

## President's Report May 2016

### Construction

*Eagle Pass Technical Campus* – As of May 10, 2016 the parking lot is finally paved! We will soon begin to transition our Diesel program into the new facility as well as setting up the welding lab.

*Crystal City Library* – We have finally begun to see some activity from the Crystal City public works with the relocation of water lines and storm sewers. Our general contractor is eager to get the project underway. We have scheduled our groundbreaking ceremonies for Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 3:00 pm.

### Partnerships

*Dual Credit/Early College High School* – We are proud to announce we have over 30 high school students that are graduating with either Associates or Certificates before they graduate high school.

### Other

*Operating Budget* – 2016-2017 budgets have been submitted to our Vice President of Finance. Her office is in the process of analyzing and verifying the budgets. Our goal is to have the budget ready for board consideration at the June Board. We would welcome a Budget Workshop with the Board either before the meeting or a special meeting, whichever the Board desires.

*Graduation Ceremony* – Reminder that Graduation is set for May 14<sup>th</sup>. By the time you read this, the ceremony would have already occurred. However, I want to share that as the number of graduates continue to increase (this is a good thing) we have out grown our gym as the alternate site due to weather concerns. We have approximately 460 graduates participating in the ceremony (actual number of graduates is greater), half from general studies and half from applied sciences. Our gym holds 450 in the bleachers and about the same on the floor. Therefore we made the decision to move the alternate site to the high school gym, to be able to accommodate more guests for the graduates.

*Bond Refinance* – we have an opportunity to refinance our 2006 series bonds and save money on the interest differential. We have been working with our financial advisors and have an agenda item that details the potential savings net of cost to refinance.

*Room and Board* – We are recommending to the Board a revision in our dorm rates. Students frequently present doctors excuses for exemption from the meal portion of the dorm plan. Therefore, we have developed several options for the students: choose between new rooms, old rooms, private rooms, and number of meals included. Also students not living in the dorms will have options to purchase just meal plans.

*Student vs. Faculty/Staff Softball Game* – last week we had a great time playing softball with the students. I want to thank Mrs. Lara for participating. It was a great event and helps demonstrate the type of student engagement we continue to foster.