

# Board of Trustees

## Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

3:30 p.m.

Ann Richards Administration  
Building, Board Room  
Pecan Campus  
McAllen, Texas



SOUTH TEXAS  
COLLEGE

*In the Making!*

Online Copy

**South Texas College  
Board of Trustees  
Education and Workforce Development Committee  
Ann Richards Administration Building, Board Room  
Pecan Campus, McAllen, Texas  
Tuesday, July 13, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

“At anytime during the course of this meeting, the Board of Trustees may retire to Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.071(2) to confer with its legal counsel on any subject matter on this agenda in which the duty of the attorney to the Board of Trustees under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Further, at anytime during the course of this meeting, the Board of Trustees may retire to Executive Session to deliberate on any subject slated for discussion at this meeting, as may be permitted under one or more of the exceptions to the Open Meetings Act set forth in Title 5, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Texas Government Code.”

- I. Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, June 8, 2021 Committee Meeting..... 3 - 7
- II. Review and Recommend Action on Proposed FY 2021 – 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule ..... 8 - 9
- III. Review and Recommend Action on Revisions to 2021-2022 Academic Calendar and 2022-2023 Academic Calendar ..... 10 - 16
- IV. Review and Discussion of Enrollment Strategies to Reach New Student Populations ..... 17 - 20
- V. Review and Recommend Action on Direct Payment Partner Agreement with Guild Education, Inc. .... 21 - 22

### **Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, June 8, 2021 Committee Meeting**

The Minutes for the Education and Workforce Development Committee meeting of Tuesday, June 8, 2021 are presented for Committee approval.

**South Texas College  
Board of Trustees  
Education and Workforce Development Committee  
Ann Richards Administration Building, Board Room  
Pecan Campus, McAllen, Texas  
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 @ 3:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The Education and Workforce Development Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 in the Ann Richards Administration Building Board Room at the Pecan Campus in McAllen, Texas. The meeting commenced at 3:32 p.m. with Mrs. Victoria Cantú presiding.

Members present: Mrs. Victoria Cantú, Mr. Paul R. Rodriguez and Mr. Danny Guzman

Other Trustees present: Ms. Rose Benavidez, Dr. Alejo Salinas, Jr., and Mr. Rene Guajardo

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. David Plummer, Dr. Anahid Petrosian, Dr. Brett Millan, Dr. Rebecca De Leon, and Mr. Andrew Fish

**Approval of Minutes for Monday, May 17, 2021 Committee Meeting**

Upon a motion by Mr. Danny Guzman and a second by Mrs. Victoria Cantú, the Minutes for the Education and Workforce Development Committee meeting of Monday, May 17, 2021 were approved as written. The motion carried.

**Review and Action as Necessary on the Proposed Out-of-District  
Interlocal Agreement and Non-Resident Memorandum of  
Understanding for Dual Credit Programs Partnerships**

The Education and Workforce Development Committee was asked to recommend Board action as necessary on the proposed Out-of-District Interlocal Agreement and the proposed Non-Resident Memorandum of Understanding for Dual Credit Programs partnerships in academic year 2021 – 2022.

**Background**

South Texas College works with partnering school districts within the College's service area to execute an interlocal agreement to specify the partnership terms that help the

*E.W.D. Committee Minutes*

06-08-2021

College and In-District ISD partners maintain a high level of quality and service to participating dual credit high school students. On May 25, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the proposed interlocal agreement for partnering districts within Hidalgo and Starr Counties for FY 2021 – 2022.

Due to requests received by Out-of-District and Non-Resident Districts, College Administration sought to establish in FY 2021 - 2022 Agreements to offer virtual dual credit courses taught by South Texas College Faculty.

*Out-of-District* partners would include school districts with service areas outside Hidalgo and Starr Counties but within the State of Texas, and who would provide opportunities for students to attend South Texas College dual credit courses online. Because these partners would be within the State of Texas, an Interlocal Agreement would be the appropriate form of agreement to govern these partnerships.

