

GREENVILLE COUNTY BOARD AND COMMISSION APPLICATION for County-wide Boards

Name of Board or Commission to which you are applying: Greenville Technical College Area Commission
An individual may only apply to serve on one board or commission during any election cycle.

Mr. Mrs.

Ms. Dr.

Name: Tomeika N. Bennett

Home Address: 15 Luther Drive

City: Greenville

Zip: 29607

Occupation: College Access Program Director Employer: Furman University

Employer Address: 3300 Poinsett Highway, Greenville, SC 29613

School attended: Lander University(BS, 2004) Springfield College(MS), CV attached

Highest degree earned: Master's Field of Study: Human Services

Volunteer Experience (Please list and describe):

- *Phoenix Center, Lotus Program Board: Partnership development & resource identification successfully transition into independent living*
- *Inside Out Instructor: Teach personal development course using Myers Briggs and Strengthfinder for individuals at Perry Correctional Institution*
- *Furman Bridges Program, College Buddy*
- *ValleyBrook Outreach Baptist Church: Young Adult Ministry Life group leader, develop Bible studies and service projects for young adults, lead studies in conjunction co-leader*
- *ValleyBrookOut Baptist Church: College and Career Coordinator, assist students with life after high school plans, help students and their families navigate the college admissions process, provide students information on finding the path that is the best fit for them, educate students about alternative experiences that foster personal development and to college or military*
- *College Summit/Peer Forward- Summer College Essay coach, taught students the college and scholarship essay framework, guide students through writing process, and empowered them with tools need to develop strong personal and commitment statements.*

Describe your understanding of the position for which you are applying.

The commissioner role is integral in the progress and sustainability of Greenville Technical College. Serving on the governing body for the college comes with a range of responsibilities. Commissioners stay abreast of political and economic trends that influence technical education. Additionally, commissioners commit to finding innovative responses to meeting the needs of the community while also keeping students and employees first. The commission works collaboratively with the Dr. Miller and the President's cabinet to shape the college's policy, practices, and culture that promotes student persistence, retention, and graduation.

What specific skills do you believe you could contribute as a member of this board or commission?

As a young adult that is reflective of the many non-traditional students, I will bring the perspective like those of many students that college serves. I also have a deep understanding of the traditional student experience as I take the COL college success courses, led the First Year Experience program, and campus civic engagement activities. Additionally, as a former employee and education advocate, this opportunity would enable me to suggest some innovative strategies for student success and employee support. I have over 15 years of higher education experience, beginning during my tenure at Lander University through my current work as the Program Director for the Furman University College Advising Corps. As a first generation student and practitioner, I can bring perspective and clear understanding of what is necessary to help all students exceed especially those from traditionally underrepresented communities. I enjoy researching best practices related to student success and higher education. This skill and knowledge can help guide college policy development. In addition, while at Greenville Technical College, I served as the Faculty Leader for Achieving the Dream and presently works with a data-driven organization, these two experiences heightened by value of data and how to appropriate use it to strengthen organizations. Last, I will bring the spirit of connectedness to the board. I desire to use that to aid in outreach efforts to encourage the community to take full advantage of what the college has to offer that can position them for economic and social mobility.

How many hours per week are you able to commit to this board or commission? 10-15 hours

Have you ever attended a meeting of this board or commission? **I have not attended a commission meeting. However, keep abreast of the commission's work through the reading of meeting minutes and regular review of the college's website. In addition, while I worked at Greenville Tech, I felt that attending an Area Commission meeting should be a part of the employee onboarding process. While there, I was not in a position where I could recommend a high-level change like such.**

Yes No

Are you available to meet at the regularly scheduled date and time of the board or commission meetings?

Yes No

Do you, any member of your immediate family, or a business with which you or a family member is associated, provide goods and/or services to this board for payment?

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Do you or any member of your immediate family receive direct services from this board?

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation?

Yes No

If yes, please give details. _____

Do you currently hold any elected or appointed office or commission?

Yes No

If yes, please list _____

Have you previously held any elected or appointed office or commission?

Yes No

If yes, please list _____

Have you ever been fined for an ethics violation?

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever been subject to penalty relating to a violation of State ethics standards?

Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Are you current in payment of your Greenville County property taxes?

Yes No

If applying for the **Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee**
the **Construction Board of Appeals** or the **Historic Preservation Commission**
please check the box that applies to your field of employment or expertise:

Accommodations Tax Comm.

Construction Board of Appeals

- Tourism Industry
- Cultural / Arts
- Restaurant
- Hotel Management

Historic Preservation Comm.

