

**DATE:** January 31, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Off-Campus Location Center  
Volunteer State Community College, Highland Crest

**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 locations at public institutions. In July 2017, the Commission approved two new Off-Campus Instructional policies for Community Colleges and Universities and Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology.

Per the THEC Policy A1.4A Off-Campus Instruction for Community Colleges and Universities, off campus centers are defined as locations that are: geographically apart from the main campus, offer complete academic programs, and have an administrative presence.

Volunteer State Community College is seeking to upgrade their current off-campus location at Highland Crest at 150 Laureate Avenue in Springfield, TN to an off-campus center. The Highland Crest location has been in operation since 2011 and seeks to upgrade this designation effective fall 2020. Volunteer State seeks to provide local residents an opportunity to fully complete their credential in their community. This will allow for multiple degree programs to be offered fully on-site. These include four associate degree programs (Business, Computer Information Technology, Teaching, and University Parallel) and two certificate programs (Emergency Medical Technician and Supply Chain Management).

This location is shared with Austin Peay State University, which could provide students an opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree in the future.

Volunteer State evaluated the enrollment patterns at Highland Crest and discovered that a sizeable number of their originating students (beginning at Highland Crest) ultimately had to travel to the main campus to complete program coursework. Their goal with this upgrade is to reverse that pattern and translate degree completion to this location for residents that live in Robertson County. This is in alignment with the State's Drive to 55 attainment goal.

The Highland Crest off-campus location will continue to be staffed by full-time staff members, full-time and adjunct faculty. Volunteer State intends to hire a staff member to provide additional student support services for this location.

On January 3, 2020, the Tennessee Board of Regents approved the upgrade for the Highland Crest location in Springfield, TN to a center status effective fall 2020.