*Non-Resident* partners would include school districts outside the State of Texas, and would also include international school districts within Mexico. Like Out-of-District partners, these Non-Resident partners would provide opportunities for their students to attend South Texas College dual credit courses online. Because these partners would be outside the State of Texas, a Memorandum of Understanding would be the appropriate form of agreement to govern these partnerships.

### **Proposed Interlocal Agreement**

Administration recommended the approval and adoption of the proposed Out-of-District Interlocal Agreement and the proposed Non-Resident Memorandum of Understanding for academic year 2021 - 2022 by the South Texas College Board of Trustees, for presentation to the governing board of each partnering district.

The Agreements would assist in the communication of and response to any compliance concerns with administration of partnering districts and the College.

Students of the Out-of-District and Non-Resident District partners would not be eligible for the full tuition waiver provided to partnering ISDs within the College's service area. Administration will review proposed tuition and fee structures with the Finance, Audit, and Human Resources Committee. The Board would be asked to adopt appropriate tuition and fees, as referenced in section 5(b) of both proposed agreements.

The South Texas College Board of Trustees would be asked to approve the form and content of the Agreements for academic year 2021 - 2022, which would then be sent to each partnering district for review and approval by the governing boards.

Upon a motion by Mr. Danny Guzman and a second by Mrs. Victoria Cantú, the Education and Workforce Development Committee recommended Board approval of the proposed Out-of-District Interlocal Agreement and the proposed Non-Resident Memorandum of

Understanding for dual credit program partnerships for academic year 2021 – 2022. The motion carried.

## **Presentation on Open Educational Resources (OER) at South Texas College**

The College Board, a national non-profit focused on expansion of higher education, reported that the average student in 2016-17 should budget \$1,230 - \$1,390 per year just for text books and course materials. The price of textbooks had increased by 88% from January 2006 to July 2016.

At South Texas College, administration, faculty, and staff work diligently to ensure student have a pathway to academic and workforce education, and to minimize barriers to student success. This includes helping find alternatives to expensive textbooks.

Dr. Brett J. Millán, Special Assistant to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Professor of English, presented on Open Educational Resources (OER) at South Texas College.

OER encompasses materials that are either in the public domain or have been made available with an open intellectual property license, allowing for free use by faculty, staff, and students as educational texts and supplemental materials. Existing OER can include textbooks, online/streaming videos, software, educational modules, and testing resources.

At South Texas College, OER was specifically implemented for all courses as part of the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership program, since its inception in 2014. Since that time, three other bachelor programs at South Texas College, excluding the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, have transitioned to OER materials.

Dr. Millán provided an overview of the South Texas College bachelor and associate degree programs implementing OER, and data on the sections currently offered with OER options for students. He also reviewed the online course catalog designation that can help students find OER-supported courses during the registration process.

Finally, Dr. Millan reviewed institutional and state level resources to help develop further high-quality OER materials, and plans to extend OER options to dual credit and other specific programs at South Texas College.

This presentation was for the Committee's review and feedback to administration. No action was requested.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the Education Workforce Development Committee Meeting of the South Texas College Board of Trustees adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

I certify that the foregoing are the true and correct Minutes of the June 8, 2021 Education and Workforce Development Committee of the South Texas College Board of Trustees.

---

Mrs. Victoria Cantú  
Presiding

## **Review and Recommend Action on Proposed FY 2021 – 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule**

The Education and Workforce Development Committee is asked to review the following proposed schedule and recommend amendment or approval as appropriate.

The Board will be asked to review and take action on a calendar of Committee and Board Meetings for FY 2021 - 2022 at the July 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

The proposed meeting schedule for the Education and Workforce Development Committee is as follows:

<b><u>Weekday</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Meeting Time</u></b>
Tuesday	September 14, 2021	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	October 19, 2021	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	November 9, 2021	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	December 7, 2021	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	January 18, 2022	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	February 8, 2022	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	March 8, 2022	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	April 12, 2022	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	May 10, 2022	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	June 14, 2022	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	July 12, 2022	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	August 9, 2022	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday	September 13, 2022	3:30 p.m.

