

**DATE:** July 22, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Off-Campus Location Center  
Motlow State Community College  
University of Tennessee Space Institute Center

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Approval

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §49-7-202(q)(3) the Tennessee Higher Education Commission is to review and approve or disapprove all proposals for off-campus centers at public institutions. Furthermore, THEC Policy *A1.4A: Off-Campus Instruction – Community Colleges and Universities* defines an off-campus center as “a location that is geographically apart from the main campus where students can enroll and complete academic programs.” Additionally, campuses are required to provide a continuing administrative presence at any off-campus center as evidenced by at least one full-time or part-time administrator housed on-site.

Motlow State Community College (MSCC) would like to propose an off-campus center at the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) located at 411 B. H. Goethert Parkway, Tullahoma, Tennessee. The proposed center will offer a certificate and associate degree program in Mechatronics. The proposed center located in a distressed area will allow MSCC an opportunity to address an underserved group of students who are near UTSI.

Motlow State Community College has a facilities usage agreement with UTSI that will provide annual usage of classroom and laboratory space. Additionally, MSCC has committed funds to retrofit the space to accommodate the necessary requirements for the Mechatronics program. The estimated cost to start courses at UTSI are estimated to be \$75,000 with 16 students projected to enroll. There are plans to have a faculty member present on-site who will provide an administrative presence. Upon approval, MSCC will notify the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) accrediting agencies.

On June 7, 2020, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved the proposed off-campus center for the University of Tennessee Space Institute Center to be effective Fall 2021. Appendix A provides the TBR approval and a summary of the proposed off-campus center.



THE COLLEGE SYSTEM  
of TENNESSEE

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[tbr.edu](http://tbr.edu)

June 7, 2021

Dr. Michael Torrence, President  
Motlow State Community College  
PO Box 8500  
Lynchburg, TN 37352-8500

Dear Dr. Torrence:

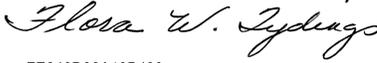
The academic action listed below has been reviewed by TBR staff and approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents following a 30-day review period that ended on June 4, 2021, in accordance with TBR Policy: 2:01:01:00, *Approval of Academic Programs, Units, and Modifications*. Motlow State Community College is approved to implement the academic action as proposed.

- **Establish a new off-campus teaching Center: The University of Tennessee Space Institute, at 411 BH. Goethert Parkway, Tullahoma, TN 37388 in Coffee County with proposed implementation in Fall 2021**

In addition to approval from the Tennessee Board of Regents, authorization from The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) is also required. The proposal has now been submitted to THEC with a request to place it on the agenda of the next quarterly meeting of the Commission in July. Motlow State Community College is authorized to implement the new Center as proposed once a Center Code has been assigned by THEC. Until such time, it will continue to be operated as a site.

Should you have any questions concerning this Board action, please contact Dr. Treva Berryman at 615-366-4442.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Flora W. Tydings, Ed.D.  
Chancellor

FWT: rl

c: Dr. Russ Deaton, TBR  
Dr. Emily House, THEC



# MOTLOW STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Motlow State Community College is requesting a new off-campus center at the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI) to offer certificate and associate degree level Mechatronics courses. With the recent availability of Bridgestone's Mechatronics equipment, UTSI felt there was both community need and support for the program in that part of our service area. Students in this part of Motlow's service have not previously had the opportunity to take Mechatronics courses in their community. The equipment is available at our other three major locations.

Mechatronics student success rates have been extremely positive. For example, we currently have a 100% job placement rate for Motlow's certificate recipients and an 89% job placement rate for those with Associates degrees. As a part of the college's strategic plan, goals are written to "enhance access to higher education," "develop programs to enhance completion," and "increase the number of students who complete certificates and associate degrees." These goals are in alignment with the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) strategic plan and the Governors Drive to 55 initiative that outlines efforts for the state's completion agenda. Additionally, expanding to this location aligns with the Master Plan.

The target audiences for the classes include:

- High school students seeking a certificate or AAS degree in Mechatronics
- Traditional or non-traditional students seeking a certificate or AAS degree in Mechatronics

A sample schedule for the first year is shown below:

Fall Semester:

Course Number	Course Description	Equipment Description
MECH 1310	Electrical Components	Electrical & Electrical Control Trainer
MECH 1320	Mechanical Components and Electrical Drives	Mechanical Trainer for Mechatronics
MECH 1350	Industrial Robotics	Robotic Stem Cart

Spring Semester:

MECH 1330	(Electro) Pneumatic and Hydraulic Control Circuits	Fluid Power Trainer for Mechatronics
MECH 1340	Digital Fundamentals and Programmable Logic Controllers	PLC Trainer for Mechatronics
MECH 2320	Motor Control	Motor Trainer for Mechatronics

The Facility Use Agreement between UTSI and Motlow provides year-over-year use of classroom and laboratory space in one of their test buildings for our Mechatronics AAS degree program. The space allocated to use consists of a classroom and two adjoining rooms to be used as laboratory space. Because the three rooms were formerly used for a chemistry lab and wind tunnel test bay, our facilities department is coordinating equipment removal with the UTSI facilities group. When the rooms are empty, they will be refurbished to make them appropriate for the use intended. The classroom will be fitted with a state-of-the-art audio-visual smart screen, Wi-Fi, and other equipment required for a conducive learning environment. In both lab spaces, the necessary utilities will be modified or installed to provide the appropriate pneumatics sources and voltages to power our equipment.

The square foot available consists is:

1. Office and storage closet – 400 square feet
2. Classroom – 560 square feet
3. Level 1 lab – 600 square feet
4. Level 2 lab – 570 square feet

The addition of the UTSI classroom and lab space, and related Mechatronics courses will have no impact on any existing programs, facilities, or equipment. Motlow's service area falls in a portion of Middle Tennessee that is considered a distressed area. As such, there is an underserved group of potential students in close proximity to UTSI. Additionally, it is located next to a U.S. Air Force base which has a large number of incumbent trades employees that have expressed an interest in obtaining an AAS Mechatronics degree. The addition of this facility is necessary to support our ever-growing demand for Mechatronics credentialed employees.

Costs to start these courses at this facility are estimated to be approximately \$75,000. Motlow State has funds available to support this move. Therefore, we feel this move will benefit the students and employers of Coffee and the surrounding counties and stimulate further economic growth in the region.

Brian Gafford  
Director of Facilities Services



Dr. Greg Sedrick  
Special Assistant to the President

Hilda Tunstill  
Vice President for Finance and Administration