

President's Report April 2015

Construction

Eagle Pass Academic – Project well underway, all major concrete pours completed without incidents. Sul Ross addition is going up with steel, and contractor has been pouring concrete columns for the main project.

Eagle Pass Technical Campus – Frontera has been notified about receiving the construction project. They are processing all the performance bond, insurance, and permits to begin site work. We have worked with architects to prepare the “finish out” component of the project. We should have that ready for bidders within a week.

Crystal City – Plans are virtually complete. We have made a few modifications, nothing major (ie, location of air conditioning units, meter pole, location of campus sign). We expect to have bids for May 2015 board meeting.

Partnerships

Hondo – I met with Mayor Danner and his staff last week to discuss the opportunities for program expansion in Hondo. The city has secured a federal grant to assist in expanding and supporting technical programs in their community. We are going to form a steering committee (college, city, school, and hospital) to determine the needs and the scope of the project.

Legislation

Both House and Senate have passed their respective budgets. We await the appointment of the conference committee who will reconcile the differences. Both budgets leave colleges in state with reduction in appropriations, for us it translates to \$300,000 to \$380,000 in reduction per year.

All colleges are working with our representatives and senators to urge them to speak to the conference committee members on behalf of us. This time both budgets leave money on the table for the conference committee to make upward adjustments.

Other bills that we are watching involve changes to dual credit policies, handguns on campus, and requirement that dictates what we budget for each campus.

Other

President's Gala –SWTJC FAN - April 11 at the Uvalde County Fairplex. We have had overwhelming response from our community. This year we have more sponsors than we have ever had.

Presented an overview of SWTJC to the Uvalde County Democratic party. They were very appreciative to learn more about what we do and who we serve.

Met with Representative Andrew Murr – very positive conversation.

Met the new city manager for Uvalde.