- Archeologist
- Historian
- Architect
- Member of Historic Preservation Group

- Architectural
- Fire Protection Engineer /Contractor
- Electrical Engineer /Contractor
- Design/Architectural /Professional Contractor
- Structural Engineer /Contractor
- Mechanical Engineer /Contractor
- Plumbing Engineer /Contractor

Statement of Agreement and Understanding

By my signature, I attest all information contained in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge;

I understand it is my responsibility to insure my application is submitted within the application period and that it has been received by the County Council office;

I understand my appointment to the board for which I am applying will not result in me receiving any compensation for my service;

I understand my lack of attendance resulting in three consecutive meetings or 25% of all meetings within a year may result in my removal from the board.

Signature *Tomeika Bennett*

Date January 31, 2019

Please return completed form by mail, fax or email to:

**Greenville County Council
301 University Ridge, Suite 2400
Greenville, SC 29601-3665**

Fax: (864) 467-7358

rmccaskill@greenvillecounty.org

If you have questions, please call 467-7115 or check the www.greenvillecounty.org website.

Greenville County Boards and Commissions

Accommodations Tax Advisory Commission
Airport Commission
Airport Environs Planning Commission
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission
Arena District Commission **
Board of Tax Assessment and Appeals
Construction Board of Appeals
Greater Greenville Sanitation District Commission **
Greenlink Board (GTA)
Greenville Area Development Corporation (GADC)
Historic Preservation Commission
Human Relations Commission
Library Board of Trustees
Metropolitan Sewer Sub-district **
Museum Commission
Parks, Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board
Greenville County Planning Commission
Greenville County Redevelopment Authority
South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center Board (SCTAC)
Thrive Upstate (formerly Disabilities and Special Needs Board) **
Zoning Board of Appeals

* Boards that are appointed by the Legislative Delegation upon recommendation of the Greenville County Council.

** Boards that are appointed by the Governor of South Carolina upon recommendation of the Greenville County Council.

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Higher Education Professional Interests

College access and equity, student retention, enrollment & academic pathways, career counseling and self-discovery, first year experience; college success courses and models; first generation college students; underrepresented student populations; leadership development; organizational change; & community organizing

Education

Springfield College, School of Human Services

MS, Human Services-Organization Management and Leadership Development;

Thesis: “Foundation for Change: creating community leadership and empowerment centers in rural community”

Lander University, College of Education

BS, History with Teacher Education concentration, 2004

- Magna Cum Laude graduate, Alpha Chi Honor Society
- Senior Thesis: “Blessed be the Ties that Bind: Understanding the influence of the church in the Pisgah Crossroad community”

Professional Certification

Coastal Carolina University, Continuing Education

Global Career Development Facilitator certification, 2008

Course Instruction

Academic Connections Department, Greenville Technical College, FA 2010- present

Assistant Professor

COL 103 College Skills

COL 105 Freshmen Seminar

Human Services Department, Greenville Technical College, FA 2010- FA 2012

Adjunct Instructor

HUS 101 Introduction to Human Services

TRIO- Upward Bound, University of South Carolina – Columbia, SP 2009

Instructor

Life Skills

Administrative Duties and Responsibilities

Furman University, Greenville, SC

Program Director, Furman College Advising Corps

April 2018-current

Oversees all aspects of program operations; Manages a 1.1 million dollar budget, Creates processes & policies, Develops, program sustainability plans, Builds program capacity and infrastructure; Engages funders, Maintains school district partnerships, Implements talent recruitment and acquisition strategies, Adheres to college human resource policies, Conducts talent training and development activities, Ensures AmeriCorps compliance; Leads 7 advisers, Establishes program goals and monitor progress using GRACE data management, Administers strategic communication and marketing practices, Writes and releases quarterly reports to program stakeholders, Conducts education landscape studies in collaboration with the Riley Institute & Center for Engaged Learning, Presides over program expansion planning.

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Administrative Duties and Responsibilities

Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC

August 2013 – March 2018

Academic Program Director (Appointed SP 2017)

First Year Experience (Appointed FA 2013) & **Civic Engagement Coordinator** (Appointed SP 2014)

Assisted with course curriculum development; Course scheduling, Syllabi Development; Course copying and Blackboard updates; Supported and mentored adjunct faculty; Conducted adjunct faculty observations, Maintained 35 student advising load; Provided faculty support for student orientation; Developed & implemented support programming for first time college students; recruited, hired, trained & supervised 10 peer leaders; Collaborated with college departments; Created program marketing tools and strategies; Retained student participation data; Supported faculty service learning curriculum development; Maintained Signup.com volunteer management system; Established community service partners; Provided civic engagement professional development trainings; Coordinated campus service events ; Create college emergency food pantry and financial education center intake process, Supervised 2 AmeriCorps Volunteers and 2 work-study students, Oversaw program budget ; Assessed program outcomes and maintain assessment records in TK20; Ensured college policy compliance; Produced program annual report