Education and Workforce Development Committee Meetings are generally scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, and are proposed for a starting time of 3:30 p.m. There may be some deviation based upon scheduling conflicts, and any adjustments will be communicated with as much early notification as practical.

A full calendar view of the proposed Committee and Board meeting schedule follows in the packet for the Committee's information.

The Education and Workforce Development Committee is asked to recommend Board action as necessary regarding the proposed Committee meeting schedule so that all Board members may enter the dates on their planning calendars.





# Board Meeting Committee Meeting Calendar FY 2021 - 2022

September 2021						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Regular Board Meeting  
Graduation Ceremonies  
Holiday/Professional Dev. Day,  
College Closed

Committee Meetings -

- Education & Workforce Development
- Facilities
- Finance, Audit, & Human Resources

- \* Education & Workforce Development Committee: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 3:30 p.m.
- \* Facilities Committee: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 4:30 p.m.
- \* Finance, Audit, & Human Resources Committee: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m.
- \* Board Meetings: 4th Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m.

## **Review and Recommend Action on Revisions to 2021-2022 Academic Calendar and 2022-2023 Academic Calendar**

The Committee is asked to recommend Board approval and authorize the proposed revisions to the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar and 2022-2023 Academic Calendar to align with the official reporting date recommended by THECB. The accurate Census Date for the Summer III sessions must be the following:

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Summer III Census Date</b>
2021-2022	June 21, 2022
2022-2023	June 20, 2023

In previous years, the College would report two census dates for each Summer session, which were Summer I and Summer II. However, beginning with Summer 2022, the College will be reporting one census date for the entire Summer session that begins in June and ends in August. This change will align with the procedures of awarding year-round Federal Pell to eligible students and comply with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) guidelines, where the official census reporting date for a Summer session must be the twelfth-class day.

### **Enclosed Documents**

The proposed revisions to the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar and the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar are provided in the following pages. The revisions reflect the correct reporting date as mandated in the guidelines published by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

The Education and Workforce Development Committee is asked to recommend Board approval of the proposed revisions to the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar and the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar as presented.

# 2021-2022 Calendar

Rev : 06/22/2021



## Fall Semester 2021 (August 23 - December 12)

---

August 6 (Friday)	Chair Meeting
August 11 (Wednesday)	New Faculty Start Date – New Faculty Benefits & Orientation (Human Resources)
August 12 (Thursday)	New Faculty Orientation
August 13 (Friday)	New Faculty Service Area Tour
August 16 (Monday)	Faculty Return – Academic Affairs Convocation / Division Meetings
August 17 (Tuesday)	Faculty Preparation Day / Departmental Meetings
August 18 (Wednesday)	Faculty Preparation Day / Departmental Meetings
August 19 (Thursday)	Faculty Preparation Day / Distance Learning Symposium / Full-Time Faculty Teaching Dual Credit Courses PD Day / Departmental Meetings
August 20 (Friday)	Faculty Preparation Day / Departmental Meetings
August 21 (Saturday)	Adjunct & Dual Credit Faculty Professional and Organizational Development Day
<b>August 23 (Monday)</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
September 6 (Monday)	College Closed – Labor Day
September 8 (Wednesday)	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
September 24 (Friday)	College Closed – College-Wide Professional and Organizational Development Day
November 12 (Friday)	Last Day to Withdraw
November 25 – 28 (Thursday – Sunday)	College Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 6 – 12 (Monday – Sunday)	Finals
December 11 (Saturday)	Commencement Ceremonies*
December 11 (Saturday)	Certificate and Degree Award Date
December 12 (Sunday)	End of Term
December 13 (Monday)	Grades Due Date
December 18 – January 4 (Saturday – Tuesday)	Winter Break (College Closed)

\* May vary depending on facility availability.

