

President's Report February 2015

Construction

Eagle Pass Academic – We had a great ground breaking ceremony. Construction has begun. The contractor has been busy doing the necessary site work.

Eagle Pass Technical Campus – We have put out a bid package for the pre-engineered building that will house the diesel program. We anticipate having bids for the Board's consideration this month.

Crystal City – We are really close to finishing up the construction documents. We should have bids for board consideration at our April Board meeting.

Partnerships

San Felipe DelRio – We have the Del Rio San Felipe Early College High School agreement for the Board's consideration this month. It is modeled after our Early College agreement with Knippa ISD.

Dilley – We anticipate bringing up for consideration another Early College High School agreement with Dilley ISD in March.

Legislation

The 84th session is in full swing now, committees have been named and their hearings have begun. Both the House and Senate have filed the initial base-funding bill. The funding for community colleges is down, for us it means an approximate reduction of \$500,000 for each year of the biennium. We have begun our process to educate our representatives and fight to restore the funding and seek additional funds. Overall the State has approximately \$5-7 billion that it could potentially add to the base budget, due to a surplus in operating funds and higher revenue estimates. I have provided testimony to the State Affairs Committee, which is hearing SB11, which proposes to authorize concealed handguns on campus.

We have agreed to assist the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) in analyzing the fiscal impact of proposed bills that impact community colleges (8 colleges were asked).

Other

SACSCOC Compliance – Administration has been busy the entire month finishing up our compliance report. The commission has notified us of the Off-Site review team and requested that they have our compliance document in their possession by March 2, 2015. They have also informed us that On-Site review is scheduled for October 20-22, 2015.

QEP – Quality Enhance Plan (QEP), this is also a component of our accreditation review process. Our plan is due approximately 6 weeks before the onsite visit. Dr. Burchfield and Randa Schell are our co-chairs and will present a status report for the Board in April.

CCATT – Mrs. Lara and Ms. Tarski attended the legislative workshop in Austin earlier this month in preparation for the 84th Legislative Session. They will report to Board at the meeting.

Community College Day – We had approximately 50 students and staff from multiple campuses attend community college day in Austin earlier this month. I have heard back from our representatives and they were impressed with our students and our students thoroughly enjoyed meeting and visiting with our representatives.

Conversation with President – I have begun the Spring semester series of conversation with the President. I have met with students from Uvalde, Eagle Pass, and have the Del Rio schedule for this week. I have also met with the Eagle Pass faculty. All meetings have been very productive, both students and faculty are providing me their perspectives on various issues. This mechanism serves a great purpose in keeping me informed by two key constituencies.

President's Gala – I have been informed by SWTJC FAN that this year's gala will be held on April 11 at the Uvalde County Fairplex.