

President's Report March 2016

Construction

Eagle Pass Academic – Building Ribbon Cutting was a huge success. Guest speakers included Mayor Cantu, Judge Saucedo, Superintendent Gonzales, Representative Nevarez, and Dr. Watkins represented the Board. All speakers spoke very highly of SWTJC and its importance to the community.

Eagle Pass Technical Campus – Work continues to pave the site and new parking lot approach. The main classrooms building is virtually complete and should be ready for move in around first of April.

Crystal City Library – After several meetings with the City staff, it appears we are back on track for the city to commence the work on the utility relocation. We are looking at perhaps scheduling a ground breaking in the month of April. We will try to firm up a date by the time of the Board meeting.

Partnerships

Dual Credit/Early College High School –

- The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board had drafted proposed rules that would limit eligibility to dual credit. They requested comments from impacted colleges and school districts, it now appears they have postponed the new rules.

Other

Electricity – We had a meeting with AEP regarding the connection to the new transformer located by the welding shop. The new transformer (bigger one) is different voltage than the existing one [to make a long story short \$350,000 is what it is estimated to rewire welding lab to fire up new transformer]. AEP has allowed us to have both transformers supply electricity to the same building (with proper signage), this will allow us to finally connect the ventilation system without rewiring the entire facility. In addition, I asked them to donate a bucket truck to our Lineman Program, they agreed.

Operating Budget – We have reviewed our budget to actual for the Fall semester and have made budget revisions (down) to make sure we stay within budget. We overestimated the amount of tuition fee for this year (due to tuition and fee increase going into effect for the Spring Semester only). This change should not impact our operations; each department should have the necessary funds available to continue operating through the end of our fiscal year with little to no interruptions. Accordingly, we added a budget revision to the March Board meeting.

Graduation Ceremony – Set for May 14th, Senator Carlos Uresti has agreed to be our commencement speaker. Our plans are the same as last year (at Honey Bowl with Gym as back up for inclement weather) as short reception at the Honey Bowl.

Events

- We have had PTK inductions across our campuses
- Conversations with the students are ongoing
- We have held March “Major” Madness – informing students of various career tracks, we invited business from the community to come present information to our students (on all three campuses)
- CCATT will be in Laredo on April 5
- College Gala schedule for April 2nd