

## **President's Report May 2015**

### **Construction**

*Eagle Pass Academic* – The construction project is off to a fast start. The contractor is still ahead of schedule with the Sul Ross addition already dried in, and roofing going up on the main academic building

*Eagle Pass Technical Campus* – Frontera has been released to begin construction, and has secured all the necessary permits. They were supposed to start on May 12, but were delayed because of the rain. We expect to have the finish out bids for board consideration at the board meeting. Bid opening occurs on Tuesday.

*Crystal City* – We have received a positive response from general contractors and subs on this project. We will have bid tabulations for the board meeting.

### **Partnerships**

*Hondo* – I have continued to meet with Mayor Danner, Hondo Superintendent, and Alamo Workforce Solutions regarding the future of the South Texas Regional Training Center.

*Laughlin Air Force Base* – We signed a MOU with the Air Force that will enable our aviation technology students to gain access to the training aircraft as the lab component of our program.

### **Legislation**

The community college presidents association met last week to discuss the current legislative session. Community college funding is in conference committee along with the rest of the state's budget. The budget writers currently have approximately \$2 billion that they can add to the budget and remain under the spending cap. We have been aggressively asking the budget conferees to add funding to community colleges. The association is collectively asking for an additional \$130 million to community colleges. I traveled to Austin on May 11, 2015 and met with Representative King, Representative Nevarez, Representative Murr and Senator Uresti. I asked them to speak to conference committee members and remind them of our request.

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

## **Other**

*Achieving the Dream* – We had a visit with our Achieving the Dream coaches last week. They are impressed with all the progress we have made and have assisted us improving the Quality Enhancement Plan.

*Title V Grant* – We have finished the grant application for the next round of Title V funding. The document is being reviewed and will be submitted shortly, we are requesting approximately \$2.6 million over 5 years.

*Enrollment* – Summer enrollment is positive compared to last year and Fall enrollment is also on track.

*Budgets* – We just about have the budgets compiled, the cabinet will review the entire budget and make recommendations. We are planning to have a draft available for the Board at the June Board meeting. Hopefully, we will have our State Appropriations numbers available by then.