

## **President's Report June 2015**

### **Construction**

*Eagle Pass Academic* – This project is progressing nicely. Contractor reports we are ahead of schedule.

*Eagle Pass Technical Campus* – Contractor has begun with site work.

### **Partnerships**

*Hondo* – We have a subsequent meeting scheduled for next week with Hondo. We just received word that they received a \$950,000 grant to construct an additional lab facility in Hondo.

### **Legislation**

The legislature stands adjourned. Community colleges did fare as well as we had hoped. Even though we continue to make huge strides in the area of student success, the State is penalizing us for our success. They have also passed legislation that will legalize concealed handguns on college campuses. The legislation does not go into effect until Fall of 2017, and the law grants college presidents the authority to declare portions of campus gun free (cannot be the entire campus).

### **Other**

*Achieving the Dream* – We have submitted our application to be recertified as an Achieving the Dream Leader College; we wait for the official designation.

*Title V Grant* – U. S. Department of Education should announce Title V awards this summer; we are hopeful that our application gets funded.

*Enrollment* – Summer enrollment is positive compared to last year and Fall enrollment is also on track.

*Budgets* – The Vice Presidents and their Directors have been working for several months on fine-tuning their budget requests. The cut in State funding has made it extremely difficult to continue funding our priorities and keeping us on the path of student success. We have scheduled a budget workshop for 6 pm the day of our Board Meeting to discuss the details within the budget. Several items for Board consideration will be an increase in

our general use fee to help offset the cut in state appropriations and an increase in out-of-district fees to help support the increased maintenance of our campus expansions in Eagle Pass and Del Rio. The other item is considering funding the annual steps and increments and the equivalent of 1.5% for those employees not a salary scale.

*Conferences* – We had three Board Members attend the annual CCATT Conference in San Antonio earlier this month. The focus was centered on student success and reports from the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. Will ask Board Members to report to the entire Board on their perspective of the conference.

*Meetings* – I have been appointed to a President’s Dual Credit Task Force. We had a meeting in Austin this week with school district Superintendents to discuss various issues impacted by Dual Credit. Our goal is to join with Superintendents and formulate a legislative priority to submit to the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Dual Credit continues to expand and we definitely want to stay ahead of the curve on the issues.

*SACSCOC* – We have our visit from our SACSCOC Vice President Dr. Kirk scheduled for July 13-14. We will have a draft of our focus report and QEP available for her to review.