# 2021-2022 Calendar

Rev : 06/22/2021



## Spring Semester 2022 (January 18 – May 12)

---

January 5 (Wednesday).....	<b>College Opens</b> – Staff return
January 5 (Wednesday).....	New Faculty Start Date – New Faculty Benefits & Orientation (Human Resources)
January 10 (Monday) .....	Faculty Return – Division / Department Meetings
January 11 – 14 (Tuesday-Friday) .....	Faculty Preparation Day / Departmental Meetings
January 15 (Saturday) .....	Adjunct & Dual Credit Faculty Professional and Organizational Development Day
January 17 (Monday) .....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – College Closed
<b>January 18 (Tuesday) .....</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
February 2 (Wednesday).....	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
February 11 (Friday).....	College Closed - College-Wide Professional and Organizational Development Day
March 14 – 20 (Monday - Sunday).....	College Closed - Spring Break
April 14 – 17 (Thursday – Sunday) .....	College Closed - Semester Break
April 18 (Monday) .....	Last Day to Withdraw
May 6 – 12 (Friday – Thursday) .....	Finals
May 12 (Thursday) .....	End of Term
May 13 – 14 (Friday - Saturday).....	Commencement Ceremonies*
May 13 – 14 (Friday - Saturday).....	Certificate and Degree Award Date
May 16 (Monday) .....	Grades Due Date
May 30 (Monday) .....	College Closed – Memorial Day

*\*May vary depending on facility availability.*

# 2021-2022 Calendar

Rev : 06/22/2021



## Summer Session 2022 (June 6 – August 12)

---

**June 6 (Monday) ..... Classes Begin**  
June 10 (Friday) ..... Staff – South Texas Leadership Academy  
June ~~14~~ **21** (Tuesday) ..... Census Day - ~~Seventh~~ **Twelfth** Class Day  
July 4 (Monday) ..... College Closed-Independence Day  
July 11 – 12 (Monday & Tuesday) ..... No classes  
July 28 (Thursday) ..... Last Day to Withdraw  
August 11 (Thursday) ..... End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-R)  
August 12 (Friday) ..... End of Term /Finals (Classes Meeting M-F)  
August 15 (Monday) ..... Grades Due Date

## SI – Minimester (June 6 – July 7)

**June 6 (Monday) ..... Classes Begin**  
June 9 (Thursday) ..... Census Day - Fourth Class Day  
June 29 (Wednesday) ..... Last Day to Withdraw  
July 4 (Monday) ..... College Closed-Independence Day  
July 7 (Thursday) ..... End of Term/Finals  
July 11 (Monday) ..... Grades Due Date

## SII – Minimester (July 13 – August 12)

**July 13 (Wednesday) ..... Classes Begin**  
July 18 (Monday) ..... Census Day - Fourth Class Day  
August 5 (Friday) ..... Last Day to Withdraw  
August 11 (Thursday) ..... End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-R)  
August 12 (Friday) ..... End of Term /Finals (Classes Meeting M-F)  
August 15 (Monday) ..... Grades Due Date

# 2022-2023 Calendar

Rev: 06/22/2021



## Fall Semester 2022 (August 22 - December 11)

---

August 10 (Wednesday)	New Faculty Start Date – New Faculty Benefits & Orientation (Human Resources)
August 11 (Thursday)	New Faculty Orientation
August 12 (Friday)	New Faculty Service Area Tour
August 15 (Monday)	Faculty Return – Academic Affairs Convocation / Division Meetings
August 16 (Tuesday)	Faculty Preparation Day / Departmental Meetings
August 17 (Wednesday)	Faculty Preparation Day / Departmental Meetings
August 18 (Thursday)	Faculty Preparation Day / Full-Time Faculty Teaching Dual Credit Courses PD Day / Departmental Meetings
August 19 (Friday)	Faculty Preparation Day / Departmental Meetings
August 20 (Saturday)	Adjunct & Dual Credit Faculty Professional and Organizational Development Day
<b>August 22 (Monday)</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
September 5 (Monday)	College Closed – Labor Day
September 7 (Wednesday)	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
September 23 (Friday)	College Closed – College-Wide Professional and Organizational Development Day
November 11 (Friday)	Last Day to Withdraw
November 24 – 27 (Thursday – Sunday)	College Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 5 – 11 (Monday – Sunday)	Finals
December 10 (Saturday)	Commencement Ceremonies*
December 10 (Saturday)	Certificate and Degree Award Date
December 11 (Sunday)	End of Term
December 12 (Monday)	Grades Due Date
December 17 – January 3 (Saturday – Tuesday)	Winter Break (College Closed)

