

President's Report November 2023

Tech Expansion

We have been working with the architect and fine tuning our expansion plans for Uvalde. We are recommending that we move the Powerline Tech building onto the new site and utilize this building for both Powerline Tech and Professional Truck Driving programs. This will help reduce the cost. We also recommend that instead of hiring a general contractor, we utilize our own staff and prepare the site work, use a state approved vendor to purchase and install the metal building for the warehouse. Our team's experience with the site work at the Chittim Tech Center and Law Enforcement Modular has saved us considerable money on those projects with great results.

In the agenda item, we have included the architect estimate utilizing a general contractor. We have also included the cost estimate if we build it inhouse. The architect/engineer will still develop plans for the site.

Another component of the Tech expansion will include expanding Cyber Security to our Crystal City Campus. Included in the Tech Expansion Budget will be an amount for this portion of the project.

Chittim Tech Center Expansion

The Diesel and Welding expansion projects are about 98% complete. We will schedule a ribbon cutting to showcase the expanded area for late January 2024.

Academics

We have been working with UTSA on enhancing our transfer options for our students. On Friday, November 17th in Eagle Pass we will have a formal signing of our transfer MOU.

On the dual credit side, we have elected to join the State's FAST program (dual credit tuition assistance program). As a result, we have rebilled all our dual credit students at a \$55 per credit hour rate. If a dual credit student was classified as free and reduced lunch eligible by the school district in any of the preceding four years their dual credit courses will be provided free of cost. This will greatly expand the dual credit opportunities for most students in our 11-county service area.

The agenda includes an item for the Board to consider approving our Diesel Tech Heavy Equipment Program and Surgical Tech Program. Once we have secured Board approval, we will submit them to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and SACSCOC for their consideration. Our plan is to begin course offerings in each of these programs the Fall of 2024.

Other

Student Meetings

The meetings with students both on Uvalde and Eagle Pass campuses were well attended. The students raised concerns about the audio quality in Zoom rooms, WIFI coverage in Garner Hall, and requested adjustments to Library hours in Eagle Pass. We have begun to address those, and other concerns raised by students.

Aspen

The College was notified in October that we had qualified as one of the top 150 colleges in the nation (over 1000 community colleges). We will submit additional data by mid-December that will be reviewed and used to determine if we make the top 10 list. We are extremely proud of the entire team here at Southwest Texas College for their hard work and unwavering support for students.

Community Engagement

On October 23 representative leaders from Uvalde gathered to discuss challenges faced by citizens as identified by two independent studies (Giffords Law Center and University of Texas researchers). We had a robust discussion and there was broad consensus to come together as one voice to address these challenges. While the list was not all encompassing it does represent challenges that were identified by both groups. It is our vision that as we address these challenges as a community, we will build momentum and a culture that will help us address other challenges and opportunities.

We held a similar meeting that evening with impacted families from the Robb Massacre. The challenges were discussed, a summary of the leadership meeting was presented, and robust discussions were held.

We will continue to facilitate discussions and help bring those discussions to actions that will address these challenges.

Upcoming Meeting/Events

11/16	November Regular Board Meeting
11/18	Turkey Trot
11/22-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
11/28	Christmas at the College
11/30-12/2	Basketball Tournament
12/3-5	SACSCOC Conference
12/14	December Board Meeting
12/19-1/2	Christmas Holiday
1/18	January Board Meeting