

President's Report August 2016

Construction

Eagle Pass Technical Campus – It has been a busy month trying to finish up loose ends on the Technical Campus. I am proud to say that our staff did a tremendous job saving the college \$200,000 in constructing the truck driving range and detention pond. I, Dr. Underwood, Mr. Reyes, Mr. Martinez and several of his crew did all the work internal. Monday August 15, our truck-driving program will begin utilizing the site. We still have a few minor items to finish up on the detention pond, but that should be completed within a week. The contractor is installing the diesel crane this week and we should be ready to go at the beginning of the Fall on August 22nd. The two existing portable buildings located at the truck driving school will be moved – one to the Eagle Pass Technical Campus and the other to our Del Rio Campus.

Crystal City Library – Construction is moving on the project. We are pleased with the progress on the library. The general contractor has installed the roof structure and is currently working on the exterior walls.

Partnerships

Union Pacific – We are in the process of submitting a grant request with Union Pacific to help fund the purchase of additional equipment for our diesel program and the required equipment for the expansion of the second year of welding. We have passed the first phase of the request and are working on phase 2. We will keep the board informed of our progress on this grant request.

US Department of Education – STEM Grant – grant was submitted in June and we expect to hear something by late September

Other

Bond Refinance – We have concluded the bond refinance project and were able to save \$128,000 additional dollars more than we projected. We had estimated a savings of \$214,000 or \$16,000 per year and we realized a savings of \$343,000 or \$26,000 per year.

Adult Education & Literacy – We have an AEL graduation ceremony scheduled for Saturday August 13th at 10:00 am in the Matthews Student Center Ballroom

Fall 2016 Convocation – We kickoff our fall semester with convocation at Tate auditorium on Tuesday August 16 at 9 am.

Fall Enrollment – Currently the fall enrollment looks positive, we do have students that have not paid for classes. We are dropping those students on Monday, August 15 and will allow them to reregister with payment August 15-19. We are also looking at consolidating course sections that have low enrollment numbers to provide greater economies of scale for the college.

State Legislature – We have submitted our legislative budget request and will attend committee hearings this fall at the Capitol to defend our request.

Ad Valorem Taxes – As you will see in the attached documents, even though Uvalde County saw a sizable increase in tax valuations (increase of \$333 million), Zavala County had a sizable decrease due to loss of mineral valuations (decrease of \$274 million), the net effect to the college district valuations was an increase of \$80 million in taxable values. In analyzing our estimated tax levy and the needs within our district, Administration is recommending a proposed tax rate of \$0.16 per \$100 valuation.

Palomino Festival – Reminder to our Board – our annual Palomino Festival is coming up Labor Day weekend beginning on Thursday September 1st through Sunday September 4th. Each year the festival has been able to provide \$25,000 in scholarship monies for the benefit of our students.