mortality were adjusted to more closely reflect actual experience. In 2016, economic assumptions and the assumed rates of salary increase were adjusted to more closely reflect actual and anticipated experience. In 2016 and later, the expectation of retired life mortality was changed to the RP-2000 White Collar Mortality Table projected to 2020 using scale BB and adjusted 115% for all ages for males and 112% for ages 78 and over for females.

### **Note 3. Method and Assumptions Used in Calculations of Actuarially Determined Contributions**

The actuarially determined contribution rates in the schedule of employer contributions are calculated three years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported (September 30, 2021 for the fiscal year 2024 amounts). The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the most recent contribution rate reported in that schedule:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age
Amortization Method	Level percentage of payroll, closed
Remaining Amortization Period	26.9 years
Asset Valuation Method	5-year smoothed market
Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increase	3.25 percent to 5.00 percent, including inflation
Investment Rate of Return	7.45 percent, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

**Schedule of the Proportionate Share of the Collective Net Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) Liability  
Alabama Retired Employees' Health Care Trust  
For the Year Ended September 30\***

(Dollar Amounts in Thousands)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
College's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.152288%	0.155397%	0.171694%	0.160053%	0.156030%	0.177567%	0.168837%	0.162213%
College's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 14,001	\$ 2,986	\$ 2,991	\$ 8,270	\$ 10,126	\$ 6,699	\$ 13,876	\$ 12,048
College's Covered Payroll	\$ 17,353	\$ 15,770	\$ 15,540	\$ 14,536	\$ 14,501	\$ 13,506	\$ 12,814	\$ 12,435
College's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	80.68%	18.93%	19.25%	56.89%	69.83%	49.60%	108.29%	96.89%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	20.41%	49.42%	48.39%	27.11%	19.80%	28.14%	14.81%	15.37%

\* This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

**Schedule of the Contribution Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)  
Alabama Retired Employees' Health Care Trust  
For the Year Ended September 30\***

(Dollar Amounts in Thousands)	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 543	\$ 218	\$ 243	\$ 328	\$ 279	\$ 308	\$ 505	\$ 420
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 543	\$ 218	\$ 243	\$ 328	\$ 279	\$ 308	\$ 505	\$ 420
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
College's Covered Payroll	\$ 18,498	\$ 17,353	\$ 15,770	\$ 15,540	\$ 14,536	\$ 14,501	\$ 13,506	\$ 12,814
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	2.94%	1.26%	1.54%	2.11%	1.92%	2.12%	3.74%	3.28%

\* This schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

## **Notes to Required Supplementary Information For Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)**

### **Note 1. Changes in Actuarial Assumptions**

In 2024, assumptions regarding aging factors were adjusted to reflect actual and anticipated experience more closely. Additionally, future healthcare trend rates for the Medicare Advantage Plan were updated.

In 2022, rates of plan participation and tobacco usage assumptions were adjusted to reflect actual experience more closely.

In 2021, rates of withdrawal, retirement, disability, and mortality were adjusted to reflect actual experience more closely. In 2021, economic assumptions and the assumed rates of salary increases were adjusted to reflect actual and anticipated experience more closely.

In 2019, the anticipated rates of participation, spouse coverage, and tobacco use were adjusted to reflect actual experience more closely.

### **Note 2. Recent Plan Changes**

The September 30, 2022 valuation reflects the impact of Act 2022-222.

Beginning in plan year 2021, the MAPD plan premium rates exclude the ACA Health Insurer Fee which was repealed on December 20, 2019.

Effective January 1, 2017, Medicare eligible medical and prescription drug benefits are provided through the MAPD plan.

The Health Plan is changed each year to reflect the Affordable Care Act maximum annual out-of-pocket amounts.

### Note 3. Method and Assumptions Used in Calculations of Actuarially Determined Contributions

The actuarially determined contribution rates in the Schedule of OPEB Contributions were calculated as of September 30, 2020, which is three years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported. The following actuarial methods and assumptions were used to determine the most recent contribution rate reported in that schedule:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization Method	Level percent of pay
Remaining Amortization Period	20 years, Closed
Asset Valuation Method	Market Value of Assets
Inflation	2.50%
Healthcare Cost Trend Rate:	
Pre-Medicare Eligible	6.50%
Medicare Eligible *	*
Ultimate Trend Rate:	
Pre-Medicare Eligible	4.50%
Medicare Eligible	4.50%
Year of Ultimate Trend Rate	2031 for Pre-Medicare Eligible 2027 for Medicare Eligible
Optional Plans Trend Rate	2.00%
Investment Rate of Return	5.00%, including inflation

\* Initial Medicare claims are set based on scheduled increases through plan year 2025.