Faculty Leadership & Professional Experience

Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC

August 2014 – May 2015

Planning & Transfer Headquarters (PATH) Faculty Liaison

Reviewed articulation and transfer agreements; Assisted with University Transfer Day; Provided faculty advising support; Addressed student transfer inquiries

Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC

August 2009 – August 2012

Academic Advisor

Conducted Academic Advising meetings with 200 undergraduate students ; Assisted students with developing academic plan; Discussed strategies for academic success ; Entered data in college information management system; Conducted new student orientation ; Facilitated faculty advisor training

University of South Carolina TRIO, Columbia, SC

September 2007- August 2009

Educational Talent Search Counselor

Provided academic counseling to 215 low-income, first generation college students; Aided in student career planning; Advised students on college admissions and financial aid process; Engaged in relationship management between schools and university officials; Maintained student files and database

AmeriCorps/City Year- Columbia, Columbia, SC

July 2006- June 2007

Program Capacity Leader

Specialized in organization capacity building; Managed event budgets ; Maintained service partner relationships ; Organized and implemented service events ; Solicited in-kinds and donations for events and projects; Assessed corps educational needs ; Assisted with the development and maintenance of volunteer database ; Developed a sustainable leadership development series; Participated in corps and volunteer recruitment ; Wrote service monthly reports; Assisted with data collection ; Managed 25 corps members

Publications

Bennett, T. (2019) *Next: the Future of Furman College Advising Corps*. Furman Magazine,61(2),Spring 2019.

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Presentations

Bennett, T. & Stewart, K. (2017). *Equity in Higher Education, Finish Line Student Experience Simulation*. Greenville Technical College Convocation, Greenville, SC.

Bennett, T. & Morgan, A. (2017). *Student Engagement beyond the Classroom: a Unique Perspective on the First Year Experience*. South Carolina Technical Colleges Teaching & Learning Tuesdays Webinar, Greenville, SC.

Bennett, T. & Gary, T. (2017). *Self-Discovery through Service*. South Carolina Campus Compact Leadership Summit, Greenville, SC.

Bennett, T. & Taylor, M. (2017). *Sister to Sister: Navigating Cultural Dynamics in the Workplace*. African American Male Leadership Conference, Greenville, SC.

Bennett, T. & Couch, S. (2016). *Quiet: Helping Introverts Thrive in an Active Learning Environment*. NACADA Drive-In, Greenville, SC.

Bennett, T. (2016). *Student Engagement beyond the Classroom: a Unique Perspective on the First Year Experience*. Entering Student Success Institute, San Antonio, TX

Bennett, T. (2016). *Goal Setting & Vision Boarding*. Greenville Technical College First Year Experience- Lunch and Learn, Greenville, SC.

Presentations

Bennett, T. & Morgan, A. (2015). *Student Engagement beyond the Classroom: a Unique Perspective on the First Year Experience*. Two Year First Year (TYFY) conference, Norfolk, VA.

Bennett, T. & Couch, S. (2014, 2015). *Quiet: Helping Introverts Thrive in an Active Learning Environment*. Greenville Technical College- New Faculty Orientation, Greenville, SC.

Bennett, T. (2013, 2014). *Dealing with Difficult People*. Greenville Technical College Resident Assistant Training, Greenville, SC.

Committee Leadership & Participation

Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC

- Phoenix Center, Lotus Program, Advisory Council (current member)
- National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition- CAS FYE Cross-Functional Framework National Review Team (SP 2017- SP 18)
- Greenville Technical College Community Fest Committee (FA 2017)
- TRIO/Student Support Services Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) Review Team (FA 2017)
- Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeals Committee (SP 2017-SP18)
- Achieving the Dream- Faculty Leader for Persistence Initiatives(2015-SP18)
- Academic Affairs Improvement Council(2015-SP)
- South Carolina Technical Education Association (2016-FA18)
- Information Technology Governance Council- Web Services Committee (2014-2015)
- Not A Statistic (NAS) - Advisory Council (2013-FA18)
- African American Male Leadership Institute (AAMLi)- Advisory Council (2012-2016)
- Co-Chair- Vice President for Academic Affairs Search Committee (FA 2012)
- Student Success Committee (2012-2014)
- SACS Reaffirmation Committee- Student Services representative (2011-2012)
- Achieving the Dream PILOT Leadership Academy Initiative leader (2011-2012)
- **Hiring Committee Participation:** Dean for Public Services Arts and Sciences, Dental Hygiene Faculty, Financial Aid Compliance Officer, Health & Wellness Academic Advisor, Assistant Dean for Public Service/Arts & Sciences

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Honors and Awards

South Carolina Campus Compact, Rock Hill, SC
2017 South Carolina Civic Engagement Professional Award Honoree

South Carolina Technical Education Association, Myrtle Beach, SC
2016-2017 Educator of the Year- Greenville Technical College

Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC
2013-2014 Standards of Behavior President's Excellence Award

Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC