

President's Report June 2014

Construction

Del Rio – Portable buildings are in the process of being removed to make room for the expanded parking area and new drive to the new building. Classes began without any problems for Summer I in the new academic building.

Eagle Pass – Staff and architects have been busy working on the details for the Eagle Pass project. We are working with consultants on the design of the Physics/Engineering Lab, snack bar area, and Library.

Crystal City – Last month the Crystal City Council approved the transfer of property to SWTJC for the construction of a new library. Our architects, staff, and civil engineers have been working with City staff to finalize the surveys and documents needed for the conveyance to occur. We are moving forward with the design of the building.

Uvalde – We have continue to make improvements to our Hubbard Hall dorm rooms and are working on a plan to have all the remaining dorm suites upgraded with the remaining bond funds.

Partnerships

HB5 – Our faculty and staff are working with groups from our area high schools to develop the mandated remediation courses for high school senior. We are also working with various school districts to expand their dual credit technical course offerings.

UT Health Science Center – The Eagle Pass Campus was host to a two week Health Career Enrichment Program open to college freshmen and sophomores interested in a health career. Students attended four courses on critical thinking, science, communication and study skills. Tuition and lunch were provided free of charge.

Hondo Aviation – We continue to work with our partners in Hondo and Texas Workforce Commission to develop a Skills Development Grant to provide training to the new aviation company that has set up shop in Hondo.

4H Leadership Conference – The SWTJC Uvalde Campus will host the 4H leadership conference for the southern district of Texas in late June. We expect about 130 students for this conference.

Other

Strategic Plan – The strategic plan is included in your board packet for consideration at the board meeting. The cabinet has met extensively throughout the year to make modifications and recommendation for the next five years.

Policy – Also included in your packet is our recommendation for changes to our Faculty Handbook and catalog changes.

Budget – Staff has been working on budgets for the past three months. I commend staff for proactively reducing current year budgets to maintain expenditures within revenue levels.

Also, the staff has done a lot of hard work in preparing the 2014-2015 budget that will be discussed in detail at the budget workshop before the board meeting. Some of the highlights included: no increase in tuition rates or tax rates, level enrollment projections, significant increase in tax valuation for Zavala County, level expenditure budgets, numerous employment positions not replaced, and the budget has allowances for a three step salary increase across the board and the equivalent of 3% increase for those employees not on a salary scale. The budget also includes \$300,000 in technology improvements, \$649,051 in 12 budgeted positions that are currently vacant but anticipate filling in the next year, and over \$500,000 in a contingency fund.

Title V – We have submitted our grant application to the Department of Education for Title V. We have also submitted two coop grants: one with Rio Grande College and the other with Angelo State University.

TACCT – College staff has also been busy working on this cooperative grant application between various community colleges surrounding the Eagle Ford Shale.

First in World – Our staff is exploring the opportunities to apply for a First in World grant – looks for innovative approaches and strategies in education.

Welding – The demand for our welding program continues to grow. All three of our Fall sections are already full. We have opened the section to be taught at the Crystal City High School and look for the welding program to continue to expand.

Division Chair – We have advertised and have recommendations for the board to consider for some of the Division Chair appointments. We will reopen the remaining vacancies.

Law Enforcement Academy – We graduated 27 cadets last month and they all passed the State Licensing exam on the first try.