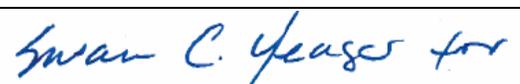




The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: March 3-4, 2014

SUBJECT: Approval of Los Rios Community College District's West Sacramento Educational Center		Item Number: 2.1	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	College Finance and Facilities Planning	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Frederick E. Harris, Assistant Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: This item requests state approval of the West Sacramento Educational Center in the Los Rios Community College District.

BACKGROUND: The Los Rios Community College District was formed in 1965 and serves 81,000 students in its 2,400 square mile service area. The district consists of four colleges: American River College, Sacramento City College, Cosumnes River College, and Folsom Lake College. In addition, the district includes three state-approved educational centers: the El Dorado Center, the Natomas Educational Center, and the Davis Center. The district also has educational outreach operations in various locations, including Bella Vista High School, the former McClellan Air Force Base, Elk Grove, West Sacramento, and Rancho Cordova. Together these locations allow the district to meet its goal of being an accessible source of higher education in the Sacramento region.

The district submitted a Letter of Intent to the Chancellor's Office in March 2011 requesting approval to establish a center in West Sacramento. The request was approved by the Chancellor's Office in April 2011, and the Department of Finance subsequently approved the center's enrollment projections in June 2012. A Needs Study was submitted to the Chancellor's Office in August 2013.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the West Sacramento Educational Center as a state-approved educational center.

ANALYSIS: California Code of Regulations, title 5 section 55180(b) defines an educational center as “a postsecondary operation established and administered by an existing college or district at a location away from the campus of the parent institution” which:

- Is planned to continue for 10 or more years;
- Generates at least 500 full-time equivalent student annually;
- Has an on-site administrator;
- Offers programs leading to certificates and/or degrees conferred by the parent institution; and
- Has been approved by the Board of Governors.

Sacramento City College has provided course offerings in West Sacramento since 1988. The West Sacramento Outreach Operation has been operating for over two decades, offering students an introduction to a community college’s wide range of educational opportunities and creating highly accessible learning facilities and localized services to serve as a gateway to Sacramento City College.

Demographic data supports the need for an educational center in the West Sacramento area. The West Sacramento Educational Center is located in a redevelopment area in the City of West Sacramento adjacent to a community center, library, and city hall. Historically, the service area population has attained a low level of educational achievement and a community college educational center will provide programs and services that address the basic needs of residents within the West Sacramento service area.

The Los Rios Community College District funded construction of the original 25,000 gross square foot West Sacramento Educational Center using local Measure A bond funds. The new facility opened in January 2009 and is a three-story building containing 10 academic classrooms, two computer labs, and various support spaces.

Population and Enrollment Projections

The demographic profile of West Sacramento supports the need for the existing West Sacramento outreach location to become an educational center. The West Sacramento Educational Center is estimated to generate most of its enrollment from the cities of West Sacramento and Sacramento. The total population within the community of West Sacramento was approximately 31,615 persons in the year 2000. The California Department of Finance estimates that the service area population grew by approximately 54.2 percent to 48,744 persons by the year 2010.

The California Code of Regulations, title 5 requires that state-approved educational centers exceed 500 full-time equivalent students annually. The West Sacramento Educational Center has generated over 500 full-time equivalent students annually since 2009-10 and over 1,000 full-time equivalent students annually since 2010-11. Actual enrollment at the outreach center is forecasted to continue exceeding the 500 full-time equivalent student threshold requirement. Table 1 shows recent enrollment projections for the center developed by the Los Rios Community College District and approved by the Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit. This number of existing full-time equivalent students and the projected growth in the service area show the center will continue to be a viable program.

Table 1: Department of Finance Enrollment, WSCH, and FTES Growth Driven Projections

Year	Fall Enrollment	WSCH/Enrollment	WSCH	Annual FTES
2012-13	2,856	5.76	16,453	1,066
2013-14	2,942	5.76	16,946	1,097
2014-15	3,030	5.76	17,455	1,130
2015-16	3,182	5.76	18,327	1,187
2016-17	3,341	5.76	19,244	1,246
2017-18	3,508	5.76	20,206	1,309
2018-19	3,683	5.76	21,216	1,374

Alternatives

The Los Rios Community College District considered a number of alternatives to pursuing and establishing a state-approved educational center, and the district’s Board of Trustees has determined that a center is the most educational and financially feasible alternative. The alternatives evaluated as part of the needs study include the following:

Remain an Outreach Center

Remaining an outreach center would limit the ability of the West Sacramento Educational Center to receive state funding to expand its offerings, strengthen its programs, and serve more students. This scenario would pose a challenge considering the success achieved at this particular location and the population growth of West Sacramento. According to the needs study, the Department of Finance estimates that from 2000 to 2010 the population in West Sacramento increased 54.2 percent. With continued population growth, funding for the center will be instrumental in serving the growing enrollment while providing strong educational programs and services to students.

Expansion of Existing Institutions within the Region

The Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees determined in 2001 that educational services would be delivered to the region through four comprehensive colleges and the development of educational centers affiliated with those colleges. The establishment of the West Sacramento Educational Center is consistent with this long range planning policy. The establishment of the West Sacramento Education Center will provide students with a localized higher education option and increase accessibility to higher education in the area.

