

President's Report

February 2025

Tech Expansion

We continue working with our architect to refine the building specifications and bid packages for Phase 2 of our tech expansion project.

Leases

We have finalized the Airport Hangar Lease on Del Rio International Airport. The lease process with the City of Del Rio was night and day comparison to the City of Uvalde. Del Rio values the training opportunity for their community and continually seeks opportunities to further enhance our partnership.

We continue to struggle with City of Uvalde staff to reach acceptable terms in the lease document. Staff recommendations in essence reduce the 10-year lease approved by Council to a month-to-month lease. We will continue to work towards a resolution that provides us a 10-year assurance that will support the sizable investment to expand the aviation program.

Legislative

Legislative session began on January 14, 2025. I have been busy in Austin, meeting our new representatives and reconnecting with our existing representatives. There are four House Legislators that represent our service area: (Don McLaughlin, Wes Virdell, Eddie Morales and Ryan Guillen. Three State Senators: (Roland Gutierrez, Pete Flores, and Judith Zaffirini.

Earlier this month we took a group of students/staff for Community College Day. Our students did an amazing job articulating our priorities to our representatives. I attended the Senate Finance Committee hearing on community college funding and plan to join the Uvalde delegation for Uvalde County Day on February 13th.

We were pleased to find out that HB1 and SB1 (budget bills) both contain the requested amounts to fully fund all 50 community colleges as per the new funding model. In addition, both House and Senate budgets include \$5 million for SWTX for tech expansion for the next biennium. Nothing is final but it is definitely a good sign that they are included in the base budget. We will continue to monitor.

Bond Funding

We met with the rating agency and should receive the results in the coming weeks. According to our financial advisors, we should expect to maintain our current “A” rating with an opportunity to improve the rating. We have also met with underwriters and legal counsel, no issues, the bond process is progressing as planned.

Other

We are pleased to announce that the Kate Marmion Charitable Foundation has provided a \$4.2 million gift to establish Kate’s Cowboy Promise. The promise to high school graduates for the next five years from Uvalde, Zavala, Real, and Frio counties to attend SWTX college at no cost. There is an attached document that summarizes the eligibility and requirements. But in essence the only criteria is that they submit a completed financial aid application to SWTX.

Our SACSCOC compliance certification report is almost complete. Our team is in the process of final edits and will be submitting by the deadline of March 1, 2025.

Upcoming Meeting/Events

2/20	February Board Meeting
3/17-21	Spring Break
3/27	Proposed March Board Meeting
4/17	April Board Meeting
4/18	Easter Holiday

Kate's Cowboy Promise

Free tuition/fees

Eligibility

- Graduate from a high school in Uvalde, Frio, Real, or Zavala County
 - Uvalde HS, Knippa HS, Sabinal HS, Utopia HS
 - Pearsall HS & Dilley HS
 - Leakey HS & Nueces Canyon HS
 - Crystal City HS & La Pryor HS
- Submit a complete Federal/State Financial Aid application to SWTX
- Fill out an application by April 15

Covered Cost

- Kate's Cowboy Promise is a "last-dollar" scholarship
- First apply Federal/State financial aid
- Apply scholarship amounts
- All remaining balances will be covered by Kate's Cowboy Promise
- Up to \$300 in books per semester
- Continuation for up to 3 years or completion an Associate Degree or Certificate whichever comes first, provided:
 - Complete 30 credit hours during academic year (fall/spring/summer)
 - Maintain continuous enrollment
 - Maintain financial aid eligibility and renew FAFSA/FASFA annually
 - Remain in Satisfactory Academic Progress

Eligible Courses

- Academic Courses leading to AA/AS, Field of Study, Transfer
- Technical Courses leading to AAS, Certificate
- Courses must part of the Course Program of Study (degree/certificate or field of study plan)