\* May vary depending on facility availability.

# 2022-2023 Calendar

Rev: 06/22/2021



## Spring Semester 2023 (January 17 – May 11)

---

January 4 (Wednesday).....	<b>College Opens</b> – Staff return
January 4 (Wednesday).....	New Faculty Start Date – New Faculty Benefits & Orientation (Human Resources)
January 9 (Monday).....	Faculty Return – Division / Department Meetings
January 10 – 13 (Tuesday-Friday) .....	Faculty Preparation Day / Departmental Meetings
January 14 (Saturday) .....	Adjunct & Dual Credit Faculty Professional and Organizational Development Day
January 16 (Monday) .....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – College Closed
<b>January 17 (Tuesday) .....</b>	<b>Classes Begin</b>
January 31 – February 4 (Tuesday – Saturday) ...	Distance Learning Symposium
February 1 (Wednesday).....	Census Day - Twelfth Class Day
February 10 (Friday).....	College Closed - College-Wide Professional and Organizational Development Day
March 13 – 19 (Monday - Sunday).....	College Closed - Spring Break
April 6 – 9 (Thursday – Sunday) .....	College Closed - Semester Break
April 18 (Tuesday).....	Last Day to Withdraw
May 5 – 11 (Friday – Thursday) .....	Finals
May 11 (Thursday) .....	End of Term
May 12 – 13 (Friday - Saturday).....	Commencement Ceremonies*
May 12 – 13 (Friday - Saturday).....	Certificate and Degree Award Date
May 15 (Monday) .....	Grades Due Date
May 29 (Monday) .....	College Closed – Memorial Day

*\*May vary depending on facility availability.*

# 2022-2023 Calendar

Rev: 06/22/2021



## Summer Session 2023 (June 5 – August 11)

---

### June 5 (Monday) ..... Classes Begin

June 9 (Friday) ..... Staff – South Texas Leadership Academy for Staff

June ~~13~~ 20 (Tuesday) ..... Census Day - ~~Seventh~~ Twelfth Class Day

July 4 (Tuesday) ..... College Closed-Independence Day

July 10 – 11 (Monday & Tuesday) ..... No classes (For Summer III only)

July 27 (Thursday) ..... Last Day to Withdraw

August 10 (Thursday) ..... End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-R)

August 11 (Friday) ..... End of Term /Finals (Classes Meeting M-F)

August 14 (Monday) ..... Grades Due Date

## SI – Minimester (June 5 – July 6)

### June 5 (Monday) ..... Classes Begin

June 8 (Thursday) ..... Census Day - Fourth Class Day

June 28 (Wednesday) ..... Last Day to Withdraw

July 4 (Tuesday) ..... College Closed-Independence Day

July 6 (Thursday) ..... End of Term/Finals

July 10 (Monday) ..... Grades Due Date

## SII – Minimester (July 12 – August 11)

### July 12 (Wednesday) ..... Classes Begin

July 17 (Monday) ..... Census Day - Fourth Class Day

August 4 (Friday) ..... Last Day to Withdraw

August 10 (Thursday) ..... End of Term/Finals (Classes Meeting M-R)

August 11 (Friday) ..... End of Term /Finals (Classes Meeting M-F)

August 14 (Monday) ..... Grades Due Date



## **Review and Discussion of Enrollment Strategies to Reach New Student Populations**

South Texas College Administration continues to develop and execute strategies in the furtherance of the College's Vision and Mission.