# Supplementary Information

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



SOUTHERN UNION  
STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**Schedule Expenditures of Federal Awards  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

Federal Grantor/ Pass-Through Grantor/ Program Title	Assistance Listing Number	Pass Through Grantor's Number	Passed Through to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
<b>U.S. Department of Education</b>				
<b>Student Financial Assistance Cluster</b>				
<b>Direct Programs</b>				
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	84.007	\$	-	\$ 191,199
Federal Work-Study Program	84.033		-	65,608
Federal Pell Grant Program	84.063		-	11,467,264
Federal Direct Student Loans	84.268		-	4,894,801
<b>Total Student Financial Assistance Cluster</b>			-	<b>16,618,872</b>
<b>Other Federal Awards</b>				
<b>U. S. Department of Education</b>				
<b>Passed Through Alabama Community College System</b>				
Adult Education - Basic Grants to States	84.002A	V002A220001/ V002A230001	-	265,904
<b>Total Passed Through Alabama Community College System</b>			-	<b>265,904</b>
<b>Passed Through the Alabama State Department of Education</b>				
Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	84.048A	V048A240001	-	160,024
<b>Total Passed Through the Alabama State Department of Education</b>			-	<b>160,024</b>
<b>Total U.S. Department of Education</b>				<b>17,044,800</b>
<b>National Science Foundation</b>				
<b>Research and Development Cluster</b>				
<b>Passed Through Auburn University</b>				
Engineering	47.041	23-MREC-200856- SUSCC	-	3,897

**Schedule Expenditures of Federal Awards (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

<b>Federal Grantor/ Pass-Through Grantor/ Program Title</b>	<b>Assistance Listing Number</b>	<b>Pass Through Grantor's Number</b>	<b>Passed Through to Subrecipients</b>	<b>Total Federal Expenditures</b>
Stem Education	47.076	17-COSAM-200634- SUSCC	-	17,775
Stem Education	47.076	21-COSAM-200840- SUSCC	-	5,329
<b>Total Research and Development Cluster</b>			-	<b>27,001</b>
<b>U. S. Department of Labor</b>				
<b>WIOA Cluster</b>				
<b>Passed Through Alabama Department of Commerce</b>				
WIOA Adult Program	17.258	3A908702		8,215
WIOA Adult Program	17.258	4A907201		27,962
WIOA Adult Program	17.258	4A908701		3,323
WIOA Adult Program	17.258	4A908702		2,446
WIOA Adult Program	17.258	N.A.		19,766
<b>Total WIOA Adult Program</b>			-	<b>61,712</b>
WIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grants	17.278	3A907201	-	83,103
WIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grants	17.278	3A908701	-	13,038
<b>Total WIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grants</b>			-	<b>96,141</b>
<b>Total WIOA Cluster</b>			-	<b>157,853</b>
<b>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</b>			\$ -	<b>\$ 17,229,654</b>

(M) = Major Program

\* The accompanying Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are an integral part of this schedule.

## **Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards**

### **Note 1. Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the “Schedule”) includes the federal award activity of the College, under programs of federal award activity of the College, under programs of the federal government for the year ended September 30, 2025. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U. S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the College, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the College.

### **Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

### **Note 3. Indirect Cost Rate**

The College has elected not to use the 15-percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

# Additional Information

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### Officials

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**Jimmy H. Baker**

Chancellor

**Todd Shackett**

President

**Ben Jordan, CPA**

Vice-President of Financial  
and Administrative Services



# Independent Auditor Reports

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



SOUTHERN UNION  
STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on  
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in  
Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

Jimmy Baker, Chancellor, Alabama Community College System  
Todd Shackett, President, Southern Union State Community College  
Wadley, Alabama

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Southern Union State Community College (the College), a component unit of the State of Alabama, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the College's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated January 14, 2026.

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the College's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the College's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the College's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.



## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the College's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Jackson Thornton & Co. PC*

Montgomery, Alabama  
January 14, 2026



## Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Jimmy Baker, Chancellor, Alabama Community College System  
Todd Shackett, President, Southern Union State Community College  
Wadley, Alabama

### Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

#### Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Southern Union State Community College's (the College), a component unit of the State of Alabama, compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the College's major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2025. The College's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the College complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2025.

#### Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the College and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the College's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

#### Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grants agreements applicable to its federal programs.

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the College's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the College's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the College's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the College's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the College's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

**Other Matters**

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed an instance of noncompliance which is required to be reported in accordance with the Uniform Guidance and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2025-001. Our opinion on each major federal program is not modified with respect to this matter. *Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the College's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The College's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

**Report on Internal Control over Compliance**

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a significant deficiency.



A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2025-001 to be a significant deficiency.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed. *Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the College's response to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The College's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Jackson Thornton & Co. PC*

Montgomery, Alabama  
January 14, 2026

# **Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

## **Section I – Summary of Auditor’s Results**

## *Financial Statements*

1. Type of Auditor's report issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America:

Unmodified    Qualified    Adverse    Disclaimer

## 2. Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified?

Yes  No

Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weaknesses?

Yes  None reported

### 3. Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

Yes  No

## *Federal Awards*

#### 4. Internal control over major programs:

#### Material weakness(es) identified?

Yes  No

Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weaknesses?

Yes  No

## 5. Type of Auditor's report issued on compliance for major programs

Unmodified    Qualified    Adverse    Disclaimer

6. Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)

## 7. Identification of major programs:

Assistance Listing	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
84.007	Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant
84.033	Federal Work Study Program
84.063	Federal Pell Grant Program
84.268	Federal Direct Student Loans

## **Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Continued) For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

### **Section II – Financial Statement Findings**

This section identifies the significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, and instances of noncompliance related to the financial statements that are required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

No matters were reported.

### **Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs**

This section identifies the significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, and instances of noncompliance related to major federal programs that are required to be reported in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

#### **Finding 2025-001 - Special Tests and Provisions - NSLDS Reporting (Noncompliance and Significant Deficiency)**

**Identification of the Federal Program** - Student Financial Aid Cluster - Assistance Listing Nos 84.007, 84.033, 84.038, 84.063, and 84.268.

**Criteria** - Institutions are required to report enrollment information under the Pell grant and the Direct loan program via the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). The administration of the Title IV programs depends heavily on the accuracy and timelines of the enrollment information reported by institutions. Institutions must review, update, and verify student enrollment statuses, program information, and effective dates reported to NSLDS. Institutions are responsible for accurate reporting.

According to 34 CFR 685.309(2), the University is required to notify the Department of Education via the NSLDS if a “student has ceased to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis for the period for which the loan was intended”. Changes to status are required to be reported within 30 days of becoming aware of the status change, or with the next scheduled transmission of statuses if the scheduled transmission is within 60 days.

**Condition** - A sample of 40 students were selected from the population of all students who received federal student financial aid during the year ended September 30, 2025. We obtained the student records and tested compliance with federal regulations for the specific loans and grants.

For 1 student selected for NSLDS Reporting testing, the student’s status change was not accurately reported to NSLDS. For the same student, the status change effective date was not accurately reported to NSLDS.

## **Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Continued) For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

**Cause** - The College's processes of internal controls for reporting student status changes to NSLDS were not adequate.

**Effect** - Student status changes were not accurately reported to NSLDS.

**Identification of Repeat Finding** - Repeat finding of prior year finding 2024-002.

**Recommendation** - We recommend the College revise its processes for reporting student status changes to NSLDS. The College should implement a process to review, update, and verify student enrollment statuses that appear on the Enrollment Reporting roster files. We also recommend that management implement controls to ensure reported changes are correctly reported to the NSLDS.

**Views of Responsible Officials** - Management agrees with the finding. Errors were caused by a coding error within their reporting system. Upon discovery, the errors were promptly reviewed and corrected subsequent to year-end. The necessary adjustments were made to the enrollment data, and the corrected information was submitted to the appropriate federal and state agencies in compliance with reporting requirements.

## Schedule of Prior Audit Findings For the Year Ended September 30, 2025

### Finding 2024-001 - Significant Deficiency

**Criteria** - According to GASB Statement No. 87, Leases (GASB 87), governments are required to recognize liability and an asset at the commencement of the lease term. The liability should be measured at the present value of future lease payments, and the asset should be initially measured based on the liability, adjusted for certain costs such as prepaid or accrued lease payments, initial direct costs, or incentives received.