Increase the Utilization of Existing Institutions

The Los Rios Community College District has increased the utilization of existing space by offering educational services throughout the instructional day, evening and on weekends. Sacramento City College continues to offer courses at its Davis Center and short duration courses at the main campus. These steps to increase utilization have strained Sacramento City College’s ability to provide student services and to support faculty. As enrollment continues to increase, the waiting lists at existing institutions continue to grow.

Shared Use with Other Postsecondary Institutions

Two public universities are within a 15 mile radius of the West Sacramento Educational Center -- the University of California, Davis and California State University, Sacramento. The Davis Center is located on the University of California, Davis campus and the district has developed a number of successful shared-use arrangements with local high schools and community-based agencies. The center allows local residents the opportunity to receive an education and gain training without having to travel out of the area.

Utilization of Non-traditional Delivery Methods

The Los Rios Community College District provides both traditional and non-traditional delivery methods for educational courses, including TV, interactive TV, online courses, and hybrid courses. Although the use of non-traditional instructional delivery is used by the district, some students benefit from a traditional educational setting with the appropriate support services such as tutoring and counseling in order to succeed.

Academic Planning and Program Justification

Chancellor's Office staff in the Academic Affairs Division reviewed the Los Rios Community College District's needs study and found no significant inter-district concerns, that the proposed delivery system is reasonable and that the district provided information to support the academic program offerings.

The West Sacramento Educational Center is affiliated with Sacramento City College and is primarily focused on offering general education courses while serving as a stepping stone to degree or certificate completion at the college or transfer to a four-year institution. General education courses to be provided will include: behavioral sciences, English, business and communications, fine arts, humanities, mathematics, physical and natural sciences, and social sciences.

Student Services and Outreach

Staff from the Student Services and Special Programs Division in the Chancellor's Office reviewed the student support services described in the needs study and concluded that it contains sufficient justification for the proposed educational center in the geographic area identified. In addition, the information provided regarding the delivery of student services meets the guidelines for approval.

The district has provided information that addresses how support services are planned, staffed, and evaluated at the center. Services currently offered include: orientation; assessment; counseling, advising and other education planning services; admissions and records; financial aid; California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs); Cooperative Agency Resources for Education (CARE); Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS); Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS); support for foster youth; student health and mental health services; library services; tutoring; transfer and articulation services; and veterans services. By recognizing the West Sacramento Educational Center as a state-approved educational center, the center will be

able to increase its outreach efforts and provide new programs and services that respond to the needs of its service area population.

Support and Capital Outlay Budget Projections

The Chancellor's Office College Finance and Facilities Planning Division has reviewed the West Sacramento Educational Center needs study and determined that the Los Rios Community College District's fiscal performance and condition are adequate to meet the future fiscal demands of the proposed center. The district has effectively managed its monetary resources to achieve an annual fund balance of 12.1 percent, which is above the recommended minimum five percent reserve. The full-time equivalent student potential of the West Sacramento Educational Center should enable the district to take full advantage of any additional system funding available in the 2016-17 and ongoing budget years. The district certified that the center achieved 1,006 full-time equivalent students in FY 2012-13.

Future capital outlay improvements at the center within the next five years include two more construction phases at an estimated cost of \$24 million which would bring the final build-out of the center to 80,000 square feet. In March 2002 and November 2008, the district passed General Obligation bonds in the amounts of \$265 and \$475 million, respectively. The ballot measure language identified facilities to be funded at the West Sacramento Educational Center. In addition, the district will strive to become eligible and apply for state capital outlay funds.

Geographic and Physical Accessibility

The West Sacramento Educational Center campus is readily accessible from major freeways and public transportation. The center is located in the City of West Sacramento, less than a mile north of Highways 50/80. Interstate 5 is one mile to the east. The center is located adjacent to the West Sacramento transportation hub and is readily accessible by public transportation.

The facility meets the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act and accessible student parking that is available per a written agreement with the City of West Sacramento. The site master plan includes a future parking structure to be built by the City.

Effects on Other Institutions

The establishment of the West Sacramento Educational Center is consistent with the long range planning policy of the district to establish centers connected with its four main colleges. The district's four colleges are operating at or near capacity. American River College, Folsom Lake College, and Cosumnes College, while within 26 miles, are at capacity or impacted and short of space. Sacramento City College is almost at capacity. The center will provide additional access to the residents of West Sacramento.

Neighboring higher education institutions have offered letters showing their support for the West Sacramento Educational Center, including Contra Costa, Sierra, Yuba, Lake Tahoe, Solano, and San Joaquin Community College Districts. Letters of support have also been received from the University of California, Davis and California State University, Sacramento.

Environmental Impact

The Los Rios Community College District expanded its services in West Sacramento with a new permanent facility that opened in 2011. The new three-story building is approximately 25,000 gross square feet and is the first of three planned construction phases. The environmental impacts were studied appropriately, and as a result, a Mitigated Negative Declaration was filed with the State Clearing House (State Clearing House # 2006122071) in 2007. The Mitigated Negative Declaration was filed and is compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act guidelines.

*Staff: Carlos Montoya, Specialist
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