

Highlights from Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting



Assistant to the President Toni Brown (left) administers the oath of office to (left to right) Trustees Jeferson Gomez Gonzalez, Steven Earp, Dr. Shun Edmonds-Robertson, Marilyn Carter and (on screen) Ellen Shannon.

Five Board of Trustees members sworn in

Durham Tech swore in three new members of the College's Board of Trustees and two members who have been reappointed to new terms.

Marilyn Carter, who has served on the Orange County Board of Commissioners since 2024, was appointed to the Durham Tech Board of Trustees by the Orange County Commissioners. A retired engineer, her professional career brought her to North Carolina, where she has lived most of her adult life. She received her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from SUNY Stony Brook, with support from the community college there that allowed her to take summer classes and work year-round while attending college. She later earned a master's degree from Duke.

Steven Earp was reappointed to his second term on the Board of Trustees by the N.C. House of Representatives. A native of Durham, Earp attended Southern High School during his junior and senior years and attended Durham Tech. He graduated from both after completing his senior year. He taught at Durham Tech for many years before joining Duke University as the manager of the Student Shop at the Pratt School of Engineering.

Dr. Shun Edmonds-Robertson was reappointed to her second term on the Board of Trustees by the Durham County Board of

Commissioners. She serves as senior vice president for strategy and policy for the University of North Carolina System Office. She previously served as a program officer at MDC and Jobs for the Future.

As the 2026-27 president of the Student Government Association, Jeferson Gomez Gonzalez will serve as an ex officio member. Gonzalez is also the College's 2026 Academic Excellence winner. He is studying Architectural Technology at Durham Tech.

Ellen Shannon was appointed to her first term on Board of Trustees by the N.C. Senate. Shannon, a retired media executive, is also chair of the Durham Tech Foundation and will serve as the Board of Trustees' liaison to the Foundation Board of Directors.

"We welcome these Trustees," said Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Pat Ashley. "Their talents, experiences and community connections bring strengths that will benefit the Board and the College."

Durham Tech President JB Buxton echoed her comments. "We are fortunate to have this group from a variety of backgrounds who are committed to the success of Durham Tech's students," he said. "They bring diverse expertise that will help shape Durham Tech's direction for the future."

Trustees serve four-year terms.

Action items and consent agenda

Board actions

The Board unanimously approved the following:

- Spring 2026 Continuing Education class visitation report
- Accept report of actions taken under Presidential Delegation of Authority
- Renew Presidential Authority for 2026-27
- 2028-29 academic calendar

Consent agenda

The Board unanimously approved:

- Off-cycle CE student fees
- Finance report year-end June 30, 2026

Informational Strategic Plan

Sarah Devlin, senior advisor to the Office of the President, presented information to the Trustees about plans to keep them informed about the College's progress in meeting the 2026-31 Strategic Plan goals.

SACSCOC accreditation

Dr. Jen Servi-Roberts, assistant vice president for Academics and Guided Career Pathways, updated Trustees on where Durham Tech is in its accreditation process with SACSCOC.