These strategies build toward the College's Vision of being a global model in educational innovation and serving as a catalyst to drive regional prosperity, economic development, and the social mobility of its constituents.

They further the College's Mission to provide educational opportunities through excellence in teaching and learning, workforce development, cultural enrichment, community service, and regional and global collaborations.

Dr. David Plummer, Interim President and Vice President for Information Services, Planning, Performance, and Strategic Initiatives, will lead a review and discussion of some exciting new enrollment strategies to reach new student populations.

These new strategies include:

- The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office
- Firefighter Educational Programs
- Local Continuing Education Program Partnerships
- U.S. Military-Affiliated Students
- Guild Education, Inc.
- McAllen Economic Development Corporation - International Enrollment

### **Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office**

Administration has met with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, and has identified two separate opportunities to collaborate on educational programs that could be developed to benefit the region:

#### **County Corrections Officer (Jailer) Certification**

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office has traditionally operated its own Jailer certification program, providing training and testing to County employees, and hiring jailers from the graduating candidates.

South Texas College has worked with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office to develop a proposal whereby the College has certified the County's curriculum and instructors, and provides College continuing education credits to graduates from this program.

A significant benefit to the County is that their jailers will hold a South Texas College credential, which could be incorporated into a pathway for their jailers to pursue additional credentials, including academic pathways leading toward associate degrees and baccalaureate degree programs.

The College benefits by incorporating this essential training into its offerings not only to County employees currently served by the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, but expanding this opportunity to other stakeholders as well, potentially growing a program that could provide non-credit and credit courses to corrections officers at all levels.

### **Inmate Workforce Education Programs**

In discussions with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, administration has also identified an opportunity to provide short-term workforce training opportunities to inmates held at the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Jail.

The County has noted that access to such programs is often highly desirable to incarcerated individuals, and could be provided to non-violent inmates who are motivated to take advantage of the opportunity to build job skills that offer better opportunities for meaningful employment after release and potentially reduce recidivism rates.

With the recent reintroduction of Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated students, as well as potential funding from the Texas Workforce Commission, there is a real opportunity for South Texas College to provide these students with pathways toward a better future.

### **Firefighter Educational Programs**

With Phase 1 construction at the Regional Center for Public Safety Excellence (RCPSE), the College was primarily focused on law enforcement training. A focus of Phase 2 construction is to develop greater opportunity not only for the Fire Science cadets, but to also provide continuing education and academic opportunities for firefighters.

The Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) requires working firefighters to earn a minimum of 18 hours of continuing education per year, with additional hours required for firefighters holding specific credentials and job duties. Some continuing education training programs reinforce prior learning, and other programs develop new skills and lead to new career opportunities for students.

Currently, many firefighters seek online continuing education sources or travel out of the region to find qualified training programs.

South Texas College has been in discussion with local fire departments, exploring opportunities to provide local hands-on training at the RCPSE. With Phase 2 construction, the College will be positioned to provide state-of-the-art facilities to focus on specific aspects of firefighting training and better provide firefighters across the region with skills that help them safely carry out their mission.

### **Local Continuing Education Program Partnerships**

On April 7, 2021, administration joined Chair Benavidez and Board Secretary Cantu in meeting with officials from western Hidalgo County to discuss workforce training opportunities in that area. The College coordinated to invite Mission CISD and the Mission Economic Development Corporation to that meeting. During that meeting, opportunities for workforce programs serving high-need communities were identified.

Since that meeting, administration has continued meeting with local entities to identify opportunities to develop, offer, and support Continuing Education workforce programs.

These meetings have included school districts, local housing authorities, and the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, which oversees churches throughout the College's service area.

With each of these entities, the College is identifying workforce programs that are likely to provide valuable skills leading toward meaningful career pathways to targeted, high-need communities. The College is seeking partners to help develop and promote the right programs, recruit students who would benefit from them, and support students in their successful completion of these programs.

