



TENNESSEE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEM: III.A.

MEETING DATE: November 16, 2023

SUBJECT: Off-Campus Location Center
Southwest Tennessee Community College – Somerville Center

ITEM TYPE: Action

ACTION RECOMMENDATION: Approval

BACKGROUND

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 locations at public institutions.

Per THEC Policy A1.4A Off-Campus Instruction for Community Colleges and Universities, an off-campus center is defined as a location that is geographically apart from the main campus where students can enroll and complete academic programs. Additionally, there must be a continuing administrative presence, evidenced by at least one (1) full-time or part-time administrator housed on-site.

Southwest Tennessee Community College requests a center code for the University of Tennessee, Martin (UTM) Somerville site located at 214 Lakeview Road, Somerville, TN 38068. Currently operating as an approved site since October 2018, the proposed center will service the anticipated employment and population growth from the Ford BlueOval City project (approximately 8,000 projected new jobs) and provide complete certificates in Emergency Medical Technician Technical, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Technical, and Paramedic Technical. The creation of this center will also strengthen a proposed pathway for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students at Southwest Community College to move from an EMT technical certificate to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Tennessee, Martin, subsequently aiding in the increase of Tennesseans with a postsecondary credential. Southwest Tennessee Community College projects a cohort of 12 students per semester in the EMT program, anticipating a 55 student headcount and 69 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) by the center's fifth year. These projections are based on students taking advantage of an additional two (2) stackable credentials available at the proposed center, the EMT advanced certificate and the Paramedic technical certificate. Graduates of the Southwest Tennessee Community College – Somerville Center will have the opportunity to gain employment in entry-level, sustainable healthcare careers.

The current facility is an existing site leased in partnership with Southwest Tennessee Community College and the University of Tennessee, Martin. Southwest Tennessee Community College occupies the space of one (1) dedicated classroom, an on-site Dean's office, a shared computer lab, and access to other classrooms as available. Additionally, the annual budget provides financial support for the center, with \$71,000 allocated for hiring one (1) faculty member, equipment, and a small operating budget. The regular budget will absorb all costs above this allocation.