

President's Report September 2013

Construction

Ferrell/Brown will provide us an update.

Partnerships/Expansion

Crystal City – Architects are working on site plan for technical programs building, wellness center and a library facility. We had engaged a library consultant to advise us on what new college libraries should look like; we look forward to hear her suggestions for the Crystal City Center.

Eagle Pass – Architects have identified a site for a future building on the main campus. The long term plan is to build another building, possibly a two story building on the main campus to sustain our growth their for the next 5-7 years. In order to accommodate any future growth beyond that, they recommend we build Rio Grande College new buildings on the new 18 acres and SWTJC could take over the existing two buildings that RGC currently uses.

Eagle Pass – Met with the Mayor and he communicated to me that the city is planning to build a new library for the community. We discussed the item, and mentioned that SWTJC & RGC might partner with them if the library would be located in close proximity to the campus. Made no promises other than continue the dialog.

Hondo – Met with Mayor Danner and Judge Barton. We had a lengthy discussion about the future of the Hondo facility. Initially they wanted to have a technical program located in Hondo. We suggest that customized workforce training would be a better route. They are committed to engage Alamo Workforce Solutions to provide additional training dollars for the region.

Pearsall – Met with chamber of commerce members and school board trustees to discuss the needs for the Pearsall facility. Both chamber and school are willing partners to continue to grow the enrollment at Pearsall.

Uvalde – Attended the Uvalde CISD welcome back BBQ and welcomed the new superintendent. Invited the new superintendent to attend our cabinet meeting. Attended the Uvalde First Meeting. A monthly meeting held in the morning with local leaders and community members to discuss activities occurring throughout town.

Bonds – We have been working with our financial planners on the possibility of selling additional bonds. Interest rate continue to rise, and the current outlook is for them to continue on an upward climb. We have designated approximately \$750,000 annually for

future debt service (bond payments) out of our current funds. We would not have to raise any new taxes or tuition to make this possible. This debt service amount would allow us to borrow approximately \$9 - \$10 million to possibly fund the Crystal City and Eagle Pass expansion projects. Financial Planners will be at the Board meeting to discuss further.

Conferences/Meetings

Texas Success Summit – September 23-24th
Aspen Institute/Achieving the Dream President’s Symposium “Redesigning Community Colleges for Student Success: Building Cultures of Action and Inquiry that Achieve Strong and Equitable Results” September 15-17th

Other

Palomino Fest 2013 – was a great success. They raised enough funds to provide an additional \$25,000 in scholarships for the next year.

Enrollment – Dr. Bennett will provide a final update at Board Meeting.

Have met with PTK officers and asked them to set up a monthly meeting to have students meet with the President and discuss concerns and issues. Have also asked our deans to set up similar meeting with faculty.