### **U.S. Military-Affiliated Students**

South Texas College is working on several initiatives to increase enrollment of military-affiliated students. Opportunities include direct relationships with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement academies, and a partnership with Central Texas College to serve their students, many of whom are active military.

### **Guild Education, Inc.**

Guild Education (Guild) is a private company that works for major corporations to manage their employee education assistance benefits programs. Guild has reached out to South Texas College to enter into an agreement to provide educational opportunities in our region.

Additional details will be provided in the following agenda item, which will include a request for a committee recommendation for Board approval of the agreement.

### **McAllen Economic Development Corporation - International Enrollment**

South Texas College has successfully worked with international high schools to provide higher education opportunities for their students.

With the Board's recent approval of a Memorandum of Understanding for non-resident districts, the College is positioned to grow these opportunities even further, expanding enrollment of students from outside Texas, and particularly in neighboring regions of Mexico.

The College is in discussion with the McAllen Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), which has an extensive network of connections to the educational, industrial, and other economic development communities in Reynosa. The College and MEDC are developing a proposal that will support the engagement of recruiting and support services based in Reynosa, that will further develop relationships with high schools throughout the city and neighboring areas. These schools would be invited to consider the College's MOU for non-resident districts, and to provide South Texas College's high quality and affordable online higher education programs to their students.

In addition to working with schools in Reynosa, the College and MEDC would consider options to expand the recruiting and support services to the maquila industry, where there is considerable need for workforce skills training that are already part of the College's innovative programs through the Office of Industry Training and Economic Development.

No action is requested. Administration will present these strategies to the Education and Workforce Development Committee for discussion and feedback.

## **Review and Recommend Action on Direct Payment Partner Agreement with Guild Education, Inc.**

Guild Education (Guild) is a private company that works for major corporations to manage their employee education assistance benefits programs.

- Guild provides services that help match employees of these corporations to educational programs based upon employee needs and goals.
- Guild has secured agreements with major universities across the U.S. including private, public, and for-profit institutions.
- Guild selects institutions based on their institutional profiles, programs, and regional impact and then extends invitations to select institutions based upon the potential to service a specific market.
- Guild Education serves as the exclusive intermediary between these major Fortune 1000 companies and educational providers.

Guild recently extended an invitation to South Texas College to enter into an agreement to provide educational opportunities for employees of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Guild conducted a through needs analysis for JPMorgan Chase & Co. and selected South Texas College based on the potential of the College to support the strong regional presence of the company. Guild is strategically seeking to grow Community College partnerships, with existing agreements with institutions such as Valencia College, Rio Salado College, and Southern New Hampshire University.

### **Student Recruitment**

Employees of the corporate client are directed by their employer to a student portal site provided by Guild to express interest in educational programs. Guild provides a Coach specifically for each employee to review programs with the employee and find the best match for them.

### **Business Model**

Under the Guild business model, corporations provide funds for educational assistance directly to Guild and Guild pays the costs for tuition and fees directly to the College or University.

Guild typically charges a 5% service fee for each payment remitted to the College, however for the first year, Guild has proposed to waive the service fee as an incentive for South Texas College. If the agreement is approved, the College will be listed nationally on the Guild Education website and student portal. The initial agreement will be only for employees of JPMorgan Chase & Co.; however, the potential exists for additional corporate partnerships in the near future.

The proposed Direct Payment Partner Agreement is being reviewed by administration and will be provided for legal counsel for review prior to presentation to the Board.

Mr. Matthew Hebbard, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management will present a brief summary of the potential partnership with Guild Education and will be able to answer questions regarding the agreement. Mr. Hebbard is currently working with the Purchasing Department to finalize the no cost contract.

The Education and Workforce Development Committee is asked to recommend Board approval to enter into a Direct Payment Partner Agreement with Guild Education, Inc., at no cost to South Texas College.