**Condition** - The College did not record the asset and corresponding liability in its financial statements in accordance with the requirements set forth in GASB 87. Specifically, the College did not properly recognize the asset or the related liability for the lease that meets the criteria outlined in the statement.

**Cause** - The College's process over leases did not adequately capture all leases applicable to GASB 87.

**Effect** - The College's balances of other noncurrent assets and other noncurrent liabilities were misstated. Our audit procedures identified these balances were understated by \$671,325.

**Recommendation** - We recommend that the College take action to implement procedures to identify all leases that meet the criteria under GASB 87, including both new and existing leases. The College should ensure that the liabilities and assets are properly recorded at the commencement of the lease term.

**Views of Responsible Officials** - Management agrees with the finding.

**Current Status** - The College has implemented procedures to review all leases, determine if they meet the criteria under GASB 87, and record necessary amounts as an asset and a liability.

### Finding 2024-002 - Special Tests and Provisions - Enrollment Reporting (Noncompliance and Significant Deficiency)

**Identification of the Federal Program** - Student Financial Aid Cluster-Assistance Listing Nos. 84.007, 84.033, 84.063, and 84.268.

**Criteria** - Institutions are required to report enrollment information under the Pell grant and the Direct loan program via the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). The administration of the Title IV programs depends heavily on the accuracy and timeliness of the enrollment information reported by institutions. Institutions must review, update, and verify student enrollment statuses, program information, and effective dates reported to NSLDS. Institutions are responsible for accurate reporting.

According to 34 CFR 685.309(2), the College is required to notify the Department of Education via the NSLDS if a "student has ceased to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis for the period for which the loan was intended". Changes to status are required to be reported within 30 days of becoming aware of the status change, or with the next scheduled transmission of statuses if the scheduled transmission is within 60 days.

## **Schedule of Prior Audit Findings (Continued)**

### **For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

**Condition** - A sample of students were selected from the population of all students who received federal student financial aid during the year ended September 30, 2024. We obtained the student records and tested compliance with federal regulations for the specific loans and grants.

For 7 students selected for Enrollment Reporting testing, the status change to withdrawn was not reported within the 60-day reporting window after the status change was effective.

For 2 students selected for Enrollment Reporting testing, the status change was not reported to NSLDS.

**Cause** - The College's processes of internal controls for reporting student status changes to NSLDS were not adequate.

**Effect** - Student status changes were not reported to NSLDS within the required timeframe.

**Recommendation** - We recommend the College revise its processes for reporting student status changes to NSLDS. The College should implement a process to review, update, and verify student enrollment statuses that appear on the Enrollment Reporting roster files. Management should also implement controls to ensure reported changes are timely and correctly reported to the NSLDS.

**Identification of Repeat Finding** - Repeat finding of prior year finding 2023-002.

**Views of Responsible Officials** - Management agrees with the finding. Student exceptions were caused by a coding error within the reporting system. Upon discovery, the errors were promptly reviewed and corrected subsequent to year end. The necessary adjustments were made to the enrollment data, and the corrected information was submitted to the appropriate federal and state agencies in compliance with reporting requirements.

**Current Status** - This is a repeat finding. The Financial Aid Director and Registrar have worked together to monitor the withdrawal process put in place after the finding was initially identified. This should ensure all reported changes are timely and correctly reported to the NSLDS.

Finding 2024-003 - Special Tests and Provisions - Return to Title IV (Noncompliance and Significant Deficiency)

**Identification of the Federal Program** - Student Financial Aid Cluster - Assistance Listing Nos. 84.007, 84.033, 84.063, and 84.268.

## Schedule of Prior Audit Findings (Continued) For the Year Ended September 30, 2025

**Criteria** - When a recipient of Title IV grant or loan assistance withdraws from an institution during a payment period or period of enrollment in which the recipient began attendance, the institution must determine the amount of Title IV aid earned by the student is less than the amount that was disbursed to the student or on his or her behalf as of the date of the institution's determination that the student withdrew, the difference must be returned to the Title IV programs as outlined in this section and no additional disbursements may be made to the student for the payment period or period of enrollment. If the amount the student earned is greater than the amount disbursed, the difference between the amounts must be treated as a post-withdrawal disbursement (34 CFR 668.22(a)(1) through (a)(5)).

