

President's Report January 2017

Construction

Crystal City Library – Our Crystal City Library is virtually complete. Furniture began arriving on Monday, January 9 and landscaping is set to begin within the next couple of weeks. There are still some items that need to be addressed, but we expect they will be completed to our satisfaction. We expect to have an open house and dedication sometime late February or early March.

Partnerships

Over the break I had the opportunity to visit with our local leaders at Middle Rio Grande Development Council and have agreed to lead a region wide discussion on the future of higher education for our area. These discussions will segway nicely with our work on developing Pathways. We plan to begin talks with superintendents and expand out to mayors, county judges, and business leaders.

Legislation

- The 85th Legislative session official kicked off on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. I spent the first two days of the session in Austin. We were able to secure meetings with Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, House Speaker Joe Straus, Governor Abbott and a few other key legislators that chair Higher Ed, Appropriations, and Finance committees. The meetings went well, as always the initial revenue estimate is not enough of it; however, leadership agrees that even though higher education saw a 9% increase last session, community colleges recognized a 1% decrease. They agree that they need to fix this problem. We are hopeful that funds will be available for us. Early conversations among state leadership, leads us to believe we will very likely see an increase. We will continue to fight for our community college until the final bill is signed.
- Community College Day at the Capitol will be on February 7, 2017. We plan to take students from our various campuses along with faculty and staff, to help articulate our message to legislators.
- I have provided one-page summary position papers that can be used when discussing with legislators, business leaders or community members.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- 1/13 Real County Stock Show
- 1/14 Zavala County Stock Show
- 1/17 First Day of Classes Spring 2017
- 1/25 TACC Quarterly Meeting
- 1/28 Uvalde County Stock Show
- 2/6 **Joint TACC/CCATT Legislative Meeting** (Austin)
- 2/7 Community College Day at Capitol (Austin)
- 2/11 Hosting Robotics Exhibition
- 2/15 Uvalde County Day at Capitol (Austin)