**Condition** - A sample of 40 students were selected from a population of all students that were withdrawn, dropped, on a leave of absence, never began attendance or terminated during the audit period to ascertain if returns of Title IV funds were properly calculated and timely processed.

For 1 student selected for Return to Title IV testing, it was identified that the College incorrectly calculated the Return to Title IV (R2T4) funding due to inaccuracies in the institutional charges applied to the R2T4 calculation, which resulted in overcalculating the return of funds by the institution and undercalculating the return of funds by the student that needed to be returned to the U.S. Department of Education (ED).

For 2 students selected for Return to Title IV testing, the College did not properly allocate the returned funds between the College and the student. As a result, the student's portion of the returned funds was either over- or under-reported, impacting both the student's financial aid account and the College's compliance with federal requirements.

For 1 student selected for Return to Title IV testing, the College used incorrect enrollment start and end dates, which resulted in the failure to properly complete and R2T4 calculation. Because the calculation was not performed when required, the College did not determine the amount of Title IV funds to be returned for students who withdrew, as mandated by the U.S. Department of Education.

**Cause** - The errors were due to inadequate internal controls over the R2T4 process. The institution's processes for tracking enrollment dates, calculating institutional amounts, and allocating funds did not include sufficient verification steps to ensure accuracy.

**Effect** - Overpayments or underpayments of R2T4 reimbursements to students and the Department of Education.

**Recommendation** - We recommend the College conduct periodic audits of the R2T4 process to ensure ongoing compliance with federal requirements and to identify potential errors before they impact students or the institution. We also recommend that management strengthens internal controls to ensure that the correct institutional amounts, enrollment dates, and other relevant data are used in the R2T4 process. This should include system checks or automated tools to flag discrepancies.

**Views of Responsible Officials** - Management agrees with the finding.

**Schedule of Prior Audit Findings (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2025**

**Current Status** - The College has taken appropriate action to ensure ongoing compliance with federal requirements.

# **SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

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*Todd Shackett, President*

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## **Corrective Action Plan**

### **Finding 2025-001 - Special Tests and Provisions - NSLDS Reporting (Noncompliance and Significant Deficiency)**

**Identification of the Federal Program** - Student Financial Aid Cluster - Assistance Listing Nos 84.007, 84.033, 84.038, 84.063, and 84.268.

**Criteria** - Institutions are required to report enrollment information under the Pell grant and the Direct loan program via the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). The administration of the Title IV programs depends heavily on the accuracy and timelines of the enrollment information reported by institutions. Institutions must review, update, and verify student enrollment statuses, program information, and effective dates reported to NSLDS. Institutions are responsible for accurate reporting.

According to 34 CFR 685.309(2), the University is required to notify the Department of Education via the NSLDS if a "student has ceased to be enrolled on at least a half-time basis for the period for which the loan was intended". Changes to status are required to be reported within 30 days of becoming aware of the status change, or with the next scheduled transmission of statuses if the scheduled transmission is within 60 days.

**Condition** - A sample of 40 students were selected from the population of all students who received federal student financial aid during the year ended September 30, 2025. We obtained the student records and tested compliance with federal regulations for the specific loans and grants.

For 1 student selected for NSLDS Reporting testing, the student's status change was not accurately reported to NSLDS. For the same student, the status change effective date was not accurately reported to NSLDS.

**Cause** - The College's processes of internal controls for reporting student status changes to NSLDS were not adequate.

**Effect** - Student status changes were not accurately reported to NSLDS.

**Identification of Repeat Finding** - Repeat finding of prior year finding 2024-002.

**Recommendation** - We recommend the College revise its processes for reporting student status changes to NSLDS. The College should implement a process to review, update, and verify student enrollment statuses that appear on the Enrollment Reporting roster files. We also recommend that management implement controls to ensure reported changes are correctly reported to the NSLDS.

**Views of Responsible Officials** - Management agrees with the finding. Errors were caused by a coding error within their reporting system. Upon discovery, the errors were promptly reviewed and corrected subsequent to year-end. The necessary adjustments were made to the enrollment data, and the corrected information was submitted to the appropriate federal and state agencies in compliance with reporting requirements.

**Corrective Action Plan** - A withdrawal process was put in place after this issue was identified as a finding in the prior year's audit. The Financial Aid Director and Registrar will work closely together and continue to monitor the withdrawal process.

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STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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